

Daily life 261

Chapter 261 One Thousand Hall Battle Palace

For every seven rank 2 organizations that would come, a rank 1 organization would appear. With the constant arrival of top-tier organizations, the reverence mixed with trepidation that most of the guests had earlier seemed to have waned a bit.

Among the incoming organizations, Yang Qing managed to spot members of the Golden Bamboo Pavillion. Among their representatives, he managed to spot a man who seemed to be in his late thirties but had eyes that seemed to have seen the history of an entire epoch. He had long flowing gold sky hair and impeccable looks to match. He bore a faint resemblance to the young palace realm expert Yang Qing had thrashed in Purple City.

Walking beside him was a middle-aged man with a regal bearing on him. He had red-orange hair and a black robe that dark orange cloud patterns. Yang Qing guessed that that was the current emperor of the Red Maple Empire, Duan Han.

Based on the fluctuations Yang Qing detected from him, he seemed to have just recently broken through just like him. Yang Qing raised his brow because this meant that the Red Maple Empire had added another palace realm expert to their ranks. With these their numbers and that of the Five Clover Kingdom had tied on five palace realm experts each, though with Duan Hou temporarily imprisoned at the Yellow Plains county branch, their numbers were currently at four.

Yang Qing also noticed next to one of the leaders of the Golden Bamboo Pavillion, was a lady in light yellow robes which had the symbol of a maple leaf that had a purple butterfly above it. Yang Qing instantly recognized who she was, as she was one of the founders of Maple Leaf Manor, an organization that focused on alchemy and medicine. It was also a rank 2 organization just like the Golden Bamboo Pavilion.

"Do these two have a connection?" wondered Yang Qing.

He wasn't the only one throwing curious gazes their way. Other organizations of similar rank were occasionally throwing curious glances their way, especially merchant-based organizations who would be affected, were these two organizations to form an alliance.

As Yang Qing was going through the list of possibilities as to why the leaders of two rank 2 organizations would be traveling together, he felt a subtle gaze lock on him. Were his senses not elevated to that of a domain expert, the gaze would have likely passed him by without him noticing anything but with the heightened senses, he could feel it as clear as day.

Yang Qing wasn't one to play coy and pretend, so he directly locked eyes with the person who threw that gaze, which was the golden-haired leader of the Golden Bamboo Pavillion, Lin Guiren. Despite finding himself suddenly being stared at, Lin Guiren offered a wave and polite smile to Yang Qing, who waved and smile in return.

"I wonder If you'll still be smiling when I send your son to the Requiem depending on the extent of his crimes," Yang Qing playfully wondered.

Yan Meifeng of the Maple leaf manor had a curious look on her face when she noted the interaction between the two.

It was at that moment, after their brief interlude that Yang Qing spotted an Order employee head in the direction of the procession of the Golden Bamboo Pavilion. Said employee had donned the robes of a domain court judge and had star-shaped irises and five pupils in each iris.

He went over and warmly welcomed the members of the Golden Bamboo Pavilion along with Maple Leaf Manor. Yang Qing closely monitored their interaction and manage to notice Lin Guiren seemed a tad bit stiff as he interacted with that domain judge.

"Could that be Hou Dehui, the one Lei Weiyuan told me about?" wondered Yang Qing.

With how swamped Order employees were, they didn't all know about each other not unless someone had a certain reputation that made them renowned around the Order. This was why up until a week ago, Yang Qing had no idea who Meng Chao was or his rank, or Hou Dehui who would handle the Golden Bamboo Pavilion should his investigation touch on it.

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"It seems you have some history with the Golden Bamboo Pavilion?" asked Assistant Director Feng Lei with a teasing tone.

"It's not entirely of my own choosing," said Yang Qing as he dryly laughed.

He proceeded on to explain his entire debacle and how he would be potentially in their crosshairs.

"Just work your case as you see fit and handle what you can and leave the rest of the part you can't handle to those suited to it. The special inquisitors operate that way too, we all have something we are good at and areas we are not. We divide and handle our tasks with that in mind," said Assistant Director Feng Lei.

"I do remember 50 years ago or so, when Dehui asked us to investigate one of their founders, Liang Zhan. Last I checked, I think he should be a gold-grade alchemist now.

Dehui suspected he had been experimenting with people along with working with some dark organization in his alchemy study. He made a request of us when he made no headway with the investigation with his own inquisitors. We didn't find anything either but Dehui has a unique trait because of his physique so I don't think he'd make that claim carelessly.

The reason I bring it up is to advise you to be careful. Handling Lin Guiren will be easy, especially for someone like Dehui but Liang Zhan is a different matter. If I was to take Dehui's words as truth, then this means Liang Zhan is skilled enough to hide his tracks from even us. Someone that sneaky, there's no telling what he might, or might not do. His means are many and inscrutable," said Assistant Director Feng Lei.

"Thanks for your kind words, Assistant Director Feng Lei. I will commit your words to heart and act with the necessary caution," said Yang Qing with a heavy expression.

Ten minutes passed by after that, with the Star blooming mist valley swelling with crowds of cultivators. So far seven rank 1 sects had already made an appearance and of those seven there was one that really stood out as it could be considered a quasi-holy ground. In some regard, it garnered more respect than even the newly formed Order.

That organization was the One thousand hall battle palace. It is rumored to have existed for as long as the holy lands which is in upwards of over 500,000 years.

Chapter 262 [Bonus]Battle Rankings

The One thousand hall battle palace could be considered a sect and not a sect at the same time, though to most it could be considered a cultivation academy, kind of like what the institute was for the Order.

The battle palace was formed by a collection of different trainers who taught different schools and styles of combat and everything that encompassed it. Among the many techniques taught by those trainers were; fist arts, spear arts, sword arts, palm, arts, kicking arts, movement and evasion arts, soul arts, knife arts, and the like, and it progressed down to niche arts like spirit beast union combat arts, which were derived from learning how spirit beasts fought and incorporating those techniques to be used by human cultivators.

All these different trainers individually had nothing that stood out except their familiarity with the basics of certain schools of combat, but to try and etch out a living in those early years, they each decided to come together and offer joint training as one single entity which became the framework of the present-day, One thousand hall battle palace.

Those trainers traded their arts with each other, offered each other guidance to try and improve their own crafts, and then they started accepting students. At the start the progress was slow, but with the allure of teaching multiple skills of different schools of combat to people, their numbers slowly grew.

They accepted students and legacy disciples. The former would pay a certain sum and get trained in a number of skills in respect to the sum they paid for. The duration of the training was also taken into account. After the training period was up, they were free to leave and were not indentured to the battle palace. In exchange for the training, the battle palace at first accepted spirit stones as payment but with time they made their form of payment to be varied, depending on the degree of training. For minor training, they would accept spirit stones, but for the more intense ones, they'd choose other valuable resources such as specific spiritual herbs and natural treasures of a particular kind or weapons and artifacts of a particular grade.

Legacy disciples operated a little differently. Once you became a legacy disciple, your fate was tied to the One thousand hall battle palace. But in exchange, you'd get to learn all the skills the battle palace had to offer, provided you had the talent for it.

Within the legacy disciples, there were two variations; there was the legacy hall disciple who would learn the skills of a particular school of combat, and there was the legacy palace disciple who could be considered the elites of the elites, as they had the talents to learn from more than one school and hall to the level of exceeding the topmost figures within those halls.

The battle palace gradually grew especially from the number of students they started taking in. The number of legacy disciples also grew and with it their prestige because they were some monstrous talents among those disciples who took up the mantle as the next pillars of the one thousand hall battle palace. Slowly something that started with 50 or so instructors on different styles catapulted into one thousand halls. Each hall signified a particular style of combat and each hall had a hall master who was in the peak stage of the domain realm, which meant that at base value, the One thousand battle hall palace had a thousand peak domain realm experts.

In addition, they also had one of the largest libraries filled with all kinds of different combat arts. Some of the collections stored were created in-house from their own trainers, while others were bought or bartered for as payment for their training.

With their current reputation, even if they still accept students like they used to, with the current demands and the disparity between the number of trainers available to meet those demands, the One thousand hall battle palace employed measures such as adding their costs, or putting strict trials in place before you were accepted as a student.

Being accepted as a student there could now be considered a badge of honor, with how hard it is to get in, the requirements could be considered to be in the same vein as the acceptance standards of rank 2 to rank 1 organizations. Those who got in either had sufficient capital to get them in or they had talent worthy enough to get in.

Yang Qing wasn't all too surprised to see the One thousand hall battle palace in his promotion ceremony. The Order and the battle palace had one of the closest relationships, more so members of the Institute. The Institute could be considered to have been founded based on the ideas of the Battle Palace, except the Institute added other areas in addition to combat training.

The Battle Palace and the Institute would have a lot of exchanges. Some of the trainers at the Institute were once students of the battle palace and vice versa.

Yang Qing had to admit when it came to pure combat, the legacy disciples of the One thousand battle palace were a cut above the rest, even those from the Order would struggle against them. One of their prerequisites for graduating from the Institute was to earn a gold pin from the One thousand hall battle palace.

The battle palace accepted 4,000 people per hall which made their total acceptance of students to be at 400,000. Within that number, regular competitions would be held and a ranking would follow from the results of said competitions.

The top 200,000 would get a pin in recognition of their achievements.

Those between 200,000-100,000 would receive an iron pin

Those between 99,999-50,000 would receive a bronze pin

Those between 49,999-20,000 would receive a silver pin

Those between 19,999-101 would receive a gold pin while a purple pin was given to the top 100.

Yang Qing suffered some of the greatest losses of his life within the battle palace before he got his gold pin and eventually a purple pin. The reason for this was, they not only fought against other students but the legacy disciples themselves. During his year the only person who scaled through easily was Kang Huilang.

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Yang Qing nodded in greeting to their members as they made their way to their seats. The team consisted of seven people. The lead was a male who seemed to be in his early forties. He had the normal Battle palace robe which was half black-half white, however on his robe there was an insignia of a spear surrounded by galling winds. From the information he was given, Yang Qing knew he was the current hall master of the Rapid spear hall.

The other six members had the same black and white robes, but they had different insignias which meant they belonged to different halls, except two people. One of them was a young female in her early twenties who had red curly hair and the other was a young man in his early twenties too, who had silver hair and a sleepy look to him. They had a palace on their robes which meant they were legacy palace disciples. Yang Qing recognized both of them since he drew with one of them and suffered a loss to the other, during his claim for the gold pin.

He drew with the red-haired lady and suffered a loss to the silver-haired man. The loss didn't weigh heavily on him since he suffered a few losses in that period and also that silver-haired young man ended up holding the 4th-ranked position during that period. Though Yang Qing himself didn't do too badly since he ended up in the 13th position.

The results would have been palatable to him if Kang Huilang didn't take the 2nd place as for the 1st position, it was taken by a sword heart disciple from the Radiant sword sect. The thing that incensed him the most was as much as he hated to admit it if Kang Huilang's bad habits were not involved, the first place would have been his.

Chapter 263 Powerful Arrivals, Friend Or Foe?

The red-haired lady waved at Yang Qing with battle intent flashing in her eyes. Her name was Wei Liling. She was one of the prime beauties of the One thousand hall battle palace, however, she was a combat fanatic who had eyes and thoughts for nothing else, other than battling strong opponents.

Next to her was Liu Juan who was the silver-haired young man with a sleepy look.

Both Wei Liling and Liu Juan were legacy palace disciples of the Battle Palace which meant they got to learn the skills of different halls. Legacy palace disciples didn't have one master but could be considered the disciple of every seasoned trainer of the institute. As long as one became a legacy palace disciple, every trainer of the One thousand hall battle palace was required to teach them all their arts without reservation. They were to be treated as their own prized disciple, which made legacy palace disciples the most thorny and versatile of fighters.

Over the years, the first-place position in the competition always went to them and it was only on a few occasions would it go to an outsider, like during Yang Qing's year when the first and second position went to a sword heart disciple from the Radiant sword sect and Kang Huilang, from the Order. However, from the third position, all the way to the eighth was solely occupied by the legacy palace disciples.

Yang Qing casually waved as he tried to avoid maintaining eye contact with Wei Liling any more than he should, otherwise, she might misunderstand it as an agreement for a duel.

Wei Liling showed a downcast expression when she saw Yang Qing look away, however, her eyes lit up when she spotted Kang Huilang mingling with Dai Chen and the rest in the area set aside for Order employees.

Yang Qing lit up too when he saw this because it meant Kang Huilang may suffer a beating later. Wei Liling and Liu Juan were already in the palace realm just like Yang Qing, while Kang Huilang was still in the peak stage of the core formation realm.

Kang Huilang would have broken through at the same time as Yang Qing but he had been refining his different intents into a singular body before he broke through. That process took time, but from what Yang Qing detected, in a month at most, Kang Huilang would be ready to break through along with Xia Boqin and Yu Huifang who just like Kang Huilang had delayed their breakthroughs to shore up their foundations.

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"Don't spare him, sister Wei Liling," Yang Qing gleefully thought as he envisioned Kang Huilang's sorry state.

Yang Qing soon dragged his thoughts back to the incoming guests as he counted the dying minutes till the ceremony began. The process would be short and direct. The Chief Justice would say a few words, then he would hand it over to Yang Qing to say a few words, then he would be handed a new medallion, a robe, a scroll, and a small artifact signifying his status as a palace court judge.

After that, the last phase would begin, which was the most dangerous and also the most exciting, it was the gift-giving phase. The guests would all come up in the order of their rank and prestige and will hand over their gifts to Yang Qing, one by one as they exchanged a few words here and there. If anything were to happen, it would be in that period.

Before Vice President Mo Ye arrived, Yang Qing didn't dread the situation as much, but with his presence, he felt a little uneasy.

Twelve minutes passed by and six more Rank 1 organizations arrived bringing their total to thirteen. None of the new arrivals matched the prestige of the One thousand hall battle palace. Most of them were new to mid-tier Rank 1 organizations. A few of them were sects and families. Yang Qing managed to see the Zou family, however, it seemed only one of their elders had come by and not their current clan leader.

The truly top-tier rank 1 organizations had not made an appearance, which didn't come as a surprise to Yang Qing and the Order since it was to be expected.

Those behemoth organizations would not make an appearance for a palace realm judge, since it was a little beneath their station, however during the domain promotions a couple of them do make appearances.

If it wasn't for the close relationship between the One thousand hall battle palace and the Order, they would likely not have made an appearance today, let alone send one of their prestigious hall masters. But because of their close relationship, the Battle Palace always availed itself of these ceremonies, even to the core formation ceremonies that most organizations don't come to.

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Only three minutes were left before the ceremony would officially begin. In this time, there were no more guests coming in, and everyone was already seated in their respective positions as they stared at the platform.

The soul formation cultivators on the platform with Yang Qing seemed to have tacitly agreed to Yang Qing seating next to Assistant Director Feng Lei instead of pulling him to his assigned seat. It was Vice President Mo Ye instead, who took that seat, and by the look of things he was the one who would be starting the ceremony instead of the Chief Justice.

To Yang Qing it made sense, since even though the Spirit Council could essentially supersede the authority of a single Vice president, individually they held enormous power such as granting entry to the special treasure vault of the Order could be done with the approval of one Vice president signing off, or the loaning of ascendant grade artifacts and above. Also, the unanimous vote of the three Vice presidents combined could overrule any ruling or decision made by the Spirit Council.

The three minutes seemed like it went on for hours and hours. When the last second was up, Yang Qing expected either the Vice president or the Chief Justice to stand up and start the ceremony, however, none of them seemed to have the intention to do so as they remained seated in their seats, their gazes trained on the crowd.

Another two minutes passed by with no movement from either of them. Yang Qing grew increasingly puzzled the more the seconds dwindled by.

"Am I too sensitive, that I'm imagining this?" Yang Qing silently thought to himself.

Yang Qing felt the air around the platform had a sudden shift and felt more solemn. At first, he chalked it up to his nervousness but when he looked around, he noticed the soul formation experts up there with him all had solemn looks on their faces. From Assistant Director Feng Lei who was seated next to him, all the way up to the stern elder lady who was seated in the last seat, they all had a rare seriousness about them. Even the jolly-looking Vice Chancellor Wu Ling looked serious at the moment.

There was only one person who seemed casual as he was when he arrived, and that was Vice President Mo Ye.

When Vice President Mo Ye sensed Yang Qing's gaze on him, he turned his way and gave him a comforting smile, which oddly enough seemed to have set Yang Qing's mind at ease, despite not knowing what was going on.

Yang Qing turned his face in the direction of the section reserved for Order employees to try and get some relief and comfort from seeing his friends' cheering gazes and Kang Huilang's indignant look, however, that plan backfired when he saw the similar solemn looks on Meng Chao, Dean Zhu Lao and other senior figures within the Order.

Yang Qing now knew there was definitely something going on and there was only one way for him to discover what.

"Senior Blue Universe, Senior Veiled Destiny, Senior Green Cocoon, have you detected anything off in the surroundings?"

All my seniors have these looks on their faces like something terrible is coming," said Yang Qing. He had three saint-grade artifacts which were equal to three soul formation experts, he would be a fool not to take advantage of them.

"There are six people headed this way, and two of them are stronger than Assistant Director Jun Pei, which is something," said Blue Universe.

Yang Qing's heart started racing when he heard that. His mind automatically assumed it was an attack before he calmed down and analyzed the situation. If they were attackers, then the soul formation experts on the stage would have already acted and that was even acting on the assumption that the would-be attackers had already bypassed all the other security measures the Order had on hand, and made it here.

If they were not attackers, then were they guests?

But as far as Yang Qing knew, even prominent rank 1 organizations such as the One thousand battle hall palace which had at least over five soul formation realm experts, never sent one for the Order's ceremony, no matter their deep relationship, because every soul formation expert could be considered a strategic resource for them, that they could not risk deploying even a single one, except for extenuating circumstances.

But now there were two of them headed their way and they were stronger than Assistant Director Jun Pei, a known trainer of the inquisitors and the requiem guards. Yang Qing realized he had overlooked one thing in Blue Universe's statement.

How strong was Assistant Jun Pei in comparison to the lineup on hand?

If she was the weakest, it wouldn't matter since there would be 8 more people stronger than her but if she was among the top most figures, then the situation would be worrying for him.

Chapter 264 Feng Lei, Surprise!!

"Senior Blue Universe, if you don't mind me asking, how does Assistant Director Jun Pei fair against the other soul formation experts present?" Yang Qing hesitantly asked.

He was found in a weird position where knowing the answer to that question and not knowing, both had the potential of not putting his mind at ease, especially if the response he got was that Assistant Director Jun Pei was one of the strongest contenders among the nine soul formation experts present.

"Well, this isn't easy to say because when it comes to Soul formation experts their means are extensive. One can never know the true strength of one until they engage them.

But from the base value, on the things in external surface, she isn't the weakest, if that's your worry?" said Blue Universe with a hint of amusement in his tone.

"I hope that's not all, please Senior Blue Universe don't be stingy with the details."

Yang Qing crossed his fingers that Blue Universe wouldn't pull the same technique his seniors at the Order always pulled with sensitive information. They'd tell you bits, just enough to scratch a tiny part of the itch, but leave a whole part of it unanswered and the response they give you always left someone with more questions than answers.

Yang Qing hoped that wasn't it from Blue Universe's explanation and that he had more otherwise he would be ill at ease during the whole ceremony. Luckily Blue Universe did not disappoint as he provided further details.

"Yang Qing, I should reiterate that this is just the rough estimate and not the actual result, should a real battle break out the results may be different.

"Yuan Huiling is the weakest of the nine," said Blue Universe.

"Who is she?" asked Yang Qing as he superciliously rolled his eyes, thinking Blue Universe needed some work in his explanations.

"The lady you were staring at moments ago," Blue Universe meaningfully said.

Yang Qing rubbed his hot nose as he chuckled in embarrassment.

"Even though technically she is the weakest but that's only because she's a pure soul cultivator. You should be thankful she is here, if anything went wrong, she would be among the first people to realize it in advance. She has a rare physique; I think it's the Pursuing Rainbow Pearl physique. It makes her sensitive to arts that are based on the five-attribute element.

Next would be Assistant Director Feng Lie from the Special Inquisitor, however, he is the reason why I said you should take this result with a grain of salt.

While at face value he seems weaker, deep inside, he feels as dangerous as Zhou Huang, which is the stern-looking elderly lady..."

"He is the fourth most powerful," Green Cocoon suddenly interjected when Blue Universe was in the midst of his explanation.

"No wonder..." muttered Blue Universe before he continued on.

"After Assistant Director Feng Lei, who now moves up, it would be Assistant Director Jun Pei. That means she's in the penultimate position.

Next after her, would be Vice-Chancellor Wu Ling, though, in terms of potential, he has a lot of promise since he is the youngest of them all..."

Yang Qing was once again shocked by Vice Chancellor Wu Ling's capabilities. Though when he thought about it, it made sense on some level. Vice Chancellor Wu Ling was the head of one of the backbones of the Order. Someone in that station had to have some capability.

"After him, it's the stern-looking elderly lady, Zhou Huang. Despite her frail look, just her snort could puncture a hole through twenty top-grade defensive ascendant-grade treasures. She's a ruthless combatant in physical and frontal confrontations. A few elders of the One thousand battle palace are deathly afraid of her," Blue Universe said with a light chuckle.

Yang Qing had a look of relief fill his face, the more he heard. Someone who could strike fear into the hearts of Battle Palace elders was a dependable person. Every Battle Palace elder was once a hall master, who left their position once they reached the soul formation realm.

Yang Qing's shoulders eased up a bit with the renewed vigor he had on from the realization his chances of survival were not bad. If the stern elder looking lady was already this powerful what about the four-remaining people, and this was not putting into account Assistant Director Feng Lei who was technically the fourth strongest in the lineup, as per Green Cocoon's estimations, who was clearly more reliable than Blue Universe in Yang Qing's eyes.

"I knew I loved the Order for a reason, despite their horrible work environment," Yang Qing gleefully thought as he preened his ears.

"After Zhou Huang, it would be Su Bai, that middle-aged man you were looking at enviously...He is skilled in the sword dao.

The next one after him would be Qi Chen, the stocky-built elder. In his case, the judgment is at base value, however as a blacksmith, if I was to take into account his artifacts, he wouldn't lose to the next two..." Blue Universe said and then made a sudden pause.

"As for the next two, I can't accurately gauge their power since they are essentially at the same level as me if not stronger thus, I can't tell who is stronger.

You shouldn't worry Yang Qing, you're in safe hands," said Blue Universe.

Yang Qing wasn't all too surprised that the strongest two were Vice President Mo Ye and Chief Justice Lai Ning. One was just below the president of the whole Order in terms of rank, and the other was the head of all of the judges within the Order. As holders of those posts, it was a given that they'd be that powerful.

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Yang Qing didn't get much time to revel in his newfound sense of security for too long because he finally sensed the six people who Blue Universe and the rest talked about.

Thanks to his heightened senses because of the effects of Veiled Destiny, he could sense things at a much longer range and with much more clarity. Of the six people he was able to roughly gauge their power levels, but for the remaining two, they seemed normal, as if they were not cultivators.

This was the same feeling Yang Qing got from the nine soul formation experts that were up there with him. They all felt too ordinary like they didn't have a lick of cultivation on them. Yang Qing knew such a sensation was because of the huge gulf between them, the same way he would seem ordinary to a qi refinement cultivator.

Powerful cultivators always reigned in their pressure for fear of injuring those weaker than them, especially in a public setting otherwise if they brought out their full cultivation to bear, most would find it hard to breathe let alone stay conscious or alive in worst cases.

Chapter 265 Appearance Of An Old Legend

Yang Qing noticed most of the domain-level guests all had the same reactions, the moment he did, while some like Lin Guiren from Golden Bamboo Pavilion and Yan Meifeng from Maple Leaf Manor seemed to have noticed the six guests earlier than Yang Qing.

No matter when they discovered them, every single person had looks of shock on their faces.

Within a few seconds, the six guests appeared at one of the entrances of the Star blooming mist valley.

The moment they appeared, Yang Qing noticed Su Bai disappear from his seat and reappeared at the entrance the six guests had appeared in.

Yang Qing's pupils constricted because he didn't even detect the Spirit Council member disappear. He only realized it when he saw him with the guests.

The six guests were in two groups and they both wore different robes and had contrasting demeanors.

The moment Yang Qing saw them, it all made sense on who would be able to send a soul formation expert with no worry about their base. At face value, only three people met that criterion; one was the Order and the other two were the Holy Lands.

The six guests were from the two holy lands and they had both sent three members each, almost as if they had a prior agreement.

The group from the Radiant Sword Sect wore peach robes that had an emblem of swords revolving around a mountain, which was their insignia. At the lead was an elderly man with white hair neatly tied into a bun, with not a hair out of place. He was tall and walked with measured steady steps and if one looked closely, it almost seemed like the ground was carrying him forward instead of him walking. At his waist was a simple sword in a grey wooden scabbard that looked to have experienced the vicissitudes of life. It was faded and had a few scratches on it. One wouldn't expect someone from the Radiant Sword Sect, one of the two holy lands, to have such a scabbard.

"Is he a core elder or supreme elder?" Yang Qing wondered as his gaze trailed from the old man to the people next to him.

Behind him were two males; one of them looked to be just about 14 years old. He had black hair that was tied in a Daoist topknot. His eyebrows and eyes were as sharp as blades edge. At his waist was a single long sword sheathed in a charcoal black scabbard.

Unlike the elderly man in front of him who looked like an ordinary person, the 14-year-old youth might have well been a sword in human form because of how much unbearable sharpness was leaking from his body.

Some of the weaker guests had even bled from their eyes just by throwing a quick glance at him. Though the most shocking part about the youth wasn't his sword-like demeanor, but his cultivation realm. At the tender age of 14, most of the senior cultivators had looks of shock on their faces when they detected his palace realm cultivation base. Yang Qing discovered he was in the second stage of the palace realm.

Even though he tried to hide it, one could detect the inborn pride and arrogance coming from him.

Next to the 14-year-old palace realm cultivator from the Radiant Sword Sect was a young man who seemed to be in his late twenties to early thirties. Yang Qing's gaze narrowed as he saw an additional symbol next to the sect's emblem. It was a heart that had a sword in it. He automatically knew what that signified, since he had seen someone with that symbol on their robe when he was competing at the One thousand hall battle palace. The person who took first place, and was from the Radiant Sword Sect, had that symbol on their uniform and said person was a sword heart disciple of the sect.

This could only mean that the late twenties to early thirties member of the Radiant Sword Sect was also a sword heart disciple, which was a rank held by the best talents in the whole of the sect. Anyone who held that rank had gone beyond the realm of genius and had firmly placed their feet in the ranks of pure monsters.

This was already evident because the fluctuations of that disciple drew even more eyes than the 14-year-old palace realm cultivator beside him. The reason for that was his domain level fluctuations, even though it seemed like he had only broken through recently, it was still an eye-opener since that meant he was a thirty-something domain expert which was rarer than a 14-year-old early-stage palace realm expert.

Next to them was the group from the Flowing Valley Sect, and just like the Radiant Sword Sect, they too, were a holy land. They had on light green robes that were edging closer to yellow. In the lead was a young man who looked to be in his mid-thirties. His hair was black, long, and lightly curled, and he had this otherworldly beauty to him that would draw anyone in, irrespective of gender or even species.

Behind him were two people, a young man, and a young lady, though the latter seemed more mature of the two. The young man looked to be in his late teens to early twenties. From what Yang Qing could gauge that young man was definitely younger than him, though it did not seem by much. However, despite being younger, the young man had a higher cultivation base than him, like way higher. The young man was already in the peak stage of the palace realm.

"Is he....?" Yang Qing wondered.

The young age and the high cultivation base, there was one person who met that criterion from the Flowing Valley Sect, and it was the current holder as the youngest palace realm cultivator over the past century, who broke through to the palace realm at 11 years. If the person he saw was that same person, then the absurd cultivation realm made sense. Ten years had passed since then.

The lady next to him looked to be in her late thirties and she was in the first stage of the domain realm just like the sword heart disciple from the Radiant sword sect side.

Both disciples from the Flowing Valley Sect had a gold leaf symbol on their robes which Yang Qing recognized as the symbol highlighting that both were saint leaf disciples of the sect, which was the equivalent of the Sword heart disciples from the Radiant Sword Sect.

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"Fellow Daoist Han Meng, Fellow Daoist Luo Yong, I'm glad you could all make it in time for our humble festivities," Spirit council elder Su Bai said as he cupped his fist in greeting toward the Radiant sword sect elder and the Flowing valley sect elder respectively.

Chapter 266 Ceremony Begins

"Sorry for our delay, Daoist Han Meng and I met on the way and decided to catch up on the way here. Please forgive us for our tardiness Daoist Su Bai," Luo Yong the young-looking elder from the Flowing Valley sect said with a polite smile on his face.

"There's nothing to apologize for, we at the Order are glad, that you both could make it.

We are glad to have you with us, and we welcome you all along with your talented disciples who I have to say really show the brilliance of both your sects," Spirit Council Elder Su Bai smoothly said.

"Many thanks, Fellow Daoist Su Bai," both elders said in unison.

"If you'd please."

Spirit council elder Su Bai guided the two elders along with the disciples of the respective holy lands up the platform.

Among the seats provided on the platform, a third of it had always been set aside for the members of the Holy Lands. However, as far as Yang Qing knew, those seats have never been filled because none of the Holy lands have ever made an appearance, despite how grand the ceremony or the celebration was, they never showed up.

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The crowd was deathly silent across all sections. It didn't matter whether it was the rank 1 section or the rank 5 section, they all had the same looks on their faces, which was one of shock, fear, and surprise.

Meeting the disciples of the two holy lands, though was not common, some of the higher-ranked organizations have had some interaction with them, the One thousand hall battle palace being a prime example of such an organization. The Battle Palace in terms of age has been in existence almost the same time as the two Holy Lands, however, it has never quite reached the prestige of being dubbed a Holy Land as it lacked that one factor that would qualify them as one. However, despite that, they were some of the few organizations that had regular contact with members of the two holy lands.

Disciples from both these holy lands would occasionally enroll in the One thousand hall battle palace to undergo their training and also their competitions. Though the disciples didn't come all the years, they were frequenters of the establishment, which was why in Yang Qing's year, there was even a sword heart disciple in participation.

Yang Qing had heard from Dai Chen, that during his year there was a saint leaf participant from the Flowing Valley Sect. She had a decent performance and would have finished first had she not had the luck of coming when the One thousand hall battle palace had a monstrous talent that year who effortlessly took first place.

While the disciples could be seen on occasion, when it came to their elders despite their station, whether they were outer core elders or other high-ranking figures, catching any sight of them was almost an impossibility. The only times they have been sighted was during a major occasion such as when the Radiant sect had dispatched their inner elders and inner disciples to fight against the crimson wave, after which even a supreme elder arrived.

Another instance was during the invasion of the Southern Continent by organizations from other continents. At that time they had to step in when a holy land from the Western Continent got involved along with a few other high-ranking sects from the Central Continent. At that time the three holy lands;

Radiant Sword Sect, Flowing Valley Sect, and the Myriad Beasts Sect worked together to halt the invasion while they manned each of the borders surrounding the Southern Continent.

The last instance when the high-ranking members of both these holy lands made an appearance was during the destruction of the Myriad Beasts Sect where its presumably assumed that they took the core treasures and art of this holy land after its destruction. From that moment, they have been little to no sighting of them.

But now here they were; two elders presumably high-ranking elders seeing how they were soul formation experts which prompted a high-ranking official from the Order to welcome them, in addition in their company they had brought with them young disciples with world-defying talents. There was a 14-year-old palace realm cultivator, a 20-year-old peak stage palace realm cultivator, and two mid to late-thirties domain experts.

The lineup might have not been as terrifying as the Crimson Wave lineup, but it was sufficient to draw eyes and gulps from the greater majority of the guests. The only ones who seemed calm about this were those from the Battle Palace and those from the Order.

The Order may be the youngest of them all, but in terms of potential both present and future, it was enough to match them all. They may not have had an 11-year-old palace realm expert like the Flowing Valley Sect, but they've had a few who were 13 years old over the years and when it came to domain realm members, they have had a few who were in their mid-thirties. To name a few; one of them was Meng Chao and the other was Zhu Li, Dean Zhu Lao's younger brother and the creator of four purple-grade techniques.

When it came to repute, a domain expert who created purple-grade cultivation arts definitely dwarfed the others.

To the Order members, other than the surprise arrival of the two groups, they didn't seem too shaken by it like the rest of the guests.

The two groups arrived on the platform where the rest of the soul formation experts courteously rose to give their greetings and Elder Su Bai went on to guide them to their seats.

The two elders sat at the front while the two disciples from both sides took the smaller seats behind them. Even if they were from Holy Lands, they were still not qualified to seat at the same level as the soul formation experts from the Order. Them being given a seat on the platform, was a courtesy afforded to them as Holy Land disciples, and nothing else. If it went by cultivation base, they were unqualified to even stand there, let alone seat.

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Yang Qing sensed a combative-filled stare being locked on him. He was still seated next to Assistant Director Feng Lei. When the guests from the two holy lands arrived, other than the cursory respectful greeting, he didn't do much and just sat back down and slowly wished the time would fly by fast.

He didn't turn his head but instead opted to switch his eyes ever so slightly towards the source of the combative stare, which came as no surprise to him when he saw it was from the 14-year-old palace realm expert from the Radiant sword sect.

"He doesn't seem to be a sword heart disciple," Yang Qing muttered to himself as he turned back his eyes forward.

Yang Qing was a bit preoccupied when he first greeted them because the elder from the Flowing Valley Sect gave him a strange glance along with the 20-year-old peak palace realm expert, which threw him off for a bit but now that he had time to recollect the experience along with the short glance he took right now, he noticed the 14-year-old palace realm expert from the Radiant Sword Sect didn't seem to have the sword heart disciple insignia on his robe unlike the early stage domain expert next to him.

As far as Yang Qing knew, one of the prerequisites of becoming a sword heart disciple was to have a purple core, in addition to showing monstrous talent for the sword in terms of the standard of the sect. Therefore, as far as he could tell one could be a sword heart disciple as long as they were in the core formation realm. The sword heart disciple who took the first-place position during their year was in the late stages of the core formation realm, just like them.

Yang Qing couldn't help but guess there must be some underlying reason why the 14-year-old palace realm expert wasn't a sword heart disciple despite his current achievements. As far as Yang Qing could tell, when it came to the sword dao, the 14-year-old disciple had genuine talent in it, despite his ostentatious display of it, by allowing his sharpness of it to leak. At the moment, that disciple didn't have the released sword demeanor he had before when he came, he now seemed reserved and docile, completely different from before.

"Maybe it's a personality issue," thought Yang Qing as he decided to push the matter to the back of his mind because it looked like the time had arrived.

He had expected that it would be Vice President Mo Ye giving the opening speech, but Chief Justice Lai Ning was the one who got up and made his way to the center of the podium.

The guests who were unfamiliar with him, found it rather funny to see a 10-year-old boy, wearing small fitting white robes, with purple hair walk slowly to the center of the podium. However, the eyes that had nothing but countless stars and the inviolable bearing he had on him as he walked made every single party present have reverence for him in their hearts, even without meaning to.

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Rank 2 section

"Meifeng! Meifeng!! Meifeng, you need to calm down. Your agitated state is starting to show."

"Sorry about that, brother Guiren," said Yan Meifeng of the Maple leaf manor.

"I don't know what your Maple Leaf Manor and the Flowing Valley have against each other, but if this is the type of reaction I should be expecting from your organization, then I think it may be better for the merger to be canceled.

I do not want the Golden Bamboo Pavilion to be dragged into whatever feud you have with the Flowing Valley Sect. Even all our forces combined are barely enough to compete against one of their subsidiary forces let alone them.

Whatever issues you have with them, it will have to wait till we finish dealing with the issue concerning the hidden grotto of the Nebulous Star sect. Once we are done with it, we can go our separate ways after splitting the inheritance, and you can pursue whatever it is you and the Maple Leaf Manor have against the Flowing Valley Sect but until then please keep your emotions in check and take stock of the bigger picture, otherwise we will go our separate ways here and now.

I'd rather lose out on the inheritance of an ancient sect that could potentially have been a holy land-level sect, than offend one presently.

Let what happened to the Crimson wave be a constant reminder that Holy lands are not to be trifled with lightly," Lin Guiren solemnly said.

"Don't worry brother Guiren, I promise I won't do anything to jeopardize our deal and the plans ahead. It was just a momentary slip-up, of which I'm very sorry for that, it won't happen again.

We of the Maple Leaf Manor have no intention of engaging a holy land like the Flowing Valley, if we did, we would have acted long ago when the situation demanded it. Right now all we want to do is to ensure the stability and growth of our organization along with the Golden Bamboo Pavilion.

We don't have any other thoughts, other than this," said Yan Meifeng.

Both leaders had been using their domain sense to communicate.

Lin Guiren cast a long glance at Yan Meifeng, who had a solemn sincere look before he nodded his head and focused his attention back to the podium. Yan Meifeng did the same, but inside her robes, her right fist was tightly clenched.

"Maybe we might have to look for another more suitable partner.."

Chapter 267 Deeply Spread Reputation

"On behalf of the Order, I would like to thank you all for availing yourself of this occasion. I know for some of you the journey was not easy and getting the time to make an appearance couldn't have been easy either.

For that, I Lai Ning, Chief Justice of the Order would like to thank you all for gracing us with your presence. I offer this salute to you all, irrespective of which ranked organization you belong to. Your

presence here is highly appreciated," Chief Justice Lai Ning said as he offered a Daoist salute to the guests.

The salute may have seemed simple and inane to an unknown mind but to the cultivation world, the connotation behind it was immense. One cultivator giving another cultivator a Daoist salute was a form of recognition and acknowledgment, which was why it was never given lightly.

This was why Chief Justice Lai Ning's simple Daoist salute left the guests buzzing with excitement especially those from rank 3 and below. Their presence had been acknowledged and appreciated by a high-ranking figure of one of the largest organizations in the world. The excitement they felt from that greeting matched the same excitement that was there when the members of the two Holy Lands showed up.

"Now I won't take much of your time since I'm not a bard and I'm not particularly used to this type of thing.

Now on this day, we would like to recognize one of our own. A young cultivator with tremendous potential who by all accounts is considered to be living up to those expectations.

He has done all we have asked of him and he has done it with an exemplary attitude and dedication towards his post as a judge of the Order..."

Yang Qing's ears were buzzing as he couldn't believe all those words were about him. He knew his reputation well, as a matter of fact almost the whole Order knew his reputation well to the point that it had reached the ears of top figures like Assistant Director Jun Pei and Superior Domain Judges like Meng Chao.

When Yang Qing looked around, especially in the section where the Order employees were seated at, almost all of them, even though they tried to hide it, had looks of disbelief on their faces, some even snickered a bit at what Chief Justice Lai Ning was saying.

"Can't these guys learn to at least hide their emotions better? What if the guests notice something off with their reactions," Yang Qing worriedly thought as he decided to ignore them and continue to hear Chief Justice Lai Ning's words that were very much pleasing to the ears.

This was one of the few times he wished he had Mao Yunru's habit of walking around with over a dozen white jade recording talismans. He wanted to immortalize this moment forever and it would also be a good source of endless bragging when he had friends over at his place. He even envisioned himself tying Kang Huilang and the rest to a chair and making them listen to those recordings over a thousand times.

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"I am deeply gratified to see young cultivators like him within the Order. Those despite being blessed with enormous talent, still continuously apply themselves in their everyday lives to be better and better, and Judge Yang Qing has without a doubt, done this.

The ceremony is called a promotion ceremony to elevate him to a higher station but it is also a ceremony of recognition and honor for the efforts he has undertaken over the years. This is why he is also one of the youngest palace realm judges to grace our courts at the tender age of 23 years.

Yang Qing, I congratulate you for all you have done for the Order in your capacity as a judge and as an employee of this fine institution. Everyone at the Order including even the president knows all your accomplishments, both on the bench and off the bench, especially the latter..." said Chief Justice Lai Ning as he made a pause because the members of the Order present, whether they were on the platform or the section where the other employees had sat, they all shared a laugh when Chief Justice Lai Ning made that statement.

This drew curious gazes from the rest of the crowd including even the special guests from the Holy Lands as they couldn't get why almost every member of the Order laughed at that statement. As far as they could tell, the statement didn't seem to have any hidden joke underneath.

But everyone who laughed knew exactly what Chief Justice Lai Ning meant by Yang Qing's off-the-bench accomplishments.

Even Yang Qing himself knew exactly what it was, which was why he had a mild pale figure at the moment.

"Even the president knows? How did he even know? Isn't he a lofty cultivator who shouldn't concern himself with the actions of a passionate youth fighting for cultivator rights and working conditions?

I wonder if I'll be okay?" Yang Qing fearfully thought as he dreaded the next words of Chief Justice Lai Ning's speech.

After the brief pause, Chief Justice Lai Ning continued with his speech after the crowd had calmed down.

"Your shared insights and suggestions have helped the Order refine its framework to better serve the cultivators and population as a whole of the Southern Continent.

For that we thank you and on my authority as the Chief Justice, I hereby officially declare Yang Qing an outer palace court judge, with all its privilege and commensurate responsibilities.

Yang Qing would you come please?" said Chief Justice Lai Ning as he beckoned Yang Qing over.

Yang Qing stood up and solemnly walked over with steady steps. Once he was a few steps away, Chief Justice Lai Ning waved his sleeves and a faint roar was produced beneath the ground under the platform.

The guests who have been to these ceremonies a couple of times were not too surprised by the roar, but those new to the whole experience were thoroughly terrified by the roar. The roar seemed to echo down into their very souls as it dragged out their most primal fears.

Chapter 268 Fortuitous Encounter

Just as the terrified crowd wondered what was the source of the primal bestial roar, they saw the platform light up with a few indescribable writings, and seconds later the floor seemed to have turned into the night of the sky that had no stars.

Within that darkness, a golden spark could be seen, and with it came an overbearing pressure that made everything around it including space, quake. In just a few breaths, the small spark enlarged into an enormous golden dragon that charged up to the skies above the Star blooming mist valley.

Its size was humongous. Just one of its claws was enough to fill the whole platform. As it flew up, the shade from its figure created a darkness that covered the whole valley.

As it roared, the skies seemed to churn and a golden swirling cloud appeared along with numerous golden stars. The guests who had never been here finally realized why that location was called the Star blooming mist valley.

A cluster of stars of different sizes danced around the skies of the Star blooming mist valley, even though the sun was still up just a few moments ago.

The golden cloud produced by the massive golden dragon had blotted out the sun. As far as the eye could see, the sky was filled with golden clouds that had thousands upon thousands of stars in them.

"Fellow Daoist Mo Ye, it seems the spirit of your ancestral dragon vein underwent a metamorphosis. Despite being young, it's releasing the energy waves of a late-stage soul master cultivator," said Elder Han Meng of the Radiant Sword Sect with his eyes shining with a strange glow.

"You have a keen eye, Daoist Han Meng. It was by a stroke of luck that it reached this point. That spirit has been in hibernation for the past seven years. We were even worried something may have happened to it since this is a variant ancestral dragon vein after all, and doesn't compare to the real thing, like the one you have at the Radiant Sword Sect or the Flowing Valley Sect.

It was only eight months ago that it finally came out, and when it did, we were shocked to discover the huge transformation it had undergone," Vice President Mo Ye said with a light smile.

"Is that so? I guess congratulations are in order for the Order. With its transformation, there are countless benefits to harvest from it," said Elder Han Meng as his gaze narrowed on the dragon that was still roaring in the skies.

However different from its earlier roar, those in the palace realm and above could notice there was now Dao being produced within that roar, which then sublimated into a small gold mist that mixed into the golden cloud.

"The Order's continual rise for eternity is all but guaranteed with this. I think congratulations are in order for being recognized by the populace as one of the three Holy Lands of the Southern Continent," said Elder Luo Yong of the Flowing Valley Sect.

"Surely you jest Daoist Luo Yong. We are but humble servants of the continent and young at that. We are unworthy and unable to bear the burden of the title of a Holy Land.

Only both your sects are worthy of such a reputation, especially for standing up for the whole continent when outsiders threatened to swallow the continent whole. Our achievements both now and in the future, I think will pale in comparison to that," said Vice President Mo Ye.

A period of silence ensued between the three as Chief Justice Lai Ning wrote an edict with his finger in the air which charged toward the dragon in the golden skies.

The dragon roared as it charged at the edict and swallowed it. Immediately after it produced a golden pearl which it spat towards Chief Justice Lai Ning, who easily caught it despite the force and speed at which it charged towards him.

The dragon gave one final roar that was louder than the rest which left even the domain experts present at the edge of their seats.

After the roar, the dragon charged at the night sky hole it had flown out of, in the middle of the platform. Seconds later the platform closed and resumed its normal appearance. The skies were still filled with the golden cloud and stars and a bit of the dao mist mixed within.

"Consider this as a token of appreciation by the Order, for you all availing yourself today," said Chief Justice Lai Ning.

The stars in his eyes all started swirling with a mild glow as he muttered something inscrutable for a few seconds. Immediately after the clouds above along with the stars within it condensed into tiny golden droplets that had a tiny golden mist around them. Those droplets fell on the guests below.

The perceptive ones glowed with excitement in their eyes as they saw those droplets fall on them. They cleared their minds of all distracting thoughts and immediately started circulating their own cultivation arts to try and refine and also sense the mysteries within the droplets that had fallen on them. Those who reacted this way were the guests who had come from prominent backgrounds like the rank 1, rank 2, and some of the old rank 3 organizations.

They had sufficient information to know about the importance of the droplet that fell on them. This was a natural Dao tonic, a commodity that could only be gotten by chance and not bought. That single droplet had immense value to any cultivator whether they were in the domain realm or in the qi refinement realm. It could help them cleanse their bodies, shore up their foundations, give them insights into different forms of dao, and strengthen their soul, to some it could even help unlock their special physiques, if it was hidden. And that was only when it came to the cultivator themselves. The droplet could also be used as an ingredient for an alchemy potion or it could be used to refine an artifact to help increase its spiritual awareness or trigger one in an artifact that doesn't have a spirit yet.

Its uses were endless. If any one of them wanted such a tonic they'd have to source it from a saint-grade natural treasure or seek it from the Holy Lands that had ancestral dragon spirit veins. Both of these options showed how rare it was to get one, but here they were, getting it for free from the Order.

The high-ranked organizations that knew the value of the tonic were the most ecstatic. Members of the lower ranked organizations on noticing the unconcealed excitement from those in the higher ranked organization, instantly knew the object was something valuable even if they had no idea on much of its use.

Most chose to copy what those guests from the high-ranking organizations were doing and circulated their cultivation arts as they tried to refine the golden droplets that fell on them. Looks of shock could be seen on each member when they realized what a treasure it was.

Rapid small breakthroughs, epiphanies triggered, hidden injuries being instantaneously healed, shaky foundations being strengthened and even physiques being unlocked were some of the things these guests experienced within a short moment of being exposed to the Dao droplet.

Chapter 269 Nurturing A Spirit

As this was going on, up on the platform a different transformation was taking place. The pearl produced by the spirit of the variant ancestral dragon vein was in Chief Justice Lai Ning's hands.

He clenched it with his tiny hands and the pearl was ground to dust and in its place, two objects appeared. One of them was a dark golden-colored robe and the other was a golden liquid that kept morphing into different shapes until it finally settled into an eagle.

The eagle seemed lifelike as it preened its feathers and looked around with deep interest. If one didn't see the process in which it was created, one would assume it was a live golden eagle.

"For obvious reasons, you can't put on your new robes yet, so just hang on to it until tomorrow," Chief Justice Lai Ning said as he handed Yang Qing the dark golden robes.

The Judges wore different colored robes to show which courts they were stationed at. Those at the core formation courts wore light blue robes, while those in the palace courts wore dark gold robes, those in the domain courts wore black robes and lastly those in the spirit courts wore white robes, though it was still in doubt whether there was even a spirit court in the first place.

Soul formation experts were respectable figures even within the Holy Lands, thus a feud or a case involving a soul formation expert was next to impossible.

Who would go tell on a soul formation expert to the Order that they did so and so? The only party that had the guts to do that was another soul formation expert and they wouldn't do that and would instead prefer to settle the matter themselves.

Also, there was the matter of apprehending a soul formation expert. Any soul formation expert whether they were in soul beginner stage or the soul supreme stage had countless means to evade capture or guarantee their survival in unexpected situations. Therefore, the only way to capture one was through overwhelming force and have all escape routes and the battle area covered, or if it is a fight to the death where none of you is willing to leave until the other party is dead. Such a situation even makes it hard to capture a soul formation expert alive.

Therefore, the existence of the Spirit Courts has continually been one of those unanswered mysteries within the Order. The respect and also the difficulty of apprehending a soul formation expert, adds doubt to their existence.

How many cases are there that involve Soul formation experts?

In the years' Yang Qing has been at the Order, he has never heard of a single instance of one being judged.

But the destruction of the Dark Helminth Ghost Sect and the demotion of the rank 1 sect, the Star collapsing sword sect at the hands of the Order, did mean on some level there was a section of the Order that handled cases involving Soul formation experts.

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The moment Yang Qing's hands fell on the robe, he felt the softness and the grandness of it at the same time. If it wasn't for the experience, he had with the Blue universe enclave robe, this would have been the best robe he had ever had in his entire life.

The touch of it felt like he was passing his hands through a soft galaxy of stars. It was gentle, comforting, and relieving. He could even feel his mind being refreshed, and everything within his body from his qi, his palace realm down to even his internal organs were being strengthened subtly the more he held onto the robe.

Yang Qing's eyebrows shot up as he wondered what this robe was made of. Just the preliminary effects made the Celestial nesting weaver's nest that he was so proud, seem like a dung beetle's home in comparison.

"Kid your luck is pretty good.." Blue Universe like usual dutifully stepped in.

Luckily for Yang Qing, Blue Universe seemed to have been peeping on his thoughts or was really good at reading people. Yang Qing hoped it was the latter.

"This place keeps surprising me more and more on the amount of talent it has.

I can't believe they are giving you a robe made out of; Twisting bright horizon gold, binding flaxen skies crystal, silk from the carmine visage amethyst worm, fur from the saffron tears brass tigress, the lucent twilight tourmaline and it looks to have also been soaked in waters from the curse evasion maroon cloud.. wait there's even silk invisible evasive sands....

It seems they keep changing the materials every time but the grade of materials is always at the same standard..." Blue Universe said with an envious sigh.

"Senior is this a time to take a breath, you are a saint-grade robe, you don't need a breath...quick, finish what you were saying.....

WHAT IS THEIR GRADE?!!!" Yang Qing madly yelled in his mind, hoping Blue Universe would be peeping into his thoughts again and get the loud hint waiting for him in there.

Before today, he had never heard of any of the materials Blue Universe just mentioned. He was a man of simple pleasures and zero treasures. With his current state of financial affairs over the years, Yang Qing chose to admire the things that were within his financial means, which meant buying scraps at the market in the hopes they were treasures, and most of his bought items were usually finished broken decrepit items or cultivation arts, something he could gauge easily, but when it came to natural treasures, it was a different case.

Those who had a plethora of information about natural treasures were usually those who had the means of buying said treasures, leeches who had access to people who could buy them said treasures or people who sold said treasures to those who could afford them.

Yang Qing didn't fit any of those categories. He did try to be a leech on the Order, but the Order proved to be a stingy mighty foe, they even managed to hoist a leech of their own on him, by the name of the Celestial nesting weaver, which ensured having savings was an extinct concept to him.

The thought of his circumstances made his blood boil, but he soon calmed down thanks to the passive effects of the robe he was just given. It seemed to have the effect of calming him down. Yang Qing couldn't help but click at how wonderous the robe was.

"Senior, please continue," Yang Qing whispered in his mind which seemed to have had an effect as Blue Universe finished his statement.

"They are all made of ascendant grade materials that are at the very least mid to high tier in quality. And as for the craftsmanship based on the way they seamlessly melded those materials together, bringing out their respective strengths without a dip in quality, at the very least they are at the gold grade level in terms of skill, and based on their standard, I wouldn't be surprised if they met the requirements of being a purple grade craftsman in 100 years or less.

Truly remarkable, but I can't help but feel it's a waste since you will probably get another robe when you get promoted to the domain courts, which going by your talent won't be long.

It won't be nearly enough time for you to help raise the budding spirit in this robe to your level..." Blue Universe said with pity in his tone.

Chapter 270 [Bonus]Yang Qing Repents

Yang Qing sighed equally at this since the robes he was given as a core court judge had a budding spirit in them, but every time they were issued a robe, that spirit was sealed in dormancy. The only way it would be unsealed is if the Order employee getting that robe vowed to only use that robe for the rest of their life and nurture it.

This rule was put in place to avoid negligence from the owners to the spirit of their own robes, especially when there was the allure of getting a better robe in the future. To avoid the danger of creating unstable elements in the form of rogue spirits, those spirits would be sealed forever in dormancy if the owner did not agree to the terms.

Spirits of artifacts or treasures were like newborns and needed a constant guide to help shape their values and perspective, if neglected they presented a real danger, especially with the abilities they held, thus it was safer to seal them unless the owner showed real commitment to their nurturing.

Most within the Order chose to have the spirits of their robes sealed, however, there were a few who agreed to the terms, but it was in the minority, and the majority of that small group did so when they got the robes of a higher station like the palace robes.

Since his interaction with Blue Universe, Yang Qing started harboring such thoughts too, of sticking with his issued palace court robes to the end, but the allure of getting a more powerful robe when he reached the domain realm was like a siren's call constantly pulling him away from such thoughts.

Who would refuse something better if given the choice, raising a spirit wasn't a small matter either since he would need to constantly nourish it with his spiritual essence, along with continuously feeding a portion of his insights to it. This would cut away at his cultivation time until the spirit reached a point where it could operate autonomously and find its own path that would have been built from Yang Qing's foundations.

"Maybe it won't be a bad idea," thought Yang Qing. He had a room of maneuverability when it came to the matter unlike Feng Xin and Yi Jie who were a sword cultivator and saber cultivator respectively. The both of them wouldn't be able to support the spirit of their weapons in addition to nurturing a new one in their robes, it would stretch them too thin. But Yang Qing didn't have that worry, he wasn't a weapon specialist in any regard, and because of the nature of his Yin Yang jade bone physique, both his body and soul were equally powerful. He had the dense qi and spiritual essence to spare.

The more Yang Qing thought about it, the more he felt affable to it.

"I think you should do it," said Blue Universe.

"I think so too," said Veiled Destiny, who was unusually quiet all this while.

"Me too," said the last member of the bunch, Green Cocoon.

"Are you all snooping in my mind?" Yang Qing asked.

"Yes," they all answered, with a matter-of-fact tone.

Yang Qing almost dropped the gold eagle medallion he had in his hands when he heard their response.

Blue Universe's explanation and his internal monologue, which turns out wasn't a secret now, all took under a minute. In that time, he put away his issued palace court robes and took out his gold eagle medallion, which could be considered the single most important object in Yang Qing's possession.

The medallion was unique to every judge since they fused a small part of their soul and blood essence into it. It helped them control the arrays within their courtroom and doubled as a communication talisman that had a direct line to all the important offices within the Order including the Spirit Council, served as a distress signal and was also their identification.

Without it, they'd be barred entry to some of the sensitive areas within the Order such as the Requiem prison, the Internal Logistics floor, and the upper levels of the main library to name a few. It was the one thing that they would always keep by them for the rest of their lives.

Yang Qing wasn't sure why, but to him, the medallion always felt like a living organism more than an artifact.

Yang Qing passed his medallion over to Chief Justice Lai Ning, who created a few complex seals over it and transferred the eagle that had morphed from the golden droplet, into the medallion.

The medallion shimmered briefly as millions of complex and interconnected scripts and runes appeared on it for a few seconds and disappeared just as fast.

The two elders from the Radiant Sword Sect and the Flowing Valley Sect both had complex emotions flash in their eyes as their gazes fell on the medallion.

"With this, the clearance level and other measures have been adjusted in your medallion to match your current station. You can research them more later in your own time, using the assigned method.

For now, I think people would like to hear a few words from you before we reach the final part of the ceremony, which I know you're definitely looking forward to," said Chief Justice Lai Ning with a cheeky smile.

Yang Qing chuckled in embarrassment at being seen through as he stepped forward to give the speech that he hadn't prepared for. He spent the previous day worrying about his crazy grandfather to actually think of anything. But luckily even without anything on hand, he wasn't worried about it, his questionable reputation had already spread around the Order, there was no way it could get any worse.

But before he began his speech, Yang Qing took a brief moment of silence to offer a silent apology to the Order.

"Sorry Order for calling you stingy bastards among other things, well you're still stingy, but you have a heart at least. Thank you for the precious robe, and I hope the pay will be just as precious," Yang Qing muttered as he closed his eyes.

"Look at the reverence and respectable attitude he has," most thought when they saw Yang Qing's almost pious look.

Some elders even berated their own clan members and disciples for not being as dedicated and respectable as Yang Qing.

Those from the Order were the ones filled with puzzled looks from Yang Qing's current display.

"Is that reverence I see in Yang Qing? Is this some long scheme he is putting in play?" they all wondered.