

Little Girl 251

Chapter 251: True Dragon's Image

That thing, actually weighs five thousand jin.

A group of candidates looked at the Longteng Stele being carried in with reverence.

The stele was respectfully placed right in the center of the North Square.

The stele was just as Xin Lin said, not large; called a stone, it was fully white, with not a single character visible on its body.

"The Longteng Stele was created by the Dragon Ascension Ancestor who summoned a True Dragon and used the True Dragon Breath to condense it. The stele has spirit and can evaluate each candidate's cultivation. Everyone should proceed in orderly fashion, step forward one by one, and simply channel all of their inner True Qi into the body of the stele," said General Zuo in a deep voice.

The Dragon Ascension Stele, condensed from True Dragon Breath, the ancients sure loved their gimmicks, all this True Dragon Emperor, Dragon Breath, it's all nonsense, just gimmicks.

Xin Lin sneered inwardly.

Although it's called Longteng, no one has ever really seen a dragon, not to mention the True Dragon Breath.

Earlier, the Xuan Bird from Qin Mountain, wasn't it also falsely spread among the people as a phoenix?

Where on earth are there dragons and phoenixes.

After the Longteng Stele was presented, the first candidate already walked forward.

He was dressed simply, with a very nervous expression.

Xin Lin remembered this candidate; his name was Zhang Jun, fifteen years old, from a very poor family. Even the travel expenses to Purple Cloud City were scraped together by his neighbors.

In the written examination, he only received a low-grade score.

If he doesn't achieve a good result in this Martial Arts Examination, he would probably be too ashamed to face his hometown elders and kinsfolk.

When he saw the Longteng Stele, he staggered on his feet, almost crashing into the stele.

A burst of laughter ensued.

"What a wretch, he must have been scared by the Longteng Stele."

"Disgraceful, just roll back to your countryside, kid."

Jin Chen and his group laughed particularly loudly.

"Silence."

General Zuo shouted angrily, scaring Jin Chen and the others into immediate silence.

"The Longteng Stele is the national protective stele of Longteng, for nearly a thousand years, every Zixiao Palace Exam has been assessed by the Longteng Stele, and those who do not dare to touch the stele do not deserve to be called Longteng people."

Upon hearing this, Zhang Jun straightened his spine, walked forward, raised his palm, and placed it on the Longteng Stele.

"Peak of Martial Master, Mid-grade Talent."

Xin Lin eagerly watched the stele, waiting to see how the "spiritual position" would assess.

A cold voice drifted to her ears.

Truly a marvel, the Pride Corpse actually came to spectate the Martial Arts Examination.

Xin Lin sneakily reached to pull out a Sealing Spirit Talisman.

"I told you not to get too close to her, but you just won't listen."

Gui Hu said coldly.

"Did Ziyue dig up your ancestor's grave, or does she owe you a million, that you target her at every turn?"

Xin Lin retorted with a curl of her lip.

"Not of your clan, bound to invite calamity."

Gui Hu said something inexplicably.

Not of my clan, you're not of my clan either, yet I have to deal with you every day.

Xin Lin grumbled.

At that moment, a light shone on the Dragon Ascension Stele.

A line of characters appeared on the stele.

"Peak of Martial Master, Mid-grade Talent."

Did it actually turn out just as the Pride Corpse's cursed mouth predicted?

Xin Lin was startled.

"Zhang Jun, fifteen years old, Martial Arts Examination result: Middle."

General Zuo nodded his head and signaled the next candidate to come forward.

Achieving a middle result in the Martial Arts Examination meant that even if Zhang Jun couldn't enter the Qingtian Academy, he would be eligible to make a living in Purple Cloud City or join the military. For someone from a poor family like him, it was indeed good news.

Zhang Jun, as if relieved of a heavy burden, showed a hint of a smile on his face.

The second candidate quickly stepped forward and, just like Zhang Jun, infused True Qi into the Longteng Stele, and a line of characters appeared.

"Martial Arts Apprentice, Low Grade Talent."

The third one... the fourth one...

General Zuo watched as the results appeared successively on the stele, his brow furrowing slightly, seeming like among this batch of candidates, it's unlikely anyone will be able to evoke the "True Dragon's Image."

Chapter 252: Once in a Decade

Still no sign of one, it has been nearly a decade.

General Zuo sighed.

After Chu Beiqing, no peerless genius has emerged in Longteng Country.

The Longteng Stele's test was extremely fast; two hours had passed, and the queue of thousands of people had already been reduced by forty percent.

Another hour or so, and it would be Xin Lin and her group's turn.

Xin Lin glanced over, noting that Jin Chen and Chu Miaoyun's turn was coming next.

Chu Miaoyun... a daughter paying off her father's debts, it's your bad luck.

"Something's wrong with the True Qi."

Murong Ziyue's face changed.

She had just tried to gather her energy and found that the abundant True Qi inside her was rapidly drying up.

Xin Lin's middle finger and index finger were placed on Murong Ziyue's wrist; almost all of Murong Ziyue's True Qi was gone, and her pulse was erratic—sometimes fast, sometimes slow. According to what doctors say, the pulse is the foundation of a person; an irregular pulse must indicate something abnormal.

"You've been poisoned."

Xin Lin said in a grave tone.

"Impossible, there's no poison in my water or food."

Murong Ziyue immediately denied.

Xin Lin pondered.

According to the Mystical Medicine Book, poison could be administered through food and water, even through contact, clothing, and so on.

Xin Lin had a notion, sniffed Murong Ziyue's clothes, and detected a very faint medicinal smell.

The little eunuch said that the Third Prince's poison was colorless and tasteless, undetectable by ordinary people.

But that's only for common folk; Xin Lin's senses and intuition had been enhanced by the Ultimate Marrow Cleansing Powder and were extremely keen.

"Someone has poisoned your clothes."

Xin Lin's eyes flashed, and she glanced in Jin Chen's direction.

"It must be Jin Chen!"

Little Xinzhuo also panicked.

It was for their sake that Ziyue got into trouble with Jin Chen; if Ziyue failed this Martial Arts Examination due to this act, he would feel deeply guilty.

Jin Chen was looking this way, and upon seeing the ugly expressions on Xin Lin and Murong Ziyue's faces, he revealed a sinister smile.

The poison was indeed in Murong Ziyue's clothing, as Jin Chen harbored a grudge against Murong Ziyue and Xin Lin for the humiliation he faced.

He originally wanted to have someone cripple Murong Ziyue, but considering the Martial Arts Examination was imminent, if anything happened to Murong Ziyue at this time, he would be the first suspect.

Thus, through the arrangement of the Third Prince, Jin Chen had people poison Murong Ziyue in secret, yet he did not expect Murong Ziyue to be careful and cautious, making it impossible for even the little eunuch to find an opportunity.

Fortunately, the Third Prince's strategist offered timely advice and thought of poisoning through the clothes.

This method of poisoning would go unnoticed by most.

In a place like the Imperial Palace, where queens and princes constantly engage in deception and intrigue, such events occur from time to time, but how could ordinary civilians like Murong Ziyue anticipate such tactics?

The queue continued to shorten, and it was Jin Chen's turn to test next.

Jin Chen held his head high and walked forward with a look of arrogance.

With a loud shout, he struck the Longteng Stele with his palm, his True Qi was robust, and his palm strike packed the power of several hundred pounds.

"Xuanwu Practitioner Triple, top-grade talent."

On the Longteng Stele, several clear characters appeared.

Jin Chen was also the first candidate with top-grade talent. With such talent, the chance of condensing a Xuan Root was quite high.

The crowd was astounded, and the other examinees saw Jin Chen in a new light.

Yesterday, Jin Chen was humiliated, and though the candidates didn't dare to speak out, they all sneered at him in private; after all, Jin Chen's usual overbearing behavior had offended many.

But once his testing result was announced, he became the first Xuanwu candidate of the day's assessment, and nobody dared to laugh at him any longer.

Jin Chen walked down, smug and triumphant.

He might not come first in the Written Examination, but this Martial Arts Examination's first place, he had set his sights on it.

He had even secretly arranged his men; as soon as the Martial Arts Examination was over, he would take the opportunity to deal with Murong Ziyue and Xin Lin.

Chapter 253: Mommy's Favoritism

Jin Chen returned to his team, and all his companions began to offer their congratulations in unison.

Grandmaster Jin is a renowned spiritual cultivator in Longteng, and as his son, Jin Chen's talent is naturally not to be underestimated.

"Truly, Young Master Jin is remarkable."

Chu Miaoyun said with a smile.

"Sister Miaoyun jests, I hear that you have also recently advanced to become a Xuanwu Practitioner; truly a heroine among women, worthy daughter of the Imperial Physician."

The two complimented each other.

Chu Miaoyun's talents might not match Jin Chen's, but thanks to having a Divine Doctor as a father, she managed to become a Xuanwu Practitioner with the help of Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder.

Being a woman and a year younger than Jin Chen, it was indeed rare for her to become a Xuanwu Practitioner.

"But I've just crossed the threshold of becoming a Xuanwu Practitioner."

Chu Miaoyun said with a light laugh.

"Speaking of which, Murong Ziyue is actually the foremost among women; isn't her cultivation at the Fourth Rank of a Xuanwu Practitioner?"

Chu Miaoyun hinted something with her words.

"Maybe in the past, but after today..."

Jin Chen spoke sarcastically, glancing towards Xin Lin and the others.

It wouldn't take even two hours before it was their turn.

"What should Sister do? Should we inform the General about this? It's too much; Jin Chen is utterly lawless."

Little Xinzhuo puffed up with anger, seeing Jin Chen's triumphant demeanor and then glancing at Sister Ziyue, he couldn't hold back his fury and wanted to confront Jin Chen.

Murong Ziyue remained silent; her body was completely drained of True Qi.

This time, she had been careless.

"Law? Ah Zhuo, to this day, do you still believe there is law in this world? If there were, you and your mother wouldn't have ended up in such straits, nor would your grandfather have..." Although General Zuo is impartial, when it comes to issues involving the power figures of the country, even he would have his reservations, and Ziyue would still lose her chance in the examination.

Xin Lin shook her head.

"So we just sit here resigned to fate, watching Jin Chen become number one?"

Little Xinzhuo was choked with exasperation, feeling powerless for the first time.

"Don't worry, luckily I've made preparations ahead of time; taking this might possibly cure the poison in you."

Xin Lin took out the Dan Wood Furnace and handed it to Murong Ziyue.

"You can't take elixir pills during the Martial Arts Examination."

Murong Ziyue was somewhat surprised.

She actually made preparations early on.

Did she already foresee that she would be poisoned?

Recalling Xin Lin's earlier warning, Murong Ziyue couldn't help but feel curious.

"It's not an elixir pill; consuming it definitely won't break the rules."

Xin Lin stuffed the Dan Wood Furnace into Murong Ziyue's hands.

(Mommy is biased, and it makes me so upset)

In Xin Lin's arms, the Overlord Egg nestled inside the Sealing Spirit Talisman wept bitterly as it watched the Wind Breath Braised Pork being given to Murong Ziyue.

Murong Ziyue hesitated for a moment before opening the furnace.

A fragrant aroma instantly hit her nose.

The entirety of North Square was instantly filled with the scent of braised pork.

All the participants felt their stomachs churn, even General Zuo was attracted by the aroma.

This was also Xin Lin's first time witnessing this so-called One-star Spiritual Delicacy.

The glistening syrup permeated the pork, the meat was tender, and the gamey smell of pork was completely masked by the fresh scent of Wind Breath Grass; the fat was translucent without seeming greasy, appearing crystal clear. Just by smelling the aroma and seeing the color, it was already supremely tempting.

But the size was surprisingly too...

Ten thousand silver taels for just a block the size of tofu?

Murong Ziyue hadn't expected that such delicacy could be hidden within such a small furnace.

Spiritual Food!

Murong Ziyue's eyes narrowed as the aroma of the Wind Breath Braised Pork continuously drilled into her nostrils, even before eating, she felt her pulses throbbing vigorously in her body.

Chapter 254: A Daughter Pays Her Father's Debts

This is not a simple piece of Braised Pork Belly.

Murong Ziyue felt a warm sensation welling up in her heart.

"Murong Ziyue, you dare to break the rules by taking Elixir Pills."

Jin Chen was originally watching with a face waiting for a good laugh, expecting Murong Ziyue to make a fool of herself, but who knew Murong Ziyue would suddenly hold up a stove.

Inside that stove... Jin Chen secretly swallowed, what kind of Elixir Pill could be so fragrant?

During the Martial Arts Examination, the use of Elixir Pills is forbidden to prevent some candidates from cheating by temporarily boosting their cultivation.

"Young Master Jin, with which eye did you see Ziyue taking Elixir Pills? It's just her breakfast inside there. People are iron, but breakfast is steel; Ziyue didn't have enough time to eat breakfast in the morning, does eating a little now count as a violation? General Zuo, is there a rule against eating?"

Xin Lin defended with justified indignation.

General Zuo sent someone to check the Dan Wood Furnace, and indeed, they only found a piece of meat with no issues or ingredients of Elixir Pills, it seemed like just an overly fragrant piece of Braised Pork Belly.

"There is no rule in the Martial Arts Examination against eating."

General Zuo also witnessed for the first time someone eating at the scene of the Martial Arts Examination.

Murong Ziyue did not hesitate and swallowed the Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly in one bite.

Within the square, there suddenly arose a sound of people swallowing their saliva, with the applicants all having one thought in their hearts: how they really wanted to taste that piece of meat.

As soon as the Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly entered her mouth, Murong Ziyue's body slightly trembled.

The greasy but not oily taste, melting in the mouth, just one piece of Braised Pork Belly, and it quickly raised a warm sensation inside her.

Within her limbs and bones, True Qi was being restored bit by bit.

Murong Ziyue felt grateful and cast a glance at Xin Lin.

"Don't look at me with that kind of eyes, or I'll think you've fallen in love with me."

Xin Lin said with a smile.

"What's so great about a piece of rotten meat, the chefs at my home make it much tastier than that one."

It was Chu Miaoyun's turn to be assessed, but thanks to the Feng Xi Braised Pork Belly, everyone's focus was on Xin Lin and Murong Ziyue.

This caused Chu Miaoyun, who was eager to stand out, to feel quite dissatisfied.

She scoffed, the lower-class people are just lower-class; they have never even tasted Spiritual Food, how would they know what a delicacy really tastes like.

Chu Miaoyun walked up to the Longteng Stele, her pretty face full of confidence.

She raised her hand, ready to imbue the Longteng Stele with True Qi.

But as she took a deep breath, she suddenly felt emptiness inside her.

Where was her True Qi?

A rapid paleness swept over Chu Miaoyun's beautiful face.

She could hardly believe it; her True Qi had disappeared entirely.

"Chu Miaoyun, stop dilly-dallying."

General Zuo urged.

"I, my True Qi has disappeared. I am a Xuanwu Practitioner."

Chu Miaoyun stuttered.

Clearly, last night, her True Qi was still abundant, so how could it have disappeared upon arriving in front of the Longteng Stele?

"Chu Miaoyun, it's not up to you to say what your cultivation is, the Longteng Stele will make its own judgment."

General Zuo said displeasedly.

Chu Miaoyun had no choice but to slap her hand against the Longteng Stele.

But on the stele, there was not the slightest reaction.

"She has no True Qi at all."

"She has the guts to claim she's a Xuanwu Practitioner."

"She looks pretty, but she's actually a fraud."

The candidates all erupted in laughter.

"No, it's not true, I really am a Xuanwu Practitioner. It must be... it must be someone framing me, I must have been poisoned."

Chu Miaoyun, both angry and anxious, rushed to General Zuo.

"Miss Chu, your father is Grand Doctor Chu; who would dare poison you."

General Zuo said in annoyance.

Still, out of consideration for certain connections, he had someone diagnose Chu Miaoyun.

~ Reached 3000 votes yesterday, thanks everyone, tomorrow will still be bonus Chapters if there are enough votes. This book, indeed Da Fu is writing under pressure, although the performance is not great, thankfully, there are still people reading it, a self-comfort face~

Chapter 255: Earning Newfound Respect!

Xin Lin watched with a cold, detached expression, her crimson lips slightly curling.

Having ingested Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder for so many days, there was no way to find any remnants of the drug.

Not to mention, Bone Marrow Cleansing Powder wasn't poison at all.

Little Xinzhuo was simply idolizing his Sister to death.

Why didn't it take effect earlier, and had to act up at this very moment?

Xin Lin smiled without a word, knowing that as long as the dosage was well controlled, it was natural to calculate precisely when the medicine's effect would manifest. What she did was nothing but child's play compared to what Chu Tianyi did to Silly Chu.

The Imperial Physician who stepped forward to diagnose shook his head.

Chu Miaoyun's pulse was stable, and other than lacking True Qi, there were no abnormalities. By all accounts, she was just an ordinary person.

"It's impossible, how could this be possible, I'm really poisoned."

Chu Miaoyun burst into tears with a cry.

Without a shred of True Qi, she was no different from a disabled person.

"Jeez, who would have thought Chu Miaoyun was actually a sham. If it wasn't for her father being Chu Tianyi, how could the Third Prince fancy such stuff?"

Jin Chen also wore an expression of mockery.

Not even being a Xuanwu Practitioner, she wasn't qualified to mingle with them and the Prince Faction. After today, barring any unforeseen events, Chu Miaoyun would be stripped of her noble status.

General Zuo signaled for Chu Miaoyun to be taken away.

The Martial Arts Examination continued.

Following Chu Miaoyun, another Xuanwu Practitioner appeared, a young boy ranked at Dark Martial Artist Second Rank, named Chen Xuan.

"Ah Zhuo, it's your turn, go for it!"

Xin Lin watched as Little Xinzhuo approached the Longteng Stele.

Little Xinzhuo was somewhat nervous. After stepping forward, he didn't immediately throw a punch.

General Zuo stood by, his gaze intense, watching Little Xinzhuo.

He straightened his spine and let out a light shout. His small fist swung out and hit the stele.

A line of text then appeared on the stele.

"Martial Arts Apprentice cultivation, Low Grade Martial Artist aptitude."

General Zuo's eyes dimmed; indeed, the child had not inherited the supreme talent of General Shi.

"A worthless Apprentice, what's the use in writing a good article, all bark and no bite is a scholar."

Jin Chen was petty, irked by Little Xinzhuo's dazzling paper in the Written Examination.

Just an Apprentice, and from a commoner background, what could he amount to?

But just moments later, another line of text appeared on the Longteng Stele.

"Basic-level Spirit Master, top-grade Spiritual Practitioner aptitude."

Ten words that surprised General Zuo.

The Seventh Prince, he was actually a Spiritual Practitioner!

Inside the North Square, there was a wave of exclamations.

There it was, the first Spiritual Practitioner of this year's Zixiao Palace Exam had emerged.

Due to geographical reasons, the concentration of Spiritual Energy in Longteng Country wasn't very abundant, and the number of Spiritual Practitioners was far fewer than Martial Artists.

Every year in the Zixiao Palace Exam, the chance of a Spiritual Practitioner appearing was very low, often just one a year.

No one expected this year's Spiritual Practitioner to be a child.

Little Xinzhuo was the first Spiritual Practitioner.

"That child is actually a Spirit Warrior."

"It is said that even in the Zixiao Palace Exam each year, it's rare to have a Spirit Warrior."

"That's Xin Zhuo who ranked fourth in the Written Examination."

"Wow, fourth in written, top-grade in martial, could this little fellow be the champion of this year's Imperial Examination?"

The crowd around buzzed with various discussions, everyone envious and impressed.

Jin Chen's face turned ashen.

The despicable runt, he's actually a Spirit Master!

Truly a missed strategy, he had been focusing on Murong Ziyue all along, considering Murong Ziyue to be his biggest threat in the Martial Examination, not expecting Xin Zhuo to suddenly emerge out of nowhere.

Little Xinzhuo saw the words on the Longteng Stele and exhaled in relief. Turning around, he searched the crowd for Xin Lin and waved enthusiastically at her.

"Sister, I've done it, I haven't let you and mother down!"

Chapter 256: Superior Talent!

Basic-level Spirit Master, Ah Zhuo this fellow, is truly a dark horse.

Xin Lin saw this result and was secretly delighted.

But in just over a month, Little Xin Zhuo broke through from a Spiritual Practitioner to a Spirit Master, this lad's talent in the Spiritual Practitioner realm is probably much stronger than hers.

Xin Lin's mind stirred.

How high exactly is her Spiritual Cultivation?

She really wasn't sure.

She had only been cultivating her Spiritual Power for just over a month, which was much less time compared to Little Xin Zhuo.

This past month, due to the Pride Corpse, she mainly cultivated Fu Xi's Energy, neglecting her Spiritual Practitioner cultivation, and now the only magic she knew was the Ghost Escape Technique.

Whether Fu Xi's Energy could pass the test of the Longteng Stele was still an unknown.

At worst, she could only reveal her talent as a Spirit Warrior, perhaps relying on her good performance in the Written Examination, she might still make it into the top ten, Xin Lin silently mused.

Amidst the envious gazes of the crowd, Little Xin Zhuo quickly walked back.

"Ziyue, Sister, you must also do your best. Frustrate Jin Chen and his group."

Little Xin Zhuo made a face in Jin Chen's direction.

Murong Ziyue nodded.

Next, it was her turn.

From the current situation, Little Xin Zhuo and Jin Chen were leading in their Martial Arts and Written Examination scores, it was still uncertain who would rank higher overall.

Murong Ziyue was the most attention-grabbing person in this place; she walked up to the Longteng Stele.

Greater expectations, greater disappointments.

Jin Chen and his group were making faces, just waiting for Murong Ziyue to embarrass herself.

Murong Ziyue struck out with a palm, and with a muffled thud, it landed on the Longteng Stele.

The stele vibrated.

Hmm?

Jin Chen looked surprised, as the palm strike looked very imposing.

Wasn't Murong Ziyue's True Qi completely gone?

General Zuo was also watching closely.

"Xuanwu Sixth Realm, Superior Talent."

The Longteng Stele quickly displayed these words.

Xuanwu Sixth Realm!

Even Murong Ziyue herself couldn't help but her pupils shrink.

She had been at the Xuanwu Fifth Realm for three months already.

"Superior Talent! How is this possible? General Zuo, Murong Ziyue clearly only has Xuanwu Fifth Realm cultivation. How could she suddenly be a Sixth Realm? There must be a mistake in the test results."

Jin Chen was agitated, refusing to accept this reality.

He had indeed poisoned Murong Ziyue; how could she still score such astonishing results?

"The Longteng Stele has never made an error before."

General Zuo stated with dissatisfaction.

"General Zuo, Ziyue is willing to retry."

Without further ado, Murong Ziyue struck the Longteng Stele with another palm.

Just like before, the result from the Longteng Stele remained:

Xuanwu Sixth Realm, Superior Talent.

"Jin Chen, do you have anything else to say?"

General Zuo barked.

Whether Jin Chen or Chu Miaoyun, using their parents' influence, have been spouting nonsense in the Zixiao Palace Exam, after today, he must report to the Emperor and properly discipline this group of privileged children,

"It's impossible, it must be... I know now, it must be that piece of meat just now, there's something wrong with the meat."

Jin Chen realized.

He glared fiercely at Xin Lin.

That piece of meat must have contained an antidote.

"Young Master Jin, why are you glaring at me? That was just a piece of ordinary Braised Pork Belly, you probably eat hundreds of pieces a year. Besides, General Zuo already had it checked, are you questioning if General Zuo is unfair in his dealings?"

Xin Lin sneered.

"Jin Chen, if you continue this nonsense, don't blame me for being rude. Your qualification for the Martial Arts Examination will be cancelled, and you'll be expelled."

General Zuo threatened, and Jin Chen's face turned ashen, and he was forced to swallow his grievances.

Chapter 257: Can't Be Measured?!

"Ziyue, congratulations, dual first place, you're truly deserving of the top rank."

When Murong Ziyue returned, Xin Lin congratulated her.

"Thank you."

Murong Ziyue hesitated briefly before expressing her gratitude.

She felt somewhat uncomfortable and said coyly.

"What are you thanking me for? If you help me once, I help you once, it's fair, we're all friends."

Seeing Murong Ziyue's reaction, Xin Lin found it somewhat amusing, but her mind wasn't really on teasing her at the moment, as her entire focus was on the upcoming tests.

The first, third, and fourth place winners of the Written Examination had already undergone their assessments, leaving only Xin Lin, who held the second place in the Written Examination, yet to be assessed.

All eyes were, thus, trained on Xin Lin.

"Is that Xin Zhuo's sister, could she also be a mighty Spirit Master?"

"Are you dumb, having one Spirit Master in a family is a reason to thank the heavens, let alone two."

"I think she's probably a Martial Artist, her martial talent should be pretty good."

Jin Chen snorted upon hearing the surrounding comments.

The younger is a genius, and so is the elder?

Nice dream, this Xin Lin is cunning beyond her years, unlike the honest Xin Zhuo. How could someone like her seriously learn martial arts.

Even her second place in the Written Exam was tricked out.

Just by making a flippant remark about the Emperor, she got the second place.

He didn't believe that she'd be so lucky in the Martial Arts Examination.

Xin Lin walked up to the Longteng Stele.

"Pride Corpse, what grade of talent do you think I can achieve?"

Xin Lin asked quietly.

She aimed for top three in the Zixiao Palace Exam, she'd need to achieve at least top five in the Martial Arts Examination results.

Pride Corpse had been accurately predicting the assessment results just while watching, surely he was also clear about her level of cultivation.

"Fu Xi's Energy for seven days."

Unexpectedly, Gui Hu became evasive at this moment.

"You're raising the price on the spot, I'll do it myself."

Feeling frustrated, Xin Lin gathered Fu Xi's Energy into her fist.

She put all her strength into it and was about to throw her punch.

Her fist slammed into the Longteng Stele with a loud thud, and the stele shook several times.

Next to her, General Zuo glanced over subtly.

An expert is recognized as soon as they make a move.

Regardless of Xin Lin's level of cultivation, the speed and strength of her punch just now were astonishing and didn't match her age.

"Ziyue, do you think my sister might be just a bit stronger than Jin Chen?"

Little Xinzhuo, anxious, blinked rapidly, staring at the Longteng Stele.

"Unlikely."

Murong Ziyue shook her head.

Xin Lin seemed to lack True Qi within her.

The only hope was that she and little Xinzhuo had the same Spiritual Practitioner talent. After all, in Murong Ziyue's view, as siblings, Xin Lin and Xin Zhuo's talents shouldn't differ too drastically.

Time trickled by, and it had been a while since Xin Lin threw her punch, but the Longteng Stele was still blank.

"Haha, what a waste."

Seeing this, Jin Chen knew that just like Chu Miaoyun before, Xin Lin had no True Qi in her body.

Without True Qi, what kind of Martial Artist was that?

"At least I am..."

Xin Lin wanted to say that she, at least, was a martial master with middle talent, as confirmed by the Heaven-defying Book earlier.

General Zuo opened his mouth, ready to ask Xin Lin to step down.

"Hold on, I want to test again. General Zuo, I was testing for True Qi just now, I'd like to test for Spiritual Power now."

Xin Lin's eyes shifted as she changed her plea.

Testing for Spiritual Power and Martial Power separately, what kind of situation was this?

The other examinees were dissatisfied.

"Try one more time, there's a limit of three."

General Zuo intended to rebuke her, but seeing Xin Lin's pleading face and considering her relationship with the Seventh Prince, he waved his hand and signaled for Xin Lin to hurry and test again.

Chapter 258: Stele, You Bugged Out!

Xin Lin returned once again in front of the Longteng Stele.

She glanced at the stone stele, murmuring softly to herself.

Xin Lin took a deep breath, wondering how to test Spiritual Energy.

She didn't know, and inside her body, her bean sprouts Ghost Vein twitched, spontaneously generating a surge of Spiritual Power.

Xin Lin muttered the Ghost Escape Technique, pressing her hands against the Longteng Stele.

After a moment, a few characters faintly appeared on the Longteng Stele.

"Spiritual Position, give me some face, at least show me some results."

On the Longteng Stele, a few big characters emerged.

"Advanced Spirit Warrior, Middle..."

The writing became clearer, and Xin Lin also let out a sigh of relief.

Middle-grade Spiritualist Talent, this result was still decent.

(Mommy, what are you doing, I also want to play, I also want to play)

Inside the Sealing Spirit Talisman, the Overlord Egg saw Xin Lin repeatedly punching a broken rock and found it amusing.

A red light flashed across the egg.

In Xin Lin's arms, the Sealing Spirit Talisman heated up.

"Be quiet!

Xin Lin was waiting for the final result to appear, when she suddenly felt the Sealing Spirit Talisman in her embrace stirring restlessly. Without needing to guess, she knew that the Overlord Egg was causing trouble again.

Xin Lin lowered her voice, giving a threat.

But that heat seeped into her body.

Xin Lin shivered all over, feeling an intense heat in the palm of her hand.

Her brain seemed to boom, and the hand that was merely resting on the body of the Longteng Stele suddenly shook.

Abruptly, a handprint appeared on the stone stele.

Done for!

Vandalizing public property!

Xin Lin's mouth opened wide, a million 'damn it' running through her mind.

On the Longteng Stele, the already becoming clear characters suddenly changed, and now appeared:

"Advanced Spirit Master, Superior Spiritualist Talent."

General Zuo beside saw that something was amiss with Xin Lin, about to stop her, yet saw the characters on the stone stele.

General Zuo was shocked, his eyeballs nearly popping out.

Advanced Spirit Master, this frail young girl is an Advanced Spirit Master?

The whole square boiled over.

First a top-grade talent, then a Superior Talent, and another Superior Talent, these three people, truly a trio of geniuses!

Jin Chen was also absolutely dumbfounded.

"Cheating! Just now I clearly saw, the Longteng Stele showed a Middle-grade talent, Advanced Spirit Warrior."

Jin Chen didn't care if he would be expelled, he took a running start, intending to rush toward the Longteng Stele.

His father had Superior Spiritualist Talent, how could this lowly person have Superior Talent!

"Jin Chen, how dare you!"

In a flash, Murong Ziyue blocked Jin Chen's path.

Her arms trembled, and an astonishing True Qi burst forth from her body.

True Qi turned into a stunning vortex, Murong Ziyue's face ferocious, her black hair flying like wild snakes, her eyes filled with deadly intent.

Her look frightened Jin Chen so much his legs went weak, nearly falling to the ground.

Behind, there was an uproar.

But at this time, Xin Lin still didn't move.

She seemed as if in Meditation, "watching" the big characters on the Longteng Stele.

Superior...uh...the Longteng Stele must have bugged.

Or did the stele really listen to her words?

As Xin Lin was pondering, the hand on the Longteng Stele felt somewhat odd, the icy coldness had disappeared, and it was warm between her hands. She looked intently once more.

The stone stele in front of her was gone, her hand was resting on a rough scale.

A deafening sound descended from the sky.

Xin Lin was horrified, looking up.

At that look, Xin Lin stood as if struck by an immobilization charm, completely motionless.

~Little Lin holding the Overlord Egg, bouncing around; those passing by, remember to collect and recommend, muah, thanks to my little friends for the rewards~

Chapter 259: No One Bullies My Mommy

Xin Lin lifted her gaze, her heart pounding intensely.

Before her eyes, there appeared a white creature, bearing a striking resemblance to a dragon.

With a body so thick not even several robust men could envelop it in their arms, its scales were like armor, covering its form, the length of its body stretched hundreds of meters, surrounded by a misty expanse of clouds, its pale golden eyes glared furiously, fixing Xin Lin with a stern gaze.

It lay like the Great Wall winding along Badaling, unending and exuding a formidable aura.

Had Xin Lin not been outstandingly brave, she might have been frightened to the point of weakening knees at first sight.

Is this a dragon? Could it really be a dragon?

Xin Lin's heart raced with loud thumps.

She had punched the Dragon Ascension Stele; could this creature be the Monument Spirit within it?

Since arriving in Longteng, Xin Lin's worldview had been entirely reshuffled.

It is logical for all things to possess a spirit, and for a thousand-year-old Longteng Stele to give rise to various evil spirits.

However... Xin Lin glanced at the white creature's underside, one claw, two claws, three!

Without claws, it would be a snake; one to three claws reduces it to, at most, a Jiao!

What a charade by this White Jiao, daring to posture in front of her!

Xin Lin showed no weakness, furiously staring back at the Defeated Flood Dragon.

"Ignorant ants, how dare you offend this seat."

The white creature saw Xin Lin, not at all scared into paralysis, its fury making it bluster and glare.

Originally just an ordinary rock, a dragon had chanced upon it a millennium ago, bestowing it with a breath of Dragon Breath, endowing it with spirit, and thus transforming into the Dragon Ascension Stele.

At the founding of the country, the Dragon Ascension Ancestor had recognized the stone's potential with the insight from the ancestors of the Chu Family, perceiving dragon-shaped illusions within it and gaining enlightenment.

Emperor Longteng had revered it as sacred, carving it into a monument, and for a thousand years, it was worshipped by everyone in Longteng Country.

The Dragon Breath turned into a White Jiao, occupying the Dragon Ascension Stele.

During the past Imperial Examinations at Zixiao Palace, all examinees before the Dragon Ascension Stele were filled with trepidation.

Yet, this mere ant of a child before it, unexpectedly damaged the stele with a single punch.

Enraged, the White Jiao's Divine Sense enveloped Xin Lin completely.

"You're the ant, your whole family is made of ants!"

"Ridiculous, I merely exerted an itchy-good-for-nothing force; what is this broken stele made of, stone or tofu?"

Xin Lin sneered coldly.

Surrounded by the mists, it's as if she were in a land of immortals; Xin Lin knew she must be under the control of the White Jiao.

"How presumptuous!"

The White Jiao, enraged to the extreme, danced its corporeal form and opened its wide mouth, spewing a rain of Ice Arrows, whooshing towards Xin Lin.

(You cannot bully my Mommy)

Xin Lin was startled, yet she heard the voice of the Overlord Egg transmitting to her.

Her body suddenly burst into astonishingly hot flames.

The Ice Arrows, before even touching Xin Lin, were instantly evaporated by the flames encasing her.

The White Jiao was shocked.

This tiny ant before its eyes seemed transformed, her black hair billowing, her delicate face now bore an untouchable, sacred aspect.

(Little Worm, don't think just because you've inhaled a breath of dragon's air you can act unruly. If you dare bully my Mommy again, I'll reduce you to ash)

The voice of the Overlord Egg was childishly soft, but the terrifying pressure it carried frightened the White Jiao into trembling.

"Summoning Master."

When the White Jiao sensed Xin Lin's level of Spiritual Power cultivation, it found it bizarre; an ant that appeared completely ordinary possessed Superior Spiritual Practitioner Talent.

So the little girl was a Summoning Master.

A Summoning Master herself was not frightening; what was frightful was her Spiritual Beast.

If the beast can burn it to ashes, is it just a common Spiritual Beast?

Perhaps its existence is even loftier than that of the Dragon Clan!

Chapter 260: Mental Compensation

Just a moment ago, the boastful White Jiao underwent a transformation, its mountainous body shrank in the blink of an eye to the length of a finger.

"Oh great Summoning Master, please calm your anger. Little Worm offers its apologies."

White Jiao was sweating profusely as it hurriedly made amends.

(That's more like it. Considering you are young and ignorant, I'll let it slide this time. Remember, Mommy is watching over you. Next time you see Mommy, take a detour and crawl around.)

Overlord Egg lectured.

White Jiao didn't dare to object.

Your rank is higher, your word is the law. Whatever you say goes, goes.

White Jiao looked pitiful, prostrating with its three claws in front of Xin Lin, nodding its head like a pounding garlic.

Incredible, Overlord Egg!

Xin Lin was secretly pleased. She had previously found the Overlord Egg to be unreliable with its love for eating and sleeping and called it the most unreliable Spiritual Beast in history. But now, it seemed full of potential.

(Mommy, don't worry, I'm here for you. I'll get us out in no time.)

Overlord Egg exhibited a face full of pride.

White Jiao possessed Dragon Breath and could create a Sea of Consciousness Illusion.

Xin Lin was still in the middle of the Martial Arts Examination and had to return quickly; otherwise, if too much time passed, she would be discovered.

"Don't be in such a hurry. Just apologizing, and that's it? That's too much of a loss. Demand compensation for mental distress."

Xin Lin's eyes rolled around as a plan formed in her mind.

(My mommy said, we can forgive you, but you have to pay up.)

Overlord Egg growled menacingly.

"Little Worm has no money, I am a good insect; all these years, I've only managed to gather some True Qi and a small amount of Spiritual Power."

White Jiao lamented inwardly.

It was a Monument Spirit, what would it need money for?

(No money? Then use True Qi to compensate.)

Overlord Egg was clearly unhappy.

Xin Lin's whole body trembled, and White Jiao disappeared.

Her hand was still touching the Dragon Ascension Stele, and from within the stele, a raging force surged like a tidal wave.

What is that?

A violent stream of True Qi was being injected into her body from her limbs and bones.

Xin Lin felt like a balloon being rapidly filled with True Qi.

Inside her body, the Unrivaled Ghost Vein stirred, greedily absorbing the True Qi.

The White Jiao inside the Dragon Ascension Stele had already fainted in tears; half of its painstakingly accumulated True Qi over a thousand years had been taken away in an instant.

Every year, the Dragon Ascension Stele tested candidates; those candidates infused the stele with True Qi with every palm and punch, and over a thousand years, it amounted to a significant sum.

White Jiao could have used this True Qi to continuously break through, but it was reverted to its pre-liberation state due to a single instance of extortion by the Overlord Egg.

As the True Qi entered her body in large amounts, Xin Lin felt her whole body becoming hot and swollen.

"This is outrageous. Withdraw your hand now, or you'll burst and die."

Gui Hu's cold voice came through.

Murong Ziyue was present, and Gui Hu couldn't block Xin Lin and Overlord Egg without revealing his presence to her.

Xin Lin clenched her teeth, withdrew her hand, and staggered several steps backward.

Her small face was covered in sweat, her qi and blood boiling. Xin Lin took a deep breath and forcefully suppressed the astonishing True Qi within her body.

"Advanced Spirit Master, Superior Spiritualist Talent."

On the Dragon Ascension Stele which now had one more handprint, the same clear and large characters were still visible.

"Jin Chen, do you have anything else to say?"

General Zuo glared at Jin Chen.

"I don't believe it. There must be a mistake with the Dragon Ascension Stele. I will test again."

Jin Chen huffed.

He would not believe that Xin Lin was an Advanced Spirit Master with Superior Talent.

To see if the Dragon Ascension Stele was wrong, he would know by testing again himself.

Having said that, under everyone's watchful eyes, he walked up to the Dragon Ascension Stele again and threw a punch.

As True Qi flowed into the Dragon Ascension Stele, a new line of text emerged on its body.