

Little Girl 471

Chapter 471: Dark Spirit Root Test

Xin Lin and Murong Ziyue had just settled down when they saw a woman dressed in dark green with light white flowing cloud patterns on her supervisor's attire approaching.

"New students on the left, old students on the right, those who want to test for the Xuan Root, line up orderly. No crowding."

Testing for Xuan Root?

Xin Lin and Murong Ziyue were somewhat puzzled— wasn't today just about new student admissions, why was there suddenly a test for something called Xuan Root?

"It seems that some people still don't know that their luck is about to run out."

From behind, Jin Chen and Chu Miaoyun walked over, accompanied by a group of hedonistic young nobles.

Xin Lin and Murong Ziyue exchanged glances, seeing the impatience in each other's eyes.

Xin Lin was already mentally prepared for Jin Chen and those nobles; after all, they were attending the same academy. It was inevitable to run into them frequently. Xin Lin just hoped that they wouldn't be placed in the same class.

Although not very familiar with Qingtian Academy, Xin Lin had heard that after admission, students would be divided into seven classes based on their talents: Tianshu, Tianxuan, Tianji, Tianquan, Yuheng, Kaiyang, and Shaking Light.

The first four were for Martial Artists, and the last three were for Spiritual Practitioners.

Based on the results from the Zixiao Palace Exam, Xin Lin, Murong Ziyue, and Little Xinzhuo's class placements should have been determined even before admission.

Thus, Xin Lin and Murong Ziyue didn't care much about what Jin Chen said.

However, the appearance of Chu Miaoyun was somewhat surprising to Xin Lin.

During the Zixiao Palace Exam, due to the use of Ultimate Marrow Cleansing Powder, Chu Miaoyun had forfeited her results and was disqualified.

Logically, she shouldn't have appeared at Qingtian Academy, yet here she was, seeming to have come for admission as well.

"Little wretch, I've been placed in Yuheng Class. Let's see how long you can keep feeling proud," Chu Miaoyun declared with aloofness.

Her face was covered with a thick layer of makeup, concealing some traces of a rash caused by her previous use of poison.

Tianxuan Class—the second-ranked class among Martial Artists—how could her cultivation qualify her for Yuheng Class?

As soon as Xin Lin heard this, he felt somewhat astonished.

"Young Master here is in Tianshu Class. You probably didn't know, did you? The Third Prince invited Young Master Sikong to test our Xuan Roots. My result shows a four-finger Xuan Root, and Miao Yun has a three-finger Spirit Root. I'm curious to see how many of you have Xuan Spiritual Roots."

Jin Chen gloated proudly.

Hearing this, the surrounding new students showed envy but also concern.

Especially the other new students who ranked among the top ten in the previous Zixiao Palace Exam, they all looked apprehensive.

They originally thought that a good ranking in the exam would allow them a swift change of fortune. Who knew that this year, an additional test for Dark Spirit Root had been introduced.

Asking Sikong Ran to test for Xuan Root ... Hearing this, Xin Lin and Little Xinzhuo felt somewhat uneasy.

Little Xinzhuo looked towards his Sister, hesitant to speak.

The three of them then realized that the reason Qingtian Academy had spent a considerable sum to invite Sikong Ran this time wasn't just for teaching—it was for testing the Xuan Root.

Regardless of being a Martial Artist or a Spiritual Practitioner, talent fundamentally lay in the Dark Spirit Root.

When one reaches the stage of a Xuanwu Practitioner or Spirit Master, Xuan Root or Spirit Root appears within the body.

The longer the Xuan Root or Spirit Root, the faster the future cultivation speed.

Although the Longteng Stele in Longteng Country can test for talent, it does not specify the details of the Dark Spirit Root.

However, outside of Longteng in various Sects, families, and power blocs, methods to test descendants and disciples are more diverse; they mostly test directly for the Dark Spirit Root, though these methods are usually highly confidential secrets.

After joining Xuantian Sect, Sikong Ran presumably also mastered the methods to test for the Dark Spirit Root.

Chapter 472: Your Smile Is Really Ugly

Jin Chen and the others finished speaking, and, surrounded by their fair-weather friends, swaggered away.

"Sister?"

Little Xinzhuo expressed her concern.

"Don't worry, whatever is meant to come will always find its way. Sikong Ran may lack conscience, but he wouldn't go so far as to confuse right and wrong."

Xin Lin wasn't worried about testing for the Dark Spirit Root.

Now that she had condensed the Fire Spirit, it stands to reason that there should be a Dark Spirit Root within her.

It's just that she was considering whether to choose the Spiritualist Class or the Martial Artist Class.

She is both a Spiritual Practitioner and a Martial Artist, with cultivation in both aspects being closely matched.

Unfortunately, Qingtian Academy doesn't have a class for dual cultivation of Dark Spirit and martial arts. If she wants to look after Little Xinzhuo, she must attend the Spiritualist Class. If she wants to rely on Murong Ziyue for support to swagger through Qingtian Academy, then she must join the Martial Artist Class.

"No matter which class, I want to be with Sister."

Little Xinzhuo clenched her little fists, her face full of determination.

Murong Ziyue was about to speak when she felt a tingling sensation on her scalp, and the words that reached her lips were forcibly swallowed back.

"Ziyue, are these two your good friends that you often mention?"

A male supervisor approached, a smile on his face.

Wearing the same dark green Supervisor's clothes, the garment seemed to emit a completely different aura on him.

His deep eyes, high nose bridge, and amber-colored lips smiled, slightly narrowing his eyes, emitting a handsome and subtly sexy vibe.

His appearance elicited screams from many of the new female students and the older ones.

"It's Master Mu!"

"Master Mu is so handsome!"

Xin Lin paid no attention to this Master Mu; she looked somewhat curiously at Murong Ziyue.

Murong Ziyue's expression became a bit stiff, and even her breathing seemed tense; the previously relaxed atmosphere around her vanished instantly.

Could this person be related to Ziyue?

"Third Brother."

Murong Ziyue called out dryly.

"This is my Third Brother, Mu Bai. He has just arrived at Qingtian Academy and is serving as a supervisor here."

Murong Ziyue briefly introduced the newcomer.

"It's you!"

Little Xinzhuo recognized the man as the one from the feast at the Imperial Palace.

"Seventh Prince, we meet again."

Mu Bai greeted politely with a bow.

He then turned his gaze to Xin Lin, nodding and smiling.

Mu Bai recognized Xin Lin.

This little fellow was previously working as a general worker at Taoyao Pavilion.

That little black sword... speaking of which, she was somewhat related to it.

"Third Brother Mu, you seem decent and presentable, but your smile is rather ugly. It's a forced smile that comes off as quite unattractive."

Unexpectedly, Xin Lin, unlike the other girls who were dazzled by him, replied stiffly.

The smile on Mu Bai's face froze.

His smile ugly?!

She dared to find fault with the smile of Mu Bai, one of Fengdong's three young masters!

How many young girls and married women had he dazzled with his charm!

Mu Bai stood thunderstruck for a good while before he regained his composure.

Murong Ziyue was also taken aback.

She had not expected Xin Lin to criticize Third Brother's smile...

Typical Xin Lin!

Murong Ziyue chuckled, as if a well that had been silent for a century had been disturbed by a small stone, creating ripple after ripple.

"Ziyue, let's go. With distinguished guests visiting, we should take the opportunity to learn."

Xin Lin pulled Murong Ziyue and Little Xinzhuo along, ignoring Mu Bai, and walked away.

Mu Bai pondered as he watched the three walk away, noting how Xin Lin affectionately linked arms with Murong Ziyue and the spring in Murong Ziyue's step.

It seems this Xin Lin is quite influential.

Chapter 473: Crisis Emerges

Under the supervisor's command, the new students and old students quickly took their places on either side.

The number of new students was about a hundred or so, while there were many more old students, at least five to six hundred.

It seemed that no one wanted to miss this rare opportunity for the Dark Spirit Root test. After all, not everyone was as lucky as Jin Chen and Chu Miaoyun, able to have Young Master Sikong test them ahead of time.

Xin Lin and Little Xinzhuo stood at the end of the line, both of them short and not very conspicuous.

Taking advantage of the time before everyone had arrived, Xin Lin closed her eyes.

In her mind's eye, a scene slowly emerged.

"Xin Lin does not possess the Dark Spirit Root."

Before her, Sikong Ran's icy words felt like a sharp spike piercing Xin Lin's heart.

"She's worthless in all Five Meridians, let alone having the Dark Spirit Root — she can't even condense True Qi. How could she be the first in the Zixiao Palace Exam? She's nothing but a fraudster!"

Bai You mocked coldly from the side.

"Fraudster! Great fraudster!"

"Kick her out of Qingtian Academy!"

Wave after wave of angry shouting, like surging tides, enveloped Xin Lin.

No Dark Spirit Root?!

How could it be!

Xin Lin's eyes snapped open, still carrying a trace of shock. Her superpower wouldn't make mistakes.

The scene in her mind would happen soon.

Could it be that Sikong Ran was secretly seeking revenge, tampering with something?

Her palm was wet, and Xin Lin's eyes flickered.

She must not be expelled from the Qingtian Academy.

At the moment, everyone's attention was on the Dark Spirit Root test, and no one noticed the abnormality on Xin Lin's side.

The sound of horse hooves echoed lightly, and several figures dashed like lightning, arriving in an instant.

Long Qingchen led the way, followed by Sikong Ran and Bai You.

"Greetings to the Third Prince, to Young Master Sikong, and Miss Bai. I am Huang Tao, the supervising Martial Arts Academy Governor of Qingtian Academy, representing the Dean to welcome you."

Governor Huang was a Martial Artist in his fifties, sturdy and well-built, his eyes sharp and penetrating, exuding keenness.

He was also the supervisor for the Third Prince, Long Qingchen.

The Dean of Qingtian Academy was not often seen, and some old students who had been at the academy for two or three years had never seen the true face of the Dean.

"Governor Huang is too polite."

Sikong Ran clasped his hands in a greeting motion.

His gaze swept over the crowd, ignoring the many admiring and envious looks, seeing no one particularly outstanding.

Sikong Ran shook his head silently, and he also noticed Murong Ziyue, who seemed to stand out from the rest.

He wondered if the first place winner of the Zixiao Palace Exam had arrived yet.

"As everyone knows, Young Master Sikong made a remarkable showing at the Eagle Chick Conference this year. Though he is around your age, he is far more outstanding than any of you. Today, the academy has invited him to impart the methods of cultivation to you. Whether you are new students or old students, you must cherish this rare opportunity."

Governor Huang told the crowd and then invited Sikong Ran to come forward.

Sikong Ran spoke with a deep voice.

"The methods of cultivation are numerous and vast, yet the most important is the cultivation of the Dark Spirit Root. Most of you here are Xuanwu Practitioners and Spiritual Practitioners and should know about the Dark Spirit Root hand. The highest level of Dark Spirit Root is nine fingers. The Xuan Root is classified into four grades: Heavenly, Earth, Jade, and Mortal, further divided into different attributes according to their unique characteristics. Mortal-grade signifies no Dark Spirit Root, Jade-grade refers to a Dark Spirit Root one to three fingers wide, three to five fingers is Earth-grade Spirit Root, and anything beyond five fingers is Heavenly-grade Dark Spirit Root."

As he spoke, Sikong Ran summoned a breath of True Qi, and from within his Dantian, two streams of True Qi slowly emerged — one gold and one green in color.

Chapter 474: Heavenly-grade Spirit Root

Sikong Ran emanates a golden color indicative of the Gold Dark Root and a green hue denoting the Wood Xuan Root.

The golden Xuan Root is roughly five fingers wide, as is the green Xuan Root.

Five fingers is considered Heavenly-grade!

While it is exceptionally rare for others to even possess one Dark Spirit Root, Sikong Ran astonishingly has two, both of which are of Heavenly-grade Xuan Roots.

At that moment, a wave of envious murmurs spread through the crowd.

Who would have thought that Sikong Ran's natural talent was so extraordinary.

"Indeed, his talent is remarkable. No wonder the Xuantian Sect holds him in high regard," Murong Ziyue whispered softly.

Although Qingtian Academy is known as the top Spirit Martial Academy of Longteng, it still pales in comparison with an old and established sect like the Xuantian Sect that has been standing for thousands of years.

At the very least, in all its years since its establishment, Qingtian Academy has never produced an individual with Dual Attribute Heavenly-grade Dark Spirit Roots that defy the heavens.

Glancing at Bai You, she too is full of admiration, looking at Sikong Ran.

Bai You had already known of Sikong Ran's talent.

Originally, his Spirit Roots were of Earth-grade Gold and Wood Dual Attributes, approximately five fingers long, but unexpectedly, after joining the Xuantian Sect for a while, he gained another finger in his Xuan Roots at the Ying Chu Conference, evolving into Heavenly-grade Dual Xuan Roots.

Normally, Dark Spirit Roots are innate, and though there are cases of postnatal growth, they are as rare as phoenix feathers and unicorn horns.

With his Heavenly-grade Dual Xuan Roots, Sikong Ran's future achievements are boundlessly promising; even the appetite of Xuantian Sect can hardly satisfy him.

"Decent talent, but a worse personality," Xin Lin shrugged her shoulders.

Sikong Ran and Xin Lin grew up together; she remembers clearly what his talent was like.

She is short in stature, with the taller Murong Ziyue standing in front blocking the view from around her.

However, this doesn't prevent Xin Lin from seeing every move of Sikong Ran through the crowded throng.

After discussing the Dark Spirit Roots, Sikong Ran began recounting his journey of cultivation, how he came from a small mountain village, worked arduously to grasp the chance to practice martial arts, and how he gained the favor of the Xuantian Sect who recognized his talent, as well as how he participated in the Ying Chu Conference.

Setting aside personal grievances, Sikong Ran's lecture was undoubtedly a speech filled with charismatic charm.

The current Sikong Ran can be likened to a carp leap through the dragon's gate, having achieved success overnight.

It's just a pity that Xin Lin cannot overlook the conspicuous Xuanwu Ring on his hand.

Under the gaze of many envious eyes, Sikong Ran continued to speak.

"Everyone must be curious about the exact length of their own Dark Spirit Roots. Generally, the Dark Spirit Roots require special Cultivation Technique to be discerned. However, I have just participated in the Eagle Chick Conference and obtained a treasure. With it, everyone can study their own Dark Spirit Roots."

Upon hearing Sikong Ran's words, both new and old students of Qingtian Academy were eager to test, everyone wanting to measure their Dark Spirit Roots.

Of course the freshmen, who after recognizing their Dark Spirit Roots, can join better classes during the Spirit Martial class division, gain the favor of a supervisor, and obtain more Cultivation Resources from the Academy.

As for the old students, although there is no need for further class division, knowledge of their Dark Spirit Roots would allow them to select more suitable Mystical Skills and Spirit Art for their Cultivation, achieving twice the result with half the effort.

Instantly, both new and old students were anxious to seize the opportunity for testing their Dark Spirit Roots.

At this moment, Third Prince Long Qingchen stepped forward and waved his hand, signaling everyone to calm down.

"His Highness is aware that many here wish to participate in the Dark Spirit Root testing. However, resources are limited, hence today, apart from the top ten freshmen of the Zixiao Palace Exam, those wishing to test their Dark Spirit Roots have two methods available."

Chapter 475: The First Place Is Actually Her

All new and old students perked up their ears upon hearing this.

Murong Ziyue appeared indifferent while Xin Lin and Little Xinzhuo tensed up simultaneously.

That lad Sikong Ran, what kind of scheme is he plotting now?

"The first method requires a payment of one thousand silver."

Long Qingchen swept his gaze across the crowd—which included both new and old students—and there must have been five to six hundred people present.

One thousand taels per person, that was an astonishing sum totaling in the hundreds of thousands.

Sikong Ran, this guy is truly ruthless.

Xin Lin cursed inwardly.

She would wake up early to laboriously make steamed buns every day, barely earning a few hundred taels, and this guy opened his mouth to demand hundreds of thousands.

Not to mention that Qingtian Academy had spent a hefty sum to invite him this time.

The supervisors of the Qingtian Academy did not speak up, obviously acquiescing to Long Qingchen and Sikong Ran's practice—after all, Qingtian Academy itself did not possess the secret methods related to the Dark Spirit Root.

One thousand silver was no small sum for many students at Qingtian Academy, given that about half of the students come from families of average means.

"Of course, considering that some of the students present might be financially strained, there is a second method—either submit a Spiritual Treasure of Lower Jade Rank or above, or a Cultivation Technique of Eighth Rank or higher. Select one of the two, and you may participate in the Dark Spirit Root test."

Long Qingchen spoke slowly and deliberately.

Sikong Ran was indeed talented, but he ultimately came from an average background. He was now at the Xuan Transformation Realm, and the resources and monthly stipend Xia Tian provided were quite limited. To cultivate faster, he needed more resources.

"Third Prince, how can the new students who took the Zixiao Palace Exam qualify for the test?"

Cheng Xingwu, who had previously faced off against Murong Ziyue and was among the top ten in the Zixiao Palace Exam, hastily inquired.

Coming from a poor family with no Martial Artist ancestors, Cheng Xingwu's only opportunity was his top ten standing from the Zixiao Palace Exam.

"Testing is much easier for those who ranked top ten in the Zixiao Palace Exam. As Young Master Sikong said, you're qualified to test as long as you can withstand one of his moves."

With a smile, Long Qingchen said, his gaze meaningfully shifting towards Murong Ziyue.

Only later did Long Qingchen recall that the carriage Murong Ziyue had been riding earlier belonged to none other than the Seventh Prince, Long Xinzhuo.

That fellow Long Xinzhuo must be together with Xin Lin.

They, along with others, were precisely the ones Long Qingchen had incited Sikong Ran to teach a harsh lesson this time.

He wanted to make Xin Lin and the others lose face in front of all supervisors and students, new and old alike, of Qingtian Academy!

"Qualify with a single move? Sign me up."

Cheng Xingwu was overjoyed.

After all, he was also a Xuanwu Practitioner; he should be able to withstand a single move.

Just as Cheng Xingwu was about to step forward, Sikong Ran gestured for him to wait.

"Hold on, there's an order to these things. I believe the other Imperial Examination contestants should have arrived by now. Since we're all here, let's have the one who ranked first in the Zixiao Palace Exam go first."

To catch the big fish first, in Sikong Ran's eyes, only the one who came first in the Zixiao Palace Exam had the qualifications to receive his move.

Having witnessed Murong Ziyue's cultivation, she too had become qualified.

Still, even so, Sikong Ran's true rival remained the one who ranked first in the Zixiao Palace Exam.

"You mean Xin Lin? Xin Lin was just with Murong Ziyue and Little Xinzhuo; I remember..."

Cheng Xingwu turned his head and saw Murong Ziyue and the others.

"Xin Lin, this opportunity is rare; will you test for the Dark Spirit Root?"

Cheng Xingwu shouted toward Xin Lin, who stood behind Murong Ziyue.

Xin Lin!

That name, when it fell upon the ears of Bai You and Sikong Ran, exploded like a bomb.

Chapter 476: Two Supreme Treasures

Xin Lin, how could it be Xin Lin.

It must have been a mistake!

Xin Lin has been long dead.

Even if she hasn't died, she's considered a waste with all Five Meridians wrecked, even if she has a little bit of Spirit Art, she can't possibly join Qingtian Academy, let alone be the first in the Zixiao Palace Exam.

Bai You was utterly shocked.

Sikong Ran was also deeply shaken.

Could it be her?

Xin Lin, the first in the Zixiao Palace Exam.

The supervisors from Qingtian Spirit College were similarly turning heads.

Xin Lin, this new student, had been targeted by the Spirit Institute early on, after all, a Superior Talent, first in the Imperial Examination, proficient in both arts and martial skills, her popularity only second to Murong Ziyue.

As for the other students in Qingtian Academy, except for a few who participated in the Zixiao Palace Exam, most others did not know the true face of Xin Lin.

At this moment, they also curiously looked over.

Superior Talent, Great Spirit Master cultivation, she can be called the strongest new student in Qingtian Academy in many years!

Even many people were secretly hoping that this first place winner of the Zixiao Palace Exam could bolster Qingtian Academy's reputation and challenge Sikong Ran, the victor of the Eagle Chick Conference.

Murong Ziyue hesitated under the gaze of hundreds of eyes.

Behind her, there came a light sigh.

Cheng Xingwu oh Cheng Xingwu, this time you really did screw me over.

Wanting to keep a low profile, why is it so hard.

Xin Lin gritted her teeth and stepped out.

Swish swish swish, all at once, all eyes turned toward her.

"It really is her!"

Bai You's complexion drastically changed.

Petite stature, tiny palm-sized face, a pair of pitch-black big eyes, it's unmistakably that countrified waste!

"Is she Xin Lin?"

"How old is she, seven? Eight?"

After witnessing Xin Lin's true face, new and old students alike couldn't help but show disappointment.

It really is her.

Sikong Ran's expression was also a mix of various emotions.

A four-year pact, he thought Xin Lin would appear before him in what manner.

It turned out, she was still the same as ever.

The first in the Zixiao Palace Exam... Ha, it really is a huge joke.

"Hey, Xin Lin, say something. The Dark Spirit Root test, are you participating or not? If you're not, I'm going to register for it."

Cheng Xingwu was still unaware of the big mess he made, and urged.

Xin Lin forced a smile, looking at Sikong Ran.

"It depends if Young Master Sikong truly has the ability to test the Dark Spirit Root."

Sikong Ran's handsome and noble face showed no hint of disturbance.

He looked at Xin Lin as if looking at a stranger.

Upon Xin Lin's words, the surrounding people all started murmuring.

"Xin Lin, are you questioning Brother Ran's capability? Brother Ran, bring out your Kongtong Mirror, let her see."

Bai You said through clenched teeth.

Sikong Ran glanced at Xin Lin indifferently.

Although he did not know why Xin Lin had inexplicably become the first in the Zixiao Palace Exam, the Xin Lin he knew could absolutely not be the first in the Zixiao Palace Exam.

There must be something strange going on.

He took out a mirror.

It was a Stone Mirror, palm-sized, with a frame carved with the pattern of the Sun, Moon, and Stars.

In the middle of the Stone Mirror was a piece of polished shiny mirror surface, yet held in hand, it could only reveal a blurred outline of a person.

"It seems that your little bamboo horse has quite good fortune as she harbors two treasures."

Just as Xin Lin was looking at the Kongtong Mirror, the languid voice of the Pride Corpse transmitted from within.

Chapter 477: Fake Spiritual Root

Two treasures!

Xin Lin's mind was still troubled by the vision she witnessed through her superpower earlier.

Hearing the Pride Corpse mention it, she became alert.

"The mirror in his hand is named Kongtong, and it is a Seven Luminaries level Spiritual Treasure. Oh, I forgot, you wouldn't know what a Seven Luminaries level Spiritual Treasure is—it's above Jade level. As for the other item, it's the ring in his hand. Although the ring is somewhat damaged, its level is no less than the Seven Luminaries."

No need to say, Gui Hu must have eavesdropped on Xin Lin and Murong Ziyue's conversation and knew everything about her and Sikong Ran.

"The ring is mine."

Xin Lin said, displeased.

"With your current strength, having the ring is useless."

Gui Hu retorted indifferently.

Xin Lin struggled to suppress her urge to explode.

Lately, she had been getting along with Gui Hu peacefully, thinking he had finally turned over a new leaf. Now it seemed, she had been merely wishful!

"I asked you, last time you said I don't have the Five Meridians, unable to cultivate True Qi, but now I can gather the Fire Spirit, is it possible that I have a Fire Spiritual Root inside me?"

Xin Lin asked with the last glimmer of hope.

She also did not understand if she indeed possessed a Dark Spirit Root.

"No. The Ghost Vein in your body is neither a Spirit Root nor a Xuan Root; let alone the Kongtong Mirror like a Seven Luminaries Spiritual Treasure, even a Holy Treasure wouldn't be able to discern anything."

Gui Hu's words plunged Xin Lin into despair.

Without a Dark Spirit Root!

How was she to enroll in school?

What should she do?

Xin Lin's heart fluctuated wildly, but she tried to keep her face calm.

"This mirror can detect a Dark Spirit Root."

As he said this, Sikong Ran glanced at Long Qingchen.

Long Qingchen quickly stepped forward, and the Kongtong Mirror reflected his image.

In the mirror, Long Qingchen's shape gradually appeared, showing a dark yellow root at the position of his Dantian, about as wide as three fingers.

"Third Prince has an Earth Element Dark Root."

Sikong Ran spoke gravely.

"Miss Chu, please step forward for a test."

Sikong Ran then gestured slightly toward Chu Miaoyun.

Since Sikong Ran's appearance, Chu Miaoyun had been admiringly watching him. Hearing Sikong Ran call her name, her face blushed as she stepped forward.

In the mirror of Kongtong, Chu Miaoyun's silhouette appeared.

No Xuan Vein appeared near her Dantian.

But near her heart, two veins of different colors emerged.

"It's a Spirit Root!"

The supervisors of the Spirit Institute's eyes lit up.

The Xuan Vein appears below the Dantian, while the Spirit Vein appears near the viscera.

During the Zixiao Palace Exam, Chu Miaoyun was tested having no True Qi, losing all her face.

Unexpectedly, by a stroke of fortune, while treating the Five Meridians, she was guided by an expert and discovered she possessed Dual Spiritual Roots.

The lengths of the two Spirit Roots were shorter compared to Long Qingchen's Xuan Root earlier, about two fingers wide each, green and red respectively, indicating her Dual Elemental Wood and Fire Spiritual Roots.

Although only two fingers wide, because of the dual attributes, her Spirit Roots could essentially be considered equivalent to a three-fingered Profound Root; for a small country like Longteng, she was already a Genius Level individual.

"As expected of Grand Doctor Chu's daughter, Dual Spiritual Roots."

"No wonder she was recruited early by the Yuheng Class."

Many of the new students started whispering among themselves, casting envious glances at Chu Miaoyun.

Chu Miaoyun held her head high, proud like a swan.

"Heh~ Just a Fake Spiritual Root, nothing to be proud of."

Gui Hu sneered.

Chapter 478: Once Again Disdained, the Tsundere
Fake Spiritual Root!

When Xin Lin heard this, her spirit perked up a bit.

"Chu Miaoyun's Spirit Root is fake?"

"Not entirely fake, just not congenital. Her Dual Spiritual Roots were probably induced by some expensive Spiritual Medicine."

Gui Hu glanced at the Kongtong Mirror with a trace of disdain in his eyes.

The 'Dark Spirit Root' mentioned by little bamboo horse wasn't entirely accurate. Dark Spirit Root, inherently possessed, can also be cultivated later in life.

At least, Gui Hu knew several methods to cultivate Dark Spirit Root artificially.

Though the Seven Luminaries Spiritual Treasure is good, it is ultimately an inanimate object and cannot distinguish between congenital and acquired.

Compared to that, the ring in little bamboo horse's possession is much more valuable.

However, it's hard to determine exactly what kind of superior object that is for the time being.

There are countless Spiritual Treasures in the world, and Gui Hu can't recognize them all.

His method of identifying Spiritual Treasures is very simple: he looks at the auspicious energy surrounding the treasures.

Spiritual Treasures of the Seven Luminaries level or higher generally exude some auspicious energy, and the Xuanwu Ring exudes a much denser aura than the Kongtong Mirror.

However, the auspicious energy of the Xuanwu Ring also carries a bit of murky grayness, suggesting there might be some secrets hidden in the ring.

Of course, Gui Hu did not disclose this point to Xin Lin.

Upon hearing this from Gui Hu, Xin Lin was shocked—Chu Miaoyun’s Dark Spirit Root was induced by Spiritual Medicine?

It seems that Chu Tianyi went through a lot of effort to get Chu Miaoyun into Qingtian Academy.

Her earlier skills with poisons must also be related to this.

Now is not the right time to expose Chu Miaoyun; there will be opportunities in the future, and after all, there are still scores to settle with the Chu family father and daughter.

What Xin Lin was more concerned about now was the issue with her own Dark Spirit Root.

"Pride Corpse, you said there are ways to artificially create Dark Spirit Root, so hurry and think of a way to help me induce at least half a Dark Spirit Root. This is crucial for my class division, and it’s urgent."

"You already have the Ghost Vein."

Gui Hu replied, somewhat annoyed.

"Ghost Vein is not Dark Spirit Root; it’s so short and so small, probably not even one finger in length."

Xin Lin retorted with a pout.

"How dare you belittle it!"

Gui Hu’s voice suddenly rose.

Unrivaled Ghost Vein, that is the Unrivaled Ghost Vein!

Unique in the world, a product of Gui Hu.

Such a tiny amount, yet it holds so many years of his cultivation!

Gui Hu really wanted to crack open that little hen's small head and see what she actually thought.

"If it can't be done, then it can't be done. Why are you yelling?"

Xin Lin replied helplessly.

She knew in crucial moments men were unreliable.

Relying on mountains, mountains fall; relying on people, people leave. She had to figure out her own way!

After testing the two of them, everyone had witnessed the Kongtong Mirror's amazing abilities.

Seeing that Chu Miaoyun was admitted to the Yuheng Class because of the Kongtong Mirror, some students who were initially hesitant became eager.

"I want to take the test, I want to participate too."

They who had money brought out money, those who didn't searched through their possessions, all just hoping to find a magic method or Mystical Skill that could be exchanged for a test.

"Xin Lin, are you testing or not? It's just one move, with your cultivation level, there should be no problem."

Cheng Xingwu's eyes were red with urgency. With several hundred attendees and night approaching, Xin Lin still hadn't made her decision, making everyone a bit anxious.

What if night fell and Sikong Ran left? If they missed this opportunity, they wouldn't have another, and he certainly didn't want to be looking for ways to test when he reached the Xuan Transformation Realm.

"Xin Lin, if you're afraid to take Young Master Sikong's move, considering you are the daughter of my uncle, I can sponsor you with a thousand taels to let you test. I've heard after the separation, your uncle and you were so strained that you even sold buns on the street."

Chapter 479: Entering Trash Talk Mode

Chu Miaoyun stood by, seemingly hoping for chaos, and took the opportunity to mock.

Zixiao Palace Exam's first place, actually selling steamed buns!

Sikong Ran's eyes narrowed, she actually...

Bai You, on the other hand, wore a look of disdain, thinking that after Xin Lin acknowledged her kin, she would turn from a sparrow into a phoenix. Now it seems, a country bumpkin is still a country bumpkin.

The supervisors and the new and old students watching Xin Lin all had strange looks in their eyes.

The top ranked in the Zixiao Palace Exam, why would they be selling steamed buns on the street?

Could it be that, as the rumors suggested beforehand?

There was something fishy about Xin Lin being the top ranked in the Zixiao Palace Exam.

Xin Lin's strength was for now unknown, but her other identity as a supervisor at Qingtian Academy was well-known.

Xin Lin is the daughter of Chu Beiqing.

Who is Chu Beiqing? The sworn brother of Emperor Longteng, and the man who saved the emperor's life.

Chu Beiqing, to save Emperor Longteng, had become an idiot. For all these years, Emperor Longteng has felt a debt of gratitude, showing unconditional forbearance towards Chu Mansion and Chu Beiqing.

Under such circumstances, it wouldn't be impossible for Emperor Longteng to arrange for Chu Beiqing's daughter to be ranked first in the Zixiao Palace Exam, out of consideration for his face.

With this thought, the supervisors looked at Xin Lin with more skepticism.

The supervisors who were previously eager to take Xin Lin as their disciple all started to back off.

"Miss Chu, don't make it difficult for her. I think she doesn't dare to accept, afraid that if the Kongtong Mirror is used for the test, it will expose her true strength."

Bai You spoke mockingly.

She said that Xin Lin suddenly became the first in the Zixiao Palace Exam; it turns out that a sparrow became a phoenix, having acknowledged her kin.

But what difference does acknowledging kin make? With all five Meridians useless, how could she possibly be the first.

Bai You just waited for Xin Lin to make a fool of herself!

"If you want to test, I can test for you free of charge."

Sikong Ran suddenly spoke up.

"Young Master Sikong is truly kind-hearted!"

"He must have seen that Xin Lin is pitiful, that's why he's offering to test her."

"Have you heard? Xin Lin actually doesn't have much strength, all she did before in fights was rely on Murong Ziyue's help to win."

Around them, the murmurs surged.

Murong Ziyue clenched her hands into fists.

Little Xinzhuo also looked indignant.

Sikong Ran and Bai You, they're bullying her too much!

Xin Lin blinked her eyes, and in an instant, a layer of mist covered those large, dark eyes.

"Brother Ran, are you really willing to test my Dark Spirit Root for free? You still remember our past friendship in Qian Village."

The new and old students and supervisors around showed a shocked expression.

Sikong Ran's expression froze as well, surprised he looked towards Xin Lin.

That calling him "Brother Ran" made Sikong Ran distracted for a moment, involuntarily slightly nodding.

As a child in Qian Village, Xin Lin, who was always crying, would follow behind him, calling out "Brother Ran."

The Xin Lin from back then, tearful and timid, was his only friend.

So many years had passed, and Xin Lin had always been that way.

Until the last time, after he sold her into a brothel, when she reappeared it was as if she had changed her disguise.

Such a Xin Lin was someone Sikong Ran did not recognize.

He had thought that she had changed.

It was also that kind of Xin Lin, sharp and different, as if she was a new person, which made Sikong Ran cautious and even influenced his wish to kill.

But the Xin Lin in front of him now... with her nose slightly red, her eyes brimming with tears, looked just like the Little Xinlin from before.

But was she the same Xin Lin who had set a four-year promise before?

In the end, which one was the real Xin Lin.

Sikong Ran was puzzled and glanced at Xin Lin.

Chapter 480: The Ultimate Phoenix Man

"Who are you calling Brother Ran!"

Bai You jumped up in anger, pointing at Xin Lin and cursing loudly.

"Miss Bai, don't kill me. You stole Brother Ran, you all together drove my mother to her death, all of these, they mean nothing! After all, you and Brother Ran, the wolfish gentleman and the bitchy beauty, are a match made in doggy heaven!"

Xin Lin shrank back in fear, hiding behind Murong Ziyue.

Whoosh—

The teachers and students of Qingtian Academy were immediately in an uproar.

What a bombshell!

Xin Lin's sobbing words had unexpectedly revealed a wealth of information.

Bai You steals men!

Sikong Ran is hypocritically virtuous!

Crack and pop, the sound of numerous girl's hearts breaking.

The female students who had looked at Sikong Ran with adoration earlier were now viewing Bai You and Sikong Ran with disdain.

"Shut your mouth! You're spouting nonsense!"

Bai You, her face flushed with anger, sprang forward, intending to discipline Xin Lin but was blocked by Murong Ziyue.

"It seems one hand is not enough."

Murong Ziyue's eyes were blazing as she glared at Bai You.

As soon as Bai You saw Murong Ziyue, she remembered the mysterious Fire Spirit from before and she involuntarily backed off.

"Little Lin, it seems you are still holding a grudge against me."

Sikong Ran sighed deeply.

"You and I grew up together, I know you've always liked me, but I've only seen you as a sister. Your mother was seriously ill and wanted to betroth you to me, but as a man with aspirations, I refused your mother's marriage proposal. You, out of love turned to hate, misunderstood my relationship with Bai You, all of it, it's my fault. If you want to hate, then hate me alone."

Sikong Ran's face was filled with guilt and sadness.

The onlooking teachers and students had another moment of realization and once more looked at Xin Lin with contempt.

How could a genius-level person like Sikong Ran stay in a tiny mountain village.

A toad lusting after swan meat!

For a moment, countless disapproving gazes were fixed on the "toad" Xin Lin.

Oh, come on!

Xin Lin almost had an internal injury.

Sikong Ran, truly a top-quality Phoenix Man.

Such acting skills, such eloquence, if it were modern times, he could have been a movie star.

"Brother Sikong, you care about your past with her, but she may not remember your kindness. Why bother to spare her feelings anymore, as things have come to this, I'll just say it straight. Xin Lin is nothing but a big liar, she couldn't possibly be the top scholar of the Zixiao Palace Exam. Her Five Meridians are all ruined, she doesn't have a Dark Spirit Root at all!"

Bai You pointed at Xin Lin, viciously saying.

"You're lying, my Sister is not a liar!"

Little Xinzhuo's face turned red with anger.

"Whether she's a liar or not can be determined with a test. If she's really the top scholar of the Zixiao Palace Exam, then I'm the leader of the Eagle Chick Conference! Everyone here, whoever can defeat Xin Lin, will get a chance to test for the Dark Spirit Root with the Kongtong Mirror for free."

Bai You sneered.

I won't be at peace until this little wench is dead.

A free testing opportunity.

As soon as these words were out, countless pairs of eyes fell on Xin Lin.

"She is the top scholar of the Zixiao Palace Exam, if anyone disagrees, they're welcome to challenge me."

Murong Ziyue coldly swept her eyes over those with malicious looks.

Those people, upon meeting Murong Ziyue's cold gaze, couldn't help but shrink their necks.

Still, quite a few old students were restlessly eager to try.

Murong Ziyue, no matter how extraordinary, is still a new student after all.

"Ziyue, this matter doesn't concern you."

And then, Mu Dushi walked up and pulled Murong Ziyue back.