

Medical 951

Chapter 951: The Challenge's Difficulty

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The Bull was not in a hurry to talk to Yan Xiaobao. It is understood that he gained a lot of benefits from this encounter and needed to adjust his body before he was ready to communicate. Observing Yan Xiaobao, the Bull was filled with amazement and trepidation.

It took Yan Xiaobao a whole day to wake up from his stupor. When he opened his eyes, no one around could understand what had happened to him, but he knew that his body needed to rest during refinement and that he could control a large amount of energy. All the chaotic energy had been successfully elevated, resulting in a miraculous transformation in his body. He could feel his upper Dantian filled with energy. His martial power core was rapidly expanding, making him stronger than ever before. Although he was still a Saint expert, he couldn't help but feel that his strength was comparable to those few top Saints. The Frozen General, Wan Qiao, or Li Xiaopeng might no longer be his match.

"Ahem." As he approached Yan Xiaobao, the Bull cleared his throat, finally taking the time to speak with him.

"I've never seen the kind of black energy you used before..." he began. "Even the Divine Masters do not know about this energy; how did you know of it? Could it be a technique you obtained from a top expert wandering the heavens?" The Bull was intrigued by this energy and its manifestation in the world, but Yan Xiaobao simply shook his head.

"The Divine Beast naturally doesn't know of it, because I created it myself. I am a hybrid. Not only do I possess the capability to cultivate like Dantian People, but I also have a beast core capable of blending these two energies to produce this volatile energy. However, merging them is not easy. Merging and refining take a considerable amount of time, even a small amount; today, I exhausted half the energy I've been cultivating over the past few years to create this."

Yan Xiaobao did not explain about the green pearl or the blue cloud. Although he admired and appreciated this Bull, he did not divulge his closely guarded secret to him. He never knew if the Bull might suddenly decide to increase the challenge's difficulty due to Yan Xiaobao's hidden advantage.

Hearing Yan Xiaobao's response, the Bull was shocked. He had heard of hybrid creatures before, but none had both a Dantian and a beast core. No matter what age he recalled from, he could not find even the slightest memory of a creature possessing both a beast core and dantians.

"I understand..." The Bull was very surprised. To be honest, this Bull did not have the ability to make the trial harder than it is now, but he was still amazed by these young people. He became increasingly certain that the formation of life would eventually choose a new Guardian, allowing him to leave this desolate realm and roam the world outside once again.

"In that case, let's proceed to the next trial." The Bull said, as the current scenery transformed into something else, and the surrounding world twisted once again.

As Yan Xiaobao focused, he found they were now inside a massive building, sitting on the floor of a large stone hall. However, the air was chilled, feeling even colder than when crossing the mountains.

"Senior Bull." Yan Xiaobao curiously asked as he looked around. "You've always referred to this as a domain. What exactly is the difference between a domain and a world?" He knew both were created by God, yet they seemed different nonetheless.

The Bull couldn't help but wonder why Yan Xiaobao had asked this question. Most who entered this domain before were unaware of the difference between a domain and a world that Yan Xiaobao had noticed. It was not a bad idea to explain the difference to him.

"As you know, God has the capability to create worlds. For something to be called a world, it needs to contain beings capable of evolving from the world and sustaining themselves."

"Domains are usually worlds or worlds that failed during formation. After failing, they become small pockets in the vast space, while worlds shine like stars."

"My master, the world created by the Divine Beast, is a real world, and it is even listed as one of the most important worlds capable of creating a crowned sovereignty."

"On the other hand, this is just a domain created on a whim by the Vermilion Bird. It was never completed, so before they could create the formation of life, it always remained a broken world."

"Most domains cannot exist unless they are attached to a world, and this small domain has already been attached to the Divine Beast World. It is an unstable domain and will collapse once the formation of life is eliminated." The Bull explained.

"Now it exists only because it is supported by the concentrated essence of heaven and earth and a large amount of Ancestor World Power from the strata. When it moves, everything here will collapse, but at the same time, its internal energy will disappear. The world of the Divine Beast will increase. This is because now only a small number of people can pass between the two worlds."

Hearing the Bull's words, Yan Xiaobao finally understood the difference between a domain and a world, and he also had a sense that creating a world was not as simple as he had expected.

"Thank you for the explanation, Master Bull." He humbly nodded. "Please explain the next trial we will undertake."

He no longer had time to waste on something as profound as creating worlds. They had spent a long time in this world, and he hoped to return soon. He aspired to become a God and fulfill his many plans for the future.

Chapter 952: Challenge Difficulty 2

"Yes." As he looked at those in front of him, Bull cleared his throat, and his eyes appeared somewhat gentle. Clearly, from the moment they spent together in this fiery realm, he had become fond of these young people.

"So far, the next trial is the most challenging." He warned them. "Unlike those you can complete with sheer power, this will test your determination and willpower. It will test your martial arts heart and your desire for success."

"This test cannot be passed at all. You will enter a trance state and experience different things. Although these experiences are an illusion, they are as real as any other your soul has undergone. If your soul dies in these experiences, beware of the illusion, then you will truly die; your soul will never return to your body, forever trapped in your new reality."

"I have warned you. If you feel you do not possess the heart of a martial artist, then you should back down now."

Everyone looked at each other. Although these words made them somewhat worried, no one was willing to retreat.

"I may only be interested in food, but my military spirit has become increasingly strong since we came here; I am certain of my heart." Qiao suddenly said, and after he finished speaking, the others nodded. Everyone walked the martial path; they were all talented, confident in their determination and their hearts.

Seeing them all so resolute, no one backed down, Bull could only sigh in surprise. These specialists were young, yet they were not worried about pursuing the pinnacle of cultivation. Clearly, he hoped for the best, but in all the trials, most failed here. Consequently, Bull couldn't help but be nervous.

"At least one person will perish in this trial." He looked at them seriously and said. "Do you think obtaining life formation is a walk in the park? Believing that only one of you will die is already a very generous estimate of your abilities. If you're unlucky, only half may survive or even less!"

Bull hoped at least some of them would back down, but their eyes were filled with determination; clearly, they were all willing to go all the way and pass this trial.

Sighing, he took out his last ace.

"The next trial is a trial of talent. This trial is also a personal trial, only through it can one achieve life formation. You don't need to go through these trials to obtain the layers, only one person going through is enough. In this way, you can ensure no casualties for your team!"

Besides seeing these children's talents, their minds, and achievements, Bull preferred not to say anything because he didn't want any of them to die in this trial.

Yan Xiaobao was touched by Bull's gentleness, but he still shook his head. "Thank you very much for the kind words of senior." He began to look at his friends, with a smile on his face. "However, we went through this trial together. We will always have each other's support, although this trial is dangerous, I do not doubt any companion's military mindset. We went through the fire trial together, and we will also face all the trials together. There's no need to worry excessively about us, if anyone dies here, then

when I become a God, I will sacrifice my life to go to Hell World to resurrect them." Yan Xiaobao's casual reference to resurrection shocked Bull, but he soon burst into laughter.

"Going to the mysterious world to resurrect dear ones? Yes, that is indeed a possibility, but to do so, you need to exchange something of equal value for the life of the person you wish to resurrect." Bull laughed. "Yan Luo will never let his soul leave! He controls Hell World with an iron fist. You need immense power or something he agrees to for him to consent. However, for some reason, I feel you might have potential in the future, so I'll say no more, let everyone engage in this deciding trial. Who knows, maybe you'll truly surprise me, and all of you will survive."

The friends looked at each other, all their faces filled with determination and excitement. None of them had previously tested their martial hearts, but all felt they had firm determination; therefore, they were not afraid of this test, only curious.

To be honest, Bull's words affected them, but hearing Yan Xiaobao willing to sacrifice for their lives, even after death, they would be reunited, they were no longer afraid of the trial. Even if they fail and perish, they would be saved by Yan Xiaobao. In their hearts, he had become a shining star of hope, someone they fully trusted. Even in death, he was someone they were willing to follow.

Yan Xiaobao knew how high his friends were in their hearts, but he didn't want any of them to die. He understood Bull's words. Currently, he has nothing to please Hell World's ruler Yan Luo, so he needs all his friends alive. Still, this trial is not what he worries about. He grew up with all present friends, he knows the martial way is most important to them.

"Let's begin!" Yan Xiaobao ordered, and they all found seats in the cold, hard ground. Everyone closed their eyes, waiting for the trial to begin. Seeing everyone obey his command, Yan Xiaobao nodded. He closed his eyes, sitting on the icy floor, like the others.

Seeing them so resolute, Bull could only show a sad smile and initiate the deciding trial. Waving his hand, a golden light appeared in his palm and descended on everyone present. It fell between their eyes, entering the depths of the consciousness of those sitting on the ground.

They all felt this energy enter their bodies, and they did not resist it. All these people were interested in seeing what this dangerous deciding trial was like.

As the energy entered their bodies, everything went black. When they all collapsed on the ground, their consciousness seemed to disappear. Watching this happen, Bull could only sigh sadly, unable to do anything but hope all would return.

Moving to their side, he laid them on their backs as if they were asleep. This was much better than their cramped position of collapsing, especially since this trial might be very long. Only a strong enough military spirit could overcome the determination test, and to test this, a long-term challenge is needed.

Yan Xiaobao couldn't possibly know how much time had passed, but suddenly the darkness disappeared. Yan Xiaobao found himself awake in the same collapsed position. Had he succeeded? He couldn't remember the exam? Had his heart been tested? He didn't know, but it seemed he had passed.

Looking around, he found all his friends still unconscious, so he stood up and stretched for a while. Afterwards, he decided to see if he could find Bull, but no matter how much he looked, he couldn't find his trace.

Frowning, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but feel something was amiss, but he couldn't fault the mistake. Pinching himself, he felt pain, and even Lan Feng was still cultivating within him as usual. His energy was exactly the same as before, his body seemed unchanged after the trial.

Yan Xiaobao shook his head, thinking this was part of the final trial. Bull had simply explained it, and he wasn't too worried about Bull's disappearance. Nevertheless, he decided not to start exploring the surroundings before others woke up. Not having Bull by their side was enough to make him more cautious.

Behind him, his friends were all in a row. He noticed they seemed just asleep.

Yan Xiaobao sat beside them, feeling that soon afterwards, the next person would wake up, so he began to cultivate.

He was right, after a while, Cai Jie woke up. His face filled with incredulity and confusion.

"What happened?" He asked, seeking answers from Yan Xiaobao. However, the young man could only shrug. He also didn't know what exactly happened during the trial.

"I think we'll never know. There should be another trial, the talent trial, but Bull has disappeared. Who knows how they will enter the final trial, or if they have already passed. Everything they know could be finished."

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Chapter 953: The Final Judgment

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"This place is huge," Cai Jie said, letting his energy sweep through the surrounding area. "I feel like the final judgment is something we must find ourselves."

Yan Xiaobao nodded. Assuming they hadn't completed the final trial, they needed to find it themselves, but for now, they hoped to wait for their friends to wake up.

Everyone slowly began to awaken. Some woke quickly, while others took much longer. Following Cai Jie, the first to wake was Wang Julong. Though she was very low-key, her heart was focused on the martial path. Apart from the martial path, the only other thing that entered her heart was Yan Xiaobao. In her heart, there was room for nothing else.

Like Yan Xiaobao and Cai Jie, Wang Julong was confused about the trials they experienced. She couldn't remember either, and like Cai Jie and Yan Xiaobao, she gave up and began to cultivate.

After Wang Julong woke up, Lao followed Deng Wu, and finally Qiao awoke. Everyone waited silently for Sha Yun's awakening, but after Qiao arrived, it took her a whole week.

The week was filled with worry for Yan Xiaobao. Although he had confidence in Sha Yun, he couldn't help but feel that if anything happened, it would be his fault. If he was the reason she died, he wouldn't be able to forgive himself.

However, while waiting was harsh for him, it made him realize he truly liked Sha Yun, and when she opened her eyes, he was filled with comfort and happiness.

"Before we start looking around, let's take a break," Yan Xiaobao decided, and no one disagreed with what he said.

Their days were for resting and recuperating. Although no one knew exactly what happened during the previous trials, everyone knew they needed to be at their best.

Soon, a day passed, and everyone gathered together. Their faces were filled with excitement, as they couldn't help but look forward to the final judgment.

"What do you think it will be like?" Qiao asked excitedly as they walked toward the end of the hall, where they had rested for several days.

"I don't know," Lao said softly, looking curiously at the surroundings. These two children were older now, but they were still the youngest in the group. They were the ones who found it hardest to control the excitement they felt.

Everything they saw was made of black stone, and eventually, they called this area the Stone Mansion because of its appearance.

The more they moved into the Stone Mansion, the colder the air became. Soon it was as if the air itself was as cold as a frozen world, everything frozen.

Yan Xiaobao ventured deeper into the mansion, noting they had moved underground. As they walked further, the air became colder and colder, until finally, they reached a solid door.

They used all their strength to slowly push the door open, allowing them to enter one by one.

Yan Xiaobao went first, Cai Jie at the back, with all their friends between them, but as Yan Xiaobao entered the room, he stopped, mouth agape, eyes wide.

"What on earth is going on?" Cai Jie asked curiously, as Yan Xiaobao emerged from his daze. He shook his head and moved further into the room, allowing his friends at the doorway to follow him.

"Our previous trial must have been very complex," he said excitedly. "This is the formation of life! We've reached it!"

Excited, his words caused everyone to stare at the formation in front of them.

Before them was a huge floor painting. It seemed someone had drawn a circle, and within this circle were thousands of small symbols. Some were circles; some were stars. Some were triangles, and some were squares. Some had never been seen before, some looked like letters. These various symbols intertwined with each other, creating a large picture on the ground.

Above it was a half-sphere created by what seemed like energy protecting the array, but what startled Zhen Yue most was the fact that there was no energy fluctuation.

Isn't this the formation of life? In the sacred Beast World, the birthplace of all the essence of heaven and earth.

Not only Yan Xiaobao, although this indeed was the formation of life, still had doubts.

"Perhaps it's a protective barrier around it, preventing all the energy from being released," Cai Jie said uncertainly, and Yan Xiaobao nodded. There's no other explanation. Now he really wished the Bull were with them to explain. Shaking his head, he knew that even though he wanted to talk to the Bull, it wouldn't suddenly appear; thus, he decided not to think about it anymore, but to study the formation in front of him.

"I think I know what the answer is..." Yan Xiaobao said seriously as he stood up, constantly shifting his weight from one foot to the other. He was secretly pondering whether the idea he thought of would tell him what he wanted to know.

"Tell us!" Deng Wu urged them, hoping to find a way to determine if the formation of life was as magical as they said.

Yan Xiaobao nodded and extended a hand. "No matter what happens, just watch. I will enter the barrier to see what happens when I do so."

Hearing his crazy idea, everyone was shocked, but no one could come up with a better idea, and they all knew they couldn't change Yan Xiaobao's decision.

"Be careful," Wang Julong murmured, looking down at the ground. Her complexion wasn't good; it was clear she was worried.

Sha Yun handled it another way. Although she too was worried, she held her head high and tightly grasped Yan Xiaobao's hand. Looking into his eyes, she sighed deeply. "You must come back!" she said earnestly before gently kissing him.

Chapter 954: The Final Judgment (Part 2)

Although Sha Yun was a witch, she was now extremely shy. She hurried to Wang Julong's side, picked up her hand, and the two women looked at Yan Xiaobao with eyes full of fear.

Sha Yun and Wang Julong were not the only ones worried. Lao and Qiao ran to their mothers' side, and the four of them watched Yan Xiaobao's every movement towards the barrier together.

Reaching the barrier, Yan Xiaobao extended his arm and broke through it. He found that entering the barrier wasn't difficult, however, deep within the barrier was such powerful and volatile energy that Yan Xiaobao felt as if his hand was being shredded. His skin began to crack, and blood flowed from his arm.

Despite this, Yan Xiaobao used the Ancestor World Power within to protect him and enter the barrier. The energy was relentless as it attacked his body, almost unbearable.

While Yan Xiaobao was busy enduring the energy everyone observed him with, he paid no attention to anything else. Clearly, they were following his every word because they desperately needed to understand the formation of life.

Before exhausting himself, Yan Xiaobao endured the energy for an hour and slowly exited the barrier. He used all his strength to protect his body, but at the same time, the volatile energy in the formation surged through his body. This allowed him to greatly enhance and increase his power. His power doubled just by being in this formation!

Though Yan Xiaobao was deeply shocked by the result, he didn't want to waste any time and ordered Cai Jie to enter the barrier while he sat down to cultivate.

"No, don't enter!" A loud voice suddenly echoed through the cold room. "Don't touch his formation master! Why not play with me?" The voice distributed throughout the room turned everyone's gaze to the speaker. Behind them, a cloaked figure appeared, clearly as strong as a Bull, if not stronger.

His entire body was cloaked, nothing visible, but his voice sounded familiar. However, Yan Xiaobao couldn't fully place where he recognized him from.

This person didn't have the aura Yan Xiaobao could sense, but this person felt like the most dangerous individual Yan Xiaobao had ever encountered.

Facing this person, Yan Xiaobao didn't know what to do. But before he could do anything, three beams of red light shot from the man's hand, piercing the chests of Deng Wu, Sha Yun, and Wang Julong.

Looking at their chests, disbelief filled the three people's faces as their bodies slowly tilted to the side and collapsed. As their lives left them, their eyes were filled with reluctance.

Before Yan Xiaobao had a chance to react, another three red beams appeared in the cloaked man's hand, piercing the hearts of Cai Jie, Qiao, and Lao.

As they felt their lives ebb away, the three were filled with fear. Yan Xiaobao was incredibly shocked, unable to do anything but watch as all his friends and family perished.

The world fell silent. No one moved because the ones he truly cared for lay on the ground, motionless. The cloaked man just stood there motionlessly. He showed no signs of attacking Yan Xiaobao; he merely allowed the white-haired young man to be heartbroken.

As he collapsed over the person in front of him, a loud howl erupted from the depths of his soul; however, every attack he unleashed was effortlessly evaded by the invisible figure.

He even released the black energy he had left, but even this had no effect on the cloaked man. Even when forced to use the Phoenix Descendant, Yan Xiaobao was helpless, as the cloaked man raised his hand and a protective barrier from the Ancestor World War surged to protect him.

Yan Xiaobao had no energy left; he had nothing. His heart faded along with his last traces of energy. Apart from despair, he felt nothing. Facing him, he saw the young faces of Lao and Qiao still filled with fear; he saw the faces of the two people he loved most in this world, Sha Yun and Wang Julong, full of confusion and reluctance. At that moment, even Lan Feng was silent.

Collapsing to the ground, tears flowed down his cheeks. A roar sounded when he clutched his chest, as his heart shattered. He was crushed by sorrow, unable to grasp what had just happened as he cried. He tried to convince himself that what had happened wasn't real, that it couldn't be real. He glared hatefully at the coward hiding behind his barrier, as his heart trembled uncontrollably, and he sobbed. He couldn't accept what had happened; such things made no sense.

"Why do you practice martial arts?" the General finally said, "Why do you seek power?"

Although he heard the question, Yan Xiaobao ignored it. He just sat on the ground, feeling colder than he had ever felt before. No, it wasn't just the ground, the entire world felt different...colder and more desolate. Filled with despair, he could barely think. After a while, the words spoken by the man finally reached the core of his being.

Upon reflection, he was initially confused. Why would this General ask such a question? They were obviously enemies; yet, the question seemed to carry some hidden meaning. Suddenly, the sorrow in his eyes lightened, as a glimmer of understanding replaced it. Slightly nodding, a faint smile played on his lips.

"I understand." He wiped away his tears and said, "This is it!"

Now enlightened, he turned his back on the General. With his strong arms, he began lifting each important person's body and aligning them one by one, observing as he thought.

"I thought I wanted to become strong to seek revenge," he said softly. "A few years ago, when my body shared with Lan Feng, the path of vengeance was set; however, the reason I now desire power has changed."

"To exact revenge, I no longer gain strength, nor do I have the strength to regain what Lan Feng lost. While this is something I must do, the reason I gain power is to protect those I hold dear."

Thinking about this, Yan Xiaobao looked at the cloaked figure before him, but the eyes that had been filled with hatred earlier had changed. Now, a hint of gratitude could be seen.

"Although there are many ways to understand my heart, I doubt, if I lost all dear ones, that anything would be as effective as this. To me, life has no meaning without the loved ones by my side." Yan Xiaobao continued, speaking not to the General or Lan Feng, but to himself.

"The test was not just to see my determination, but also to understand the martial mindset of cultivators. To test and see what kind of martial path we walk."

"In the past, I always thought I wanted more power to avenge Lan Feng, to restore his world to what it once was, a world full of love and laughter where all races were equal."

"But that is not why I do what I do, because I need vengeance." Yan Xiaobao continued thinking, gently placing Qiao and Lao beside the other bodies. "I want Lan Feng to be whole again because he is my closest friend. He is the only one who knows my deepest secrets and who I trust unconditionally."

"Having a friend like Lan Feng, I'm truly fortunate. My wish is for him to be whole again one day, to repay his friendship. Seeing my friends and family happy is what makes me happy."

Yan Xiaobao finally understood. He was not driven by vengeance; he was a protector. What he wished for was not to make the world a better place by removing some terrifying being, nor did he hope to seek justice for all the unfair things that happened in the past. What he wished for was to live a comfortable life with his loved ones while maintaining enough power to protect them. Unfortunately, Yan Xiaobao had become entangled with An Hee known as God, and to protect those he loved, he needed more power, more strength! He needed to increase his strength, but he also needed to do it for the right reasons.

Understanding this, the world around him turned black. It felt as if everything slowed down, even his thoughts when he regained consciousness had slowed.

The first thing he saw was the stone ceiling. Lifting his head, he was dumbfounded, but as he slowly sat up, his body complained after being in the same position for so long.

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Chapter 955: More Power

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Looking around, he noticed that all his friends and family around him were lying down; everyone was breathing steadily as they slept deeply.

"Congratulations." A voice rang out from the side. Yan Xiaobao looked over and saw Bull standing a distance away, arms folded behind his back, smiling gently.

"You managed to pass the decision trial quickly," he commented. Although Yan Xiaobao was fast, he was not the fastest Bull had ever seen, but he was still in the upper half. His performance was not bad.

"The trial of determination is also known as the trial of the mind. Only by testing one's willpower and seeing if they have an unwavering militant spirit can they awaken. Everyone enters a dream world and sees various things. As for this dream world, no one will know except the one being tested. Remember, you can never tell anyone what you saw or talk about it."

"If you do, no one will come to judge you, but it is about the essence of your mind. If others understand this, then it becomes much easier to harm you. While you might think only your friends will hear it, no one knows who might be listening, so it's best to keep it to yourself."

Bull's words made perfect sense, and Yan Xiaobao, who was influenced by seeing his loved ones die, nodded to Bull before sitting down to start cultivating. Although he knew what was real, he still needed to remain calm before the final trial time.

A few days later, Yan Xiaobao found that he had been unconscious for a full week, and another week passed before the next person woke up.

The second person to wake up was Wang Julong. The moment she opened her eyes, tears could be seen in them, and when she saw Yan Xiaobao, she threw herself fully into his embrace. She kept murmuring her heartfelt thoughts like "I will never let it happen," "Over my dead body," "This isn't real."

Yan Xiaobao never asked her what she had experienced; all he did was hold her tightly and gently stroke her to make her feel more comfortable.

It took her several hours before she finally calmed down. Just like that, she fell asleep in Yan Xiaobao's arms as if her life depended on it.

"Young people these days are certainly beautiful," Bull remarked with a smile as he paced up and down the floor. His pace wasn't a sign of haste; rather, it was a habit formed after being alone in this realm for so many years.

The person awakened as expected was Cai Jie. Cai Jie looked pale, but his countenance wasn't too bad. After taking a few deep breaths, he looked almost normal.

"The trial of determination this time was truly ruthless," he murmured, and Yan Xiaobao could only agree, though he said nothing. Wang Julong was improving with each passing day, but she refused to let go of Yan Xiaobao's hand. Even during cultivation, she would hold onto his hand as if afraid to let him go.

After Cai Jie, the next to awaken was Lao. He seemed shaken to his core, but unlike Wang Julong, he did not break down and cry. What he did was stand up tall and sit by his side. With eyes narrowed at his father, he spoke in a voice that didn't suit his age. "Father, you gave me a new life, and everything I have is because of you. In this life, no one will ever say the things to me that you and Qiao have. Even if I must give my life, I will ensure you are always safe."

Upon hearing these words, Yan Xiaobao was shocked. He gently patted his son's head with a smile on his face. "Though you say such grown-up words, do not forget you are my son. Who would want their son to die for them?" he asked softly. Lao's image replayed in his mind; recalling the scene, his heart trembled, growing cold. He would never again let those he loved die before him. It would never happen again!

Listening to Hui Yue's words, Lao's love for his father was clear in his eyes, yet his resolve remained firm. It was evident he had no intention of risking his father's life thinking for him.

Yan Xiaobao didn't know what others had experienced in the decision trial, but seeing the many grave expressions, he could understand that they did not have a better time than he did.

Soon a month passed, but the last three had not yet awakened. By now, even Yan Xiaobao started to feel a bit worried, but whenever his mood felt unsettled, he would look at the sleeping faces and find comfort in the fact that they were still breathing. He truly believed they would wake up soon.

Yan Xiaobao and his awakened friends had been cultivating the whole time. The days passed in a blur. Outside this strange realm, the seasons changed, but within, everything remained the same. They all stayed in the same place, the Cold Stone Mansion never changed because no one had left what they placed in their hall.

As the seasons changed, the mansion's cold air neither warmed nor became icy; it stayed the same. Likewise, the sun outside never set. No matter how many days passed, it simply lingered in the same place in the sky.

Soon three months went by, but there were no signs of the last three sleeping people waking up. While Yan Xiaobao and his friends were confident they would eventually awaken, though a bit worried, none of them mentioned the possibility of moving on.

Chapter 956: More Power (Part 2)

Four months passed, and Deng Wu's eyes opened, his face with a confused expression as he sat up. His complexion was pale, clearly showing he had been through Hell and come back from the ghostly expressions in his eyes. Yet despite this, he was alive. When Yan Xiaobao and the others saw Deng Wu wake up, everyone was ecstatic. They jumped towards him, completely ignoring the fact that he looked as if reality had collapsed around him.

"Don't worry." Yan Xiaobao patted his shoulder gently. "The world you see when your heart is tested isn't real. Whatever happens is meant to help you understand your martial path and forge your determination."

As he leaned against the cold wall of the stone mansion that supported him, Deng Wu nodded and sighed deeply. "This time, I think I survived because of Little Dragon." Deng Wu said, trembling as he closed his eyes. Sweat appeared on his forehead as he recalled how the world he had just lived in seemed eternal.

"How long was I unconscious?" he asked anxiously, but inwardly, he was even more worried when he saw that Jo and Sha Yun had not yet awakened. Having had such a close call himself, he feared their

outcomes might not be any better. It truly terrified him; these two women were his good friends, and the thought that they might not have passed the trial was too horrible.

However, looking at Yan Xiaobao, he saw that the young man beside him was filled with certainty that his friends would soon wake up. Seeing this, he didn't comment on their current situation, as he didn't want to challenge his hopes.

"It's been four months since I woke up," Yan Xiaobao said truthfully, but since the Bull refused to tell him, he couldn't say precisely how long he'd spent in the dream world. All they knew was that this trial was much more challenging than the others, and all the trials lasted much longer than they had imagined. The more trials they passed, the longer each trial lasted.

The experts with determined martial spirits gradually began cultivating again. Having understood their martial spirits and paths, it was like the wool was lifted from their eyes, and now they advanced rapidly in their cultivation. They discovered new insights at an extremely fast pace and absorbed the essence of heaven and earth faster than ever before.

The one most concerned within their group was Lao, and thus he fully committed to cultivation. He often cultivated, allowing only brief breaks before consuming some food or water. During these months, he could always be seen sitting in meditation, eyes closed, palms resting on his knees, as he focused on the energy around him. He knew his sister better than anyone, and he couldn't help but worry that her martial strength wasn't strong enough. Nevertheless, he still trusted her and maintained the faint hope that she knew what she was doing and could endure.

Just like before, these days became blurry once again. Everyone focused on balancing the power gained through this trial by fire. They all craved improvement, so each person was busy concentrating on their own affairs until the day that marked five and a half months passing—the day Jo opened her eyes.

Jo was different from the others who woke. Her face didn't lack blood. She wasn't pale or afraid. Instead, it had a healthy color, and there was a hint of a smile on her lips.

"I'm hungry!" she blurted out as she stretched and stood up. Although she woke up late, without question, she was the most nonchalant person in the trial. Others couldn't help but wonder what she experienced, but no one asked her.

They all knew that what they experienced in the trial of determination was personal. Sharing with others was unwise, so they wouldn't make things difficult for her by asking.

"Come over." Yan Xiaobao laughed as he looked through the Cosmic Box and saw the dried fruits he saved for her. Although he wished he had better food, it was the most delicious thing he had left.

Lao felt utter relief when he saw his sister wake up, tears welling in his eyes. Everyone around pretended they didn't notice, and after a quick wipe, he rushed to her side and gave her a hug. He was truly happy she was well.

Seeing Jo awake, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. While they trusted their companions, saying they weren't worried about issues arising would be a lie. But seeing Jo wake up, looking so healthy as if the trial was a walk in the park, gave them enough hope that Sha Yun would soon wake up too.

They returned to cultivation once more, and as expected, half a month after Yan Xiaobao woke up from the trial of determination, Sha Yun awakened. The moment she awoke seemed filled with a repressed aura that enveloped the entire world. As she floated above the ground, her entire body radiated with golden light. In the air, her body trembled slightly.

Everyone looked at her intently. They didn't know what happened until the Bull rushed forward, placing a hand on her forehead while chanting several spells. Soon after, her body trembled again, and then the usual golden and orange glow restored, her aura once more returning to her body.

"Excellent," the Bull nodded and said. "Although she doesn't understand her martial way, she managed to persist through the trial with sheer determination and willpower. She's remarkable." He sighed. So far, every member of this group had surprised him repeatedly, and he couldn't help but feel they had something special.

Chapter 957: More Power (Part 3)

At first, he watched Wang Julong's poison show. Secondly, he had already seen all the astonishing abilities created, including the blue version of the true Phoenix Descendant, and energy he had never seen before. Now someone managed to complete the determined trial not by finding their military way but purely through stubborn perseverance. This truly was a bunch of crazy cultivators.

"Well done!" said the Bull as Yan Xiaobao rushed to Sha Yun's side. Sitting beside her, he gently let her rest on his lap and offered her a drink. "You all did great, unable to pass this trial. This old bull didn't

believe everyone would get through the trial, but it seems my vision blurred over time. Everyone passed, it's truly spectacular!"

"The next trial will begin when you are ready. This means you can choose to stay in the stone building and rest for a while before starting it, but once it begins, you will have no choice but to continue until you complete it."

"The final trial is the trial of talent, and this trial is never simple; however, although it's not simple, it's less deadly than the one you've just passed."

"If you don't pass this trial, then you will be teleported out of this realm, and you must wait to see if your friends can attain the formation of life. If you pass the trial, then I will directly lead you to the formation of life which will belong to you."

"The trial of talent will be held in the Genius Tower, each of you will enter a room. In this room, you will once again fight against Energy Beasts, soldiers, cultivators, and perhaps even your own Clones. Only your talent will allow you to approach the formation of life."

"But, although I speak above average, it is not above your standard average level. These standards were set the day the Holy Master created this realm. I think the trial of talent will require one to be an unparalleled genius to overcome it." The Bull sighed.

"Fortunately, all of you are geniuses in your own right. As for whether you possess what it takes to break through, it depends on you."

"I've said what I needed to. Tell me when you're ready to enter the talent building." The Bull said, he turned around and found a corner of the stone hall to sit down.

Xu Yue thought for a long time, but seeing the fragile Sha Yun in his arms, he was not in a hurry to rush into the next battle.

"The next trial will once again be a personal assessment." He began to speak to the friends. "This time, we can prove that we have improved our Phoenix descent, as well as what our long-term training with Energy Clones has taught us."

The others nodded seriously as they looked at the ceiling above them.

"Let's rest until all of us are at our best." He sighed, saying, he gently helped Sha Yun sit into a position supported by Wang Julong. "When we are at peak state, we will challenge the Genius Tower, and prove that despite possibly not coming from a time filled with geniuses, we are all above average!"

Yan Xiaobao's words made them all nod. They indeed were all geniuses of the young generation. Being evaluated as above average was a great embarrassment, they were all eager to prove their worth. However, a trial had just ended, and they were no longer in a hurry.

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Chapter 958: Genius Tower

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They had already spent over a year in this realm, rushing through the final trial seemed foolish. So, they took another two months to slowly adjust their minds to embrace the forthcoming.

One day, eight months after Yan Xiaobao first completed the decision of judgment, he approached the Bull. The Cold Stone Hall, which he had long resided in, was now finally set to change to a new location. Yan Xiaobao felt no regret upon leaving; if anything, he was eager to change the scenery.

"We are ready to accept the final trial. Please take us to the Genius Tower." He spoke with determination. All his friends stood behind him, and after sitting for two months, the Bull finally rose completely. As they felt the ground beneath their feet shift, his mind once again blurred on behalf of these friends.

The ground beneath their feet slowly disappeared. The world began to spin, everything they saw turned black, and then they suddenly felt solid ground beneath them again. They regained their senses and felt a strong wind that almost prevented them from standing upright.

It took only a short time for their eyes to adjust to their new surroundings, and like them, their eyes were filled with shock and disbelief.

The Bull had previously told them that they were in a realm, not a world. This place was a failed existence that never became the real world, and now they understood why.

They stood atop a huge black tower, seemingly connected to the Black Stone Tower Mansion they had occupied before. Standing on the vast platform atop this tower, everything around them was forbidden to their sight.

In the distance, they could see mountains, which at first glance appeared stable, but upon closer look, many of these peaks were constantly brimming with lava. Other mountains trembled from time to time as if frequent earthquakes occurred.

It wasn't just the strange mountains. All the ground before them was barren land. Although they'd seen a jungle at the start of their journey, it was clear it only had plants that could survive the intense heat of this realm. As for how they survived, Yan Xiaobao did not know.

The sky above was filled with void tears. These tears in the fabric of space consumed anything that neared them, yet in the sky, clouds filled with thunder were visible. Clouds that perpetually rained in this desolate world.

"As I told you before, this is a failed world." The Bull sighed as he gazed into the distance. "This is a realm. A place where no living mortal can survive. While this place is not bad for cultivators due to its heavy heaven and earth, and its dense Ancestor World Power, this place is unsuited for anyone other than Cultivators. Only a world capable of sustaining life can be considered a real world. All other things are failures, regarded as realms."

"In the vast ocean, there are countless worlds, but at least ten times the number of realms. These realms later became residences for some gods, as they enjoyed solitude. They established tests to assess their descendants. In reality, there are many different realms and so many experts, but even so, only about one percent of realms actually transform into something useful. The remaining realms just exist as broken worlds until the day the space tears are sufficient to consume the entire Kingdom. A world without mortals is forever weaker than a mortal world. Mortal worlds constantly evolve, while world-less worlds stand still in time. In this way, they die quicker than worlds with mortals who maintain nurturing environments."

As he looked at Yan Xiaobao and his friends, he realized these people didn't understand why mortals made the world last longer, and no one asked for clarification. Yet, the Bull shook his head with a smile. He had explained so much that explaining a bit more did not matter.

"To experts like us, mortals may seem insignificant," he began, "but mortals are the caretakers of their worlds. They fertilize the soil, ensuring it is nutrient-rich. They ensure forests stay healthy, and animals thrive. They evolve and create societies, but even so long as they respect the world in which they live, then that world will exist."

"If mortals cease to care for their world, if they become too arrogant and forget their responsibilities, then the world is affected. Soon, space fractures begin to appear because the world is no longer healthy enough to sustain itself. It will start to succumb to the pressure of surrounding space."

"When this happens, space fractures begin to appear, and then there's nothing anyone can do. The world will collapse and become a broken realm like this, merely a matter of time."

"Although there were never mortals in this broken realm, many such realms contain humans and beasts, as long as they can exist."

Upon hearing this, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but recall the world he originally came from. Earth, a place that had been nurtured for many years, but recently humans forgot to care for their world. Now it is closer to collapse than ever before. While the depletion of its natural resources may take thousands of years, it is merely a matter of time. For entities like this Bull, a few thousand years is insignificant.

Chapter 959: Genius Tower (Part 2)

With a sigh, Yan Xiaobao looked at this broken world, smiling at his friends. They were all filled with awe, their faces showing expressions of surprise.

After a long time in this world, they not only gained power, new abilities, and the chance to reach the formation of life, but they also understood what they would gain from their future experiences. There was no doubt that they would traverse broken realms and other worlds, forging their military paths so that they could defeat An Hee.

"We should establish a base in one of the broken worlds." Deng Wu said excitedly upon hearing the Bull's suggestion. Yan Xiaobao looked at Deng Wu and smiled, shaking his head. "Let's focus on the formation of life first. Then, we can consider such matters."

"But, will we be alright in a broken world? First, we need to know how to enter one. Secondly, once inside, we cannot let it collapse, and finally, we need to bring it to us. Through all these things, I reckon finding a suitable broken world for us won't be easy."

Hearing Yan Xiaobao's words, Deng Wu shook his head and sighed. "Well, one can always dream." He continued, and everyone shifted their gaze from the world ahead of them, refocusing on the black tower they stood upon.

Beside them was a set of stairs leading to the tower. Descending, one could see doors leading to rooms, and inside these rooms, the final judgment would conclude.

"When you complete the last trial, I will need everyone to ascend to the top of the platform once more. Once everyone is finished, I will tell you who has passed and, if any, who has failed. I will accept those who pass into the formation of life, and the rest will be cast out into this world," he said after a moment of hesitation, in a firm voice. "If you all perform well, I will give you something extraordinary." He added, and his words excited everyone; however, even without saying anything, the group was determined to overcome the final trial.

"Let's proceed." The Bull said as he headed toward the narrow stairs, taking the lead. As they moved downward, the others followed, but everyone took their time slowly. The wind here was powerful, with no railings to protect them; one mistake and they would plummet to their deaths.

It took about ten minutes for them to reach the first room. At the first room, Yan Xiaobao ordered Qiao to enter. Qiao was the smallest of the group, and it was clear she struggled the most on the stairs. She was just an expert ranked as the Emperor, and the wind was truly too strong. Allowing her to enter first, she no longer had to worry about the outside conditions.

The second person to enter was Lao, followed by Wang Julong and Sha Yun. After bidding farewell to these three, Deng Wu was the next to leave the group. Twenty minutes after Qiao's departure, Cai Jie and Yan Xiaobao finally found a room to test their talents.

Looking down, Yan Xiaobao saw at least ten more rooms below him; it seemed that the Gods had prepared these beasts for quite a number of expert teams.

Entering a room, Yan Xiaobao only knew what the Bull had told him. The final trial was a test of talent and also a test of reliance on one's power.

The room he entered was thirty by thirty meters. Inside, there was a window that allowed the light of the never-setting sun to pour into the room.

The light was insufficient to illuminate the dark room, but apart from him, there was nothing. There wasn't even a bed or chair in the spotlessly clean room.

As he began to slowly enter into meditation, Yan Xiaobao sat in front of the window, sitting there. Before he could fully immerse himself in meditation, he noticed something moving in the room. He immediately opened his eyes, warily scanning his surroundings.

"Welcome to the final trial of the Fire Trial." A majestic voice resounded, each word causing Yan Xiaobao to tremble, yet profoundly feeling immense joy.

This joy didn't stem from Yan Xiaobao himself, but from the brink of tears Lan Feng. "Father's voice!" he said in a hoarse voice, and Yan Xiaobao immediately understood why this voice was so powerful and majestic.

"The purpose of this Fire Trial is to test young talents daring enough to see if they possess the quality to enter the Immortal World."

"As time went on, fewer and fewer individuals were allowed to enter this realm, and after we decided to enter eternal slumber, we altered the trial's rules. Anyone who manages to pass the trial will be allowed to let life be with them and become Guardians of our world! The Beast God's World."

"If you just want to use the formation, then welcome to stay here, but if you want to bring it with you, then you will face some difficulties. The only ones who can undergo the formation of life and the Fire Trial are those who have yet to become Gods. If a God dares to enter, then... hahaha! They will meet a terrible end."

"This is just a warning. The final trial is not as difficult as others. All you need to do is prove your talents are above average. I'm looking forward to seeing your performance."

After this, the voice stopped speaking. Instead, an Energy Ball appeared in front of Yan Xiaobao. It swiftly assumed the shape of a Flame Soldier whom he had fought in the first trial. This was obviously an Ordinary Soldier, though this was his first trial; it was evidently not a simple test. Facing this expert, Yan Xiaobao was unsure if he would have any rest after the battle, so he decided to use as little energy as possible in his fight. As the final trial began, he charged at the General with both swords in hand and a determined expression on his face.

The General-level Flame Warrior wasn't formidable enough for Yan Xiaobao to use even the smallest amount of Qi; he activated Speed Flow and then accelerated toward the soldier. With swords in hand, Yan Xiaobao slashed downward, sending the head flying before the Flame Soldier could react.

It only took a few seconds, and he killed the General as easily as slaughtering a chicken. The minuscule amount of Qi used to activate Speed Flow was instantly restored from the dense essence of heaven and earth within the vast tower.

He was right in thinking there was no time to relax, for just as the General-level Flame Warrior died and vanished from the room, two more Energy Balls appeared. They formed into two Ordinary-level Flame Warriors.

Handling these two Generals with his two swords wasn't much more difficult than the first. Relying on Velocity Flow, he effortlessly evaded their initial attacks as he charged at the two experts. With a sweep of his sword, the two experts collapsed lifelessly to the ground. One was sliced in half, and the other was stabbed.

Yan Xiaobao felt no guilt for killing these experts. He still remembered the Bull speaking of the Nirvana Phoenix Flame, which could revive countless times regardless of how many deaths occurred.

If he claimed he wasn't interested in the Nirvana Phoenix Flame, Yan Xiaobao would be lying, but for him, the formation of life was more important. If he could only have one, he would choose the formation of life.

Though the Nirvana Phoenix Flame was astonishing, possessing the capability to revive, Yan Xiaobao wasn't foolish. He knew there were bound to be some negative aspects to this flame's existence. A flame that could eternally resurrect people was too much of a Heaven! It had to have a significant flaw, thus Yan Xiaobao was not overly interested.

As he saw four Energy Balls appear before him, these thoughts flashed through Yan Xiaobao's mind. They were, once again, Ordinary-level Flame Warriors and not difficult to deal with.

"I guess they start slow to ensure everyone has a chance," he muttered before activating Velocity Flow again and executing the four experts.

After the arrival of the four experts, there were eight, but even then, they couldn't compel Yan Xiaobao to use more than Velocity Flow.

With the disappearance of the eight slain Generals, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but wonder if he would face sixteen Generals next; however, only one Energy Ball appeared immediately afterward.

This Energy Ball was at least twice the size of others, manifesting into a large beast before Yan Xiaobao. This was a beast Yan Xiaobao had never seen before, but he understood that most experts were beasts when this realm was created. After all, he did come from the Divine Beast World.

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Chapter 960: Difficulty Rises Sharply

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The beast in front of him was a tiger with a scorpion's tail and large red eyes. It was at least two meters tall and exuded a magnificent aura. As for its level, Yan Xiaobao couldn't tell, but looking at this beast, he knew it was much stronger than the ordinary level Flame Soldier he had just battled.

This time, Yan Xiaobao did not activate Velocity Flow but waited for the Scorpion-tailed Tiger to make the first move. He needed to gauge the power of this beast before determining how to handle it.

The tiger clearly needed no invitation to attack. As soon as it saw Yan Xiaobao, it pounced towards him with overwhelming pressure. Its sharp claws protruded from its paws, and its teeth bared with a cold sneer. It was apparent that this beast did not see Yan Xiaobao as a threat; even a Saint-level human cultivator was nothing more than food. To such an outstanding beast, defeating this human would be easy.

The tiger's thoughts were just as clear as Yan Xiaobao's, but he was neither angry nor arrogant. Blocking the sharp claws, he silently wielded his two swords. When they clashed, Yan Xiaobao was forced to take a step back. The power behind the tiger's attack was serious, and even though Yan Xiaobao was prepared, he was still surprised by the beast's strength. It was clear the challenge had significantly increased.

"Only Cai Jie has the ability to defeat this beast." Hui Yue muttered to himself as he activated Velocity Flow. Before he reappeared behind the beast, he vanished from the spot where he stood. A sword flashed across the room, and a low hiss sounded as the beast tried to dodge the sharp edge. Unfortunately, Hui Yue used Velocity Flow, and his speed far surpassed that of the Scorpion-tailed Tiger.

The now-injured tiger was far from being defeated and not completely angered. Yan Xiaobao had to use his Qi to push Velocity Flow to the limit to avoid the tail that flashed towards him, just missing by a hair's width. Although the scorpion tail was slow, its tail was very swift. Its tail made it difficult for Yan Xiaobao to attack, particularly because every time he moved to a new position, it would lash at him again, not letting him catch his breath.

Yan Xiaobao was fast, but so was the tail, and soon only a shadow flicker could be seen in the room. Yan Xiaobao never stayed long enough in one spot, making his figure nothing more than a blurry shadow. However, the tiger did not move swiftly, but its tail flickered everywhere. Watching the tail, it was clear it could extend and retract at will, as it continuously lashed at Yan Xiaobao's ever-changing position.

Yan Xiaobao had no concern for the Qi he used to maintain Velocity Flow. He was already a Saint, and Qi was something he had in abundance.

Suddenly, the black sword in Yan Xiaobao's hand disappeared. Before it was absorbed into the Cosmic Box, blue flame appeared in his hand. The heat produced by this flame was intense, even the fierce tiger recoiled slightly. The temperature within the room began to rise steadily, and as the size of the flame increased, a smile appeared on Yan Xiaobao's face.

This fireball was the first spiritual energy attack he had learned. Although he hadn't used it for a long time, he brought it out now for a reason. During his trial by fire, he managed to earn the World Power from the Ancestor World. Just a little bit of this energy flowed into his fireball, and the offensive power had already multiplied several times. Even if he used his Ancestor World Power, it was so minimal it was negligible. On the other hand, continuing the battle might lead to him getting hurt or wasting energy.

"Be thankful I won't cut you into pieces." Yan Xiaobao said slowly, as he wielded the fireball in his hand, then with a flicker of his fingers, made part of the fireball shoot towards the tiger at high speed. Its flight speed was so fast that the tiger couldn't react, and then a pained sound echoed in the room.

The beast did not die from this one fireball, but its fur caught fire, and it was clearly in pain as it lost all sense of reason in a frenzied state and charged at Yan Xiaobao. Foam began to appear around its mouth as it continued howling, its red eyes becoming completely feral, as its beastly instinct took over.

The beast that had once been in a major battle now entered a berserk state, despite gaining immense power, it lost the ability to think, which made it easier to attack. It no longer controlled its tail like a whip, meaning Yan Xiaobao didn't have to spend much time avoiding attacks. His Velocity Flow remained active, but now it was used just to easily avoid attacks, and then he would shoot one small fireball after another at the beast.

Although the beast would be reborn by the Nirvana Phoenix Flame, it was equally obvious that it was in severe pain. The pain inflicted upon it was so immense that it wished for death, as death was not a concern.

The more flames fell upon it, the more frantic its attacks became, but the beast grew increasingly unfocused. As the beast's consciousness dulled, its attacks became weaker. Finally, Yan Xiaobao used Velocity Flow to reach the side of the beast and decapitate it.

This was simple and swift, and as Yan Xiaobao looked at the beast before him, he almost saw a sense of gratitude in the eyes of this Scorpion-tailed Tiger.