

## Resonance 461

### Chapter 0461: Officially Begun

There was only an hour left before the hall-level competition. Vice Principal Su Xin gathered the students for a final information consolidation.

Over at the One Star Hall side.

Everyone was looking at Yu Lang, as he was their representative scout. All the information was with him, and he had just finished exchanging information with the scouts from the other halls as well.

"Ahem."

He coughed loudly, puffing up his chest. "Hearken—"

"No nonsense. Only information," Bai Doudou interrupted him bluntly.

Yu Lang was devastated. She never let him have any fun... Cringing a little, he pulled out a piece of paper from his pocket. "Well, there's a lot of information, but all of you are probably most worried about the elites to take note of."

"There's a lot of fake information out there, but there's a good consensus regarding the three hot favorites to take special note of."

"Is Li Luo among them?" Lu Qing'er asked.

Yu Lang pursed his lips. "No. Li Luo is not among them. Student Li Luo, please reflect seriously on your shortcomings."

"Leader just hides it well." Bai Mengmeng twinkled.

Yu Lang wasn't at all happy that all these girls were fawning over Li Luo. "Well," he said irritatedly, "the three people are the Enlightened Sage College's Jing Taixu, the Sacred Summit Sage College's Sun Dasheng, and the Heavenly Inferno Sage College's Lu Ming. My information suggests that all three are already at the Third Changing."

"These three are in a league of their own. If we encounter them and we're alone, the wisest course of action would be to run. Heroics won't work against them."

Third Changing. Li Luo nodded to himself.

These three had surpassed all of them, himself included.

Li Luo had just reached the Second Changing, but it was worth mentioning that his woodearth resonance had managed to reach the sixth-grade recently.

Now he had a lower seventh-grade waterlight resonance and a sixth-grade woodearth resonance.

He probably had one of the best resonance advantages among the Second Changing students throughout the East Divine Continent. Jing Taixu and the others might be a level stronger than him, but it was thanks to the copious resources that their schools had showered them with. Of course, they had

definitely earned it through their own merits within the system. The Holy Grail Meet was indeed something special. All the schools were going all out for it.

Plus, it seemed like the level was increasing from meet to meet as well. The current level with three Third Changing students was much higher than the past three iterations.

"Besides these three, I also compiled the information on the eight people that are most talked about. They can also be considered to have a good shot. Of course, there might still be more dark horses lurking around besides them..."

"Treasure Sage College, Zang Mei, with an upper eighth-grade fire resonance. Second Changing.

"Thicket Sage College, Lu Qingmu, with an upper eighth-grade wood resonance.

"Lupine Sage College, Ao Fei, lower eighth-grade lightning wolf resonance."

Yu Lang continued rattling off his list until he came to the last item. He paused.

He grinned, then he frowned. He hesitated, chewing his lip and thinking it over. He shrugged and was about to continue speaking, then he stopped again. Finally, he steeled himself and soldiered on.

"Astral Sage College..."

Lu Qing'er, Bai Mengmeng, and the others perked up.

"Astral Sage College, Yu Lang."

What.

Bai Doudou rolled her eyes. "Yu Lang, this isn't the time..."

He pulled a long face. "It really isn't! This is what the findings are! Which son of a gun sabotaged me!?"

He showed them the paper. Indeed, "Astral Sage College, Yu Lang" was written on it.

But Yu Lang was the weakest of them. How had he made it into the list of experts?

They looked around, confused.

If not for the fact that the four halls had compiled the information together, they would have suspected Yu Lang of pranking them. But the information could be trusted. In the whispers and rumors going around the schools, Yu Lang's name was on their minds. And these people would be constantly targeted from the starting gun.

For the strong ones, it was a real limiter on their strength. For a weak guy like Yu Lang? He would be crushed.

They could already see the scene in their minds: Yu Lang being buried alive and screaming for his mommy and daddy about five seconds into the competition.

Li Luo stepped forward with the innocent expression of a newborn. He clapped Yu Lang on the shoulder. "Don't worry, my good brother," Li Luo said with great sincerity. "I will protect you."

Yu Lang was touched.

Truly a good brother he could count on.

Dong!

A loud bell sounded in their ears.

All discussions ceased.

Vice Principal Su Xin stood up. "The competition will start at any moment. All students, prepare."

Five minutes later, when the energy vortex appeared at the moat outside their tower, the students were all neatly assembled and ready, assembled by hall.

"You have all the information you need regarding the hall-level competition," Vice Principal Su Xin said.

"Remember: strength in numbers. Fighting alone puts you at an unnecessary disadvantage. I think even the Enlightened Sage College's Jing Taixu would be eliminated if he were to go up against two or three Violet Vibrance squads alone.

"Save your heroics for the second half at Dragonbone Island. That will be the time and place for it.

"Besides that, each hall will have a leader to oversee the entire strategy. All squads must listen to the leader.

"Li Luo, Zhu Xuan, Jiang Qing'e, Gong Shenjun. You four will take charge."

They nodded.

Clapping her hands, beams of white light flew out to the students.

Li Luo looked at the two light spheres in front of him. One of them was a white gourd, glowing faintly. The other was a crystal compass.

"The anima gourd is used to collect anima dew. The crystal compass will guide you accordingly. It also marks all your locations as shining dots. You can confirm each other's locations and act accordingly."

Vice Principal Su Xin gave them a final, encouraging smile.

"Enough words... I look forward to seeing what all of you can do."

Dong!

Another gong sounded out, signaling the beginning of the competition

"Enter as a squad, and you will be transported to your respective locations. Remember that your first goal should be to group up with each other.

"Go!"

The four hall leaders led the way. Li Luo looked back past Zhu Xuan to Jiang Qing'e, and they shared encouraging smiles.

Li Luo leaped in.

Xin Fu and Bai Mengmeng followed.

All around, students were leaping into energy vortexes, disappearing with flashes of light into the arena. The Holy Grail Meet had finally begun for real.

### Chapter 0462: Anima Cumulonimbus

When Li Luo opened his eyes, he found himself on a hillside of ocher soil, surrounded by forest.

Swiveling his head around, he confirmed that Bai Mengmeng and Xin Fu were close by. Both quickly moved to his side once they had shaken off their disorientation.

Li Luo nodded to them, then he pulled out the crystal compass. He checked the light dots and noted that they had subtle differences in shade so one would know which team was which.

"Looks like we're all over the place," Xin Fu noted.

Li Luo nodded. "Well, we're spaced out, but the distance isn't actually too far. They should all be making their way over as fast as they can. Let's poke around this area to see if we can find any anima dew nearby."

"Hopefully we walk straight into an anima cumulonimbus," Bai Mengmeng said happily.

Li Luo snorted. "As if."

Anima cumulonimbuses were not actually floating clouds, despite their name. They were regions dense with anima dew.

Anima cumulonimbuses often became major battlegrounds in the first half of the hall-level competition. Collecting all the anima dew in an anima cumulonimbus was a big deal, and much more efficient than going around collecting sparse droplets.

However, anima cumulonimbuses were not easy to find. Moreover, they were not easy to hold. Once discovered, they announced their presence with an ostentatious flash of rainbow light that would attract other schools over.

This was one of the mechanisms in the hall-level competition.n)(**O/(v--E-)l(-b.l..n**

Anima cumulonimbuses were bonanzas of treasure that every school aimed for. Bai Mengmeng's dream that they would stumble on one was understandable, if a little unrealistic.

They combed the forest for an hour, and found nothing.

Hot, sticky, and bothered, they curbed their growing irritation at how elusive the anima dew was. It seemed like collecting 99 drops was not going to be easy at all. If they couldn't even get 99, did it mean that they wouldn't even be able send a single person to Dragonbone Island?

They pressed on.

Soon, Yi Lisha's squad showed up, joining their party.

Together they searched, and finally, a few hours after the start, they came to a lake in the middle of a long river that ran through a valley between two towering mountains. They spotted a drop of pale-gold

liquid on a lotus leaf in the middle of the lake, glistening beautifully as the leaf spun slowly around in the current.

There was a mystical aura about it.

They recognized it immediately. This was the anima dew.

Li Luo darted forward and put their first drop of anima dew into the anima gourd.

That was the easy part. The hard part was finding dew in the first place. This single, pathetic drop was all they had to show for several hours of hard work.

Li Luo stuffed the anima gourd away. "This isn't going to work," he said unhappily to Xin Fu, Yi Lisha, and the others. "We have to go find anima cumulonimbuses. Otherwise, we'll be here forever."

No risk, no reward.

Yi Lisha was still in his usual sandals, splashing back out through the water. "Choosing that approach means big battles," he pointed out amiably. "We won't have such a peaceful time anymore."

"It can't be helped. The hall-level competition is structured to eliminate people. It's hard to go against the meta and think we can reach the core region with full strength," Li Luo replied.

Yi Lisha nodded. He put his hands on his hips and took a relaxed stretch. "Well, you're the boss. We're yours to command," he said with an easy smile.

Beside Yi Lisha, Si Qiuying remained silent. She could hear the respect in her squad leader's voice... It was not because of Li Luo's status, but because of the sheer weight of his performance in the past year. Especially at the ticket match—Li Luo had wowed the entire class there. Even the other Violet Vibrance squad leaders like Yi Lisha had no more doubts about his strength. He was the undisputed king.

It was hard to imagine that this young lord from the Tianshu province had once strolled into school without a single eye on him. Yet now Li Luo was number one in the Astral Sage College's One Star Hall... this was as good as it got.

Si Qiuying no longer dared to offer her opinion. It was best to focus on the Holy Grail Meet for now.

Bai Mengmeng suddenly interrupted Li Luo and Yi Lisha. "Leader, there's a squad sending a distress signal!"

The two guys turned in alarm. It was best to bring and maintain numbers in the hall-level competition. If any squad was eliminated prematurely, it would be a great loss to their strength.

Three small dots had turned red and were blinking urgently on the crystal compass.

Distress signal.

With a jolt of surprise, Li Luo realized that the squad was Qin Zhulu, Lu Qing'er, and Yin Yue!

"Looks like Qin Zhulu's in trouble." Yi Lisha had reached the same conclusion himself. Qin Zhulu was pretty strong even against this level of competition. If he was in trouble, then it was some real trouble indeed. Or was he being ganked?

"Let's go!"

Li Luo shouted to them. Turning, he led the way, resonant power propelling him swiftly across the terrain.

At the same time, he used his leader's privilege to set the gathering point on the crystal compass to Qin Zhulu's location.

This meant that all squads would get the signal and head over immediately.. The dots on his crystal compass obediently changed directions, converging on the new location.

It seemed like the Holy Grail Meet had gotten real exciting real quick.

### **Chapter 0463: Qin Zhulu versus Sun Dasheng**

In a forest.

Boom!

A blast of resonant power ripped a tree from its roots, leaving a gash of dark soil behind. The earthy smell of wet soil filled the air.

On a gentle slope, Lu Qing'er and Yin Yue watched tensely as two people tore at each other like wild beasts.

The dual resonance user, Li Luo, was the only one in the One Star Hall of the Astral Sage College who could stop him. And yet the two girls were watching him have his ass handed to him, and struggling with their own dismay.

Even so, Qin Zhulu was holding on through sheer stubbornness, as he always did.

Qin Zhulu's opponent was darting around him, shrouded in gray smoke. He had ugly, coarse features, a jutting lower jaw and a bulbous forehead. He carried a golden staff, which he swung with great skill.

His eyes were wild with exhilaration, bordering on madness.

"If I'm not wrong, that is the Sacred Summit Sage College's Sun Dasheng," Lu Qing'er said in a low tone.

Yin Yue stared at her, aghast. That was a familiar name indeed. He was one of the three top favorites.

"Just our luck," she said with a short, barking laugh. They had clashed soon after landing. Sun Dasheng had come at them, headstrong and lusting for battle—the exact same personality as Qin Zhulu himself. The two had met in an animal frenzy that needed no words to start the conflict.

What are you staring at?

I'm staring at you?

Wanna fight?

Wanna fight.

Fight.

On his part, Qin Zhulu didn't care if his opponent was in the top three or rank one in the whole world. He jumped at every invitation to fight.

They hadn't even bothered to exchange names or anything.

Lu Qing'er and Yin Yue sat aside warily, watching Sun Dasheng's own squadmates, who were matching them in terms of caution. It wasn't just one squad that they had either...

But they were happy for Sun Dasheng to finish up and then leave the girls to him as well.

It was pretty obvious that the two girls would be calling for backup, but they were not afraid.

That was understandable. With a powerhouse like Sun Dasheng in their ranks, they were pretty much invincible unless the Enlightened Sage College showed up.

"I hope Li Luo gets here quickly," Lu Qing'er said in a low voice. "With him around, that monkey will be a lot more tame."

Yin Yue was silent, but her worry was obvious in her eyes. Yes, Li Luo was strong, but this was one of the top three they were talking about.

Was he really strong enough to beat Sun Dasheng?

Some distance away, two Sacred Summit Sage College students had their own whispered discussion.

"Leader Lu, are we really not going to take those two out first?"

The small group turned to a lanky youth with a surly expression. "As if you don't know what the Boss wants. He always fights first, then thinks later. Still, that guy's putting up a pretty good fight. It's not just anyone who can get the Boss' interest."

"Better not jump in right now, or he's gonna scold us like last time."

The others nodded reluctantly. Their boss had a crazy temper that they were painfully aware of.

The world was a dull and colorless place, save for fighting.

Boom!

The two fighters clashed savagely again, heavy spear against golden staff. The metallic clashing rings built up pace in an increasing rhythm.

Neither would back down.

But it was the golden staff that had the advantage in this standoff, snapping out with punishing strikes that forced Qin Zhulu backwards step by step. The hands gripping the heavy spear began to bleed.

Qin Zhulu showed no fear at all. On the contrary, his eyes only got more and more wild, the golden tiger stripes on his skin glowing brighter.

Each time he attacked, he drew on the strength of the tiger that was his avatar.

He loved this battle—it sated a primal need within him that no one else had sated ever before. It was even more satisfying than fighting Li Luo. That kid was too wily to go up against him in a mad and reckless brute-strength fight.

Even though he already knew he wasn't the biggest, Qin Zhulu had privately always thought of himself as the baddest guy around. But now he realized that there was someone even crazier!

Whoo!

Eyes turning red, Qin Zhulu continued to thrust and parry with his spear, ignoring the blood that flowed liberally from his palms down the shaft of his spear. His resonant power was unleashed at full blast, unfettered and barely controlled. The tiger avatar hovered behind him.

"Tiger Demon!"

A maniacal laugh boomed from Qin Zhulu as he summoned his avatar into his spear, then he sent it cracking forth. The ground gave way under his front foot.<sup>1b</sup>

Sun Dasheng's laughter boomed out in response, his eyes gleaming with excitement. "Not bad! Not bad! What an attack!"

He stepped forward too, creating a crater under his foot.

Slate-gray power boomed out in the figure of an ape that leaped to meet Qin Zhulu's Snarling Golden Demon Tiger resonance.

Upper eighth-grade, Stone Ape resonance!

""Monkey King's Three Strikes: Strike That Moves Mountains!"

The stone ape swung out with the projection of a mountain at the tip of his staff.

Boom!

Tiger against monkey—the impact of the collision leveled the forest around them cleanly.

Qin Zhulu was part of the leveling—he was sent flying.

Kicking fallen trees off him, he got to his feet, swearing. His hands had never left his weapon, nor had the look of joy left his eyes. "Again!"

Sun Dasheng stared at Qin Zhulu's bleeding hands. "If we go again, you're not going to last."

He was lightly injured, but Qin Zhulu was much worse off.

"Your mouth only lasts." Qin Zhulu spat a mouthful of blood.

Sun Dasheng roared with laughter. "That made no sense, but I understood you, friend. Alright, I have to say, your fighting ability is respectable. You must be the strongest in the Astral Sage College's One Star Hall."

"Sorry to disappoint you, but I'm not."

"What?" Sun Dasheng was genuinely surprised. "There's someone stronger? No way." Although he was stronger than Qin Zhulu, the difference between them was not that drastic. If not for him being ahead in cultivation level, he would be having a tough time.

And now Qin Zhulu was saying that there was someone stronger at the Astral Sage College?

That person had to be his match!

But he hadn't heard of anyone that strong at the Astral Sage College...

Sun Dasheng shook his head to clear his thoughts. He hefted his staff. It was time to finish this guy off and get back to the mission.

Slate-gray power bloomed around him again.

Just as he was about to deliver the finishing blow, he sensed a new attack coming at him from a different direction, out of the forest.

Pivoting, he brought his golden staff up, blocking a sword slash made of energy.

Clang!

His jaw tightened slightly. In the attack, he could sense the strength of its user's resonant power. Truly, it was stronger than Qin Zhulu's. It had a curious knack for penetration, and he had almost been pierced through by it.

In the end, he dealt with it by using overwhelming strength.

Sun Dasheng turned towards the direction of the new attack and saw one person speeding over.

A few moments later, the newcomer landed in front of him.

"Hello there, friend. If it's a fight you want, how about I entertain you?" Li Luo said brightly, his eyes carefully studying the injured Qin Zhulu and his opponent.

Sun Dasheng's gaze lingered slightly on Li Luo's face as he frowned.

"You have a pretty face. But can you fight pretty well?"

#### **Chapter 0464: Test by Proxy**

Whoosh!

More people arrived on the hillside near Lu Qing'er and Yin Yue.

"Qing'er, are you guys okay?" Bai Mengmeng fussed.

Lu Qing'er was smiling in relief, the hard knot of tension within her easing. Besides Bai Mengmeng, Yi Lisha's squad and Wang Hejiu's squad had both arrived as well, having met on the way here.

Besides Bai Doudou's team, the Astral Sage College's One Star Hall was fully assembled.

Their ranks swelled alongside their power.

"We're fine. We met a squad from the Sacred Summit Sage College. That guy's probably Sun Dasheng."

Yi Lisha and Wang Hejiu blanched upon hearing that. "THE Sun Dasheng? Sacred Summit Sage College? One of the top three favorites?" They looked at the guy with the golden staff with trepidation. Indeed, he looked like a real threat.

"No wonder he can beat Qin Zhulu like that," Yi Lisha whispered.

Qin Zhulu was the second strongest among them, and he fought like a tiger. No, even more recklessly than one. That was part of his strength—relentless aggression that wore his opponents down. Seeing him beaten down this much spoke of the top three's own caliber.

"Can Li Luo really beat Sun Dasheng alone? He's still playing the hero at this time," Duze Beixuan grumbled.

Although they knew that Li Luo was strong, Sun Dasheng's reputation was nothing to mess with. If their carry was taken down by Sun Dasheng, they would all be in trouble.

"Leader's a very reliable guy," Xin Fu asserted. "His moves are always calculated. Besides, don't you see the Sacred Summit Sage College squads waiting around as well? We need to keep an eye on them."

The others started, as they realized that there were indeed a few Sacred Summit squads nearby, also eying them warily.

It was really a standoff.

Both sides were waiting to see how the other would act.

Nearby.

Sun Dasheng sized Li Luo up. "So this is the guy who's stronger than you?" he asked Qin Zhulu.

Qin Zhulu nodded, still rubbing his numb arm.

Sun Dasheng was surprised. "I would never have believed it. He looks like that, but he can fight?"

"Ah, my misshapen friend, that's where you're wrong," Li Luo quipped. "It's actually rarer that one is ugly and still can fight."

Sun Dasheng's eyes widened. "Are you saying that I'm ugly?"

"No, no, I wouldn't." Li Luo waved it off. "I'd just say you look a little... different."

Sun Dasheng swung his staff. "Enough lip. You want to take him away? You'll have to ask my staff if it agrees."

Li Luo laughed. "I don't just want to take him away. I think after beating him up like that, you owe him an apology."

Sun Dasheng's eyes were getting rounder by the minute. "I should've known someone this handsome would be an absolute airhead."

"I've never apologized to anyone before. You want me to apologize? Easy. Take a couple of hits from my staff, and I'll apologize," he sneered.

Li Luo nodded unconcernedly. With a flick of his wrist, the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade's shining, yellow and green blade was in his hand.

"Bring on your couple of hits, then."

He turned back to Qin Zhulu. "You go over to the others, rest up."

Qin Zhulu nodded. He knew that Li Luo had to have some sort of intention for riling Sun Dasheng up. Of course someone like that was not going to apologize.

Li Luo just wanted an excuse to fight him.

Was he really trying to test the ability of the top three students?

"Careful. This monkey's a real handful," he warned, using his heavy spear as a crutch while limping off.

Sun Dasheng was all business now. Face tight with utter concentration, his slate-gray power and golden staff were wielded in perfect harmony by his ape avatar.

Although Sun Dasheng didn't think much of Li Luo because of his pretty-boy looks, he did not show any mercy when he fought.

"Third Changing... upper eighth-grade Stone Ape resonance," Li Luo reminded himself. This guy had to be taken seriously. He was even more of a threat than Lu Cāng at the ticket match.

His true goal was to ascertain how strong the top three were.

After all, Jiang Qing'e had already given him a mission: to take down the greatest obstacle, Jing Taixu. That guy had crossed them before, and the battle against him would definitely be epic.

Before that, Li Luo wanted to fight Sun Dasheng to get a sense of how strong Jing Taixu might be, through proxy.

He hefted the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade. Third Changing was indeed one tier stronger than himself, but it didn't mean that his opponent had stronger resonant power. He had dual resonances, and dual secondary resonances. The amount of resonant power stacked up in his resonant palaces was enough to make up for the one-tier difference.

The two engines of power began to flow together within him.

The Sacred Summit students watching shook their heads.

"That guy's the top leader of the Astral Sage College? He's got some guts to challenge our leader like that," one student chuckled.

"I mean, their guy just got beaten up. He has to do something to save face and help them win their morale back," another student offered.

"Quite the beating too. Should've warned him what he was in for."

"Well, it's understandable. Before this, these guys all lived like kings in their little fish ponds. It's made them cocky."

The student previously referred to as Leader Lu did not join in the jibing. "Prepare yourselves. Once our boss takes that guy down, be prepared to move against the Astral Sage College if they try anything."

The others nodded, preparing themselves.

While they were speaking, Sun Dasheng had already made his move. Leaping into the air, his gray power spread out like a cloud in the sky. And then his golden staff broke through like sunshine, blasting down towards his opponent.

"Monkey King's Three Strikes: Strike That Moves Mountains!"

Sun Dasheng held nothing back.

Immediately from the get-go, the attack that beat Qin Zhulu!

The same strike whistling down, with the weight of a mountain packed in it. Nearby, Yi Lisha, Wang Hejiu, and the others cringed. They could sense the level of power packed into that attack. And even Qin Zhulu had not been able to stop it. Was Li Luo really going to be okay?

### **Chapter 0465: Two Strikes**

Boom!

The golden staff fell down on Li Luo like a pillar from the sky, but he merely stood his ground, fingers wrapped firmly around his sword.

The dual resonant powers merged within his body.

Dual resonance power!

He only used it at the minor merging level, not the Becoming One level. Sun Dasheng's attack was not that strong.

Ever since mastering the Becoming One level, Li Luo could freely interchange between the two levels.

Onyx-Elephant Blade charged with power, Li Luo parried the blow.

"Thousand Watery Knives art!"

Weng!

The sound of whistling blades filled the air with an urgent, buzzing hum.

Li Luo's blade flashed up with the power of thousands of water streams.

It clashed against the golden staff with a deafening clang.

Clang!

Metal on metal.

The already-devastated terrain was leveled once again, leaving not a single tree standing in their vicinity.

Both teams peered through the wake of the debris and gasped. The staff and sword attacks had both disappeared.

Li Luo was standing in the same spot, sword in hand.

A light breeze ruffled his clothes.*nove.¶B*(In

They were in awe. Sun Dasheng's attack had been incredible. No effect?

"Impossible! How did he defend so easily?" The Sacred Summit students were doubly in shock. This was their idol, the one they had absolute trust in. Even Leader Lu's composure slipped as he gasped.

This Astral Sage College kid was extraordinary.

Sun Dasheng was equally surprised. He blinked stupidly at Li Luo, and then battle will filled his eyes.

"To think there's another dual resonance user here besides Lu Ming! Well, well," he said.

He had clearly sensed the peculiar difference in the clash just now. A unique interaction of resonant power!

This person had dual resonances!

Li Luo grinned at him. "Well? You said a couple of hits? Where's the second strike?"

Sun Dasheng roared with laughter, excitement spreading across his face in a smile. This unremarkable looking guy was actually deserving of some real attention. To a battle-nut like him, it was like finding an unexpected treasure.

"Seems like I've underestimated the geniuses of the East Divine Continent!"

Sun Dasheng was flushed in the face, gripping his golden staff so tightly that his veins bulged. The gray-white power built up behind him, until it was back in the ape form again.

"What's your name?" Sun Dasheng asked.

An opponent deserving of name-recognition.

"Astral Sage College, Li Luo."

"Alright, Li Luo." Sun Dasheng nodded approvingly. "I have my eye on you. But your dual resonances are much weaker than Lu Ming's. If that's all you got, my second strike is going to overwhelm you."

Li Luo's heart skipped a beat. This guy had fought Lu Ming before?

There was not much time to explore the implications. He could sense the power building up within Sun Dasheng as he lifted his staff ponderously.

"Monkey King's Three Strikes: Strike That Moves Seas!"

Boom!

This time around, the slate-gray power did not fly out in a single, consolidated lump like previously. It left the golden staff in a snake-like stream of power that twisted through the air towards Li Luo.

It flew effortlessly in the air, but the ground cracked from the resonating pressure.

The golden ribbon of power was growing rapidly in Li Luo's vision. He dug deep and again merged his resonant powers within him.

This time, he produced power that was even stronger than the previous one.

Li Luo savored his power, a small smile on his face. This was power that gave one a sense of security.

He stepped out and delivered a long, diagonal slice from his own sword.

The ground broke first, announcing the power that erupted a moment later from his weapon.

Ding!

It hit the golden ribbon staff strike, and the sound of tinny metal rang out. This time, it stirred a gust in the still air, howling and echoing around the mountain.

The ground that Li Luo stood on was smashed in, leaving a crater half a meter deep.

The dust cleared.

Everyone watched anxiously. Sun Dasheng's second strike was even more impressive than the first. Even the spectators had been thoroughly impressed.

What about Li Luo?

He calmly strolled out of the dust cloud.

He was completely unhurt, and he looked at Sun Dasheng. "Are Lu Ming's dual resonance something like this?" he asked conversationally.

He lifted his sword arm. His hand was surrounded by a strange halo of light at the hilt of his sword.

The halo seemed to dance with sparkling water, and was also dotted daintily with jade.

Sun Dasheng stared at it. "Becoming One level," he whispered to himself.

Of course he knew about the three levels of dual resonances.

"I'm impressed. To think dark horses like yourself exist at the hall-level competition." Sun Dasheng licked his lips. This was an opponent worthy of a legendary battle.

Li Luo chuckled. "You're very strong yourself. You live up to your reputation." Although he had managed to block Sun Dasheng's two strikes, they had given him tremendous pressure. Especially the second one—it had even forced out his Becoming One level of dual resonances.

This alone proved just how strong Sun Dasheng was. And intelligence suggested that Sun Dasheng still had more in the bag.

Duke art.

If he brought it out, what would the end result be?

And that was just Sun Dasheng. Jing Taixu's reputation was beyond his.

Damn, Qing'e had really given him a big task.

In any case, Sun Dasheng's strength had given him a good reference point for Jing Taixu's own.

Sun Dasheng's resonant power faded away, and he stashed his golden staff away on his back. "Fight's over."

Li Luo stared at him. This battle nut? Walking away from a good fight?

"Don't get me wrong, I do want to fight!" Sun Dasheng said in response to Li Luo's unspoken question.

"But you're quite strong, so I'd probably pay a price even if I beat you, and there's no benefit to be gained from this battle. It's unfair to my teammates," he said ruefully.

Li Luo smiled. Sun Dasheng was actually quite a rational one. Just as well that he was on the same page. His goal here to test the waters had already been accomplished.

Sun Dasheng returned to his team with one enormous leap and waved them on. "Friend," he called out, "and what is your name?"

"Qin Zhulu."

"Haha, Qin Zhulu, you're quite strong also. If I didn't have the cultivation level advantage, I might not have been able to beat you. The Astral Sage College is a real dark horse. I'm looking forward to a good show on Dragonbone Island."

Sun Dasheng's teammates stared at him in surprise. This was unexpectedly high praise.

Still, Li Luo had taken two strikes from Sun Dasheng. He was not going to grovel and apologize, but this was his way of admitting it.

Qin Zhulu's eyes were locked on him. "I'll beat you myself in the future."

"Looking forward to it!" Sun Dasheng said with an unconcerned laugh, then he turned to Li Luo. "See you on Dragonbone Island. I want to see if you can take my third strike."

Without waiting for Li Luo's reply, he turned and left.

The Sacred Summit Sage College contingent went with him.

Wang Hejiu, Duze Beixuan, and the Astral Sage contingent breathed out in relief. Things had almost gotten sticky there.

But at the same time, they could see that even Sun Dasheng was wary of Li Luo's power.

Which meant that he had gotten even stronger compared to the ticket match.

He was already at the level where even the giants walked softly around him.

### **Chapter 0466: Ace Squad**

After the Sacred Summit students left, Li Luo turned to Qin Zhulu. "How're the wounds?"

Qin Zhulu brushed aside his concern. "Nothing major. But that guy's strong."

He looked in the direction that Sun Dasheng had gone in, eyes still burning bright. That was exactly the sort of opponent he would love to fight against. If it wasn't for the fact that they were in the middle of a competition right now, he would have chased Sun Dasheng down already.

Li Luo drew himself up. "If I were your father," he said pompously, "I'd say that I hope you would direct that passion towards the beautiful girls in school and not chase some ugly man. Nothing good will come of it, young man."

Lu Qing'er, Bai Mengmeng, and the other girls giggled.

Qin Zhulu scowled. "Don't make fun of me, bastard."

Lu Qing'er smiled at Li Luo. "So, o' great leader Li Luo, what's our plan?"

The others all looked at him enthusiastically. Holding his ground against Sun Dasheng had won back morale for them, even though neither side had really committed fully.

After all, Sun Dasheng was no ordinary guy. The top three hadn't just emerged out of nowhere. They had each defended their title against a mountain of enemies.

They were survivors, the best of the best. The fact that their leader, Li Luo, could stand up to them placed the Astral Sage College in the running.

It gave them hope that the Astral Sage College might just do well in this competition.

Even the ones most disinclined against him, Wang Hejiu and Duze Beixuan, acknowledged his leadership.

"Let's go find Bai Doudou and Yu Lang," Li Luo said cheerfully with no hesitation.

Indeed, they were still missing one last squad: Bai Doudou, Yu Lang, and Qiu Luo.

Li Luo pulled out his crystal compass. "They're lingering in a particular area. I asked Mengmeng to keep an eye on them every hour, but there's been no distress signal from them. I think they may have found something."

"Since they're not coming, let's go to them," Li Luo said, tapping the crystal compass thoughtfully. They had come here first because Qin Zhulu's situation had been urgent. Now that it was done, Bai Doudou's squad was next on the priority list.

"Could it be that Yu Lang's found an anima cumulonimbus? If so, he's a real lucky star," Lu Qing'er wondered.

"Who knows?" Li Luo shrugged. Yu Lang was a secret weapon, one so secret that they themselves didn't even know what he did most of the time.

"Prepare to go," he said, leading the way towards Bai Doudou's team.

...

Deep in the mountain range were heavy snow-adorned trees and mountaintops alike with white caps.

In a copse.

Three people were sitting down and resting. Bai Doudou, Yu Lang, and Qiu Luo.

Yu Lang had gathered some wild fruits and cooked them over in melted snow. He offered some to Bai Doudou. "Here, Leader, have some food."

She accepted it grudgingly and took a bite. "You fool. I don't know if you're lucky or unlucky."

Not long after they had entered this region, Yu Lang had indeed stumbled across an anima cumulonimbus. But when he had come rushing back to report the news, they had been overheard by some teams that had been stalking them.

Without information from other teams, it was indeed difficult to hunt down the exact location of anima cumulonimbuses.

"It's not my fault," Yu Lang whined. "Who knew that they would be so sneaky and have snow snakes? Those things burrow through the snow and listen. We can't even see them!"

"You should have just whispered it. Assume the trees and birds have ears," Qiu Luo said.

Yu Lang stared at him. "But-but birds have..."

"Forget it," Bai Doudou interrupted. "The fact remains that Yu Lang found an anima cumulonimbus, and that's a crucial contribution. The turn of events was too coincidental. Not even I noticed those snow snakes."

"Now we just need to hold out. When Li Luo and the others arrive, we'll have nothing to fear."

Qiu Luo folded once he saw that Bai Doudou was defending Yu Lang. "Still, it's strange," he said, changing the subject. "They've gathered quite a few teams, but they aren't making their move yet. It seems like they're afraid of something."

Bai Doudou frowned and nodded. There was no reason why their opponents would not attack them. Still, one thing was certain: reprieve was definitely temporary. With more and more teams gathering around, someone was going to move sooner or later.

It wouldn't be just one school's teams at that point.

"Forget it, ignore them. Let's focus on buying time. Li Luo and the others are on the move already," Bai Doudou said, gesturing at the crystal compass.

Yu Lang and Qiu Luo nodded.

A few teams were gathered in a nearby cluster of trees.

"Liu Xiao, what do you mean? We have the numbers advantage, we should go capture the Astral Sage College team and force them to tell us the exact location," one youth said impatiently.

"They're just one team! Why would we be scared of them? You say that our backup is coming, but if we wait any longer, their backup will be coming too!" The one being questioned was a gaunt youth called Liu Xiao.

"You don't understand, there's more to this team than meets the eye." Liu Xiao shook his head.

"What do you mean?"

"If I'm not mistaken, this might be the Astral Sage College's ace squad," Liu Xiao asserted.

The others gasped. "How do you know?"

"Because there's a guy called Yu Lang."n-/O--V)-e)/l((B-.1(-n

"Haven't you paid any attention to the intelligence at all?! Yu Lang's name comes up frequently!"

"Can we believe that information, though?"

Liu Xiao laughed conceitedly. "Indeed, some of the information out there is fake, but this information is undoubtedly true. Coincidentally, our Iron Sands Sage College has a senior called Zhao Ziyang. He went to the Golden Dragon Dao Fields before, and met Yu Lang there.

"Before the Holy Grail Meet, he warned us to be careful of him. He may be the only one besides the Heavenly Inferno Sage College's Lu Ming..."

"... who has dual resonances."

His teammates stared at him in consternation.

### **Chapter 0467: "Dual Resonances" Yu Lang**

"Dual resonances?!" When Squad Leader Liu Xiao revealed that, the other two squad leaders paled.

Dual resonances... Lu Ming was a famous dual resonance user in the East Divine Continent's One Star Hall. He was one of the top three favorites, and already at the Third Changing. He was strong enough to wipe out an entire Violet Vibrance squad by himself.

Although they had three squads here, they would definitely pay a heavy price if they went up against someone like that. Some of them might even be eliminated. Besides, their opponent wasn't alone. They had two other teammates with them.

"Is this information reliable?" one leader asked doubtfully.

"Definitely. I have no need to lie about something that you can easily verify, do I?" Liu Xiao snapped.

The others nodded. Indeed, it would be obvious if Yu Lang was a dual resonance user once they clashed.

"No wonder you always kept your distance from Yu Lang. So he's a hidden dragon, huh." The reason for Liu Xiao's previous skulking was now clear to the other leaders.

Liu Xiao nodded. "Best be cautious against such beasts. None of us want to lose multiple members to him. That would be a loss for our schools."

"Our people are arriving soon. We can surround them then. As for Yu Lang, we can put three squads on him. Even a dual resonance user will be buried against nine resonances, surely. As long as he isn't as strong as Lu Ming."

The others nodded in approval.

"Friend Liu Xiao, your caution is commendable."

"Okay, let's wait, then. Safety in numbers."

Faced with the threat of Yu Lang, they all reached a consensus.

They would wait.

...

"What in the world are those idiots doing?"

Yu Lang wondered aloud. They had clearly been cornered, and yet their pursuers were dragging their feet.

Of course, it was a good thing for them, as they were waiting for Li Luo to come to the rescue.

But things seemed too good to be true.

It was not just Yu Lang alone. Bai Doudou was sweating bullets. "Are they trying to shame us or something? Why are they not attacking? What the hell is going on?!"

"Maybe they're waiting for backup?" Qiu Luo said doubtfully.

"As much as I don't want to say it, a measly squad like ours doesn't warrant such caution, does it?" Bai Doudou replied peevishly.

"They've got so many people already!" Qiu Luo fell silent.

"Let's keep waiting, then. Hope Li Luo and the others get here soon," Bai Doudou muttered.

It was not to be.

Two more hours dragged by, and they saw two more squads arrive, but not on their side.

More enemy reinforcements.

Which meant that now they were against five squads.

With this boost to their ranks, their opponents finally stirred.

Figures moved swiftly through the woods to surround the trio.

Bai Doudou paled. She gripped her spear grimly in one hand, wind resonant power swirling around her in a pale, green circle. She took point, facing the shadowy attackers.

"Be careful, you two. I'll try to draw fire from as many as possible," Bai Doudou warned the others. However, she knew that she couldn't possibly hold out for so long against such numbers.

But there was no choice. She was the strongest among the three, and their opponents should know that too. They would definitely assign the numbers to her.

"Don't worry, Leader! Even if they hang me up and beat me to a pulp, I won't tell them where the anima cumulonimbus is!" Yu Lang vowed.

Qiu Luo just sighed. Were they really going to be eliminated at the beginning?

Unlucky.

What a wasted day. What a wasted trip.

Qiu Luo glanced over at Yu Lang with ambivalent feelings. Just how do you characterize this guy?

Weak? He had gone for a piss and came back with the location of an anima cumulonimbus.

Lucky? Then why the hell were they here in a five-on-one situation?

The guy was an unlimited supply of surprises, for sure. Both good and bad ones.

What a mystery.

Their enemies were upon them, jets of resonant power whizzing through the trees as cover fire.  
nOV&(1b/ln

Bai Doudou faced them coolly, bracing her spear as she rushed forward.

Heavily outnumbered, she showed no fear, a gallant warrior with short hair flying behind her.

The two sides met.

But just as Bai Doudou was about to engage, many of their opponents slipped past her, leaving only two behind to deal with her. The others moved onwards.

A full ten people, including three squad leaders.

They were going straight for the back line... Yu Lang!

Hiding in the depths with his dagger, Yu Lang's jaw dropped. Had he died and gone to hell already?

Ten on one? Ignoring Bai Doudou?

And they were looking at him with wariness.

Yu Lang suddenly wondered if he had somehow woken up this morning and put Li Luo make-up on his face. He blinked once, then turned and started to run. "What's wrong with those guys?!"

He was a freaking weakling. What sort of fuckery was this?!

Qiu Luo was nearby, but seeing the large group charging at them, she turned and ran as well. She had no idea what was going on, but she knew that she would be fodder as well if she tried to face them.

Bai Doudou tried to turn to help, but the two sent to face her were applying heavy pressure to keep her occupied.

Yu Lang was on his own.

Through the forest and over mountains he ran, pumping out his resonant power as fast as he could. Behind him, the figures drew closer.

Swoosh!

A stray resonant power attack caught him in the back.

"Eurrgh!"

Yu Lang tripped, tumbling over and over while fighting the pain of the injury.

Liu Xiao and the others were stunned. So easily hit?

"Be careful!" Liu Xiao warned. "Something's fishy with Yu Lang."

The others nodded hesitantly. As if a dual resonance user would be taken down so easily.

This was exaggerated acting for sure.

They slowed their pace, still afraid to close in on him.

Yu Lang had resigned himself to surrender. Seeing his pursuers stop, he got to his feet with great effort and continued running.

They continued chasing.

Yu Lang understood now.

They were toying with him!

Like a cat toying with a mouse!

They were enjoying the pleasure of the hunt!

"Sons of bitches!" Yu Lang wondered which school they were from. "Which black-hearted institution has raised such sadistic perverts!?"

"I will report them!"

### **Chapter 0468: Liar Liar**

The chase in the forest continued.

Yu Lang led them on a gamely chase, going as fast as he could while ignoring his wounds. But there were too many of them. They were overtaking him and closing the surround.

All of their strongest fighters were on him.

But they were still afraid of Yu Lang's dual resonances, and also of what he might do if he got desperate when they surrounded him. Moreover, Yu Lang's speed was indeed his forte. The combination of these factors allowed him to prolong the chase.

But as time dragged on, Liu Xiao and the others were getting impatient.

This was going on too long.

Enough was enough.

"Enough! Close in on him!" Liu Xiao shouted.

He led the way, white energy glowing on his palms and falling off as snowflakes. He fashioned a snow python a few meters long, then sent it spiraling through the air at the fleeing Yu Lang.

Yu Lang saw this attack coming, and he put on a desperate burst of speed in response. Even so, half of him ended up trussed up in the snake's coils.

POOM!

There was a sickening crunch as the snake tightened around him, and Yu Lang retched a mouthful of blood as he tumbled helplessly across the ground.

Liu Xiao and the others looked exultant.

"Something's wrong," one leader said doubtfully.

"He's... really weak," another leader agreed.

Liu Xiao was looking more uncertain now as well. Perhaps Yu Lang had faked it the first time, but pretending at this time seemed idiotic. When he had snared Yu Lang in his snake, he had sensed that his resonant power wasn't very strong.

Perhaps even at the Pattern Genesis Tier.

Dual resonances at the Pattern Genesis Tier?

Impossible!

"Liu Xiao, your information is wrong," one leader said flatly. Yu Lang was completely different from the description. And there was no sign of his fabled dual resonances.

"Liu Xiao, you wouldn't be trying to snag the anima cumulonimbus for yourself, would you?"

More of them were glowering at him now. "I didn't lie to you." Liu Xiao hastily defended himself. "Our senior told me that personally! A guy in the Astral Sage College called Yu Lang is a dual resonance user and a real killer."

"Does this fool look like a killer to you?" another guy jeered.

Liu Xiao had no response. He burned with shame and confusion.

"Stay on track. Let's get the location of the anima cumulonimbus out of this guy," one person said.

The others nodded, then they turned away from Liu Xiao back to Yu Lang.

Yu Lang was aching all over. He wiped the blood from his mouth with one shaking hand, then he turned on them furiously. "Which bloody school are you bloody assholes from, eh?! What kind of madness is this?"

"What are you playing at, Yu Lang?" Liu Xiao eyed him coldly.

Yu Lang was as furious as he was confused. These ten musketeers had ganged up on him, and three of them were even at the Evolving Resonance Tier. The others were higher Pattern Genesis cultivators compared to him. An outclass on all fronts. And they wanted to know what HE was playing at??

"Show us your true strength. That would be respectful to us," Liu Xiao demanded.

He was still looking at Yu Lang with some expectancy. He was hoping that Yu Lang had some awesome power—anything to help him win back his credit. They had the numbers advantage on him, so even if he revealed dual resonances, they were not afraid.

If Yu Lang was truly as weak as he seemed, then Liu Xiao would have lost all face and credibility.

Yu Lang stayed quiet.

He suddenly felt very tired. Tired of dealing with these lunatics. So he wasn't as strong as them, fine. But just end it here. Why humiliate him?

"I don't even have enough strength left to suckle on my mother's breast. What power am I supposed to demonstrate?"

And that was how the strange praise-and-denial stalemate began.

Liu Xiao said, "You're very strong!"

Yu Lang rebutted, "You're very wrong!"

Liu Xiao yelled, "Stop pretending!"

Yu Lang yelled back, "I'm not pretending!"

In the end, Yu Lang gave up. He lay down on the ground and gave up all resistance.

Seeing Yu Lang like this made Liu Xiao extremely angry. This guy was a real pain in the ass. He would rather go peacefully than help Liu Xiao win back his reputation? What a poisonous, little shit!n-.Ø)-V(.E./L-(b).I/(n

The Astral Sage College's pedagogies were slippery as hell!

"Since you're being so stubborn, don't blame me for what I do now," Liu Xiao snapped at him. "We're going to strip you and hang you upside down naked."

Yu Lang had nothing to say.

Damn, this was excessive. A gentleman could die, as long as he had his dignity. These guys had no shame!

Even a cornered rabbit would bite if it was desperate!

"Alright, you want to see my skills? I'll show you!" Yu Lang raged. He snatched up his long dagger, fury in his eyes.

The group immediately sprang back, weapons at the ready. They hurriedly cloaked themselves with resonant power defenses.

Was the hidden genius from the Astral Sage College finally going to reveal his dual resonances?

Green wind resonant power rose from Yu Lang's body. He was only a Fourth Pattern right now. Although he was nothing like the Evolving Resonance Tier elites in their generation, he had managed to catch up to the ordinary level for Violet Vibrance students.

Not like it was going to help much in this situation.

But he had no other choice.

"Chaotic Tempest Slash!"

Yu Lang leaped forward with an angry shout, slashing out towards Liu Xiao.

Liu Xiao summoned up all his resonant power and sent a blast of chill air in response.

Ting, ting, ting!

The three slashes of green power from Yu Lang barely lasted a moment before they were completely broken.

Liu Xiao was incredibly furious. "Why!? Why is Yu Lang so weak?! This is impossible!"

But suddenly, a belated flash of light swept out, a crackling brightness that stood out against the gray, dreary background.

Liu Xiao felt a chill run down his spine.

Again he summoned his frost powers into an ice python that he sent out against the light.

POOM!

A huge sound.

Following the explosion, Liu Xiao's snake disappeared in a puff as if it were powdered snow. The light attack smashed into his body.

Pssssssh!

A long arc of blood sprayed out from his mouth, and Liu Xiao flew backward, smashing into a tree.

Bizarrely, Liu Xiao was exultant. "You see? You see?! I wasn't lying! He has dual resonances! Yes! YES!" Yu Lang was absolutely bemused. He looked down at his own dagger. Had he suddenly become strong? He could beat a First Changing elite student?

"Who am I? What am I??"

Yu Lang smiled to himself. He always knew he was a genius.

He looked at them again. They were looking fearful now, and backing away slowly. Were they scared of him?

Nope.

They were looking behind him.

Yu Lang turned around to see a large group of people strolling forward.

In the lead was a majestic, silver-haired youth, none other than their fresh prince himself, Li Luo.

Yu Lang felt tears of happiness form.

Li Luo scratched his chin and took a lazy look at the ten people surrounding Yu Lang. He immediately sensed that some of them were even at the Evolving Resonance Tier. "Yu Lang, what in the world have you done this time? Why are they all after you, hmm?" Yu Lang stared at him, almost exasperated enough to cry.

"Why?

"F\*ck if I know why! These people are perverts."

n-.Ø)-V(.E./L-(b).I/(n

### **Chapter 0469: Two Dual Resonances**

Yu Lang felt happy enough to cry tears of relief when he saw Li Luo and the others show up.

Liu Xiao's group, on the other hand, looked cheated. They had delayed too long, and now the Astral Sage College rescue had shown up.

"Gentlemen, how could you treat the Astral Sage College's One Star Hall's mascot like this? We can't just let it go, you know." Li Luo stepped forward with a shark's smile on his face.

Liu Xiao scrambled to his feet, eyes still on Yu Lang.

That bastard—he was indeed the ace of Astral Sage College!

Even their own students had acknowledged it!

Were they just toying with him all this while?

Yu Lang smiled bashfully. "Oh, mascot? I don't think I'm qualified."

"So what if the Astral Sage College's here? If you trigger the anima cumulonimbus, the rainbow flash will reveal its location immediately. You think you can have it all to yourselves?" Liu Xiao countered.

"If you're smart, you'll cooperate with us."

Li Luo and the others turned to Yu Lang, astonished. "You guys really found an anima cumulonimbus?"

Yu Lang waved modestly. "Nothing to be surprised about. All in a day's work for me."

But his eyes couldn't hide his pride.

Li Luo put an arm around his shoulders and sighed happily. "Brother Lang, you're truly our mascot and lucky star. I'll remember your good work here!"

On the way here, they hadn't even found a single trace, but Yu Lang had already hit the jackpot.

They would just ignore the calamity that came after.

Li Luo turned back to Liu Xiao and the others. "Whoever hit Brother Lang here, step out for your beating."

An anima cumulonimbus was a huge deal. Although the rainbow flash would reveal its location to other schools, Li Luo had no intention of sharing it with anyone else. He was prepared to take the risk of going it alone.

"It's that guy. He beat me the worst," Yu Lang pointed at Liu Xiao. "That bastard didn't just beat me up, he was humiliating me. I know I'm weak, but that was malicious bullying!"

Li Luo started as a thought occurred to him. "What school are you from?"

"I'm from the Iron Sands Sage College," Liu Xiao replied stiffly.

Iron Sands Sage College... Iron Sand Empire.

The events at the Golden Dragon Dao Fields came back to Li Luo in a jolt of clarity.

"Yu Lang, you're a dual resonance user. What's wrong with showing us your strength?" Liu Xiao demanded.

Just as Yu Lang was about to scream at him again, Li Luo cut in. "You're right," he said mildly. "Yu Lang is a dual resonance user, but what you guys don't know is that he's not the only one the Astral Sage College has."

He flexed his resonant powers, dual resonances that burned true and strong.

"I'm one too." He grinned.

Liu Xiao and the others were mindblown. They stared at Li Luo's dual resonances agog.

Two dual resonance users?!

The Astral Sage College had two of them?!

Impossible!

If a school could get one, they would be burning a mountain of joss sticks to thank the gods. And the Astral Sage College had two?!

Why had such big news never been heard of before?

Yu Lang's mouth fell open as well. He was a little confused at where all of this was going, but Li Luo shot him a look, and he sort of understood. Throwing smoke and confusing people was exactly what he was good at.

Wrong information was a poisonous, little stake. It was too weak to drive into an enemy's heart, but insidious enough that they might construct a castle in the sky based on wrong information. With chaos came opportunities, especially when they were the ones who had manufactured the chaos.

He expected no less of their boss. Li Luo's thinking was foresighted indeed.

"Well, I guess I'll endure a little more pressure for the greater good."

A cool look entered Yu Lang's eyes, and his entire demeanor changed. "Well, the game's up. I can't believe you guys are that good. I hid my powers completely, but you still found me out."

"I am the Astral Sage College's secret weapon this year!"

He had spoken with such conviction that he almost believed himself. Lu Qing'er, Bai Mengmeng, and the others stared at him.

Liu Xiao and the others swallowed nervously.

They were not sure if Li Luo was telling the truth.

But Li Luo had indeed revealed dual resonances right before their very eyes, and it was not power that could be faked. Yu Lang had shown no such signs, but all their information had said that he was one too...

Could the Astral Sage College really have two dual resonance users?

If that was the case...

They should retreat and formulate a new plan.

Liu Xiao and the others reached into their sleeves and pulled out smoke pellets, which they threw. Shrill pops rang out, and clouds of black smoke formed, obscuring the vision of the Astral Sage students.

"Let's go! Get them!" Li Luo shouted.

Lu Qing'er, Xin Fu, and the others all shot forward.

Amidst the mess, Yu Lang heaved a sigh of relief. And then he sprang back up. "We need to help Leader! She was surrounded too!"

"Thanks for remembering." Li Luo laughed. "But don't worry. Qin Zhulu and Wang Hejiu have already gone over there."

Yu Lang sank back down again. "I'm really unlucky," he bemoaned. "I don't know what got into these guys. They were super convinced that I was the strongest one in the squad. They attacked me with their main force. If not for my incredible agility, I'd probably not have lasted this long."

Li Luo looked at him with a blank face. "Nothing's gotten into those guys. From now on, you are the second dual resonance user of the Astral Sage College!"

"News of the anima cumulonimbus must be spreading now. I need you to get the spread word regarding your identity as a dual resonance user as well. It will help us in securing the anima cumulonimbus."

"Deterrence is the best defense. I know it'll be a lot of trouble and pressure for you, but it's all for the school's sake. I believe you can do it. Can you do it?"

Yu Lang lapped up the encouragement.

"Of course I can do it! Yu Lang was built to eat pressure and steel nails for breakfast!"

"They came at me ten-on-one. D'you think I was even scared for a moment?!"

Li Luo smiled happily. Things were looking up.

**Chapter 0470: Medium Anima Cumulonimbus**

The battle was over much quicker than expected.

The five gathered squads were all from different schools and therefore not particularly united. At the first sign of stormy weather, they scattered quickly.

Several minutes later, they were all fleeing in different directions.  
noVe-lB/1n

Some of them had even been eliminated.

There were two ways of being eliminated in the hall-level competition. Incapacitation-level injuries would trigger a burst of energy from one's anima gourd that would carry the person out of the arena.

The other was if one's anima gourd was smashed. That meant that the person no longer had the qualifications to continue.

The anima gourd was not just a simple instrument for carrying anima dew, it was also proof of one's identity as a participant.

Not long after Li Luo's side had cleaned up, Qin Zhulu, Bai Doudou, and Wang Hejiu joined back up with them.

Bai Doudou looked for Yu Lang. "Are you alright?"

Even she had been shocked when he had been jumped by ten different people. She was surprised that he was still standing.

"Leader, so you do care about me after all," Yu Lang sobbed.

"What the hell happened back there?" she demanded.

"They thought I was a dual resonance user," Yu Lang whined.

Bai Doudou was stunned. She looked over at Li Luo. Did this have something to do with him?

"Sis, are you okay?" Bai Mengmeng rushed up and clung to her arm.

Bai Doudou smiled and hugged her back, and the two sisters left for their own conversation.

Li Luo could sense Bai Doudou's lingering gaze on him even as she walked away with her younger sister.

Was this what they called a woman's instinct?

While pondering, another girl came up to him.

"It was all because of what you did in the Golden Dragon Dao Fields, right?" Lu Qing'er asked.

Li Luo winced. How was she so sharp? Because the guy was from the Iron Sands Sage College? These girls were all too smart for him. They were much harder to lead around than Yu Lang.

His wince was all the confirmation that Lu Qing'er needed. She smiled, then she turned to Yu Lang.  
"Quick, bring us to the anima cumulonimbus."

Hearing her words, they all turned to the green-haired boy with anticipation. None of them had seen an anima cumulonimbus yet.

"Let's go, then." Yu Lang dusted himself off and led the way.

He brought them through the mountain range swiftly, but even with a guide and moving at their fastest pace, they took half an hour to arrive.

It was a hill-like structure covered in crawler vines.

The gap was so narrow that they had to pass through in a single file line. The bugs made the already-tight gap even harder to push past.

"I thought this place was suspiciously inaccessible, so I thought I'd check it out. The road less traveled has an anima cumulonimbus. Hehe!" Yu Lang grinned.

Li Luo stepped forward and spotted a damp patch of soil with a strong, rancorous odor.

"You... You're good." Li Luo didn't know what to say. Yu Lang had found the place because he was looking for a more discreet place to piss. He had pushed past the vines and... the rest was history.

"Don't thank me, thank my bladder," Yu Lang said modestly.

Li Luo snorted, then he led the way down the narrow crevice. A few dozen meters later, he reached a wider area. His eyes lit up.

Emerging from the crevice, he now stood in a lush valley. There was a waterfall in the middle, crystal-clear water falling amidst some light mist. There were many strange white flowers on the lake at the bottom, their petals opened in a spiral that drew in the mist from above.

The mist was being condensed into dew on the soft, white petals.

Once the energy mist reached a critical amount, it would coalesce into anima dew.

"Wow!"

Bai Mengmeng, Lu Qing'er, and the others had emerged from the crack as well, and they gasped at the picturesque scene before them.

"It's beautiful."

"What dense worldly natural energy."

Bai Doudou began to count. "There are 23 of them," she said in wonder. "This is a medium anima cumulonimbus."

These flowers were anima dew vessels that would be consumed in the process of making the dew. Which meant that the yield here would be 23 drops of anima dew, and no more.

Anima cumulonimbuses were divided into small, medium, and large ones, referring to their yield of anima dew.

23 drops was considered medium-sized.

Qin Zhulu, Wang Hejiu, Yi Lisha, and the others whooped. So far, their fruitless searches had sufficiently impressed upon them regarding the rarity. They had only found a combined three drops so far.

"Not bad. Not bad at all." Li Luo was smiling from ear to ear as well. "You've done really well this time," he said to Yu Lang.

A medium anima cumulonimbus was a rare find.

Yu Lang waved it away piously. "We all have a duty to uphold the school's honor."

Li Luo laughed again. He looked up at the top of the valley, where a thin film of energy had condensed, forming a screen that protected the mist from escaping further. This meant that even if someone were to scan it from the air or a high place, they would still have difficulty spotting it.

"But now the issue is," Lu Qing'er said, "we need to trigger it to get the dew. It will take the whole night, which means if we trigger it now, we'll only be able to collect the dew tomorrow morning."

"And triggering it will announce its location. Other teams will swarm us. There'll be a big fight for sure."

They fell silent.

"Well." Li Luo shrugged. "That's the whole point of the hall-level competition. Anima cumulonimbuses act as bait to catalyze the whole process. We shouldn't expect any free passes. Anyway, anima dew is very hard to find. If we want to send more people to Dragonbone Island, we are going to need anima cumulonimbuses. We've finally found one now, and there's no reason to give up on it. Neither am I planning to work with other schools and split the gains."

"I want all 23 drops for us," he stated with quiet resolve and power.

"I agree!" Qin Zhulu was the first to shout in approval. Of course they should take it all for themselves. Share it?? The only thing he would be sharing with other schools was his fists!

"You're the boss, you decide," Bai Doudou said with a nonchalant nod.

Yi Lisha smiled and nodded.

Wang Hejiu remained silent, which was consent for him.

Consensus achieved, Li Luo clapped his hands together.

"Good! In that case, you should prepare yourselves. We'll be in for a good, long defensive fight. I hope we can show them the power of the Astral Sage College!"