

The Quest 811

Chapter 811: Pattern 14

Elder Master Xun was shocked.

Just at the initial stage of Foundation Establishment, he had a Divine Sense of the fourteenth Pattern Realm?

What kind of monster was this?

No wonder he dared say he was “skilled in Formation,” and indeed had the grounds to say this...

"But this...it's impossible

Elder Master Xun frowned.

...

A cultivator's Divine Sense had its limits.

Blood Qi could be cultivated, Spiritual Power could be cultivated, but Divine Sense had no dedicated Cultivation Technique.

A Contemplation Map could enhance Divine Sense, but a Contemplation Map wasn't considered a stable and reliable Cultivation Technique.

"Contemplating" was akin to "borrowing"; it was "to borrow," not "to cultivate."

The Divine Sense derived from contemplation – you might not know what its real components were.

And it was hard to truly call it your own.

Thus, in this world, the vast majority of cultivators could possibly slightly exceed the limitations of their realm in Blood Qi and Spiritual Power,

But Divine Sense was always within its limits.

Super Divine Sense wasn't unheard of though...

In the two thousand years of records from Taoist Court, even before Taoist Court's time, there were mentions of cultivators with "Super Divine Sense."

But these cultivators were either just rumors, difficult to discern as true or false,

Or they were vessels for some kind of "Taoist Meaning," "True God," "Evil God," or even "Heavenly Demon," with powerful Divine Thoughts, but their own will either ignorant, malevolent, or unstable, and could not be considered true "people."

But Mo Hua was different.

Elder Master Xun looked at Mo Hua.

This child was clever and quick-witted, his eyes spirited, and his manners innocent and lively, a completely normal little cultivator...

There were also no traces on him that suggested "invasion" by anything malevolent.

In such a case, how could he have achieved Super Divine Sense?

Elder Master Xun pondered for a moment and asked,

"Do you...have a Master?"

Mo Hua nodded.

He didn't hide anything, but he didn't tell the whole truth either, and only said,

"My master lives reclusively in the mountains, loving tranquility. He's very good at Formation, but he doesn't allow me to speak his name outside

Elder Master Xun nodded without delving deeper.

It was common for some masters to retreat and take disciples without revealing their identities.

But his curiosity remained, "Just who could this master be to teach such a disciple as Mo Hua

Divine Sense extraordinary, even to a Super Rank.

Highly insightful, especially in Five Elements Formation, with very solid foundations and profound depth...

His temperament was also excellent.

Not only innocent and adorable and kind-hearted, but what was even more rare, he genuinely loved Formation, completely devoted to the Tao, without any distracting thoughts.

At his age, being able to settle his mind, steady and unruffled, training his Formation skills to such a solid level, truly remarkable...

"Who exactly could teach him

Elder Master Xun looked at Mo Hua's eyes and then his expression changed, alarm chilling his heart.

"Couldn't be...that person's disciple, could it?"

He took another close look at Mo Hua's eyes, recalling how that person used to look, a slight shock in his heart.

From the appearance and demeanor, they were different.

That person back then had a proud demeanor, looking down on the world, his eyes filled with defiance.

While Mo Hua was innocent as water, gentle and kind, his gaze pure and clear.

But there was a bit of similarity in their auras.

Especially when looked at closely, Mo Hua's clear eyes occasionally seemed profound, and within that profundity, there was a glimmering light, as if some heavenly secret was flowing through.

Very much like that person from the past...

"But still, it's not right

Elder Master Xun was still somewhat puzzled.

If it were that person's disciple, wouldn't he belong to the Qian Taoist Sect, how did he end up at Tai Xu Gate?

Qian Taoist Sect was the deepest-rooted sect of their lineage.

It's hardly possible that Qian Taoist Sect would forget such an ancient connection...

Elder Master Xun shook his head.

"Could he really be that person's disciple?"

He looked at Mo Hua again, and suddenly his heart skipped a beat.

There was something else in Mo Hua's eyes...

Not just the circulating light, but also a streak of pure, pitch-black strangeness, only it was hidden deep within and hard to see...

"What is this?!"

Elder Master Xun gasped, then shook his head repeatedly.

"No, no, this is even more impossible

"No such outrageous thing

Even if this child, Mo Hua, had a master, had inheritance, and even if touched by that man's opportunity...

But for the two brothers to both have taught him, that was absolutely impossible.

Even if the sun rose from the west, such a thing would never happen!

Elder Master Xun paused again.

This kind of thing not being possible...so conversely, this child might not be related to either of those two...

"Probably just my own misgivings

Elder Master Xun looked again at Mo Hua, and now Mo Hua's eyes had returned to their usual clear and water-like look.

"It should be some other opportunity

Elder Master Xun nodded slightly.

This child probably just had an unusually extraordinary Divine Sense Gift, and by chance had guidance from a master, which is why he learned Formation so well and progressed so quickly.

Besides, if he were a disciple of either of those two,

He wouldn't be so specialized.

He wouldn't only master the Five Elements Formation.

The foundation of the Eight Gates Formation would also not be so weak.

Furthermore, he doesn't seem to know the Immortal Sky Formation Flow either...

"That's right, I was just overthinking it."

Elder Master Xun's heart eased, looking at Mo Hua, his gaze turning to one of satisfaction.

"A fine seedling

Elder Master Xun thought earnestly again:

"Divine Sense Talent so astonishing

Chapter 812: Patterns (2)

"If this child has joined the Tai Xu Gate, and in the future does good deeds and benefits the cultivators of the Nine State, that will be a blessing for the whole world. However, if someday his nature becomes skewed, and he uses the power of the Formation to harm the Nine State, then that will be the fault of the Tai Xu Gate

"Therefore, one must teach well, not only the Formation, but also the nature of the heart

"If his nature is inherently evil, then one should instruct tirelessly, guiding him toward goodness;"

"If his nature is inherently good, then one should follow his true heart, and let his goodness flourish."

"With such talent, if he is taught well, the Tai Xu Gate can truly consider itself... to have found a treasure

"This generation's Sect Leader has indeed done a good deed

...

...

In a short span of time, Elder Master Xun's expression changed many times, nodding and shaking his head in turn, his thoughts spinning endlessly, his mood fluctuating.

Mo Hua, having been stared at by Elder Master Xun for so long, felt somewhat puzzled and inexplicably a bit guilty, and then whispered quietly,

"Elder Master Xun

Elder Master Xun was startled, then came back to his senses and remembered Mo Hua's recent request to "learn the Fourteen-pattern Formation Method," his expression turned serious and he spoke with a trace of solemnity,

"Yes."

After making the promise, Elder Master Xun paused to think and then said, "However, as for what Formation to teach, I need to consider that

Mo Hua's heart leaped with joy, and he laughed,

"Thank you, Elder!"

Elder Master Xun nodded, his gaze affable, then sent Mo Hua back.

He himself walked along the Jade Stone Mountain Path toward the rear mountain, mulling over his thoughts as he walked. When disciples greeted him along the way, he didn't notice them.

Finally arriving at the rear mountain, near the Sect Leader's residence, he encountered the Tai Xu Sect Master dressed in brocaded robes.

The Tai Xu Sect Master first greeted him with a respectful bow,

"Elder Master, I greet you."

But Elder Master Xun didn't hear, until he had walked a few steps past, then suddenly remembered something, turned back to look at the Tai Xu Sect Master, and nodded,

"You have done well."

Having said that, Elder Master Xun left.

The Tai Xu Sect Master, for once, received praise from Elder Master Xun, and felt surprised and honored, yet also somewhat bewildered.

"Done well

"What have I done?"

...

Elder Master Xun, back in the Elder's Residence, was still frowning in thought.

One must teach well.

If this child can study the Five Elements Formation so deeply, then he also shouldn't neglect the Eight Trigrams Array...

Other array series, being less popular and having narrower uses, can wait for now.

To learn well the Five Elements and Eight Trigrams, to have solid foundations, sturdy as Mount Tai, then to explore other categories of Formation Method later wouldn't be too late.

But as Elder Master Xun pondered, he suddenly realized a more pressing issue:

"The Qian Xue State Boundary is not all peace and quiet

Elder Master Xun's gaze grew grave.

In recent years, the Noble Clans have flourished, Sects have become dependent, and conflicts for fame and benefit among the disciples of various schools have worsened.

The long-silent Demon Sect has been stirring beneath the surface, plotting something unknown.

The situation is complex, danger lurks in the shadows, and people's hearts are tricky.

The Qian Xue State Boundary, a place for seeking knowledge, is not as tranquil as it appears on the surface.

Mo Hua, this child, is a Loose Cultivator, without background or power...

Some way must be found to protect him.

To allow him to steadfastly pursue the path of inquiry, to concentrate on his cultivation, to peacefully study Formation Method, without being led astray or making a wrong turn...

And not to be bullied by anyone!

Elder Master Xun looked serious.

Children as innocent and kind as Mo Hua are indeed easy to bully...

"But what is the best way to do that

Elder Master Xun fell into deep thought.

Unable to come up with a secure solution for the moment, he sighed,

"Let's talk about this matter later. First, let's teach him the Formation Method

...

The next day, Elder Master Xun handed Mo Hua a Formation Diagram:

"Trapped Mountain Formation"

A Bagua Series Formation Method, Second-grade Fourteen-pattern, it is an array that belongs to the 'Gen' Hexagram.

After Elder Master Xun explained the difficult points of the Formation, he let Mo Hua study it on his own and said he could come with questions.

Mo Hua nodded repeatedly, his heart full of excitement.

Fourteen Patterns!

At last, he had a Fourteen-pattern Formation to study!

Learning a Fourteen-pattern Formation, practicing it day and night, would allow him to further hone his Divine Sense.

Since there was no challenging Formation to learn, his Divine Sense had remained at fourteen patterns since Foundation Establishment, without progress for a long time.

Though Calculation and Tricky Calculation consume a great deal of Divine Sense, making it more tenacious and sharper, they seem to have little effect on the growth of Divine Sense.

To increase Divine Sense, one still relies on Formation Method.

The Trapped Mountain Formation is from the Gen-series of Formation Method.

Gen-series Formation Method, originating from the Eight Trigrams but also fitting the Five Elements, includes the changes within the Five Elements of metal and earth.

Moreover, because it belongs to the Eight Trigrams, the positions of the Formation Pivots will also be precise.

The Formation Pivots of the Eight Trigrams Formation differ quite significantly from those of the Five Elements Formation Method.

The layout of the Formation Patterns must follow the Eight Trigrams' directions, and the flow of Spiritual Power must match the Eight Trigrams' structure.

These things can be quite unfamiliar at first.

But with prolonged study and repeated practice, one can gradually understand and integrate this knowledge...

And there are many varieties of Eight Trigrams Formation Method.

The more Mo Hua delved into them, the more he looked forward to it.

Among the Eight Trigrams, Kan is water, and Li is fire.

These two types of Formation Method, similar to the water and fire elements in the Five Elements, are not that different.

Gen is mountain, and Dui is marsh.

Gen Mountain incorporates the evolution of the metal and earth elements of the Five Elements.

Dui Marsh includes the evolution of the water and earth elements of the Five Elements.

These two types of Eight Trigrams Formation Method compared to the Five Elements Formation Method, will have more differences.

Besides, there are also Xun and Zhen.

Xun is wind, and Zhen is thunder.

Mo Hua had not yet studied Wind-based spiritual power Formation Method and didn't know which types of Five Elements changes the Xun Hexagram Formation Method encompasses.

But thunder!

Mo Hua's heart surged with excitement.

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He had seen the Heavenly Tribulation Thunder with his own eyes!

Born from the Heavenly Dao Formation, the Thunder that could annihilate everything was generated from a single Thunder Pattern.

And that Immortal Pattern containing the essence of the Heavenly Tribulation, Mo Hua had seen with his own eyes and had personally recorded it, engraving it onto the Taoist Stele in his Sea of Consciousness!

This Thunder Pattern was extremely terrifying.

Even his Uncle couldn't endure it, he vanished into ash after a mere glance.

He tried to dissuade him, but to no avail!

...

His Uncle did not understand his good intentions!

Mo Hua nodded.

Just hearing about the Thunder System Formation sounded mighty powerful.

The only question was whether there was any difference between the thunder of the Heavenly Tribulation and the Thunder Formation of the “Zhen” Trigram within the Eight Trigrams...

Apart from this, it was the formations of the Qian and Kun hexagrams.

Kun represents earth, likely evolving from the soil of the Five Elements, but it probably would be more complex, broader, bearing all things, inclusive of all phenomena, and might even touch upon the “Taoist Meaning” of the Earth...

But he was well-acquainted with the Earth’s “Taoist Meaning”, so he was not afraid.

Lastly, there was the “Qian” path.

Qian represents heaven.

What Mo Hua could think of was one aspect of the “Three Talents” as “Heaven”;

The other was something other cultivators did not believe in but which he had “sneaked a peek” at once and thus could confirm its existence—the “Heavenly” aspect of the Heavenly Dao Formation.

He did not know what the Formation Method symbolized by the “Heavenly” Qian hexagram would look like...

Mo Hua muttered to himself, lost in thought for a while, before he gathered his thoughts and calmed his mind.

After all, there were still plenty of formations left to learn!

None of these formations would escape him!

For now, though, he had to start learning earnestly from the Second-grade Fourteen-pattern Trapped Mountain Formation of the “Gen” Trigram.

Mo Hua, as always, first memorized the Formation Patterns and Pivots of the Trapped Mountain Formation, then tried to practice them a few times simply. At night, when he slept, his Divine Sense would sink into his Sea of Consciousness and begin formal practice on the Taoist Stele.

Although studying the Thirteen-Pattern Formation with Fourteen Stripes of Divine Sense wasn’t as easy as the twelve or thirteen patterns before, it also wasn’t too difficult.

However, Mo Hua found that his Fourteen Stripes seemed a bit different from those of other cultivators.

It might be due to the Divine Consciousness Transformation that his Divine Sense had become very condensed and incredibly resilient.

Thus, the actual amount of his Divine Sense was more than that of the other Fourteen Stripes.

But the “strength” was incomparable to that.

For other cultivators, the “strength” of Divine Sense was determined by the number of Patterns, meaning the “amount” of Divine Sense.

The more patterns, the larger the Divine Sense, the naturally stronger.

But Mo Hua’s Divine Sense seemed to have expanded a “dimension”, measuring the “strength” of Divine Sense by its “quality”, not just the number of patterns.

Even though the number of patterns was the same, all being “Fourteen Stripes”, he could only learn formations of up to “Fourteen Stripes”.

However, due to the difference in the “quality” of Divine Sense, Mo Hua always felt that using this purer, more condensed Divine Sense to learn formations allowed him to understand the formations more thoroughly.

And his grasp of the Great Dao would be more profound as well.

At the same time, Mo Hua discovered that the amount of his Divine Sense seemed somewhat flexible.

Although it was Fourteen Stripes of Divine Sense, it wouldn’t truly be exhausted after use.

He seemed to be able to draw more Divine Sense from the Sea of Consciousness.

Divine Sense was like water in cotton, seemingly used up, but there would be more if you squeezed...

However, this process was very painful.

As if the Sea of Consciousness was being pressed, it was excruciating.

Therefore, Mo Hua had to stop at the right moment and could not overuse it.

He could only use a bit more than the amount necessary for Fourteen Stripes and then stop; otherwise, he would suffer from splitting headaches, tormenting himself.

The Trapped Mountain Formation with Fourteen Stripes wasn’t hard, and Mo Hua learned it smoothly.

But it took a lot of time to familiarize with and assimilate the Bagua Formation Series:

Utilizing the well-mastered “Gen” Series Formation Patterns, understanding the Eight Trigrams’ Formation Pivots, constructing the dynamic Formation Eyes of the Eight Trigrams, and observing comprehensively the Spiritual Power flow of the Bagua Formation Method...

Half a month later, Mo Hua mastered the Second-grade Fourteen-pattern Trapped Mountain Formation.

He could truly draw out the Second-grade Fourteen-pattern formations.

As for the formations of Fifteen Stripes...

Mo Hua's Divine Sense Realm hadn't reached that level yet, so he couldn't learn it for the time being.

Knowing that Mo Hua had mastered the Second-grade Fourteen-pattern Trapped Mountain Formation, Elder Master Xun was no longer surprised; he had become somewhat numb, and at the same time, he silently breathed a sigh of relief.

"At last, it's nearly enough

Fourteen stripes were enough, learning more would be somewhat excessive.

Elder Master Xun said with earnest gravity,

"Though you can draw out formations of Fourteen Stripes now, you haven't learned many of the Thirteen Pattern formations; the foundation isn't very solid

"So hereafter, I'll prepare some formations of Fourteen Stripes, mixed with Thirteen Stripes for you to learn thoroughly one by one

Mo Hua happily said, "Thank you, Elder Master!"

Elder Master Xun nodded slightly, silently thinking to himself:

"Formations of Fourteen Stripes should keep this little one busy for a while

"Fourteen Stripes

Elder Master Xun sighed.

"This is the entry level of the Second-grade Mid-tier Array

"To know the Second-grade Mid-tier Array at the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage

"He hardly seems like a disciple; he's almost qualified to be a 'Little Instructor

Elder Master Xun silently shook his head.

In the following days, Mo Hua continued to study formations tirelessly.

He learned both those with Thirteen and Fourteen Stripes.

Of course, the focus was on Fourteen Stripes.

Mo Hua wanted to use the Fourteen-Pattern Formation to hone his Sea of Consciousness and further his Divine Sense!

Piling sand into a tower, dripping water wears away stone.

He studied one formation after another, drawing them over and over...

And his Divine Sense, unnoticed, gradually climbed toward Fifteen Stripes...

Chapter 814: You Come and Teach

Mo Hua's Divine Sense was getting closer to the sixteen patterns.

Between fourteen and sixteen patterns, all are within the Qi Foundation Middle Stage, and breakthroughs during this phase do not have significant bottlenecks but simply need a bit of time.

During this time, Mo Hua gradually settled down in the Taixu Gate.

His life at Taixu Gate was calm and uneventful—aside from attending classes, it was daily routine of cultivation and Drawing Formation.

Taixu Gate had many courses.

Besides Formation, Mo Hua took his cultivation course most seriously.

The Instructor, Elder Gongsun, a true disciple of the Taixu Inner Gate and in the Feather Transformation Realm, had profound cultivation and vast knowledge.

He taught the way of Qi Foundation cultivation with lofty insights and in a way that was both profound and simple.

Some basic points were supplemented by Elder Gongsun's true disciples, now Instructors of the Inner Gate.

These cultivation methods were the essence of generations of Taixu Gate Elders and Instructors, condensing the experience and understanding of cultivation from ancestors over thousands of years.

Thanks to this, Mo Hua also had an increasingly clear approach to the Foundation Establishment Stage.

However, his progress in cultivation was still considered the lowest.

Partly because he was the only disciple in Taixu Gate with a Mid-Lower Grade Spiritual Root.

And also because he forged a "Divine Sense Proving the Dao" Taoist Foundation; although his Divine Sense was extremely strong, his realm had not been polished, and the foundation of his flesh and Spiritual Power was extremely weak.

A Mid-Lower Grade Spiritual Root implied a low upper limit of Spiritual Power Circulation, leading to a typical speed of cultivation.

Especially when compared to those of Taixu Gate, who were all top-grade, with no one of low aptitude.

Hence among all disciples, Mo Hua had the lowest count of Spiritual Power Cycles.

Similarly, due to his weak foundation, Mo Hua's base in cultivation was also the thinnest.

Although Mo Hua was diligent in his cultivation, he managed only just to keep up with his realm; everything else, he lagged significantly behind.

Fortunately, Elder Gongsun, who taught cultivation, was non-discriminatory and not overly harsh in his treatment of people.

As long as you were diligent and serious about cultivation, he was not too stringent about results.

Mo Hua could only persist this way, slowly grinding away; with limited Spiritual Root, neither his realm of cultivation nor his foundation could grow quickly.

However, this was something Mo Hua had been clear about for a long time and was not worth being discouraged over.

Regardless of the quality of the Spiritual Root or the thickness of the foundation.

Since he pursued the Great Dao, he must focus solely on cultivation without distraction.

Whether the Spiritual Root was good or bad was a fact; rather than feel self-pity and waste time, it was better to devote all effort to cultivation.

Besides the cultivation classes, there were also Tao Cultivation industries in Taixu Gate.

The main ones were Alchemy, Artifact Refining, and Rune Refining.

As expected, Mo Hua performed poorly in all these areas.

It had been the same back in Tongxian Gate, and now in Taixu Gate, it was even more evident.

The herbs for Alchemy were too expensive; for Artifact Refining, he couldn't even swing a hammer; Rune Refining consumed too much Spiritual Power.

The ink, brushes, and Formation Paper for Drawing Formations, to Mo Hua, were already considered pricey.

But the essence of Formation was the understanding of the Great Dao through Divine Sense.

The greatest consumption was actually Divine Sense.

Whereas Alchemy was different— the herbs, top-grade Pill Furnace, Pill Recipes, and various catalysts combined with Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures were all considered exorbitantly priced, far beyond Mo Hua's reach.

The higher the grade, the higher the price.

Only descendants of Noble Clans with support, lacking neither Spirit Stones nor Spiritual Objects, could afford to "burn money" and learn Alchemy...

Compared to Alchemy, Rune Refining was not only expensive but also very draining on Spiritual Power.

Mo Hua had once heard Artifact Refiner Master Chen from Tongxian City talk about Runes; since entering Taixu Gate, he had learned even more.

Runes were a Tao Cultivation industry developed from both "Artifact Refining" and "Drawing Formation" but were entirely independent.

The earliest Runes were drawn on paper and somewhat resembled Formation.

However, this type of paper Rune, using "paper" as the medium, was not easily preserved and prone to "misfires" and explosions;

It also had a short shelf life and was prone to "duds" where it would become ineffective;

The sealed Spiritual Power was limited, and its power wasn't very strong.

As the Cultivation World developed, these old types of "Runes" were gradually phased out.

Now, Runes were made of Jade, using jade as the medium, integrating sealing-type Formation, and special Artifact Refining techniques.

Rune Refining Masters sealed their spells in these jade "Runes," creating limited-use "Runes."

This process required consuming a large amount of Spiritual Power.

But for Mo Hua, with his low Spiritual Power, Rune Refining was out of reach.

Not to mention Artifact Refining.

Mo Hua's Blood Qi, not only weak among Body Cultivators but even among Spiritual Cultivators, was the weakest.

Most of the Noble Family Descendants who were Spiritual Cultivators also practiced some Body Refinement techniques, not for close-combat killing but to enhance their bodily defenses slightly.

Therefore, swinging a large hammer to forge a Spiritual Artifact was not much of a problem for them.

But Mo Hua was different.

He struggled even to hold a hammer.

During class, with the force of "nine oxen and two tigers," Mo Hua still couldn't swing the large iron hammer, his face flushed with effort, even considering whether to disassemble the hammer and install a Formation inside for a good "modification"...

The Instructor of Artifact Refining quickly advised:

"Let it go, let it go, don't trouble yourself with this hammer..."

"It didn't want this either..."

Not being able to lift the hammer wasn't the hammer's fault...

Mo Hua then asked, "Then Instructor, do I still need to learn Artifact Refining?"

The Instructor grimaced, undecided.

During his time at Taixu Gate, he had never seen a disciple who couldn't even swing a hammer.

Unable to forge iron, naturally, he couldn't refine artifacts.

The Instructor could only say, "Do as you wish; learn as much as you can, don't force it, and certainly don't injure yourself..."

Chapter 815: You Come and Teach (2)

He knew that Mo Hua, that child, was very good at Formation, quite favored by Elder Master Xun. If Mo Hua hurt his hands while Artifact Refining and couldn't do Formation Painting, he was certain to receive cold looks from Elder Master Xun.

Mo Hua sighed.

He felt helpless too.

Artifact Refining required physical strength, Refining Rune required Spiritual Power, and Alchemy needed financial resources as a foundation.

He lacked all of these.

Indeed, only the Formation, which was based on the consumption of Divine Sense, was the most suitable for him.

Mo Hua started to reduce his efforts in the three courses of "Artifact Refining," "Alchemy," and "Refining Runes," and instead, allocated more time to Formation Painting.

But he still had to attend those three courses.

It's still the same saying, "You don't have to master it, but you must understand it..."

He didn't need to personally learn how to refine Pills, refine artifacts, or create Runes, but the basic principles of refining, commonly used Spiritual Artifacts, Runes, Pills, and their respective uses, things to note...

These pieces of Tao Cultivation knowledge were essential to know.

To avoid being poisoned in the future while traveling in the Cultivation World, being secretly attacked with a Spiritual Artifact, or being explosively killed with a Rune...

...

In addition, Taixu Gate also had Taoist Skill classes.

Taoist Skill classes were divided into three types: for Spiritual Cultivator, Body Cultivation, and Sword Cultivator.

You could learn whatever you wanted.

Mo Hua was a Spiritual Cultivator, so he naturally chose the Spiritual Cultivator course.

However, he discovered that the spells and principles taught in Taixu Gate's Spiritual Cultivator class were fundamentally different from his own magical approach.

The Spiritual Cultivators of Taixu Gate, or the mainstream Spiritual Cultivators, followed a path of using powerful moves for combat.

Those with Superior Spiritual Roots cultivated Superior Techniques, studied Superior Spells, relied on deep Cultivation, gathered powerful Spiritual Power, and unleashed powerful Spells.

Then with one move, they could turn the tables.

Just like Boss Jiang, accumulating vast Spiritual Power, activating the Sword Controlling Technique, condensing pure Golden Sword Qi, and then settling victory or defeat in one strike, deciding life and death in a single sword blow.

Although in the end he missed and died, Mo Hua knew it wasn't his fault.

His single sword strike was indeed magnificent and powerful.

If it had been someone else, they might have been cleaved to death by him.

Unfortunately, fate was not on his side; he met Mo Hua and died in the prime of his life.

Mo Hua felt a bit of pity for Boss Jiang.

But such moves, while powerful and requiring a long time to gather strength, also expended a lot of Spiritual Power. While preparing, one either risked being interrupted or stood there "taking hits."

Mo Hua thought back to when Boss Jiang was casting the "Sword Controlling Technique," the layer of Golden Light he had added to himself in advance.

Because of that layer of Golden Light, Mo Hua's Water Prison Technique had not disrupted his Sword technique.

Even the power of the Fireball Technique had also been reduced.

"That layer of Golden Light... what exactly is it?"

Mo Hua went to ask the Sect Instructor who taught Taoist Skills.

The Instructor told Mo Hua,

"That is the Gold Body Technique."

"Gold Body Technique?"

Mo Hua paused slightly; it was the first time he had heard of this Spell.

The Instructor said,

"The Gold Body Technique is a special kind of Spell, mainly defensive, but different from protective Spells like the Golden Bell Shield."

"The effect of the Gold Body Technique is to enhance one's body with Golden Light, protecting the meridians, which can reduce the damage taken from Spells to a certain degree..."

"And also ensures that the Spiritual Power circulating within one's meridians is not obstructed."

"This point is crucial!"

"That is to say, your Spells will not be interrupted."

"Within the duration of the Gold Body Technique, you can cast those time-consuming, yet immensely powerful, move without concern, instantly determining life and death, deciding victory or defeat in a flash!"

"You can even face multiple foes alone, relying on a single Top-Grade Daoist Magic to suppress the enemy forces and turn the tide!"

"This is the pursuit of a Spiritual Cultivator, to use the utmost Spells to bring forth supreme power..."

...

Mo Hua felt his blood boil as he listened.

But upon further thought, it seemed to have little to do with him.

He didn't know any Superior Daoist Magic.

Even if he knew, with his weak Spiritual Root and sparse Qi Sea, he might not have enough Spiritual Power to cast it.

Even if he could cast it, it wouldn't matter...

Among cultivators of the same rank, his physical body was very weak. Even with the reinforcement of the "Gold Body Technique," he probably wouldn't last until he could unleash the powerful move.

Mo Hua knew he couldn't "take a beating."

Being as fragile as paper, even with the Gold Body Technique reinforcing him and providing some resistance, at best he gained an extra layer of paper protection, which still wasn't of much use.

Nevertheless, he still benefited greatly.

It's no wonder with a long heritage like that of Qian Xue State Boundary.

Gold Body with Sword Control, or Gold Body casting spells...

It was a style of combat logic completely unknown to him before and fundamentally different from his own magic tactics.

It's a pity that he couldn't use it...

His approach, taught by Grandpa Gui, was "In all spells, only speed is unbeatable," and coupled with powerful Divine Sense and swift circulation of Spiritual Power, lower-tier Spells like Fireball Technique were what truly became powerful.

"Superior Spell..."

Mo Hua suddenly remembered something and asked, "Instructor, do these powerful Spells necessarily require Divine Sense to lock onto the target?"

The Instructor was somewhat surprised, "You know about 'Divine Sense locking'?"

Mo Hua answered modestly, "Somewhat."

Thus, the Instructor regarded Mo Hua more highly.

Even though his Spiritual Root was a little poor, his Spiritual Power weak, and he knew few Spells, and wouldn't typically learn Superior Daoist Magic, it was rare for him to have such insight.

Surprisingly, he knew about Divine Sense locking...

The Instructor said with relief, "Naturally, amidst the myriad manifestations of time, there are baffling illusions; what is seen may not be 'real,' and what is unseen may not be 'false.' It's very foolish for a Cultivator to rely solely on their eyes..."

"Within Divine Sense lies the true nature of all things."

"The stronger the Divine Sense, the truer the nature seen."

Chapter 816: You Come Teach (3)

"So, whether it's Sword Controlling True Jue or spell killing moves, it's best to use Divine Consciousness to see and lock onto the target..."

"Learning to lock onto a target with Divine Consciousness is what makes an excellent Spiritual Cultivator..."

Mo Hua nodded and felt relieved.

That's right.

No matter how powerful it is, if it doesn't hit, it's useless.

My own Divine Consciousness is quite strong.

Nevertheless, even so, one must think ahead and be prepared for the future.

Think about how to deal with those with good Spiritual Roots, superior Cultivation Techniques, profound Cultivation, who have learned Superior Daoist Skills, or those Proud Sons of Heaven with powerful Sword Controlling spells...

You can't rely too heavily on strong Divine Consciousness.

It's good to prepare several contingency plans.

Therefore, Mo Hua not only attended classes for Spiritual Cultivators but also sat in on Body Cultivation and Sword Cultivation classes.

He wasn't really interested in Body Refinement or Sword Cultivation, but mainly wanted to "know thyself and thy enemy," to see what the routines and attack methods of Body Cultivators and Sword Cultivators were, how they protected themselves, and what their vital points were...

In this way, he would have a method to deal with Body Cultivators and Sword Cultivators in the future.

This was also a kind of "reverse learning," another form of "learning for practical application."

And the only thing Mo Hua "learned properly" in a "positive" way was Formations.

Aside from this, including Cultivation, Alchemy, Artifact Refining, and Refining Runes, Mo Hua could not compare with fellow sect disciples.

Therefore, in the eyes of his fellow sect disciples, Mo Hua was an "oddball."

The better he was at Formations, the worse he was in other areas.

After mingling for a while, the other sect disciples gradually accepted Mo Hua as a disciple with "mediocre" Spiritual Root, a background as a Loose Cultivator, earnest in Cultivation, yet with an extreme bias in his skills.

But that was about it.

On the surface, Mo Hua seemed like a somewhat special but not extraordinary disciple.

However, people liked him.

Most of the disciples in Taiyi Residence treated him quite amiably.

There were a few with prestigious backgrounds, full of arrogance and self-pride, looking troublesome at first glance, from whom Mo Hua stayed far away from, to avoid trouble.

Taixu Gate also had many female disciples.

And most of them were from good backgrounds, fair and beautiful. Even though they all wore the unified Taixu Daoist Robes, each was bright and colorful, each with her own charm, pursued by many admirers.

However, after Mo Hua took a few looks and silently compared them, he ultimately felt that his Junior Sister was the most beautiful!

Thinking of his Junior Sister, Mo Hua was momentarily lost in thought.

The bits and pieces of his time in Tongxian City and his wanderings resurfaced in his mind.

"I wonder where Junior Sister is now..."

Mo Hua sighed, but eventually, he shook his head, quietly buried the thoughts of his Junior Sister in his heart, and then continued to diligently practice Cultivation, to diligently study Formations...

...

The scenery of Taixu Gate was ancient and beautiful.

Thousands of disciples practice their Cultivation here.

Besides those in Taiyi Residence, there were many Proud Sons of Heaven; Mo Hua wasn't familiar with them, he hadn't even met some of them.

Amongst them were those with prestigious backgrounds, those who attracted attention with their talent, as well as stunningly beautiful female disciples...

These Proud Son of Heaven disciples, gathered together, competing against each other.

Occasionally, they would become jealous and create storms of conflict.

But all this had nothing to do with Mo Hua.

Striving to improve his Cultivation, to enhance his Divine Consciousness, learning higher and more profound Formations!

This was what he needed to do!

He didn't care much about the rest.

Mo Hua continued his day-to-day practice of Cultivation and study of Formations in silence.

And his Divine Consciousness, unknown to him, had quietly broken through the shackles of fourteen Patterns, reaching fifteen...

Fifteen Patterns, a level of Divine Consciousness only attainable by Cultivators in the Qi Foundation Middle Stage, a small accomplishment in Cultivation.

And with Sixteen-Pattern Divine Consciousness, one could learn Second Grade Middle Stage Formations.

From fifteen to sixteen Patterns, it was only one step away!

Mo Hua felt a bit excited, he thought for a moment, then went to Elder Master Xun and tentatively asked,

"Elder Master, can I study... formations for fifteen Patterns?"

Elder Master Xun had a moment of stupor.

He had previously anticipated that the formations of fourteen Patterns would be enough for Mo Hua to study for a while, but he didn't expect it to be merely "a while."

This "while" was far too short...

He even felt that it was not long ago that he had just taught Mo Hua the formations of fourteen Patterns.

Before he knew it, Mo Hua was already about to learn the sixteen-pattern formations...

Elder Master Xun fell silent for a long time before slowly nodding, "Alright, but don't rush it. First, stabilize your foundation."

"Mhm!" Mo Hua nodded.

After Mo Hua took his leave, Elder Master Xun's expression turned grave, his gaze heavy with contemplation.

He felt that this child, Mo Hua... had become somewhat terrifying...

This was no longer about whether one can learn formations quickly or well.

Such super rank Divine Consciousness, growing at such an alarming rate, was simply inconceivable, unheard of...

If he continued learning in this unrestrained manner, he truly feared the cultivation of formations would produce an unprecedented "Little Evil Monster"...

"But..."

Elder Master Xun frowned.

Learning too quickly was definitely not a good thing.

The tree that stands out in the forest will be destroyed by the wind.

But now, Mo Hua was probably no longer just "standing out in the forest". If he continued to grow at this insane rate, his branches would soon surpass the mountain peak, reaching for the skies.

Too conspicuous.

Going on like this, the child would surely become an object of jealousy among noble clans, envy among his peers, and coveted by the Demon Gate.

If he truly turned to the Demon Path, those deranged old demons had ten thousand ways to spur his uncontrolled growth and turn him into a thoroughly crazy "Little Demon King"...

There were precedents for such things...

A Formation Master with powerful Divine Consciousness who turned to the Demon Path was truly terrifying...

And once he turned to the Demon Path, his Taoist Foundation would surely be destroyed.

He might seem to grow stronger, but he would be cutting himself off from the Great Dao, doomed to become a flesh puppet of the Demon Path for life.

As for the noble clans...

Mo Hua himself had no bloodline of any noble clan.

He only had two choices: either become a lackey for a noble clan, turning into their hawk dog for profits,

Or, he would undoubtedly face ostracization by the noble clans.

If he had a virtuous nature and a broad mind and acted against the interests of the noble clans, he could even be jointly suppressed and killed by the noble clans of Qian State.

The Sect...

The Sect could be his shelter.

But the foundation of the Sect was also people.

The problem for Mo Hua was that he had not been in the sect for long, his foundations were shallow, and even if there was some comradery among fellow sect members, it was ultimately too superficial.

Time reveals a person's heart; adversity shows their true nature.

Only through a long association and shared difficulties can genuine bonds be formed.

With the current level of fellowship, no sect disciple would truly risk their life in a crisis to help him...

Continuing this way, Mo Hua could easily end up isolated and become a pawn in the struggles of the Demon Gate or even the noble clans...

Elder Master Xun's brows furrowed ever tighter.

"I need to think of a solution..."

But at that moment, he had no good ideas.

During the next formation lesson, Elder Master Xun was somewhat distracted, looking at Mo Hua who was innocent and lively, obedient yet earnest.

He felt regret, heartache, and could hardly bear it.

"What should be done with this child..."

Elder Master Xun looked troubled.

However, Mo Hua was confused, not understanding why Elder Master Xun was looking at him in such a way.

It wasn't until the lesson had begun that Elder Master Xun shifted his gaze away from Mo Hua, spread out the lecture notes, put aside his worries, and prepared to explain the formations.

Suddenly, an Inner Sect Elder knocked on the door from outside.

Seeing Elder Master Xun frown at him, the elder felt immense pressure; he knew how much Elder Master Xun hated to be disturbed during his lectures.

But he had to speak.

"Elder Master Xun, there is an urgent matter for discussion in the back mountains."

"The back mountains?"

Elder Master Xun was momentarily stunned, then nodded, "I understand."

The Inner Sect Elder, relieved, bowed and left.

Elder Master Xun was about to pause the class and assign some work for the disciples to study on their own, but as he was about to speak, he suddenly paused, a spark of inspiration in his eyes, then pointed to Mo Hua and said:

"Mo Hua, you teach them!"

Mo Hua was stunned.

The other disciples present also opened their mouths wide, their expressions as if they had seen a ghost.

Chapter 817: Junior Brother

The Tao Teaching Room was filled with silence, then suddenly erupted into commotion.

"Mo Hua teaching?"

"How could he be the one teaching?"

"..."

Elder Master Xun's face darkened, and his gaze swept across the room.

Intimidated by his authority, the disciples immediately settled down, no longer daring to whisper among themselves.

Mo Hua spoke softly, "Elder Master, my teaching... wouldn't be appropriate, right?"

Elder Master Xun said indifferently, "It's very appropriate."

A Formation Master with a solid foundation capable of drawing a Second-grade Mid-tier Array teaching a few First-grade Formation Methods, what's inappropriate about that?

"But..."

Mo Hua hesitated.

Elder Master Xun gave Mo a meaningful look, "Teach well."

Mo Hua was startled.

He felt there was a deeper meaning to Elder Master Xun's words, but he couldn't figure out why at that moment...

Seeing Elder Master Xun's uncompromising demeanor, Mo Hua had no choice but to bow and say,

"Alright, sir."

Elder Master Xun nodded slightly, handed a few handouts to Mo Hua, and instructed,

"You just teach these two sets; teach boldly, don't worry."

After speaking, Elder Master Xun stood up and left, his steps both ethereal and real, heading towards the back mountain.

Inside the Tao Teaching Room, Mo Hua and a group of disciples were left looking at each other.

Mo Hua felt awkward, but remembering Elder Master Xun's instructions, he stiffened his resolve, opened the handouts, but before he could say anything, a tall individual stood up.

This big fellow, with the surname Cheng and given name Mo, was a Body Cultivator, quite tall. Though his name was Cheng Mo, he was talkative in daily life.

Seeing Elder Master Xun had walked far away, Cheng Mo gathered his courage and said somewhat unconvinced,

"Mo Hua, although we get along well, speaking solely on the matter, I'm not convinced by you teaching me formation methods!"

I, Cheng Mo, also have my pride!

He silently added in his mind.

The other disciples nodded in agreement.

In their respective clans, they were all the "Proud Sons of Heaven." Having converged at Taixu Gate where such talents gathered, they had become more subdued, but arrogance lingered in their hearts.

Elders and Instructors could preach and teach.

But ordinary disciples had no right to teach them.

Even though Mo Hua was well-liked and they bore him no ill will, involving a matter akin to a "master-disciple" teaching, they couldn't help but feel skeptical and needed an explanation.

Mo Hua sighed.

He actually preferred to keep a low profile, quietly cultivating and studying formation methods.

But for some reason, Elder Master Xun chose this moment for him to stand out.

However, regardless of the reason, now that it had come to this, Mo Hua was not afraid.

In terms of formation methods, he had never feared anyone!

Especially these fellow cultivators of the same age!

Mo Hua's eyes carried a trace of the same disdain as Mr. Zhuang.

"So you say, how do I qualify?"

Cheng Mo's eyes narrowed, "Let's compare!"

Mo Hua silently looked at him, "You?"

Cheng Mo, seen under Mo's clear and slightly sharp gaze, suddenly felt a bit guilty.

"I... I..."

He was quite familiar with Mo Hua and knew somewhat of Mo Hua's prowess in formation methods. He didn't know the exact extent, but it was certainly much better than his own.

He had acted impulsively out of dissatisfaction, having spoken out without thinking.

But to really compare formation methods with Mo Hua would be overestimating his abilities.

In the Sect, his formation skills were not the worst, but definitely among the lowest.

Comparing formations with Mo Hua was like comparing body refinement with him...

At this moment, another disciple stepped up, "Since you're going to teach us, you naturally have to compare with all of us!"

After speaking, he also felt a bit guilty.

Even if they won by outnumbering him, it wouldn't be a noble victory.

But Mo Hua carelessly said, "Alright, come at me altogether."

The room suddenly fell silent.

The disciples looked astonished; they did not expect Mo, who was usually gentle, to say something so "arrogant!"

The crowd was instantly ignited.

"Alright!"

"We'll all compete together; let's see the real skills in formation methods!"

"Little Mo Hua, I'll let you see, there are always higher skies!"

"If you lose, you have to call us 'Bro'!"

"Not just 'Bro,' you should call us Big Senior Brother!"

"Yes, you should call us Big! Senior! Brother!"

...

Mo Hua pursed his lips, it was still uncertain who would be calling whom "Senior Brother."

Comparing formation methods usually had its own rules.

Mo Hua hadn't participated much in such formal competitions, just tested his skills a bit during his time in the Five Elements Sect.

Although the forms were complex and varied greatly.

Ultimately, it all came down to seeing who could draw faster, who could draw better, who could draw more difficult patterns.

The current competition was similar.

Moreover, since they were in the Tao Teaching Room and had classes, with limited time, they could only roughly compare, just to determine a winner.

First, to see who could draw faster.

But at this first step, the disciples froze.

They had seen before, just how fast Mo Hua could draw formation methods.

Flowing like moving clouds and flowing water, too fast for the eyes to follow; those small hands, marking patterns and points with ink, were so fast that they almost left afterimages...

However, losing in skill doesn't mean losing in spirit!

Even if they ultimately lost, they couldn't let their spirits weaken!

Without trying, the outcome was still uncertain.

Several disciples, who thought they were quite good with their speed in drawing formations, stepped forward "generously" and started comparing with Mo Hua on a huge Array Plate at the front podium...

And then they were completely defeated.

They had barely finished less than half, and Mo Hua had already completed his, even sparing some effort, seemingly to save their face by deliberately slowing down a bit...

The faces of several disciples turned ashen, ashamed to step down.

Next, they compared who could draw better.

On the same formation, whoever drew it more precisely, whose lines were more elegant, and whose foundations were deeper, won.

Chapter 818: Junior Brother (2)

All the disciples present had studied Formation, drawn Formation Patterns, and had some foundation; the quality of their work was obvious at a glance.

Several other disciples, full of confidence, stepped forward.

They too had received their clans' authentic Formation teachings, and the Formation methods they drew on the Array Plate were all neat and beautiful. After finishing, they were somewhat self-satisfied.

However, a glance at the Formation method drawn by Mo Hua made them unavoidably distracted.

The Formation Patterns were precise, not a hair out of place, as if they were directly transferred from Formation Books.

Not only that, but the strokes were like silver hooks and iron paintings, strong and forceful.

This was an Earth Series Formation.

Mo Hua also casually channeled a trace of Earth Dao Meaning, so the entire Formation also settled with a broad and profound charm.

Both form and spirit were complete.

The meticulousness of the "form" could be achieved with effort, but the charm of the "spirit" was not something that could be simply drawn out.

Needless to say, they knew they had lost.

The last was about who could draw something more challenging.

A disciple from a worldly family stepped forward, dressed in white, with a handsome appearance. Mo Hua remembered that this disciple was from the legitimate lineage of the Wen Clan of Qian State, called Wen Xuan.

Wen Xuan's demeanor was calm as he dipped his brush in ink and began drawing a Second-grade Eleven Patterns Formation.

Mo Hua was somewhat surprised, while at the same time he felt moved.

The descendants of noble clans indeed were extraordinary, as even at the initial stage of Foundation Establishment, there were geniuses who could draw a Second-grade Eleven Patterns Formation.

It really was quite remarkable...

Mo Hua nodded his head.

If they were geniuses, then they should be well "nurtured" and encouraged.

They needed to see a gap to fuel their drive to chase after it.

But the gap couldn't be so vast that they would fall into despair and lose confidence in pursuing the Dao of Formation.

Mo Hua considered this "with a heavy heart".

After thinking it through, he casually chose a Second-grade Twelve Patterns Formation, slowing his pace and adopting a solemn expression, and "exerted all his effort" to draw it out.

Seeing this, Wen Xuan's face turned ashen, and he gasped,

"Twelve patterns..."

After examining the Formation and then looking at Mo Hua, he conceded with a bow, "I admit defeat."

But his gaze towards Mo Hua was bright with determination.

In his eyes, a fierce ambition was kindled, seeing Mo Hua as his lifelong "rival".

Mo Hua nodded his head with "satisfaction".

With that, the competition was mostly concluded.

All the disciples fell silent.

Without a competition, they had never known, but after truly facing off, they realized they really couldn't win against Mo Hua in the realm of Formation...

For those not specializing in Formation, with only a superficial understanding of it, the competition seemed to end too quickly.

A group of disciples went up, drew a Formation, then stepped down, some even realizing they had lost before they finished drawing.

Going up quickly and coming down just as fast meant they lost just as swiftly.

Only those who truly mastered Formation knew the vast gap that lay between them...

They vaguely felt there was a deep chasm between themselves and Mo Hua, constructed by Formation.

This chasm seemed just within reach, yet it also appeared impossible to cross.

And if you weren't careful, you might fall into it and drown...

The usually amiable Mo Hua for the first time appeared "unfathomably deep" in their eyes...

But Mo Hua felt the contest had been too brief.

He had hardly exerted himself.

Seeing no one speaking, Mo Hua looked around curiously and asked,

"Any more challengers?"

The disciples were taken aback, followed by a mix of shame and "humiliation" as they looked at Mo Hua.

It was as if Mo Hua was a very nasty, yet unbeatable "little demon king".

At that moment, another disciple with a stern face and a serious expression, as if disapproving of Mo Hua's "misdeeds," stood up.

"I'll do it!"

Mo Hua found him somewhat familiar, but didn't know his name.

The disciple said, "My surname is Zheng, given name Fang, from the Zheng Family of Zhen State."

"Zheng Fang?"

Mo Hua remembered, then asked, "What do you want to compete in?"

Zheng Fang shook his head, "In the matter of Formation, I concede I am not your equal, but I cannot accept my heart being unsatisfied if you teach me, so, I want to test you."

"Test me?"

"Yes," Zheng Fang nodded, "My family possesses a set of secret Formation techniques. I'll draw it for you once, and you must reproduce it within two hours."

"If you do it, I will acknowledge that your aptitude in Formation is exceptional, your understanding profound, and you are indeed qualified to teach us!"

"I am testing your insight!"

Mo Hua was stunned for a moment, his expression one of surprise and disbelief.

Test me like this?

And such good fortune?!

You foolish child, are you testing me, or simply gifting me your family's secret Formation?

Mo Hua's eyes sparkled, but he tried his best to not appear too delighted, keeping a stern face and saying seriously,

"Yes, it is necessary to test me!"

"Good!"

Zheng Fang said solemnly, then moved to the Array Plate and said in an unfriendly tone,

"This Formation, although only First Grade and an entry-level one, is nevertheless my Zheng Family's exclusive Formation. I won't tell you its name, I will only draw it once, and if you can't learn it, then just admit defeat honestly!"

"Mhm, mhm!"

Mo Hua nodded eagerly, filled with anticipation.

Zheng Fang began to draw.

As soon as the first stroke landed, Mo Hua's gaze sharpened.

Thunder Pattern!

"This is...Thunder Pattern?"

The Thunder Pattern from the Eight Trigrams Formation?!

The secret Formation of the Zheng Family was actually... the rare Eight Trigrams Thunder Formation?!

Mo Hua was taken aback.

Other disciples with wider experience were also astonished,

"This is a Thunder Series Formation?"

"It's difficult to learn..."

"Even if Mo Hua has superb insight, he couldn't possibly learn it in two hours..."

"Exactly, exactly."

"But isn't this a bit underhanded..."

"It seems a little like victory without honor..."

Chapter 819: Junior Brother (3)

"How could this be? He's the one who boastfully offered to teach us the Formation!"

"But... speaking of which, it was Elder Master Xun who asked him to teach, and he surely couldn't defy the elder, could he..."

"Now that you mention it..."

"It seems to make sense..."

"It's not Mo Hua's fault..."

"You conceded, whose side are you on anyway? Have you no principles? Have you no stance?!"

...

The disciples were chattering among themselves.

Mo Hua, however, concentrated intensely, his Divine Sense operating swiftly, calculating the trajectory of the Formation drawn by Zheng Fang in his Sea of Consciousness.

Every stroke and Pattern Zheng Fang drew was deconstructed and calculated by Mo Hua's Divine Sense, thereby transformed into a more essential trajectory of Spiritual Power.

The Formation, stroke by stroke, was also gradually reconstructed in his Sea of Consciousness, becoming clearer by the moment...

And little by little, it formed the full scope of the Formation.

Mo Hua furrowed his brows.

This was a very special Thunder Formation...

The trajectory of the Spiritual Power was gentle, seemingly not intended for slaughter...

Moreover, the configuration of the Formation Patterns was somewhat unconventional, differing somewhat from the Thunder Patterns Mo Hua had previously studied.

The structure of the Formation Pivot...

Mo Hua felt a sense of déjà vu, but upon closer consideration, he felt he had never seen it before...

This was truly just a basic First Grade Nine Patterns Formation, yet the logic of the Formation felt unfamiliar.

From just the Formation Diagram, Mo Hua couldn't determine what purpose this Formation served, and the principles of other related Formations were even more elusive.

He didn't know the name nor the purpose...

A nameless Thunder Formation...

Mo Hua nodded slightly.

It was no wonder Zheng Fang had presented it for him to study; even if he mastered it, he wouldn't understand the intricacies or specific functions of this Formation.

Learning it would be learning in vain.

Mo Hua remembered that Zheng Fang had mentioned that this was the Zheng Family's "entry-level" Formation.

Did that mean that this Formation was only the basis?

Were the real core Formations derived from this Thunder Formation base?

Mo Hua silently looked at Zheng Fang and secretly tagged him in his mind as the "Gift Giving Child".

While this First Grade nameless Thunder Formation felt unfamiliar and he knew nothing of its specifics,

Based on Mo Hua's own experience and insight into Formations, it was actually not difficult to learn.

Especially since he was skilled in Heavenly secret Calculation.

Thus, when Zheng Fang finished drawing the Formation and turned around, confidently gazing at Mo Hua, Mo Hua picked up the brush, dipped it in ink, and as effortlessly as a dragonfly touches water, he drew the Formation on the Array Plate, having already calculated it thoroughly after just one viewing.

Zheng Fang's confident expression froze on his face as he looked at Mo Hua, as if he was seeing a little monster.

"Did... you study this before?"

Mo Hua honestly replied,

"Only just learned it..."

Zheng Fang opened his mouth, but ultimately, his expression resigned and dejected, he walked away.

Mo Hua, however, opened up new lines of thought, looking at the assembled disciples with an expectant face, asking,

"Anyone else want to test me?"

Preferably with a somewhat difficult, rarer Formation that I haven't studied!

Mo Hua hoped inwardly.

But no one responded.

Mo Hua asked again, yet still, no one spoke.

Mo Hua somewhat regretted it.

Had he known, he should have put on an act.

Pretend he was "exhausting his mind," "putting forth all his effort," pondering deeply, barely managing to draw this Thunder System Formation...

That would have been better for "fishing," learning more Formations.

Miscalculated...

Hasty...

His own experience in Tao Cultivation was still shallow, he reminded himself to be more careful in the future...

Mo Hua advised himself and then, on an off chance, asked again,

"Anyone else..."

Still, no one answered.

Mo Hua sighed, then had no choice but to say,

"Well then, I'll start teaching you..."

The disciples in attendance were startled, then all slightly dissatisfied, their faces reddening slightly.

But as things stood, they had no choice but to quietly lower their heads and honestly accept Mo Hua's "teaching."

"Alright, let's start the class!"

Mo Hua's voice was crisp.

Afterward, Mo Hua began the lesson.

The First-grade Formation Method was not difficult.

Mo Hua taught it effortlessly.

His proficiency in First-grade Formation Method was profound, making his teaching smooth and effortless.

Occasionally, when there was a piece of Formation knowledge he understood but didn't know how to explain, he would remember Elder Master Xun and mimic him, explaining it simply and clearly for others.

The other disciples, verbally and facially unconvinced, actually accepted internally.

They also knew that Mo Hua's level in Formation was indeed much higher than theirs.

So even though they all had stern faces and acted haughtily, they still absorbed what Mo Hua taught.

Moreover, even Elder Master Xun, though profoundly skilled in Formation, precisely because of his profound skill, sometimes skipped over explaining some basic concepts in detail.

Mo Hua was different.

He had only studied up to First and Second Grade Formations, with a solid foundation, so his insights made it easier for disciples at the Initial Stage of Foundation Establishment to understand.

Additionally, Elder Master Xun was strict and stubborn.

Mo Hua, however, was affable and approachable.

Thus, unbeknownst to them, all the disciples in the Tao Teaching Room who were sincerely focused on learning and wanted to improve their skill in Formation began to earnestly listen to Mo Hua's lectures.

Mo Hua stood before the lectern, relaxed and unhurried, speaking effortlessly.

His demeanor and grace resembled that of a "Little Instructor"...

He did not know how long time had passed, when Elder Master Xun returned and saw the scene in the Tao Teaching Room, his expression revealing slight astonishment.

It was within his expectations that there would be many who opposed Mo Hua teaching these disciples.

These problems were definitely for Mo Hua to resolve on his own.

Whether he could "convince everyone" depended on Mo Hua's own capabilities, and it was not for him to interfere.

Chapter 820: Junior Brother (4)

Elder Master Xun had not expected that Mo Hua would resolve the situation so quickly, that these proud students would comply so obediently...

Elder Master Xun pondered for a moment and then nodded in approval.

He did not disturb Mo Hua but simply left.

...

Since then, whenever there was a matter to attend to, Elder Master Xun let Mo Hua "substitute teach."

Sometimes, even when there was no particular need, Elder Master Xun would take a lazy "sick day" and let Mo Hua take over, teaching the room full of disciples.

A "disciple" teaching Formation to other disciples.

This matter quickly came to the knowledge of the elders of the Taixu Gate.

The families of Qian State backing some disciples also became aware of this and, mainly harboring dissatisfaction, they exerted pressure on some authoritative elders of the Taixu Gate to confront Elder Master Xun for an explanation.

Several True Transmission Elders, reluctantly yet unavoidably, approached Elder Master Xun and tentatively said,

"Old sir, about this matter...is it perhaps, against the rules?"

Elder Master Xun lowered his head to sip his tea, not even raising his eyelids, "What rules?"

"This..."

The elders hesitated.

What could they say...

Many rules of the Taixu Gate were established with this Ancestor's involvement.

How could they dare speak of rules before him...

However, Elder Master Xun, unlike other ancestors who secluded themselves for cultivation or stayed behind the scenes, devoted himself to the principle of "preaching and teaching." At his considerable age, he continued to personally teach Formations. Although he was stubbornly eccentric and somewhat grumpy, he did not put on airs, and that was why they dared to speak up this much.

One elder, after a moment of deep thought, whispered:

"Having a disciple teach other disciples...this is rather improper, not quite in accordance with tradition..."

"Not proper, not conforming to tradition..." Elder Master Xun muttered, then after a moment of frowning and pondering, he nodded, "Indeed, it is not proper or traditional."

The elder's eyes lit up, "In that case..."

"In that case," Elder Master Xun said, "just officially assign him the position of 'Little Instructor,' and then it would be proper and traditional!"

Little Instructor?!

The elder's heart sank, hurriedly saying:

"Old sir, this...a fresh Outer Gate disciple taking on the role of 'Little Instructor,' there's no precedent for this within the Taixu Gate..."

"Isn't there one now..." Elder Master Xun nodded, "Precedent? Well, someone always has to be the first."

"This, this can't be done..."

The other elders also said, "Old sir, this action is inappropriate..."

"It's really quite...unprecedented."

"Forgive this junior's disrespect...but this seems somewhat...trifling..."

"Such a role as 'Little Instructor' just can't be established..."

The group of True Transmission Elders buzzed with discussion.

Elder Master Xun took a sip of tea, sighed, and said, "I am not unreasonable, and since all of you oppose it, let's compromise. We won't make him 'Little Instructor.' Let's slightly elevate his rank, make him a 'Junior Brother' instead..."

The other True Transmission Elders froze, hearts skipping a beat.

Uh-oh, this was a trap.

Elder Master Xun was retreating tactically; his original plan likely wasn't "Little Instructor" at all...

A True Transmission Elder bit the bullet, still wanting to oppose.

"This fearsome...still seems..."

Elder Master Xun's expression darkened, slightly angry he said:

"What do you mean?"

"I've already compromised enough. If not 'Little Instructor,' then fine, but a 'Junior Brother,' just a little oral rank, without a real position, and you still have objections?"

"Do you think I've become old and my words hold no weight?"

The group of True Transmission Elders felt bitter, cold sweat forming on their foreheads, finally resorting to flattering:

"Old sir is right, it's just a title of 'Junior Brother' after all..."

At this point, they had no choice but to grit their teeth and say:

"...let's do it then!"

Elder Master Xun was finally satisfied, nodded, waved his hand, and started shooping people away:

"Dismiss, dismiss, it's just a trivial matter, making a big fuss..."

"This matter is thus settled!"

The group of True Transmission Elders smiled bitterly but had no choice but to accept it.

During the next Formation class, Elder Master Xun called Mo Hua to the podium and told the disciples below:

"In the outside world, each of you have your opinions, and I do not interfere..."

"But from now on, in this Tao Teaching Room devoted to teaching Formations..."

Elder Master Xun pointed at Mo Hua, his voice old but firm, "all you disciples...must address him as—"

"Junior Brother!"