

Worth 91

Chapter 91: Beating Up Gao Quan!

First the wind blade, then the flying sword!

Gao Quan's attack revealed all his power in the True Breath realm. Furthermore, this was after Wang Baole had already eliminated his True Breath suppressive force. Otherwise, one could imagine that with such a True Breath suppressive force, no Ancient Martial Arts expert would be able to face him.

This was the forceful nature of True Breath!

Wang Baole's gaze grew brighter. When he arrived, he had already made preparations and did not even pause for a second. In the instant that the wind blade and flying sword appeared, he raised his right hand, and a glove appeared.

This glove was totally purple. It seemed to give off a strange glow, and it had a wave of Spirit force coiled up within—clearly, it was extraordinary. This object... was the object that Wang Baole had retrieved after killing the men in black in the Pond Cloud Rainforest. Thereafter, he had modified and transformed it. As such, this treasure had become even more powerful than before.

Not only could it form typhoons, it could add on to one's own power. This was the object with the largest attacking power that Wang Baole had in his possession.

Almost as soon as he put the glove on, Wang Baole grasped it firmly, and all the Blood Qi in his body traveled like a gushing river into the glove. A blood-colored typhoon rose from around Wang Baole and expanded forward. When it met the wind blade, Wang Baole took a large step forward and raised his right hand to swing out again.

This time, not only were there typhoons, there were also about ten flying swords that appeared with a whoosh. They did not rush at Gao Quan but instead revolved around Wang Baole, forming a protective barrier. This caused his entire person to seem like a sword ball, as though it was about to penetrate the wind blade.

The booming sound rose from the surrounding flying swords. These flying swords shattered one after the other, along with Wang Baole's typhoons. Nevertheless, he still managed to go through the wind blade. When he appeared, just as Gao Quan sent his three flying swords toward him, Wang Baole roared and took out another Dharmic artifact.

These were... beads that could create the Golden Bell Shield. He had previously refined quite a few beads, and right now, he took out a large number of them. Instead of using them to envelop himself, the beads wrapped around the three flying swords, causing these three flying swords to become trapped by layers of the Golden Bell Shield.

The sound shook the heavens. The three flying swords crashed, breaking off half of the Golden Bell Shield. Using the instant when the flying swords were trapped, Wang Baole's speed erupted, and he rushed right in front of Gao Quan.

"Gao Quan, watch how I defeat you today!"

Gao Quan's expression changed violently while he continued retreating. However, he suddenly discovered that he was not as fast as Wang Baole.

As he continuously chased, Wang Baole's eyes showed his determination. He raised his left hand and sent a punch at Gao Quan.

"Wang Baole, do you want to die?"

Gao Quan's eyes were vicious. As he retreated, he controlled the small shield outside his body, using it to block. He raised both hands about to cast his powers. As long as the small shield managed to block Wang Baole, he had time to once again exhibit his Dharma spells.

But this time... Wang Baole's raised left hand moved swiftly, grabbing onto the small shield. In the moment he grabbed the small shield, a small shock traveled from Wang Baole's hand to his whole body.

Wang Baole's entire body shook, and fresh blood spurted out from the corner of his mouth. Due to the struggle of this small shield, the shock that expanded internally almost made Wang Baole's left hand shatter. He swallowed the pain, and in his ferocity, he quickly raised his right and grabbed the finger that Gao Quan was using to cast his spells.

As Gao Quan panicked in fear, Wang Baole laughed fiercely.

"I've long wanted to bend that finger of yours!" As he spoke, Wang Baole violently bent it.

Gao Quan's face paled. There was an intense pain that he had never felt before in his finger, interrupting his spell-casting. However, he was still a True Breath expert. Even though the pain was unbearable, even though his body was not as strong as Wang Baole's, he had still achieved Pulse Enrichment before. In this moment, he ignored the pain, veins popping up on his forehead, and his other hand shot toward Wang Baole.

Alas, his speed was still too slow. Wang Baole sneered, already raising his right hand. Swiftly, with a whipping sound, he kicked... Gao Quan's crotch viciously!

"Gao Quan, you want to expel me?"

The strength from this kick was too strong, already reaching Wang Baole's limit. As the kick landed, Gao Quan could no longer stand the pain, and he cried out.

His body lost all its strength in that instant. An indescribable pain washed through his body like a flood, causing his face to turn green. As he screamed, Wang Baole's body grew close in a flash. He had already repressed his desire to beat up Gao Quan for almost a month, and all his pain and suffering for that month exploded in this moment.

"Gao Quan, you want to slander me?" Wang Baole roared. A fist shot out and landed on Gao Quan's chest.

Blood spurted from Gao Quan's mouth, and his body fell backward. Incredible pain spread from his crotch to the rest of his body. He was, however, at the True Breath realm, and despite the extreme anger and pain, the killing intent in his eyes was alarming. In an instant, blue veins appeared on his face and all over his body!

“You b*stard, die!” Gao Quan roared. Both of his arms stretched out, and his whole body was suffused with a blue light that filled the sky. Slowly, a blue figure rushed out from his body and flew at Wang Baole.

This figure was not a spirit, and neither was it an essence soul, but... a forbidden spell of the True Breath realm. It used the Spirit Roots within the body to assimilate the enemy as though devouring them, devouring the enemy to death!

Usually, this would only happen if one was pushed to one’s limits in a matter of life and death. But today, Gao Quan had already expended all his means facing off against the Wang Baole.

Wang Baole’s pupils narrowed. With his life in danger, killing intent also flashed in his eyes.

“You’re seeking death!” His heart grew icy. He raised his right hand and clasped the glove tightly, wanting the glove to implode.

But just as Gao Quan’s forbidden spell started taking effect and Wang Baole’s glove was about to implode, the entire Chancellor Peak suddenly shook. A tremendous suppressive array formation activated on the mountain peak, creating an indescribable repelling force. In an instant, it landed between Wang Baole and Gao Quan, wrecking the protective barrier and forcing the two of them apart!

Gao Quan’s body shook, interrupting the spreading forbidden spell. Blood spurted out from the corner of his mouth, and he fell back.

Wang Baole’s glove couldn’t self-destruct as well. The force pushed Wang Baole, causing him to stumble backward.

At the same time, another identity token appeared in the Chancellor’s hand. This identity token shone resplendently, acting in cooperation with the peak’s suppressive force. Evidently, in this critical moment, the Chancellor had not hesitated in using the array formation to separate this battle of life and death.

Wang Baole squinted. Although he had been shocked by Gao Quan’s attack, he also felt regret. He stopped and took a deep breath before cupping his fists toward the Chancellor.

“Thank you, Chancellor!”

As for Gao Quan, his expression was extremely dark. He did not look at Wang Baole. Instead, he glared at the Chancellor and roared, “Chancellor, this child has offended his superiors and shown me disrespect. I’m not wrong for disciplining him, so why did you stop me!”

The surrounding people fell silent. On the one hand, they were shocked at Wang Baole’s attack; on the other, they also felt that the Chancellor was biased toward Wang Baole.

“Why did I stop you?” The Chancellor’s expression grew black. “Gao Quan, you’ve lost your wits. Do you really think that I stopped this for Wang Baole’s sake?”

Gao Quan froze and looked suddenly at Wang Baole, then at his glove. He seemed to realize something. His forehead dripped with sweat, and his breathing grew labored, gradually revealing a fearful expression.

The Chancellor sneered and ignored Gao Quan. He looked at Wang Baole, his gaze hovering on the glove for a moment.

Wang Baole blinked and realized that the Chancellor had worked out at least part of his plan. In actuality, he had modified the glove, hiding a large amount of poison from the red-boned white infant snakes. There was a lot of poison, so the moment the glove imploded, Gao Quan's body would have dissolved into red bones even before he had a chance to cast his spells!

This was Wang Baole's trump card.

If the Chancellor had not stopped them, Wang Baole could have explained all of his behavior away as self-defense, given that Gao Quan had attacked first.

Even though the Chancellor had realized his plan, Wang Baole did not feel that he was in the wrong. However, after considering the advice from the high officials' autobiographies to let the leaders feel important in certain situations, he decided to obediently remove the glove and place it in the storage bracelet. Bowing his head, he showed a contrite expression.

"Chancellor, it is my fault for hitting the Vice-Chancellor. I let my emotions get the better of me."

Seeing Wang Baole's contrition, the Chancellor's anger dissipated somewhat. However, it would not look good to simply let the matter go, so he needed to reprimand Wang Baole. But at this moment, Wang Baole took out a small book, as though he understood the Chancellor's intention. He appeared to be listening respectfully, preparing to nod his head at any moment and record the Chancellor's words.

This scene stunned the surrounding people. Even with his anger and fear, Gao Quan was also shocked, and he stared at Wang Baole, dumbstruck.

Even the Chancellor did not know whether to laugh or cry. Thinking of the time when Wang Baole entered the college on the cruiser, his anger dissipated again. He glared at Wang Baole.

"Fine, I'll let this matter pass. I know you've suffered, but do not let this happen again!"

Chapter 92: Spirit Breath Village

Regarding the Chancellor's method of raising the expectations high and then lowering them slowly, the surrounding teachers and students did not question it, even in their hearts. They were truly... convinced.

From the time Wang Baole entered Ethereal Dao College one year ago up until now, he had performed miracle after miracle.

Regardless of whether it was the hallucination realm examination, becoming the triple Head Prefect, or reorganizing the Dharmic Armament faculty College Discipline Department, all of his actions had made everyone focus on Wang Baole's glory.

Not to mention his role in expelling Lin Tianhao and the others, creating a large number of puppets to deal with the Dao Enlightenment faculty, and the eye-opening battle he had with Zhao Yameng in the Dao College's major exam.

All of those were only his achievements as a student. As for the battle just now, where he beat up the True Breath Vice-Chancellor while in the Ancient Martial realm, this caused everyone to be visibly shocked. Their respect toward Wang Baole once again rose exponentially.

Although it was the case that Wang Baole used his advantage in the Dharmic Armament faculty to resort to some trickery... he was after all the Head Prefect of the Dharmic Armament faculty. This was originally one of his combat capabilities. If he did not use it, then he would have been wasting his one year of study.

Nevertheless, even though the battle had been stopped before they could determine a victor, Wang Baole's valiance had already left a deep impression upon everyone.

"Nobody can spread what happened here to anyone! Whoever flouts this rule will be expelled!" The Chancellor immediately sent out an order for everyone to be silent. Even before Wang Baole and the Vice-Chancellor began fighting, the Chancellor had already cut off the area's Spirit Internet, preventing everyone from connecting to the outside world.

So, on some level, the battle between Wang Baole and the Vice-Chancellor had been restricted to the Chancellor's peak. The news had not traveled yet, and with the order to stay silent, everyone knew their limits, nodding in assent. Even if outsiders knew that there had been some disturbance, they would not know the full story.

Even Gao Quan did not dare defy the Chancellor after the Chancellor had made his intentions clear. Even though most of it was to protect Wang Baole, Gao Quan was not opposed to this, especially since... he also did not want the incident to spread.

Just like that, the Chancellor suppressed an incident that would have ignited a huge uproar in the other three Dao Colleges if they had found out.

Thereafter, the Chancellor dismissed everyone and glared at Wang Baole.

"Come with me!"

As he spoke, the Chancellor turned, and walked toward the hall with his hands behind his back. Wang Baole rubbed his nose, and with a quiet "yes", bowed his head, and followed the Chancellor with an obedient look. It was as though he would have stepped up to help, had the Chancellor been holding a suitcase.

Seeing Wang Baole like this, the surrounding people's expressions changed. Gao Quan gritted his teeth, cursing Wang Baole as a lapdog silently. While he felt depressed, he had an even deeper worry. Indeed, no common person could have imagined it—Wang Baole's valiance had exceeded his imagination.

All the more reason to quickly move him away. This Wang Baole... Damn it, if I had known that his temper was this bad, even daring to beat me, I wouldn't have offended him!

As Gao Quan grew sullen, the Chancellor's peak slowly quieted. Not long later, the Chancellor returned to the hall and turned to look at Wang Baole, who had been following him.

As the Chancellor stared at him, Wang Baole's determination to tolerate it weakened till his heart started to pound. His expression became even more obedient, and he lowered his head.

“Chancellor, I really understand that I did wrong...”

“Wang Baole, I know you have your own secrets and luck. Otherwise, no one in the Ancient Martial realm could defeat a True Breath expert!”

The instant that these words traveled into Wang Baole’s ears, he appeared normal on the surface, but his lowered eyes contracted. Just as he was about to speak, the Chancellor raised his hand.

“You don’t need to spin a lie for me. Your good luck is yours. I am not interested, and neither is the Dao College. This is one of the fundamental principles of the four Dao Colleges, and it’s also where we differ from the other factions!

“I only have one request of you...” The Chancellor’s gaze shone as he looked at Wang Baole.

“During this mystic realm trial, you need to collect Spirit Roots all the way up to seven inches, then fight for eight-inch Spirit Roots. Finally, use the eight-inch Spirit Root to enter the True Breath realm and proceed to the Upper Academy Island!”

When saying this last line, the Chancellor’s expression was stern, and there was strong anticipation in his eyes.

Wang Baole’s heart shook. Although he was young, he was familiar with the high officials’ autobiographies, so he understood the principle that guilt was assigned based on appearances. That was why he did not previously use the devouring seed. In actuality, when he decided to fight the Vice-Chancellor, he had already thought of how to explain his own behavior.

But he did not expect the Chancellor’s attitude to be this nonchalant. Wang Baole could tell that the Chancellor’s words were not fake and that this incident was in line with what he had expected of the Dao College. While he was moved, he also understood the Chancellor’s expectations of him. He inhaled deeply and showed determination in his eyes.

“Chancellor, I will work hard!”

Hearing Wang Baole’s promise, the Chancellor was satisfied. He sat to the side and looked at Wang Baole again.

“Baole, have you researched the information I gave you in the jade slip? Tell me, what is a Spirit Root!”

Wang Baole did not pretend to think and immediately answered.

“Chancellor, Spirit Roots are True Breath. When True Breath remains in the body, it can transform into Spirit Roots that are similar to meridians, combining completely with one’s body. But there are differences within True Breath determined by the different lengths of Spirit Roots. Whether it’s cultivation or casting spells in the True Breath realm, they all have a shocking superiority!

“Up until today, the limit for the human body is condensing eight-inch Spirit Roots!”

Wang Baole spoke fast, and his thought process was clear. The Chancellor nodded, understanding that Wang Baole had done his research. He thought for a moment before speaking.

“Baole, you should know the origin of True Breath, that it came with the ancient sword, held within the fallen shattered pieces of it. The reason Ethereal Dao College has become one of the four Dao Colleges that are members of the alliance is because Ethereal Dao College made the greatest sacrifice thirty-eight years ago in exchange for a shattered piece!

“These shattered pieces contain cultivation techniques, information, and messages; it is the basis of Ethereal Dao College. At the same time, the True Breath that it contains is one of the main components of Ethereal Dao College’s own mystic realm!

“But our Ethereal Dao College’s mystic realm is only for ordinary students. This is because the shattered pieces are too small, and it’s rare to see True Breath longer than six inches.”

As he said that, the Chancellor looked at Wang Baole. “Baole, do you know where the biggest shattered piece can be found?”

Wang Baole immediately sensed that the Chancellor was going to share a secret with him. So, he quickly put on an expression that indicated he was listening carefully.

“The biggest shattered piece is collectively called Spirit Breath Village!

“It’s located southwest of the Federation in a barren desert. As for its size... it’s as big as half of Ethereal City!”

The Chancellor’s voice reverberated, and a wondrous light appeared in his eyes.

“So big!” Wang Baole’s eyes widened, and he inhaled.

“Initially, there were many battles of life and death between the different sects because of this fragment. Whether it was the Trilunaris Corporation with the most resources, or the two sects who look towards the past, the Galactic Dusk Sect and Plume Manifestation Connate Sect, or the Five Generation Sky Clan with a thousand year legacy, there was also the senators of the Federation—they all fought crazily with the four Dao Colleges!

“In the end, the four Dao Colleges managed to win. It was just that fragment was too big, and there was some mysterious magnetic field, so we could not take it away. But from then on, the four Dao Colleges were in control of this piece, and no one else could take it away!

“And the next place all of you need to go is... Spirit Breath Village!” The Chancellor’s expression held a hint of pride.

Wang Baole felt moved. The information that the Chancellor had given him held no trace of this news, so it was his first time hearing about this. Although he knew that the Dao College was strong, it was only at this moment when he truly understood its strength.

“The Spirit Breath Village stores many True Breath Spirit Roots, but because the magnetic field is too strange, these True Breath Spirit Roots cannot expand. At the same time... it’s hard for outsiders to enter. Only once every few years will there be a natural weakened period!”

The Chancellor paused and waited for Wang Baole to digest his words before continuing. “Only at this time can people enter. In fact, even if it is the weakened period, there is still a repelling force suppressing people who have already attained True Breath. So True Breath realm experts cannot enter.

Even if you attain True Breath inside, you will be expelled. But according to the different Spirit Roots, one can stay for at most five minutes.

“That is why the battle all those years ago happened outside, preserving the inside perfectly.

“That is why... every time the mystic realm opens, it is also an exploration for the four Dao Colleges. The students assigned to go in need to search for True Breath but also have the responsibility to help the Dao Colleges collect cultivation techniques, Dharmic treasures, materials, and as much information as possible.” The Chancellor looked again at Wang Baole, his gaze deep and anticipatory.

“After you gain an eight-inch Spirit Root, you can remain for five minutes. You need to help the Dao College find valuable items to the best of your ability!”

Wang Baole heard this and inhaled deeply, not too surprised. After all, he could understand the responsibility of exchange for the Dao College when they open this kind of mystic realm. Thus, he nodded.

He did, however, have another question that he still could not understand. He looked at the Chancellor and asked, “Chancellor, one’s True Breath is one’s Spirit Root, and True Breath comes from the shattered pieces of the big sword, but... how did True Breath itself appear, and why does it allow ordinary people to become cultivators when they get it?”

When the Chancellor heard Wang Baole’s question, he sank into silence. Wang Baole did not chase him for an answer and waited patiently. After a while, the Chancellor raised his head and looked upward at the Sword Sun, as though his gaze could pass through the roof of the hall. His voice also became hoarse.

“You’re not the only one to have asked this question. When I was young, I had doubts, too. Every cultivator must have had similar thoughts. Some years back... the previous Federation President, also the only Grand Supreme Elder of Ethereal Dao College, made a guess while he was looking at the Sword Sun and enlightening himself on the Dao.

“Whether it is correct, no one knows. I’ll just make an explanatory explanation, and you can just listen...”

The Chancellor opened his mouth slowly, and Wang Baole’s expression became serious as he listened carefully.

Chapter 93: Approaching the Mystic Realm

“A thousand years ago, many scholars used various methods to determine that not only are there other planets in our galaxy that hold life, there are also other civilizations, other forms of life, in the universe.

“One thousand years of change, and this was slowly proven. Thirty years ago, that ancient greenish-bronze sword proved it even more!

“In the cosmos, there are other civilizations!

“And clearly, one of those worlds that contains civilizations is where the ancient greenish-bronze sword originated from. There, life is similar to ours, but there is one big difference. They... are called cultivators!”

As he spoke, the Chancellor's expression showed his admiration. As for Wang Baole, his emotions were like a tempestuous storm. At the Five Peaks in the Pond Cloud Rainforest, he had seen some scenes, and he knew that... what the Chancellor was saying was true!

"In that world, there might be treasures everywhere, or it might be that the Spirit Qi is so thick that it cannot be described. Regardless of whatever method... it can make the human body form Spirit Roots and begin cultivation.

"As time passed, maybe the treasures grew scarce, perhaps the Spirit Qi became thin, or maybe it was because of other reasons—in any case, there was a war. This war must have been completely destructive, so this huge sword flew off with the last power and hope of that world.

"Or maybe they planned to find another place to live, multiply, and regain their previous glory. That's why the huge sword must have one of the True Breath storage treasures belonging to that sect. All the people of that sect must have condensed their Spirit Root into the sword, to pass the seed of their power to future disciples." The Chancellor sounded regretful, sighing and shaking his head.

"But it's a pity... In the midst of its journey, the sword must have met some kind of situation, shattering after being smashed. Finally, it landed in our solar system. When it passed through the sun, the hilt and parts of the sword shattered, and the True Breath storage broke open, melding with the broken pieces, scattering all over the starry sky."

Hearing the Chancellor's words, Wang Baole's heart was deeply moved. He thought of the scenes that he had seen at the Pond Cloud Rainforest's Five Peaks, that unsurpassed beauty of a generation, and all the scenes of a world being destroyed. The Chancellor's words imprinted themselves onto his heart, and Wang Baole felt that there was a fundamental answer to all of this.

"But if it's like this, that means... there is a limit to the number of people who can become cultivators!" Wang Baole immediately saw the problem and looked at the Chancellor.

The Chancellor looked impressed. He nodded, and his tone became more excited.

"That's right. To us, the arrival of the ancient greenish-bronze sword is a lucky chance and creation for our world. With this chance, the progress that cultivators make... depends on ourselves!

"To live in this kind of revolutionary world, the people of my generation are not worthy!"

Wang Baole's question seemed to have stirred up the Chancellor's emotions. The Chancellor laughed and stood up, using his finger to point at the misty region on the Upper Academy Island.

"Wang Baole, do you know what sort of place the Upper Academy Island is? Only True Breath experts can enter, and it is the true heart of Ethereal Dao College!

"If we categorize according to the information on the huge sword, comparing the Lower Academy Island Dao College to sects, we are only the outer sect. All of you are outer sect disciples. Only those who have entered the Upper Academy Island are considered part of the inner sect!"

"Outer sect? Inner sect?" Wang Baole felt that this communication with the Chancellor was like a lightning bolt tearing apart his world. In an instant, he understood many things.

“It’s also only people from the Upper Academy Island who have the ability to become a government member of the Federation. In the Spirit Inception Era’s Federation, cultivation level and government positions are directly related. The weak... have no right to lead us into our future in this era!”

The Chancellor laughed, his gaze revealing his encouragement and expectation.

“Thus, you must become a True Breath expert, and you must enter the Upper Academy Island!”

Hearing the Chancellor’s words, Wang Baole inhaled deeply and nodded. He felt that he had an even deeper understanding of Spirit Breath Village and the Upper Academy Island. Thereafter, the Chancellor told Wang Baole more about the environment of Spirit Breath Village. He gave Wang Baole a jade slip with instructions on things to take note of in Spirit Breath Village. Only then did Wang Baole take his leave.

He returned to the Dharmic Armament Peak. Due to the Chancellor’s order to stay silent, no outsiders knew about his fight with the Vice-Chancellor. Seeing that the day to depart was nearing, Wang Baole immediately went to the Spirit Cauldron Cave to organize and repair his Dharmic artifacts. He also focused on absorbing the important points that he needed to take note of for attaining True Breath.

There are actually so many things to remember when absorbing Spirit Root! Wang Baole’s eyes were bright. According to the jade slip’s introduction, the Spirit Breath Village had a large number of True Breath Spirit Roots. These Spirit Roots were not dead; instead, they had their own Spirit nature, spreading to all the areas of Spirit Breath Village.

They all ranged from one-inch to eight-inches, of which, one-inch was the most common, growing rarer as they got longer. There was even a nine-inch Spirit Root, but it was a pity that the human body could not absorb it.

There were two difficulties in absorbing Spirit Root. The first... every Spirit Root would automatically look for its fated person. Thus, rather than saying that people had found their Spirit Roots, it was more like the Spirit Roots appointed their counterpart!

Only a person chosen by the Spirit Root could absorb it. If the person was not chosen, they would not be able to fused together, and there would be a repelling effect. If anyone continued to forcefully absorb it, their life would be in danger.

The way Spirit Roots chose people was simple—once it had chosen someone, it would take on that person’s appearance. Like that, it would become the fate of only that person.

It was just that Spirit Breath Village had many Spirit Roots, so one needed to search extensively.

As for the second point, it was the method of absorbing Spirit Root. According to the research done by the Federation, there was only one way to succeed without loss. That was... the Substitution Method!

Everyone needed to first absorb a one-inch Spirit Root, suppressing it so that it would not have a breakthrough. With the foundation from a one-inch Spirit Root, one had to absorb one’s own fated two-inch Spirit Root to substitute. If there was no one-inch foundation, there was no way to substitute it for two-inch!

Using this method to acquire a two-inch foundation, one then needed to find a three-inch replacement. With this method, one had to follow the steps to acquire the seven-inch Spirit Root. Finding the eight-inch Spirit Root depended on luck.

The Federation had dubbed eight-inch Spirit Roots as versatile Spirit Roots. There was no need for fate. As long as one had the seven-inch Spirit Root foundation, they could absorb eight-inch Spirit Roots into their bodies!

It was just that eight-inch Spirit Roots were too rare. Every time the Spirit Breath Village opened, there were less than ten of them.

After researching the jade slip properly, Wang Baole understood. He thought silently for a long time and decided to make Dharmic artifacts according to the situation.

Just like that, three days passed. At dusk of the third day, their journey finally began. Being part of the top thousand students in the exam, Wang Baole entered the specially made green cruiser, starting on the journey to Spirit Breath Village.

Zhuo Yifan, Zhao Yameng, Du Min, and the others were also on-board.

The Chancellor led the group, with many teachers following. There was even... Wang Baole had already noticed that there were several people on the cruiser giving off the aura of an expert. Clearly, they were cultivators from Upper Academy Island.

Wang Baole did not know exactly how many were there, but he estimated that there were at least ten. There were some who gave off a suppressive force similar to the Chancellor.

Other than accompanying us, they are probably to stand guard outside the Spirit Breath Village to prevent outsiders from entering... Deep in thought, Wang Baole drew his own conclusions from the secrets that the Chancellor had told himself, finding his own answer.

This specially-made cruiser was much faster than regular cruisers. Even if it encountered electromagnetic storms or beasts in the sky, it could completely ignore and rush past them.

Thus, even though Spirit Breath Village was distant, they only needed one day to reach it.

Time passed, and as the cruiser left Ethereal Dao College's protectorate and was soaring in the sky, all the students received the Chancellor's notification. When they gathered on the upper level of the cruiser, the Chancellor arrived and introduced the mystic realm that they were about to enter and its requirements.

What he said was roughly similar to what he had told Wang Baole before. Although it was not as detailed, it still allowed people to understand the reasoning completely. As everyone inhaled and expressed their shock, Wang Baole noticed that Zhuo Yifan, Zhao Yameng, and the other older students did not appear surprised.

They are probably like me and already knew all this beforehand, Wang Baole thought deeply. The Chancellor's gaze swept across the crowd as he spoke blandly.

“Next, all of you will get a jade slip. There are two uses. One, all voice transmission rings will fail in the mystic realm. While this jade slip cannot transmit sound, it can send out a distress signal in a set area. You are all Ethereal Dao College students, and I hope you can help each other.

“Second, the jade slip contains information on the promising young students from the other three Dao Colleges and some of their information. You can look at them in the remaining time, and prepare yourselves according. After all... while the four Dao Colleges are an alliance to the outside world, we are still in competition with each other internally. All of you must make Ethereal Dao College proud!”

When he finished, the Chancellor exhorted them once again before leaving. The teachers then began to distribute the jade slips. Soon, everyone had received a jade slip and was looking at it intently.

Wang Baole was no exception. He swiftly sent his spirit energy into the jade slip. Immediately, his brain showed many images, the introduction regarding the other three Dao Colleges, and information about the promising young students from the other colleges.

Soon, surprised exclamations rippled through the crowd.

“White Deer Dao College is so strong! Look, there is a girl called Li Yi who is actually just like Zhao Yameng, born with a spirit body. The information says that it’s a fire spirit body! Her previous battles say that the moment she attacks, she can raze the entire area! She can be called peerless!”

“There’s also someone called Zhuo Yixian in White Deer Dao College. His name is so similar to Zhuo Yifan, and... he is similarly heaven-defying. Not only is he the Head Prefect of White Deer Dao College’s Combat faculty, in White Deer Dao College’s competition, in five matches, he defeated all his opponents with one finger!”

“Holy River Dao College is good, too, with many skilled people. There is someone called Wu Fen. The information says that he has studied alchemy, and he is close to the standard of an official alchemist master. How can this be!”

“There is also Sun Yun from White Deer Branch College. He is from the Array Formation faculty, and he has created huge waves himself. The information has high praise for him!”

The shocked exclamations kept coming. The other three Dao Colleges had too many experts among their students. Holy River and White Deer Dao Colleges were not too bad, but White Deer Branch College had so many experts that Wang Baole felt it was unfair.

“There’s no other way. That’s why White Deer Dao College is the top college in the Federation,” Wang Baole muttered to himself. He noticed that Zhuo Yifan’s expression looked terrible, and he could not help but remember White Deer Dao College’s Zhuo Yixian. Curiously, he approached Zhuo Yifan.

“Hey, Zhuo Yifan. That guy called Zhuo Yixian—is he your brother? Yifan ¹and Yixian ²—if you’re really siblings, your father really knows how to choose names ³.”

Hearing Wang Baole’s word, Zhuo Yifan’s expression was even worse. He sneered and ignored Wang Baole. He clutched the jade slip tightly and walked far away.

“Why are you sneering? I was just asking if you were related...” Wang Baole glared, feeling that Zhuo Yifan’s temper was too short. He also sneered and left.

As the sky outside grew dark, everyone started to return to their own rooms. With that, one night passed.

At dusk on the second day, the Sword Sun was the color of a peach, and the clouds seemed to be burning. As the cruiser slowed, all the sand from the mystic realm appeared in front of everyone!

Chapter 94: Why Are You Making Me Angry?

At dusk, the sand was showered in a warm, red glow. The students could faintly see some beast bones. The unending heat kept rushing at them, as though wanting to purge the land of all its water.

A more shocking suppressive force seemed to come off in waves from the sand, causing the cruiser to lose its stability, shaking from side to side—especially the outer layer, which seemed to be a burning omen.

The temperature was so high that it seemed to be setting the earth on fire. If anyone left the cruiser's protection, it seemed like they would immediately lose all the water in their body, and their life would be in danger.

This scene shook the hearts of the students on the cruiser. Zhuo Yifan's eyes flashed, Zhao Yameng appeared calm, but her eyes quivered. Other people had similar reactions.

Wang Baole's breathing also grew fast, and he retreated a few steps, unconsciously stepping away from the cruiser's handrail. The good thing was that there was a sudden breeze in the midst of the heat, counteracting the temperature. The burning in the cruiser also stopped, and the air automatically returned to normal, causing everyone's heartbeat to slow down.

Gradually, at the edges of their vision, they could vaguely see a large oasis!

The boundary of this oasis was huge, like it had formed a space in and of itself. There seemed to be mountains and rivers inside, with a mountain right in the middle. But overall, the look of the area was not very clear. It was as though there was a strange power surrounding this oasis, affecting one's vision, causing everything to appear distorted and to prevent True Breath from entering.

Beside this oasis, there was a small aerial port with a public square. At that moment, the aerial port had white, black, and orange cruisers. There were also about a thousand people, wearing the same white, black, and orange robes, gathering at the square.

There was a screen surrounding the public square. When the heat wave pushed aside the sand, there was a small road connected to the oasis. It seemed like this was the only safe way to enter the oasis.

As for the area outside the public square not protected by the screen, the temperature was still high, and no ordinary person could survive there.

Beside the public square, there was a stone monument dozens of feet high with three words carved on it.

Spirit Breath Village!

This place was the largest shattered fragment on Earth under the control of the four Dao Colleges, Spirit Breath Village!

The three cruisers that were already there contained people from the other three Dao Colleges. Because Ethereal Dao College was the furthest away, they were the last to arrive. Just as the cruiser from Ethereal Dao College neared, all the students and teachers from the other three Dao Colleges raised their heads to look.

Under their gazes, the cruiser from Ethereal Dao College slowly entered the protective screen and finally landed on the empty spot. With the Dao College teachers making arrangements, all the students descended from the cruiser.

“Look carefully. Those wearing white are from White Deer Dao College. Those in black are from its branch college, and those in orange are from Holy River Dao College.” As the students got off the cruiser, Ethereal Dao College teachers started their explanations.

Wang Baole walked among the crowd, looking curiously at the protective screen. After listening to the teachers, he looked at the people from the other Dao Colleges, his gaze sweeping across them and searching for the students whom he had seen on the jade slips. Soon, he found White Deer Dao College’s Li Yi, who had the fire spirit body.

This Li Yi was petite and beautiful, with a ponytail and wearing a snow-white Daoist robe, which made her look just like a fairy. Right now, however, she was not paying attention to the people from Ethereal Dao College. Instead, she was looking at a small mirror and applying powder on her face...

She even occasionally adjusted the angle of the mirror, her expression filled with satisfaction and admiration. Wang Baole and many others saw this, surprised. Wang Baole frowned.

How can a student from my generation be so narcissistic! Wang Baole could not help but shake his head, feeling that White Deer Dao College was just like that. Caught in his emotions, he also could not help but take out a mirror to look at himself before quietly putting it down. He continued to observe the people from the other three Dao Colleges.

Very soon, he saw Wu Fen from White Deer Branch College and Sun Yun from Holy River Dao College. He even noticed the tall and straight figure of Zhuo Yixian, who looked extremely similar to Zhuo Yifan.

They are really related. Some people did not have pictures in the jade slips given out by Ethereal Dao College, and Zhuo Yixian was one of them. Right now, when Wang Baole saw his face for first time, he was shocked and turned to look for Zhuo Yifan.

But Zhuo Yifan had already disappeared into the distance. Hidden from Wang Baole’s view, he glared at Zhuo Yixian, clenching his fists again.

At the same time, just as Ethereal Dao College was sizing up the other Dao Colleges, the other Dao Colleges were also watching them. Similar to the jade slips from Ethereal Dao College, the other three Dao Colleges had similar items. Right now, other than watching the older students, the three Dao Colleges were also watching Zhuo Yifan, Chen Ziheng, Li Nan, and the others, but especially... Zhao Yameng and Wang Baole.

Being attracted by Zhao Yameng was very normal. Zhao Yameng's indifference and ultimate beauty made it so that no matter where she went, she would immediately be noticed by people. It was as though she was naturally attractive, stunning all the boys from the other three Dao Colleges.

Even Du Min attracted many looks. After all, as her body developed, her originally pretty face and tall height made her even more outstanding.

As for Wang Baole, his fame had spread too far. Furthermore, he had an extremely special figure, so there was no way he would be unnoticed. Even Wang Baole himself had a clue. He blinked and sighed helplessly at the older students from his Dao College.

"Handsome people will always be noticed no matter where they go. Look at how low-key I am, yet they still look at me. Tell me, should I stand with Zhao Yameng? Like that, the other Dao Colleges won't have to worry about whether they should look at her or me."

As Wang Baole sighed, the older student next to him looked strangely at him. The older student shook his head and laughed bitterly, ignoring Wang Baole.

Just as the students from the four Dao Colleges looked at each other and solidified their own impression, the Chancellors, teachers, and cultivators of the four Dao Colleges had also gathered together. After talking and laughing, they noticed the time. The Chancellors from all four Dao Colleges grew serious.

"There isn't much time left. We should also prepare. When the magnetic tide rises, open the mystic realm!"

After discussion, the four Chancellors gave the orders. Soon, the cultivators who had followed the four Dao Colleges immediately spread out. Numbering about a hundred in total, they all sat cross-legged around the square, silently waiting.

Seeing everyone's movements, the four thousand students from the four Dao College all grew quiet. As night fell, the distortion in front of and around the square intensified and became even stronger. It covered the entire area of vision, and the ground actually started giving off light.

Under the night sky, this light grew stronger until it actually exploded into resplendence. It spread out in all directions, covering the night sky. From afar, it looked like a fireball rising toward the firmament!

The entire sky had been painted. With the colors, the sky took on a dream-like appearance.

This happened too suddenly, shocking many students. The Chancellors from the four Dao Colleges all raised their heads, each of them making finger gestures during the incantation. Among them, White Deer Dao College Chancellor suddenly spoke.

"Fellow Daoists, take off!"

As his words traveled out, a roar erupted from the square. The hundred cultivators all made finger gestures during the incantation, the spirit energy exploding in their bodies. In that moment, the power from the array formation rose to the skies, as though dissolving the tempest. It swept across the area and then moved along the place where the square met the green ocean, rolling toward the green ocean!

Wherever it passed, the roaring would shake heaven and earth, the sound echoing endlessly in the ear. The moment the tempest and the fire from the green ocean met, the fire tilted, as though a flame blown around by a gust of wind. While it leaned toward one direction, the place where the tempest stood started to show some weakness.

“Still not going in?” The Chancellor from Ethereal Dao College stared at them with wide eyes. He shouted at them lowly, his voice exploded like thunder.

The four thousand students in the square inhaled deeply and suppressed their inner shock. Each of them increased their speed and rushed toward the oasis in confusion.

“Huang Gui!” Wang Baole was pleased. His joy at seeing someone familiar had washed away his previous shock. The person beside him was someone whom he had met at the gathering from his hometown, who had entered Holy River Dao College and became the Vegetation Head Prefect.

Huang Gui had long noticed Wang Baole. It was just that the student gathering had been awkward, so he had been too embarrassed to greet Wang Baole. Right now, seeing that Wang Baole had actually come up to him and called his name, he wanted to speak to him. Just at this moment, however, they heard a disdainful voice.

“You are Wang Baole? You can’t even control your own weight, seems like you’re nothing much then.” The person who spoke was a tall, thin youth, wearing White Deer Branch College’s black Daoist robe. He did not hide the scorn and provocation in his eyes.

Being targeted for no reason, Wang Baole glared.

“Getting jealous of other people’s good looks. Who is this clueless idiot? Huang Gui, do you know him?”

Huang Gui furrowed his brows. He was closer to Wang Baole, and seeing someone mock Wang Baole in front of him made him uncomfortable. After all, all those who could get into other four Dao Colleges would not usually be so stupid as to speak without mincing their words, unless they held a grudge against the other person.

The tall and thin youth heard Wang Baole’s words and sneered.

“I wanted to tell you that Ethereal Dao College’s Triple Head Prefect is nothing compared to White Deer Branch College. So, don’t act like you’re really good. If not, I will teach you a lesson!” As he spoke, he raised his head arrogantly and wanted to leave.

But he did not understand Wang Baole.

Just as he turned to leave, Wang Baole glared and took a big step forward. As the youth froze, Wang Baole raised his right hand and grabbed the youth’s finger, twisting and roaring.

“Call me Daddy!”

Chapter 95: Nine-Inch Spirit Root

Wang Baole attacked too quickly for anyone to react, even Huang Gui. Wang Baole had already grabbed the youth's finger and bent it upward. A sharp pain immediately spread from the youth's finger to the rest of his body.

"Ah, let go, let go!" the youth screamed. He had never had such an experience in his life, and his cry was extremely pathetic. His body started to bend unconsciously.

Wang Baole snorted. He felt that he was already very low-key as he did not bother anyone. However, this person actually came to mock him for some baffling reason.

He could not tolerate this. He glared and roared at him, "Hurry up. The other schoolmates are entering the mystic realm—call me Daddy!"

That youth's face was pale, and he wanted to struggle. However, Wang Baole's vice-like grip was too strong. The limits of his joint caused the youth to feel a rush of pain whenever he moved, so he could not struggle out of the hold.

At the same time, everyone else finally managed to react. They stared with wide eyes. Wang Baole's attack was truly too quick, and that youth's cry was extremely forlorn.

Even a few students in front who had neared the entrance to the mystic realm heard the sound, and they all turned to look. In that instant, a loud chatter began to spread.

"Someone's fighting!"

"They are really too anxious. We haven't even entered the mystic realm."

Just as people began discussing the issue, the students from White Deer Branch College grew indignant at seeing one of their own being hit. They walked out and roared at Wang Baole.

"Stop!"

"I know him—he's Ethereal Dao College's Wang Baole. He's too much!"

Just as the students from White Deer Branch College stepped forward, the students from Ethereal Dao College refused to be seen as inferior and also stepped forward. In an instant... there was a commotion right outside the entrance to the mystic realm.

"White Deer Branch College and Ethereal Dao College are going to fight! I have disliked White Deer Branch College for a long time. They always curry favor with the Chancellors and look down on the other Dao Colleges. Wang Baole, I support you!"

"Haha, I heard before that every time the mystic realm opens, the four Dao Colleges will fight. I didn't expect that this time, we would fight outside. I think that when everyone enters the mystic realm, it'll be even more exciting!"

As the students provoked each other, roared at each other, and started causing a commotion, the teachers and cultivators from the four Dao Colleges looked unhappy. The old physician from Ethereal Dao College furrowed his brows and shouted, "Stop! Are you all very free? Immediately enter the mystic realm!"

As the old physician spoke, there was a middle-aged man seated next to him, the Chancellor of White Deer Branch College. His gaze was forceful, and his voice was like thunder, exploding among the students.

“If anyone else makes a move, the mystic realm test will be canceled!”

The two Chancellors spoke one after the other—only then did the commotion outside the mystic realm die down. Wang Baole glared at the youth from White Deer Branch College and released his finger.

At this moment, sweat had spread all over the youth’s forehead. His face was pale, and he quickly retreated. When he looked at Wang Baole, his gaze was filled with hatred, and he decided that he would not give Wang Baole a chance if he met him in the mystic realm. Only when the other schoolmates from his Dao College pulled him did he enter the mystic realm.

“That look is very annoying. Does he want to take revenge?” Wang Baole snorted and looked away, following the other people into the mystic realm.

When the thousand students entered the oasis’s mystic realm, the people from the four Dao Colleges standing outside in the public square started to adjust the spirit energy. After dispersing the tempest, they sought out the other people they knew. Some of them began chatting, while others sat cross-legged in cultivation.

This place did not need to be open for a long time. The moment someone reached True Breath, they would immediately be expelled. It was always the case that once most of the students had returned, they would open the place again, allowing the unlucky and unsuccessful students to exit.

As for the Chancellors of the four Dao Colleges, they were all seated together. While they appeared to be smiling, they were actually competing with each other.

“I wonder how many people will have eight-inch Spirit Roots this time?”

“Shall we bet on it? Same rules.”

“Sure. The Dao College with the most eight-inch Spirit Roots wins!”

As the four Chancellors laughed and chatted, they each took out an item as a prize, placing it to the side. There were pills, materials, Dharmic artifacts—while all of them were different, each of them was extremely valuable.

Although White Deer Dao College usually won, this time, even the old physician and Holy River Dao College’s Chancellor seemed confident. Very soon, these four old fellows began gambling.

As the people in the public square waited, in the Spirit Breath Village mystic realm, the thousand students were immediately shocked by the bizarre scene.

The sky in Spirit Breath Village was different from the outside. The sky was beautiful and colorful, as though there were countless rainbows circulating, causing the entire sky to shine.

Even the ground was different. It was no longer desert but a large grassy oasis. In the distance, there were mountain ranges, rivers, and forests.

Even further, at the heart of Spirit Breath Village, there was the vague outline of a huge mountain. This mountain was not made of rock but... a huge shattered fragment!

“Spirit Breath Village, I will definitely condense an eight-inch Spirit Root!”

“I could have entered Upper Academy two years ago, but I waited for this place to open. This time, I will definitely get the eight-inch Spirit Root!”

Everyone was excited. They all understood that this chance was extremely hard to come by. If they made good use of this opportunity and gained an advantage there, it could help them set a good foundation for their future cultivation.

Wang Baole also felt his blood burn. After sizing up the situation, he found that most people were moving rapidly forward—some were alone, while others formed groups of three to five people. After thinking, he was about to set off.

But at this moment, suddenly, the people around him shouted in shock.

“Look at the sky!”

“That is...”

The shocked exclamations continued to spread, and Wang Baole also raised his head. He actually saw a faceless figure walking slowly across the sky!

Although this figure was faceless, he could tell from the shape that it was a man. His figure was illusory and uncertain, but he could see in the figure’s body that there was an object that looked like a root!

That root was very long, about nine inches!

The figure even gave off a suppressive force that shook everyone. It walked slowly and calmly, like a king walking in his own garden. Combined with the suppressive force, it was eye-catching.

It was as though it was giving everyone a supercilious look!

“Nine inches... It’s the nine-inch Spirit Root!”

“Heavens, we got to see the legendary Spirit Breath Village’s only nine-inch Spirit Root the moment we entered!”

“All the Spirit Roots are faceless before meeting their fated person. Ah, it’s a pity. So many people have tried but failed to absorb the nine-inch Spirit Root.”

Everyone’s gazes gathered on the faceless figure of the nine-inch Spirit Root, feeling helpless and regretful. They only looked away after the figure disappeared into the sky and the suppressive force dispersed.

Wang Baole’s heart was also beating fast, and he breathed rapidly. He understood, however, that eight inches was the human body’s limit. This nine-inch Spirit Root... could only be seen, not absorbed.

Perhaps it was because they encountered the nine-inch Spirit Root the moment they entered, but everyone became even more excited. Soon, the students from the four Dao Colleges separated to search for their fated Spirit Roots in Spirit Breath Village.

Zhuo Yifan, Zhao Yameng, Chen Ziheng, and the others left on their own. Wang Baole had planned to ask Du Min if she wanted to stay with him, but Du Min had already left on her own.

Seeing that everyone was on their own, Wang Baole thought about it and then swiftly moved in one direction, charging off.

Spirit Breath Village was huge. Even though there were four thousand people from the four Dao Colleges, after separating, they could not see a sign of any of the others.

Time slowly passed, and the first day was over.

In this one day, some lucky people had already encountered their fated one-inch Spirit Root, but for most, they were still searching. Even if they found their Spirit Root, if it was not one inch, it was useless. Even if they did find a one-inch Spirit Root, if it was not fated, and the Spirit Root did not choose them, it was also useless.

“My fated one-inch Spirit Root, where are you?” At this moment, Wang Baole was in one corner of the forest in Spirit Breath Village, eating his snacks as he sized up the place, dispirited.

Even after one day, he did not know why he was so unlucky that he could not even encounter one Spirit Root. As a last resort, he expanded his search from the outer areas toward the center of Spirit Breath Village.

Feeling depressed, Wang Baole walked in the forest for another hour. Just as he was started to get frustrated, suddenly, Wang Baole stopped. His eyes grew wide as he saw an illusory faceless figure floating under a large tree, motionless.

It was fine if it did not move, but there was actually... a strange laughter that kept coming from this figure.

Chapter 96: Sorrow at the Height of Happiness

“Even the Spirit Root plays tricks and creates trouble as well?” Wang Baole stared with his eyes wide open, looking at the illusory figure that was laughing. He was slightly suspicious, more so than being afraid. After all, before he arrived, he had gained a brief understanding of the True Breath Spirit Root through the jade slip given by the Chancellor, and he was aware that they contained Spirit Intelligence.

He had wanted to step forward to take a closer look, but at that instant, the imaginary figure seemed to have sensed him and abruptly turned around, revealing a face without any facial features. Within his body, a seven-inch root was also apparent.

“Seven inches, huh?” Wang Baole was deflated. He knew that what he was looking for right now as a Spirit Root that was not only an inch long but also fated with him.

"I didn't think it would be challenging when I came, but now that I've experienced it, it's so difficult!" Wang Baole said as he scratched his head. As he sighed and turned to leave, very suddenly, at this moment, the faceless seven-inch Spirit Root began glowing after seeing Wang Baole. Its face became blurry, and its body expanded rapidly.

"Hmm?" This scene bewildered Wang Baole. In front of his eyes, he saw the seven-inch Spirit Root expand its body, with facial features appearing, all within the time span of a few breaths. Even clothing appeared on it, and eventually, it transformed into a figure that looked exactly like himself!

Witnessing everything, Wang Baole's eyes immediately lit up, and he was filled with excitement.

This was despite knowing from the jade slip given by the Chancellor that once the True Breath had chosen someone that it could get along with, it would begin attacking him. Only when he successfully dispersed it could it be absorbed.

However, if someone met with a high-level Spirit Root that they were not capable of absorbing, there was no way that they could absorb it even if they managed to disperse it. Therefore, it would be reassembled again and begin its harassment.

On a certain level, this could be considered good news. If the Spirit Root decided to harass someone, it meant that they were loyal. Once one reached the capability to absorb it, they could still do so.

"Hah! You sure have a keen eye, choosing me after recognizing that I'm the most handsome one out of everyone in this test, isn't it?" Wang Baole laughed smugly, immediately moving backward to attract the Spirit Root to follow him.

The moment Wang Baole moved, the seven-inch Spirit Root flashed and growled, rushing quickly toward him. The two collided instantly, and the impact caused a boom that spread in all directions. The seven-inch Spirit Root was blasted hundreds of feet away after hitting Wang Baole, while the surprised Wang Baole was also pushed back by the impact.

This seven-inch Spirit Root has such great strength!

Wang Baole was taken aback. He knew that the fighting capabilities that he possessed now meant that even the Head Prefect of the Combat faculty might not be able to withstand the punch that he had just thrown. However, the fact that the seven-inch Spirit Root could resist the impact and vibration caused Wang Baole's entire body to vibrate in surprise, despite the fact that it was still blasted away.

If it were someone else, it is likely that they could not stand it. However, I will persevere! Wang Baole thought and immediately began running at lightning speed toward the area outside the forests. A growl followed him as the seven-inch Spirit Root chased after him.

"Come on, Spirit Root! I'm right here! Come after me!" Wang Baole was afraid that the seven-inch Spirit Root would not be able to catch up, so he shouted time and again in order to catch its attention.

Just like that, the duo continued their run and pursuit of each other outside the forested area. Occasionally, they exchanged punches and shouted at each other, causing much commotion.

As he ran, Wang Baole was filled with glee. Every time he turned to look at the figure of himself chasing after him, he was impressed by how suave he looked. He was extremely delighted, to the extent that his voice, which he directed in the form of shouts, also sounded cheerful.

“Handsome Spirit Root, come on! Don’t give up, you’ll catch up with me in no time!”

As if it were agitated by Wang Baole’s voice, the seven-inch Spirit Root growled even louder, its speed increasing significantly as well.

“I’m here, come, come...!”

Very quickly, as the area covered by Wang Baole increased, the students from the four major Dao Colleges who happened to be near all saw what was happening. Initially, when they first heard Wang Baole’s voice, they were confused and were even more surprised when they saw Wang Baole dashing passed them, followed by the seven-inch Spirit Root.

“A seven-inch Spirit Root! That fatso, how lucky he is to have met a seven-inch Spirit Root that’s fated with him!”

“Gosh! Seven-inch Spirit Roots are rare to begin with. Not only did he meet one, but the one that he has met is also fated with him. What unbelievable luck!”

“He’s actually baiting the seven-inch Spirit Root to follow him. This method is typically used on Spirit Roots less than five inches. The combat capabilities of the seven-inch Spirit Roots are extremely high. It’s like he’s playing with fire.”

If Wang Baole was merely being chased by the seven-inch Spirit Root, that would not be much of an issue. However, the expression and tone that Wang Baole carried as he shouted for the Spirit Root were so peculiar and slightly annoying that everyone who saw them inevitably felt confused.

As Wang Baole sped, he met even more students from the four major Dao College. Everyone froze in shock when they saw Wang Baole and the seven-inch Spirit Root that followed closely after him.

Within the group of students, there were also some from Ethereal Dao College. When they saw Wang Baole dashing past and the Spirit Root that had morphed into his appearance, they were all filled with envy and rich emotions.

“The Triple Head Prefect of our Ethereal Dao College’s Dharmic Armament is indeed extraordinary! Even his lure of the Spirit Root is unusual!”

Wang Baole noticed the facial expressions and discussions of everyone he met on the way. That made him even more smug as he thought about how capable he was. The fact that the seven-inch Spirit Root was pursuing him meant that he had a greater advantage compared to the others.

If only I could meet a six-inch Spirit Root, that would be great!

Just as Wang Baole felt light with pleasure, he suddenly noticed that an illusionary figure had flashed by in the valley right ahead. That made his eyes brighten up instantly, and he headed there swiftly, wanting to try his luck. However, the moment he reached the valley, he saw that there were three Spirit Root illusionary figures floating away.

The figures of the three Spirit Roots seemed to have sensed him. They had originally been moving further away, but they stopped abruptly, turning around at the same time, and vibrated once strongly the moment they looked toward Wang Baole. Their bodies expanded and contorted, and as Wang Baole was filled with disbelief, the three Spirit Roots quickly morphed into figures that looked exactly like him!

“Three five-inch-long ones!” Wang Baole was dazed, looking at the five-inch Spirit Roots that had adopted his looks rushing toward him while howling. He was incredulous at the sight unfolding before his eyes.

“So, every one of them likes me and is fated with me, huh?” Wang Baole took a deep breath. Even though he was surprised, he still felt that something was amiss. However, he did not have time to think much, for the seven-inch Spirit Root was fast catching up. Therefore, he jolted and began running swiftly, with a seven-inch and three five-inch Spirit Roots that had transformed into four separate figures with his exact appearance howling and pursuing him.

Could it be that I am too handsome? Wang Baole was confused. Even though he felt that something was not right, he was more delighted and happy than anything. However, his delight did not last long before Wang Baole began to feel anxious.

If it were just the four Spirit Roots, that would have been fine. The thing that made Wang Baole feel was absurd was that as he ran, he met even more Spirit Roots, and all of the Spirit Roots that came across Wang Baole would instantly morph into him and begin their pursuit.

In the end, even Wang Baole’s scalp began to feel numb. There were now over thirty fatties chasing after him, most of them more than three-inches-long. Their eyes were all reddened, and they howled continuously as they pursued Wang Baole ferociously.

What on earth is happening? Wang Baole was frightened. He no longer felt joy and was instead incredulous at the situation. That was especially so as all the Spirit Roots pursuing him had immense strength, capable of eliciting pain through a single attack. With the thirty of them combined, their force strengthened, causing a thunder-like boom to be produced as they ran on the ground.

As the sound spread, it attracted the attention of even more Spirit Roots, which transformed into Wang Baole the moment they saw him. The numbers grew exponentially, reaching the hundreds!

“Heavens!” Wang Baole shouted in surprise. There was no way of destroying the Spirit Roots. He had tried to kill them, but they were resistant to death. Every time that they dispersed, they would reassemble shortly.

As a result, Wang Baole broke out in cold sweat. He felt immensely helpless and confused, realizing that once he stopped running, he would be rounded up and attacked by hundreds of himself.

There must be something wrong, damn it! There are hundreds of Spirit Roots here, but why isn’t there one less than three inches? I only need a one-inch Spirit Root! Wang Baole was nervous and moved even faster, leading the huge group of Fatties, which was growing in number, as he ran without stopping in the Spirit Breath Village.

The commotion was huge, catching the attention of greater numbers of people. The students who witnessed the scene all stared unblinkingly, gasping in shock as they felt that the entire scene was too surprising!

“This... what kind of quality is this?”

“Could it be that this fatty’s talent is so extraordinary that so many Spirit Roots are fated with him?”

The Spirit Roots following behind Wang Baole seemed to have assembled into a military contingent. Through their never-ending pursuit, the entire place and the forests seemed to be almost flattened.

Without a choice, Wang Baole sighed continuously. As time flew past, the number of Spirit Roots after him grew in number, reaching several hundred. There were numerous Spirit Roots within the group that had originally become fated with others, transforming into their looks, and engaging in battle with other students. However, when they saw Wang Baole, they immediately changed their target, as if staging a rebellion as they immediately became Wang Baole’s figure and joining the contingent pursuing Wang Baole.

Time flew, and there were already many from the four major Dao Colleges that had gone through the necessary torture. The impressive capabilities of Wang Baole at leading the Spirit Roots were already well known, and Wang Baole did not have time to care about issues like that. He was more anxious than anyone else as he searched frantically for the one-inch Spirit Root.

At that moment, in front of the charging Wang Baole was a marsh. Li Yi, who possessed a naturally fire-type Spirit Body from White Deer Dao College managed to overcome the one-inch True Breath that had transformed into her looks. Her eyes were demure as she looked at the figure that looked exactly like her.

She had taken a long time to discover the one-inch True Breath. After successfully suppressing it, Li Yi could not resist and kissed the beautiful face she was looking at, mesmerized by its beauty.

However, just as her cherry lips descended, the earth trembled as the fat Wang Baole who was leading a group of Fatties dashed right by!

Chapter 97: Visible Anywhere

At the same time Wang Baole dashed past, Li Yi’s small mouth and cheery lips landed with passion onto the figure of her True Breath.

However, precisely at that instant, the figure of Li Yi’s True Breath immediately underwent a transformation, bloating and expanding within the blink of an eye from the petite appearance of Li Yi to a rotund body. Its face also became blurry, and it was no longer Li Yi’s face but that of... Wang Baole!

Everything happened too quickly. Even Li Yi froze in shock at the sudden appearance of Wang Baole and the gang of Fatties following after him. After she recovered from the shock, she stared dumbfounded at the figure of Wang Baole that she was hugging in her arms while her plump red lips were stuck onto the fatty’s cheeks.

Everything that happened instantly caused Li Yi to widen her eyes in surprise. Her mind buzzed, and she let out a never-before heard sharp scream and moved back subconsciously. As for the figure of Wang Baole, it moved with extreme speed, rushing out of Li Yi's arms instantly, heading straight toward the real Wang Baole while growling.

Wang Baole was charging forward when he heard a scream coming from behind him. He turned his head to see what was going on, not noticing Li Yi, but instead attracted by the figure of the True Breath rushing toward him.

"One inch! I've finally found you!" Wang Baole was instantly excited and began laughing toward the sky in his agitation. He immediately turned his body to change his direction, running directly toward the one-inch-long True Breath Spirit Root. As he neared, Wang Baole punched while laughing. He unleashed all his combat power, breaking the sound barrier immediately.

With a loud bang, the figure of the one-inch-long True Breath Spirit Root immediately disintegrated on impact of Wang Baole's punch, transforming into a green fog that squirmed into his body through his palms.

The green fog immediately gathered at the position where his dantian was, forming into an illusionary one-inch Spirit Root!

At the same time, the feeling of breaking through arose in Wang Baole. Swiftly suppressing it, Wang Baole was extremely agitated. He turned his body and began running, and the group of fatties following after him continued their pursuit.

This series of events and changes happened too quickly. When Li Yi completely regained her hold on reality, Wang Baole had long gone, and the surroundings had started to quiet down. After a brief moment, Li Yi shouted, "Wang Baole, this is not the end between you and me!"

Her voice was extremely piercing. Even though Wang Baole was already far away, he still managed to hear some of it. However, he was not in the mood to care about people around him at that moment, for as he burst forward with high speed, his whole mind dedicated to finding a two-inch Spirit Root.

Actually, he had come across all the Spirit Roots, except for a two-inch-long one.

So long as he found and absorbed a two-inch Spirit Root, he would be able to try battling the fatties that were following after him. He was confident that in the battle, he could progressively absorb the three-inch, four-inch, and all the way up to the seven-inch Spirit Root.

However, luck was not on his side. Even as he ran continuously throughout the entire Spirit Breath Village and met even more True Breath Spirit Roots, including the nine-inch-long one that appeared previously and had floated pass above him, he still did not meet a single two-inch Spirit Breath Village. That drove Wang Baole crazy and frustrated.

That was made worse as time was running out. After an entire day has passed, the number of fatties following behind him was already in the thousands. The imposing troop made Wang Baole extremely prominent in the Spirit Breath Village. Almost all the students from the Dao Colleges had seen his image.

"Wang Baole, just you wait!"

“Wang Baole, I’ll definitely seek revenge!”

“This fatty must be doing it on purpose!”

Gasps, growls, and curses emerged from different students without stopping. Hatred filled their hearts. Similar to what Li Yi had experienced, many of them did not manage to fuse with their True Breath Spirit Roots before the Spirit Roots rebelled the moment they saw Wang Baole.

Furthermore, there was an astonishing number of Spirit Roots that were fated with Wang Baole. Therefore, Wang Baole alone delayed the advancement process of a large number of students.

Wang Baole was helpless and extremely anxious as well. The entire Spirit Breath Village was covered with a magnetic field that was not normally prominent. However, after the tiresome pursuit that had lasted for the entire day, Wang Baole could feel the magnetism strongly, as if it was a deadweight. The Spirit Roots, on the other hand, were not affected at all, and this made Wang Baole troubled. He could not stop, as if he did, he would be surrounded and attacked by thousands of figures of himself. Playing the scene in his mind, Wang Baole trembled from head to toe.

“What should I do? Two-inch, two-inch! Where are you!” Wang Baole was close to tears—he felt that the entire mystic realm was indescribably weird. It was now the dead of the night, and everyone but him could rest, as he had to continue running.

“Ancestors, please stop following me! There are so many people here—go look at them instead!”

When the day finally broke, Wang Baole, who had been running for an entire day and night, began to weaken physically. He could only resort to discussion with the True Breath Spirit Roots that were following behind him.

However, he had underestimated his attractiveness, as the responses given to him by the True Breath Spirit Roots were louder growls and faster speeds.

Wang Baole was cornered and left without a choice but to question the heavens. He had used many different methods before, be it hiding himself or trying to divert them, but was still unable to redirect the Spirit Roots’ pursuit. There was one instance when he unleashed his Golden Body, but the moment the Golden Body emerged, the Spirit Roots following behind grew even more excited and rowdy, causing Wang Baole to stop instantly in his tracks.

In his helplessness, the moment he passed a mountain, his extreme fatigue caused him to act rashly as he retrieved his large megaphone with his right hand and used his loudest voice to shout at the crowd behind him, “Scram!”

The scream was so loud that it caused the heavens to shake, with sound waves spreading in all directions, their amplitudes so large that they could be seen by the naked eye. That caused all the True Breath Spirit Roots to freeze momentarily. Wang Baole recognized that it was effective, and he wanted to speed up to increase the distance between him and the Spirit Roots. However, instead, his eyes suddenly opened wide, his mind buzzing as he let out a voiceless shriek that carried a tinge of fear.

“Don’t... don’t be like this!”

The thousands of fatties behind him all mirrored his actions, forming a large megaphone in their hands. The appearance of thousands of large megaphones caused Wang Baole to break out in cold sweat, and he retreated as he screamed in fear, but everything was already too late.

In that instant, the thousands of True Breath figures that had transformed into Wang Baole raised the megaphones all at the same time, growling toward Wang Baole in unison!

Roar!

The sound was even more deafening than the thunder, exploding crazily from the Spirit Breath Village, resulting in the formation of not merely a simple sound wave but a hurricane sweeping ferociously from where they were and directly charging toward Wang Baole.

The hurricane was humongous, and its power was incredible. No matter where they were, the other students in the Spirit Breath Village could hear it clearly. As their hearts and minds trembled, Wang Baole, who was completely overcome by the impact of the hurricane, let out a shrill cry. He felt as if he had been slapped hard by an invisible hand that caused all his internal organs to rumble. His body was swept into the air by the impact, thrown upward like a kite whose string had been cut, landing on the other side of the mountain after flying past the peaks.

On the other side of the mountain was a dense forest. Wang Baole landed with a loud bang. Thankfully, the devouring seed in his body emerged in time, steadying his body. However, he still spewed a mouthful of blood. Pale with shock and pain, he immediately wriggled into the forest, swiftly running to hide himself.

Wang Baole only stopped after a long while. As he turned to look at the sky, he realized that the True Breath figures seemed to have lost track of him and were nowhere to be seen. The entire scene made Wang Baole immensely surprised.

Did I get rid of them?

It is too scary here. Please don't let me meet True Breath Spirit Roots that are more than three inches long!

As Wang Baole thought of the frightening moment previously, his chest ached in pain. He immediately retrieved and swallowed some Spirit Pills, and in agonizing pain, he gingerly left.

At the same time, the thousands of True Breath Spirit Roots that were fated with him began to disperse. They were unable to locate Wang Baole's after crossing the peak as the distance was too large, so they spread out to search for him.

This resulted in figures of True Breath Spirit Roots resembling Wang Baole appearing everywhere within the Spirit Breath Village, rushing by in droves and being seen by the students of the four major Dao Colleges.

They were confused by what they saw, and their hatred and anger grew stronger than ever.

"A beautiful mystic realm ruined by that Fatty!"

"I hate the sight of that Fatty! I hate it so much!"

As the thousands of Wang Baoles spread throughout the Spirit Breath Village, causing everyone to go crazy with frustration, Wang Baole squatted gloomily by a small stream in the rainforest, leaning on a huge rock as he slapped his forehead to release his frustration.

“Two-inch Spirit Root, where are you! What’s worse is that I can’t leave this place freely. If I run into the other Spirit Roots...” Wang Baole rubbed his forehead, contemplating disguising himself. However, he still felt that it was not a good choice and gritted his teeth as he looked at his surroundings.

If I want to hide, I must do it without a trace!

Determined, Wang Baole quickly found a huge rock and retrieved his flying swords, using them to empty the interior of the rock to form a shell, which he used to cover his body. Adjusting the angle, he dug out a small hole that he could see through before moving forward at snail’s pace.

He had only made a few steps before he stopped and retrieved the Rainbow Spirit Stone after thinking for a brief moment. He began crafting inscriptions that gave it the ability to hide and felt more settled as he landed stroke after stroke on the stone’s surface.

This way, it should have some effect. As long as I find the two-inch Spirit Root, I’ll have nothing to be afraid of!

Chapter 98: Could There Be a Treasure?

Wang Baole sighed dejectedly again. He was moving extremely slowly and carefully through the Spirit Breath Village under the stone shell, afraid that he would meet Spirit Roots that were more than two inches long again.

He felt that his entire experience in the Spirit Breath Village was too bizarre, and he was troubled and glad at the same time.

What on Earth caused every single Spirit Root to adore me the moment they see me?

The more Wang Baole thought about it, the more he felt that something was amiss. It was either because he was too handsome and lovable, causing the Spirit Roots to fall head over heels for him, or it was something to do with him achieving the Golden Body state. After all, before he utilized his Golden Body, the Spirit Roots had been extremely hostile and violent.

However, he also understood that the underlying reason was no longer important. What was more crucial now was to find a two-inch Spirit Root as soon as possible.

So long as I find a two-inch Spirit Root, I do not need to be afraid anymore! Of those Spirit Roots that morphed into my appearance previously, the three-inch-long ones are aplenty!

Time trickled by just like that. The stone shell that Wang Baole was hiding under was moderately effective, for when he advanced within the forest and met the illusionary figures of some Spirit Roots, no transformations like those that happened previously occurred. This allowed him to finally heave a sigh of relief.

He realized, however, that he could not get too close to the Spirit Roots as it would significantly decrease the effectiveness of the stone shield in hiding him. Another two days passed, and the students of the four major Dao Colleges in the Spirit Breath Village all managed to meet the respective Spirit Roots that were fated to them. It was also at this time that Wang Baole became agitated by the illusionary figure of the Spirit Root that he noticed in the forest.

“Two inches!”

The moment he saw the two-inch Spirit Root, Wang Baole excitedly threw the stone shell away, revealing his body, and immediately dashed toward the illusionary figure of the two-inch Spirit Root that was floating ahead.

At that instant, the illusionary figure of the Spirit Root abruptly turned its head, immediately morphing into Wang Baole’s appearance. Even before it could attack, Wang Baole landed a heavy punch on it, dispersing it quickly using his immense combat power.

After absorbing the green fog that was released the moment that the two-inch Spirit Root dispersed, Wang Baole trembled from head to toe. He could feel the one-inch Spirit Root that was within his body rapidly being replaced by the two-inch Spirit Root. He was touched, shaking in agitation as he looked at the sky and laughed heartily.

After so much effort, I finally have reached two inches!

Now, there is no need for me to continue hiding. Spirit Roots, your Grandpa Wang is here for you!

While laughing, Wang Baole quickly stowed the stone shell that he had used to hide himself in his storage bracelet. He felt formidable. Even if he met those Spirit Root illusionary figures from earlier on, he would not be as troubled.

After all, having attained the foundation of the two-inch Spirit Root, he was now able to absorb the three-inch-long ones. He was delighted, and his heart was at peace as he burst forward with high energy, scouring the rainforest.

Perhaps luck was on his side, for an hour later, as Wang Baole was about to leave the boundaries of the forest, he noticed a three-inch Spirit Root looking at his rotund body and suave looks. Wang Baole laughed happily, charging directly toward it before dispersing it and absorbing it.

After noticing that the Spirit Root within his body had been replaced by the three-inch Spirit Root, Wang Baole was even more thrilled, and his mood was lifted. To him, even the colorful and vibrant sky was beautiful. He advanced forward with large strides.

A distance away, Wang Baole saw the peak that he had leaped over when he was being pursued by the gang of Spirit Roots. Uncontrollably, a grandiose feeling arose within him.

A few days ago, I was forced here by all of you. Now that I’m back... just you wait and see, Spirit Roots!

Wang Baole was exhilarated. However, as he picked up speed and neared the peak, he noticed that the secret forest in front of him was barricaded and demarcated by warning tape.

At the same time, footsteps could be heard coming from the secret forest that had been cordoned off. Wang Baole took a look and noticed two women dressed in black Daoist robes whispering to each other as they walked.

The two women were students from White Deer Branch College. They were relatively good looking, and their youthful beauty could not be hidden even though they were wearing black Daoist robes. One of them looked like she had just applied medication as she was buttoning up her Daoist robe while walking.

Wang Baole was not acquainted with them, but they all belonged to the four major Dao Colleges. He had wanted to greet the two women after seeing them, but the two women merely threw a brief glance at him before looking away, walking past him as if he was invisible.

"It's that fatty again, how annoying!"

"I saw four of them today. That Fatty's name is Wang Baole. Ah, forget it, let's not talk about him. Let us just be cautious here and not let anyone barge in."

These soft whispers between the two women were heard by Wang Baole as the two women passed him.

Wang Baole had wanted to greet them but stopped hearing those words. He was confused, and in his suspicion, he turned to look at the two women before lowering his head to look at himself. His facial expression was unusual, but his eyes flashed when he raised his head to see that the entire region was being covered and protected.

Could it be that they have found some treasures? Wang Baole perked up as he advanced forward curiously.

As he advanced, he heard more women's voices coming from the secret forest. He blinked and turned serious. Without stopping, he covered a certain distance and noticed that there was a pond situated within the forest.

In the pond, there were several female students from White Deer Branch College who were taking a bath.

There were also several people guarding the surroundings, preventing people from entering accidentally. Some of them were also getting dressed.

To a male, it would not bother them if they had not bathed for several days. To these girls who were not cultivators yet and were unable to clean themselves using spells, the pond was a blessing from the heavens. After all, they were surrounded by a desert, and the temperatures were scorching. If one did not bathe for a day, they would quickly be sticky with sweat. Coupled with the inevitable battles that took place in the process of finding the Spirit Roots, it was no wonder that the girls would gather in the pond to wash themselves.

The scene was like a lightning striking Wang Baole's head. He stared with his eyes widened. Everything before him was too exciting, and he could not withstand it.

“So many little Bunnies... Oh! There are big Bunnies as well!” Wang Baole was in a blur. He was thirsty, and his heart pounded furiously. His gaze swept over everything, and perspiration flowed down his forehead. He realized that the consequences of this were heavy, so he decided to escape.

Even though his sudden appearance initially surprised the girls who were bathing and guarding the pond, they quickly ignored him after sweeping their gaze over him quickly.

“What’s going on? The irritating fatty is everywhere. I’ve seen so many of them today!”

“I also saw five or six of him. One just walked by as well.”

“Forget it, let’s not care about him.”

After hearing the women’s words, Wang Baole, who originally wanted to escape, instantly stopped. He blinked, realizing that the problem lay in that there were just too many Spirit Roots that had morphed into him, resulting in the frequent encounters of figures of himself in Spirit Breath Village.

Perhaps they still reacted to him initially, but since several days had passed where they kept seeing him in all kinds of circumstances, they grew accustomed to his presence and began treating him as a Spirit Root.

This threw Wang Baole into a dilemma, and he stood there, troubled.

What am I to do? If I revealed that I’m the real Wang Baole, they will be furious and might even become illogical in their anger. That would affect their ability to find their True Breath Spirit Roots. Everyone in the four major Dao Colleges is in it together, and this is something I should not do!

However, I can’t just leave like that as well, as it would be too obvious. Sigh... these girls... why did they have to bathe in front of me?

Wang Baole was deeply troubled.

Forget it, I’ll sacrifice myself... Wang Baole sighed once again, thinking about the sacrifices that he made for these girls as he tried hard to remain expressionless while walking toward them.

As he neared, the girls’ inattention to him cause Wang Baole’s heart to pound hard, especially when one of them stood up and walked past him right after bathing as he neared the pond.

Everything caused Wang Baole to hyperventilate. He felt something that he had never experienced before and tried his utmost best to remain poker faced as he passed them. Only when he was a distance away did Wang Baole heave a sigh of relief. However, it was at this moment when he heard sounds of apprehension from where the girls were bathing.

“That Spirit Root... seems weird.”

“It seems like... I can’t make out how many inches it was.”

As the sounds of hesitation emerged, almost instantly, the area surrounding the pond fell silent before waves of screams of varying pitches erupted.

Wang Baole's facial expression changed, but he did not run. Instead, he retrieved a puppet that looked exactly like him, summoning it to run wildly, before taking out his stone shell to cover himself as he laid down motionless.

"Wang Baole, you're shameless!"

"It wasn't a Spirit Root that we saw just now. Sisters, it is likely that it was the real Wang Baole!"

"After him! Eliminate that bast*rd!"

Very quickly, voices of anger emerged continuously from the pond. The several women from White Deer Branch College, together with the few others who were guarding the area, charged angrily. They did not notice the stone that Wang Baole was hiding himself under but were instead focused on the puppet that Wang Baole had thrown out. They immediately chased after the puppet, which was running away quickly.

The puppet was fast, and as he charged, he led the group of women away from the forest, and peace was swiftly restored in the forest once again.

Only then did Wang Baole, who was crouching under the stone shell begin inching forward. He only picked up speed when he had completely left the area, and one could see a huge rock tumbling by, crossing over the mountain peaks, distancing itself...

Before he reached the other side of the mountain, Wang Baole did not keep the stone shell at all. He wiped off the perspiration on his forehead and laughed bitterly, thinking about how this assessment in the Spirit Breath Village was becoming too exhilarating.

"It's so difficult to be the good guy. If not for consideration of their emotions, why would I have to torture my eyes? As if I wanted to look..." Wang Baole let out a dry cough and mumbled to him as he continued moving forward in search of a four-inch Spirit Root under the cover of his stone shell.

Perhaps because he was wandering in the area where those Spirit Roots that had morphed into him had gathered previously, Wang Baole did not have to search for long before he found a four-inch Spirit Root that looked exactly like him.

Dashing out quickly to attack it before absorbing it, Wang Baole had happily wanted to take his leave before his facial expression changed. Looking toward his right and putting on his stone shell again, Wang Baole began creeping up to the area with slow, soft steps.

Very quickly, as he neared, he became more cautious of his movements. When he arrived beneath a huge tree, he lay there and looked ahead. Hundreds of feet away, two figures were battling with each other.

It's him! Wang Baole recognized one of the two right away. That person had provoked Wang Baole previously outside the mystic realm, the youth from White Deer Branch College whose fingers had been twisted by Wang Baole. The look of hatred and his urge to take revenge were strongly imprinted in Wang Baole's mind!

The other party the youth was battling was a five-inch-long True Breath Spirit Root that looked exactly like him. It was apparent that the youth already possessed the foundation of a four-inch Spirit Root and could successfully absorb the five-inch Spirit Root if he could successfully defeat it.

Even though attaining a five-inch Spirit Root made one slightly inferior to the top students who have set their sights at the eight-inch Spirit Roots, there actually were few True Breath cultivators who could reach eight inches in the entire Federation. Most people could only reach three inches, making those who could reach five inches seem rather impressive.

Right now, the youth from White Deer Branch College was in an intense match with the Spirit Root. After all, the combat capabilities of a five-inch Spirit Root were highly comparable to that of the actual person. The youth might still emerge victorious, but it would probably be a lengthy battle.

As he watched, Wang Baole blinked.

Should I snatch it from him? Wang Baole was very tempted.

I shouldn't. Snatching without any attempt to hide myself is something that I, the Head Prefect of the Dharmic Armament faculty of Ethereal Dao College, cannot do!

Wang Baole's conscience took over. He felt that he was someone of high standing and must not do something so crude and unethical that would not reap many benefits beside inciting anger in the other party.

Forget it, I'll just go and extend my greetings to him. We're all students from the four major Dao Colleges, and it would be rude of me to not greet him. Furthermore, since he's so focused on the battle now, I shouldn't distract him. I'll greet him when he's about to succeed in the battle, Wang Baole thought, pleased with his moral character. He felt that he was a good-natured person who was caring and considerate, so he lay there excitedly, waiting for the right time to emerge.

Five minutes flew past quickly, and the youth from White Deer Branch College was panting heavily. However, his eyes were filled with intense agitation, for he felt that his luck in Spirit Breath Village was through the roof. The four-inch Spirit Root was an easy fight, but the five-inch Spirit Root did not take long either.

"This is a five-inch Spirit Root. It's possible that it is the only one fated to me in the entire Spirit Breath Village!" the youth said, extremely excited as his emotions overwhelmed him.

"After absorbing this True Breath, I will attain the five-inch Spirit Root, allowing me to fight for the six- or even seven-inch Spirit Root. When that happens, Wang Baole will be nothing!"

The youth laughed heartily as he threw out a powerful punch that forced the five-inch Spirit Root to move backward. When it was about to disperse, his laughter grew even heartier as he leaped into the air, preparing to throw out a final punch.

"Five-inch Spirit Root, you're mine now!"

However, the moment he howled, the exact moment the five-inch Spirit Root was within reach of his fingers, Wang Baole's eyes lit up and revealed himself from under the stone shell. He stood up, excitedly raising his hands to greet the agitated youth from White Deer Branch College.

“Hey, fellow Daoist, how are you?”

Wang Baole’s sudden appearance, coupled with his loud greeting, shocked the youth from White Deer Branch College, who was momentarily stunned when he saw Wang Baole.

As he stood there in shock, the five-inch Spirit Root that was originally on the brink of breaking down suddenly trembled before quickly expanding. Even its facial features transformed instantly, morphing into Wang Baole’s. While the youth from White Deer Branch College stood flabbergasted, the five-inch Spirit Root that originally belonged to him began charging at Wang Baole while howling.

“Woah!” Wang Baole was suddenly alert, and the moment the five-inch Spirit Root approached, he quickly threw out a tight slap, instantly dispersing the five-inch Spirit Root.

It was not an easy feat because Wang Baole was so strong that the five-inch Spirit Root could not fight him. Instead, it was because the Spirit Root had already been on the brink of breaking down after battling the youth from White Deer Branch College, which made it easily to defeat with just a simple slap from Wang Baole.

It transformed into a green fog, which was immediately absorbed by Wang Baole’s body, replacing the four-inch Spirit Root and turning into a five-inch Spirit Root!

Everything happened so quickly that it only took the time of several breaths for Wang Baole to appear, make his greeting, and finally absorb the five-inch Spirit Root. The youth from White Deer Branch College stood with his eyes wide open as he looked dumbfounded at whatever had just unfolded before his eyes. His breathing became quick and urgent, and his eyes grew increasingly bloodshot.

“Wang Baole!” His entire body trembled, and his heart raced widely in pain. The five-inch Spirit Root was too precious, and it was very likely that it’s the only five-inch Spirit Root fated to him. It had almost become his just a moment before it was snatched away by Wang Baole right before his eyes.

If it had been snatched away by Wang Baole earlier on, it would not have mattered as much as he would not have exerted so much effort in battling the Spirit Root. He would still have been furious, but he would have been significantly less agitated compared to now. Right now, his mind was about to explode with anger, thinking about how he had put in all that effort and had success within reach before it was being taken away by someone else.

In his rage, he let out an angry scream, howling and charging crazily toward Wang Baole. As he neared, Wang Baole also became alert and immediately kicked powerfully.

Wang Baole was swift, and coupled with the raging anger from the youth, the collision could not be avoided. Wang Baole’s kick landed directly on the youth’s stomach with a loud bang, causing him to be thrown into the air before landing on the ground far away.

“Wang Baole, you’re shameless!” The youth struggled to pick himself up, screaming angrily as green veins popped out of his forehead.

“I merely wanted to greet you, and you’re responding by attacking me? You people from White Deer Branch College... don’t you have any manners?” Wang Baole replied angrily.

“Forget it, I’m magnanimous, and I shan’t be nitty-gritty with you. Bye!”

Wang Baole cleared his throat, and his heart filled with pleasure as he turned to leave. The youth from White Deer Branch College heard what Wang Baole said and was so furious that he spurted out a mouthful of crimson red blood.

“Wang Baole, return my five-inch Spirit Root!”

Wang Baole pretended to not hear those words. He moved quickly, running away at the speed of light until he disappeared from sight. The youth, on the other hand, was unbearably frustrated, unable to release his anger. He wanted to chase after him, but he knew that he would not be able to catch up. Even if he could, he would not be able to battle him.

As he grew crazy with rage, he inevitably vomited another mouthful of blood. He began regretting his past actions and for not controlling his mouth previously, which caused him to provoke the damned Wang Baole, who was someone who held grudges.

Chapter 100: Joy in Helping Others

After successfully absorbing the five-inch-long True Breath into his dantian, Wang Baole was in high spirits. That was especially so as he could now find a quiet place in seclusion and enter the True Breath realm as and when he desired.

This feeling was akin to knowing that he had secured his stakes in a bet. In his happiness, he took out a bag of snacks and began munching on them as he walked.

As he thought about the facial expressions of the youth from White Deer Branch College who was about to explode with anger, he was even more delighted.

That chap's actually pretty pitiful—he could have provoked anyone, but he chose to provoke me! If he was as handsome as me, he will definitely meet another five-inch Spirit Root that is fated with him!

What comes next is the six-inch and then the seven-inch Spirit Root!

Wang Baole loitered happily in the Spirit Breath Village. Since he already possessed the five inches foundation, the Spirit Roots that had morphed into him previously would not come to annoy him if they were not at least six inches long.

This way, Wang Baole was even more relieved. He no longer needed to hide himself as he charged, picking up speed in his search. As time passed, several days later, Wang Baole stood on the mountain peak, dispersing the seven-inch Spirit Root with a heavy punch and absorbing the green fog as he laughed heartily.

I've finally achieved the seven-inch Spirit Root! Now, I shall look for the eight-inch Spirit Root!

Once I find and absorb it, I will no longer have to suppress it. I will be able to break through the Ancient Martial Arts and step into the True Breath realm!

Knowing that there would be no difficulty for him in entering the Upper Academy Island, Wang Baole was filled with excitement as he began his journey in search of the eight-inch Spirit Root within the Spirit Breath Village.

The area covered by the Spirit Breath Village was big. As Wang Baole had been pursued by the Spirit Roots previously, he did not notice much. Furthermore, he had to hide his tracks and proceed cautiously for a while. Right now, he had no restraints and began bumping into the students from the four major Dao Colleges as he combed the area.

Most of the students were either chasing after or looking for four- or five-inch Spirit Roots. After they noticed Wang Baole, they grew alert as Wang Baole was extremely infamous throughout Spirit Breath Village.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that everyone had heard of him.

Day by day, time passed, and Wang Baole continuously increased the search area. Along the way, he met even more students from the four major Dao Colleges as well as more Spirit Roots, including the nine-inch-long one from afar. However, the eight-inch Spirit Root was nowhere in sight!

Gradually, Wang Baole realized that the number of eight-inch Spirit Roots was extremely small. He had once met with Wu Fen from Holy River Dao College and sensed that the Spirit Root suppressive force given off by his body was actually similar to his, which meant that he had also reached seven inches.

Noticing Wang Baole, Wu Fen's eyes constricted slightly. After nodding at Wang Baole, he quickly avoided him, dashing toward another area.

Seeing Wu Fen leave, Wang Baole also grew serious.

It seems like there aren't many who attained seven inches, but there are definitely some, all of whom are looking for an eight-inch Spirit Root. The eight-inch Spirit Root is also widely considered a versatile Spirit Root. When it appears, regardless of whether it is fated or not, everyone who has reached seven inches can fight for it!

Therefore, whoever finds it first will have the greatest advantage!

As Wang Baole went over what he knew, he also picked up speed and widened his search area.

Over time, he came across many schoolmates from Ethereal Dao College. Those who could help all did so willingly. Wang Baole came to know from them that during the period of time when he was hiding, there had been some from the four major Dao Colleges who were not as famous as him but managed to achieve amazing feats.

"Zhuo Yixian from White Deer Dao College is rumored to have attained the seven-inch Spirit Root and is now searching for the eight-inch Spirit Root!"

"There's also the girl called Li Yi. As a natural Spirit Body, she is well-loved by the True Breaths and has attained seven inches as well!"

"Wu Fen from Holy River Dao College was previously seen battling with a seven-inch Spirit Root fated with him, and he has probably absorbed it by now!"

"There's also Zhao Yameng from our Dao College. The attention on her is comparable to that on you, Head Prefect. In reality, her attractiveness toward the True Breath as a Spirit Body far exceeds that of Li Yi. I heard that she attained seven inches a week ago!"

Hearing the news from the students of Ethereal Dao College, Wang Baole gained an understanding of his competitors. His stress level inevitably soared. He left hastily, continuing his search.

However, the eight-inch-long was apparently too rare. Three days passed, and Wang Baole had not come across a single one. Instead, he met someone familiar.

That person was Du Min.

Du Min was panting heavily to catch her breath. She was battling a six-inch Spirit Root that was identical to her while drenched in sweat, but even her sweat smelled pleasant. Her cultivation had already reached the Physical Seal stage, but her foundation was fundamentally rooted in the Alchemy faculty, giving her a disadvantage in combat. As of now, she had already exhausted many of her Spirit Pills.

Therefore, even though she had managed to find a six-inch Spirit Root fated to her, she could not battle as she usually would and had to exert all her strength. She was so beaten that she looked as if she could not win the fight.

She grew increasingly anxious and had wanted to seek help using the jade slip when Wang Baole passed by. After noticing her, his eyes lit up, and he changed his surroundings quickly, running toward Du Min. Before he reached her, he began speaking.

“Washboard, do you want some help from the handsome me?”

Du Min also noticed Wang Baole. She was usually annoyed at him, but now that Wang Baole appeared when she most needed assistance, she was immediately surprised. Before she could speak, she heard the nickname that Wang Baole used to address himself and her, and she was immediately irritated.

“Stupid Fatty, go! I don’t need any of your help!” Du Min stared fiercely at Wang Baole before continuing her battle with the six-inch Spirit Root.

Seeing how hard headed Du Min was even in such circumstances, Wang Baole was full of amazement.

“Washboard, I admire this quality of you most! All the best! I’ll help watch your surroundings as a guardian.” Excitedly, Wang Baole sat by the side, retrieved his snacks, and munched on them while watching the battle.

With Wang Baole seemingly wanting to enjoy the show with his snacks, Du Min grew irritated. As she fought the six-inch Spirit Root, she seemed to be unable to perform. It was only after a while that she managed to suppress the irritation welling up in her heart, and she gritted her teeth, determined to overcome the Spirit Root.

However, the illusory figure that morphed from the six-inch Spirit Root was relatively strong in combat. In her anxiousness, Du Min found it difficult to suppress it.

As he watched the show, Wang Baole’s eyes lit up, as he began speaking loudly. “Washboard, address me as brother, and I’ll help you. Deal?”

Du Min grew even more furious, hearing Wang Baole’s words. However, she was extremely stubborn, and despite being physically weak, she refused to obey and reply.

Witnessing everything, Wang Baole sighed again.

“Forget it, your fault is in being too stubborn. Why get angry over a simple joke?” Wang Baole put his snacks away and cleaned his fingers before rushing out. His speed far exceeded that of Du Min’s, and in the blink of an eye, he had appeared before her, raising his left hand and launching it toward the space between Du Min and the figure of the True Breath, resulting in the True Breath being forced several steps back.

Thereafter, his right fist landed with a loud bang, and the six-inch Spirit Root trembled wildly. As it retreated, Wang Baole dashed behind it, striking it again as he growled!

“Break!”

He used all his strength for the punch, breaking the sound barrier, and was extremely impressive. The punch landed directly on the six-inch Spirit Root’s back, causing it to vibrate and stumble toward Du Min while its body began breaking down. As it neared her, it could no longer support itself and imploded, transforming into a large cloud of green fog that was absorbed into Du Min’s body.

Du Min was agitated, and with a slight tremble, the five-inch Spirit Root within her was replaced by the six-inch Spirit Root!

Noticing that Du Min’s absorption was complete, Wang Baole shook his body slightly and continued his search for the eight-inch Spirit Root. Before he left, he insulted her jokingly again.

“Washboard, you don’t have to thank me. I’ll take my leave first, alright?”

Finishing his sentence, Wang Baole immediately disappeared. Du Min stared at Wang Baole with her eyes wide open and hummed. However, her eyes were filled with a tinge of happiness.

“This stupid fatty... seems like he still has likable points. It’s just that he has a vicious tongue, and he likes to offend others!”

In reality, Du Min was not the first person that Wang Baole had helped. Along the way, as long as he met schoolmates from Ethereal Dao College, he would lend a helping hand so that they could successfully absorb the True Breath Spirit Root.

All that was different was that he and Du Min shared a unique relationship, as even before they both entered the Dao College, they had been bickering for many years. That was why he had insulted her a little. Right now, as he continued his search, it was already evening, and the skies transformed into beautiful, dark colors.

Looking at the sky, Wang Baole had wanted to continue his search in another direction, but at that moment, he lowered his head to look at his storage bracelet and retrieved a jade slip glowing bright red and vibrating rapidly!

That object had been given by the Dao College and was an object that was used when students were in distress!