

Merchant 861

### **Chapter 861: Stringent Competition Rules**

When he heard what You Zhe said, the excited Zong Ze, who just saw Liu Jie monopolize the battlefield, eagerly rushed to follow You Zhe.

Zong Ze's actions immediately intimidated the Martial Arts Stage's challengers.

Zuo Ming coughed and said, "Previously, I only announced that the first place prize for the Martial Arts Stage is a sacred source lifeform and the Order of Radiant Light, but I haven't revealed what the second and third place prizes are. The second-place prize is the chance to have your fey nurtured by Chef Supreme. He will either nurture a Bronze/Epic fey or help the winner's fey to break through using spiritual ingredients prepared by the winner themselves."

All the disciples of the veteran and top factions started breathing raggedly when they heard Zuo Ming announce what the second prize for the Martial Arts Stage was.

Even the leaders of the top factions and veteran factions could not help but start to pant.

Although the second prize was not as good as the first, it would be highly beneficial for any faction.

Before the crowd could marvel even more at the second prize, Zuo Ming said, "The third prize is 100 drops of Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar provided by the Moon Empress. 90 of the drops will be able to cleanse all the impurities in a body while the other 10 drops will be able to cleanse all the impurities in a soul."

Zuo Ming's words stirred up the crowd again.

It had been rumored that the Moon Empress' Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia had transformed, and that was probably why 10 of the drops could cleanse the impurities in a soul.

After cleansing the impurities in a soul, the ability to comprehend willpower would be increased, and the soul would also become purer.

A pure soul was a prerequisite for contracting a sacred source lifeform.

It was very dangerous to try to contract a sacred source lifeform with a soul that was not pure enough.

Lin Yuan's eyebrow started to twitch when he heard the third prize because he did not expect his Master would be the one to supply it.

When he saw how hungry the others looked when the Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar was mentioned, Lin Yuan awkwardly touched his chin.

When he had drunk the Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar, he had taken bowlfuls each time.

There was even once when he had drunk two bowls.

After Zuo Ming finished announcing the prizes for the Martial Arts Stage, You Zhe said, "The Martial Arts Stage will proceed in a similar fashion to the Arts and Martial Stages. However, the finals will be different. No matter how many people participate in the Martial Arts Stage, only the top three will

compete in the finals. The third-place finisher of the Arts Stage component will be confirmed as the third-place winner of the Martial Arts Stage, while the top two will compete in the Martial Stage component to decide who the final first and second places will be.”

You Zhe’s words caused fear to slither into the hearts of the young disciples participating in the Martial Arts Stages.

Besides Long Tao, who had chosen to maximize his advantage and participated in the Arts Stage despite having enough power to participate in the Martial Arts Stage, most of the participants in the Martial Arts Stage were more outstanding than the participants of the Arts and Martial Stages.

As long as a Creation Master had sufficient combat-class powers and could comprehend Willpower Runes, it would be difficult for a combat-class spirit qi professional who only had combat-class powers to stand out.

Creation Masters could use their abilities to assess their opponent’s feys, albeit their assessing abilities would not be able to compare to True Data.

Before the fight began, the Creation Masters would already be able to start controlling the situation.

However, the Martial Arts Stage rules were too surprising, and many people started to make guesses about how the finals would be held.

Although this seemed tedious, it would be able to better discern who the person with the best Creation Master and combat powers was.

The rules for the Martial Stage were too tough as the top three places were basically decided based on the results of the Arts Stage component.

Only the two people with the strongest Creation Master powers would be able to duke it out in the Martial Stage component.

Although Creation Master powers generally held more value than combat powers, did it really have to be so biased?

The third-place winner of the Martial Arts Stage only had to participate in the Arts Stage portion and did not have to fight at all.

As such, many who had participated in the Arts Stage now regretted their choice.

If they had known the Martial Arts Stage’s rules, they would have definitely tried for the Martial Arts Stage instead.

However, Long Tao did not regret choosing the Arts Stage.

Long Tao knew that he had achieved his best result as the second-place winner of the Arts Stage.

If he had known about the rules of the Martial Arts Stage and participated in the Martial arts Stage, Gu Lang would also have chosen to do the same.

Gu Lang, Zong Ze, and Lin Yuan, who were the disciples of Class 5 Creation Masters would definitely have emerged as the top three winners of the Martial Arts Stage.

But at the same time, Long Tao would have been the champion of the Arts Stage if Gu Lang had decided to participate in the Martial Arts Stage instead.

This thought did make his heart ache slightly.

The Martial Arts Stage's stringent rules gave pause to many people.

Moreover, Zong Ze had already gone up to Zuo Ming before the rules were even announced to indicate his intention to participate in the Martial Arts Stage.

All the disciples who had wanted to challenge the Martial Arts Stage looked crestfallen, especially those with weak Creation Master powers but strong combat powers.

The rules for the Martial Arts Stage had immediately killed off their chances.

Thus, even after a few minutes, none dared to walk up to stand behind Zuo Ming.

The entire scene became awkward.

A voice sounded out from the other end of the phone placed on the seat. "The Arts Stage and Martial Stage showed me the Creation Master skills and combat powers of the younger generation. The youngsters in the Radiance Federation sure are becoming stronger. They're sure to become formidable. But the Martial Arts Stage is about to begin, and I can't see any courage. Why is that?"

### **Chapter 862: Lin Yuan is My Disciple!**

The other 12 members of royalty did not react to the elderly man's voice.

However, even the leaders of veteran and top factions felt that the rules for the Martial Arts Stage had crossed a line.

But the first person to stand behind Zuo Ming would become the brave person that the elderly man had been referring to.

The elderly man said to the Moon Empress, "Xiyue, where's your disciple?"

The Moon Empress rolled her eyes.

*What does my disciple have to do with you? My disciple is the best. He's just too young.*

She did not plan on asking Lin Yuan to participate in the stages.

Just as she was about to reply, she was abruptly overcome with bewilderment because she noticed her precious disciple making a move.

Lin Yuan took a deep breath and thought, *The rules for the Martial Arts Stage prove how important Creation Master powers are. But regardless, I have to participate in the Martial Arts Stage for the sacred source lifeform and even more so for the Order or Radiant Light.*

When Lin Yuan had been preparing for the Radiance Hundred Sequence selection, he was lacking power.

At that time, Lin Yuan had only had a Silver I/Fantasy I Jasmine Lily, but the Moon Empress had already mentioned the Radiance Envoys to him.

When Lin Yuan had first heard about the Radiance Envoys, the term imprinted itself into his mind.

As he continued to grow his power, he could now pass the Radiance Hundred Sequence selection and become a member even with his eyes closed.

Thus, he was now setting his sights on becoming a Radiance Envoy.

The Order of Radiant Light would be a great asset for him on the road to becoming a Radiance Envoy.

Lin Yuan nodded at Liu Jie, Long Tao, Gao Feng, Li Xuan, and Sun Ningxiang before walking toward Zuo Ming.

No one besides this small group knew that Lin Yuan was the Moon Empress' disciple, but the others did know that Chief Guard Ye's disciple cared about this young man a lot.

When they saw that Lin Yuan was going to participate in the Martial Arts Stage, the disciples of the veteran and top factions were extremely stunned.

Most of the people present had seen the Allstar Match and knew that Lin Yuan was talented in combat.

But due to the nature of the Martial Arts Stage, the competition was not favorable to fighting skills. Unless one could place amongst the top two, there would be no opportunity to demonstrate their fighting abilities.

The people present were not unskilled like Meng Xu was.

Besides the unlucky Gao Feng, anyone who was present would be able to finish off Meng Xu in three moves.

Thus, the disciples of veteran and top factions had always regarded Lin Yuan as being merely talented rather than powerful.

Lin Yuan had just turned 18 years old and looked young. Thus, everyone assumed that he was around 17 years old.

His Creation Master powers should not be that strong at such an age even if he started training in the womb.

When it came to Creation Master powers, accumulation over time was just as important as talent. After all, not every Creation Master could be a genius like the Moon Empress, who had become a Class 5 Creation Master before she reached 40 years old.

When the challengers who wanted to participate in the Martial Arts Stage saw how casually Lin Yuan went to stand behind Zong Ze, they wondered if he was aiming to clinch the second-place winner of the Martial Arts Stage by counting on everyone else not having the courage to participate. They would not let him do that!

Hence, many challengers also started to follow after Lin Yuan.

The Moon Empress did not expect Lin Yuan to be brave enough to participate in the Martial Arts Stage.

But this was also good because it would allow Lin Yuan to spar with other outstanding young people and give her a good chance to witness her disciple's power.

The Bamboo Monarch, Chef Supreme, Night Leaning Moon, Iron Prison, and Cicada Song all turned their gazes onto the Moon Empress.

They had all seen Lin Yuan before.

The Bamboo Monarch, Cicada Song, and Iron Prison turned to look at Chef Supreme with amusement.

They did not expect that the Moon Empress's disciple would fight against the Chef Supreme's youngest disciple. They wondered who was stronger.

Someone exclaimed, "Isn't this Little Yuan?"

The voice sounded like it belonged to a fierce woman.

A man's voice said, "Yingying, that's really Little Yuan! He's actually participating in the Martial Arts Sequence. Let's take him to Kitchen Fragrance Palace after the Guard Ye Banquet so he can try my new red braised meat recipe."

Zhang Yingying and Li Changlin had been chatting with Wang Fuxiang and had not been paying attention to the Martial Stage.

They only looked over when they heard the voice from the phone mention the Martial Stage and were surprised to see Lin Yuan.

All the veteran and top factions leaders turned to look at Chef Supreme.

The young man who had stunned everyone at the Allstar Match turned out to be deeply connected to Chef Supreme in some way.

From the way Li Changlin and Zhang Yingying spoke, it seemed as though they regarded this young man as their own child.

Chef Supreme's first disciple Li Changlin usually did not bother with anyone else. Yet, he was now taking the initiative to cook red braised meat for this young man.

This was big news!

Although the leaders of the veteran and top factions dared not show too much emotion in front of the members of royalty like how Li Changlin and Zhang Yingying did, they could talk normally.

Even some leaders had made bets on how many fights Liu Jie would win during the Martial Stage.

During that time, the topic of Lin Yuan's identity had also been brought up.

The Moon Empress had heard their discussion, and a ball of unspeakable fury rose up within her.

*Lin Yuan is my disciple! Chef Supreme's first disciple and daughter had just bumped into him by coincidence when they eloped, and they became neighbors. How dare you link him to Chef Supreme instead of asking Chef Supreme if he even has the courage to take Lin Yuan under his wing!?*

Mystic Moon and Cold Moon started to break out in cold sweat.

They knew the Moon Empress well, and she would never be able to stay calm in such circumstances.

### **Chapter 863: You Smell Great!**

At that moment, Lei Zhan, who was representing the Five Thearch Soldiers, was standing next to Long Tu and said, "Old Long, that boy can't be over 18 years old. Let's make a bet on whether he'll be able to make it amongst the top 10 of the Martial Arts Stage."

Long Tu quickly glanced at the Moon Empress as he inwardly cursed Lei Zhan for being stupid.

Lei Zhan was the second most powerful person in the Five Thearch Soldiers, but his character was flippant and was not the most intelligent.

But normally, not even shrewd people dared to trick Lei Zhan.

From Lei Zhan's question, Long Tu knew that he had not been paying close attention to the Martial Arts Stage's rules at all.

The Arts Stage component of the Martial Arts Stage would come to an end once the top three emerged. There would be no top ten to speak of.

How would Lei Zhan determine who the 4th to 10th places were?

Moreover, only 11 people were standing behind Zuo Ming currently. Thus, betting that the Moon Empress' disciple would come into the top 10 was the same as betting whether he would escape coming in last place!

Before Long Tu finished scolding Lei Zhan, a killing aura rose from one of the seats.

Long Tu, an emperor-class expert, felt as though he had been pressed to the bottom of the ocean and was struggling to breathe.

Lei Zhan, a thearch-class expert, was about to circulate his spiritual power when he felt that his spiritual power seemed to be clogged and that it was only moving at 10% of its usual rate.

This floored Lei Zhan because this imposing aura had exceeded anything that he had ever experienced.

At that moment, a cold voice hissed in Lei Zhan's ear.

Although the voice was soft, he felt his entire ear go numb.

"Do you want to make bets because you also have a sacred source lifeform? Why don't I bet with you instead?"

Lei Zhan immediately knew that the terrifying aura had come from the Moon Empress. He snapped his mouth shut awkwardly as he tried to figure out how he had offended the Moon Empress.

He had come to the Royal Capital on a mission. He needed to go to Leaning Moon Mountain to ask for her help and ask if she would trade for some Golden Lotus Brocade Pearls with him.

The Five Thearch Soldiers had few Creation Master resources to start with, and it would help them greatly to be able to obtain some Golden Lotus Brocade Pearls.

But for whatever reason, he had incurred the Moon Empress' wrath.

Despite being a thearch-class expert, Zhan Lei hurriedly bowed and said, "I'm not betting anymore. Moon Empress, I won't bet anymore. Frankly, I'm not usually a gambler."

The Moon Empress scoffed and retracted her terrifying aura.

Her sudden outburst had left the entire Midnight Palace in silence.

Night Leaning Moon turned to look at Lei Zhan and felt that he was extremely gullible. He had wanted some fun but ended up falling to his doom.

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Zuo Ming looked at the 11 challengers standing behind him and loudly asked, "Does anyone else want to participate in the Martial Arts Stage?"

No one else stepped forward, and Zuo Ming turned to walk toward the area where the Arts Stage had been held.

As Lin Yuan walked behind Zuo Ming, his head ached at the thought of having to rely on luck to pick his topic.

He hated things that depended on luck.

Suddenly, his eyes lit up. Although he did not have any special spiritual ingredients that could increase his luck, he did have the Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds that could remove one's bad luck.

Although he would not have good luck on his side while he picked his topic for the Arts Stage component, he would at least not have any bad luck either.

The Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds had been growing continuously in the Spirit Lock spatial zone and had already bloomed twice. Lin Yuan had collected all the pollen from the first time it had bloomed.

He took out a brocade box with the Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds' first batch of pollen.

He needed to swallow the pollen for it to take effect, so he pinched a small amount and put it in his mouth.

At that moment, Zong Ze froze and sniffed deeply. He felt that there was an oddly faint fragrance in the air that seemed to soothe his fiery craving for battle.

Zong Ze had always known that he was a battle fanatic that could never control himself when the opportunity for combat arose.

It was because he liked to test his skills through fighting and because the second year after he became Chef Supreme's disciple, he had been cursed by an expert's sacred source lifeform when they went to the outskirts to train.

Although his Master had killed that expert in the end and made a precious weapon out of the sacred source lifeform's body, the curse had not been removed, and it remained imprinted on his body.

Eventually, the curse became a stain of bad luck that fused with his soul.

This curse of bad luck had always weighed on Zong Ze's heart.

By the time Zong Ze turned his head, Lin Yuan had already kept away the brocade box with the Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds pollen.

Zong Ze continued sniffing like a dog until he reached Lin Yuan's shoulder and started to walk in tandem alongside Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan felt rather strange when he saw Zong Ze walking next to him.

He had heard Long Tao say that Zong Ze did not like physical contact, so why was he acting so intimate with him?

When Zong Ze saw Lin Yuan looking at him, he instinctively said, "You smell great!"

Lin Yuan's mouth fell open, and he stared at Zong Ze in shock.

He hastily put some distance between himself and Zong Ze and followed more closely behind Zuo Ming.

Zong Ze immediately realized that his words had been ambiguous.

Just as Zong Ze was about to catch up to Lin Yuan, he stopped himself.

The Arts Stage component was about to begin, and they would not be able to say much anyway. Hence, Zong Ze decided to wait until the Martial Arts Stage was over.

At that time, he would properly get to know that young man who had a smell that could soothe him.

#### **Chapter 864: The Second Role**

As Lin Yuan walked behind Zuo Ming in the long corridor, he arrived at another area in the Midnight Palace.

Many small rooms here looked like the breeding rooms and observation rooms at the third level of the Creation Master Association.

Lin Yuan could not tell how many of those rooms there were, but the area looked to be at least 300 meters in length.

With the pattern of one room and the adjacent one left empty, there had to be at least 60 rooms.

There was a carving of a different beast head carved on each door and the head a dragon-species fey in each beast head's mouth.

Lin Yuan silently sighed to himself.



*Just how much does Chief Guard Ye hate dragon-species feys?*

When they arrived at a bronze statue of a beast head, Zuo Ming lifted it and allowed the challengers to pick topics from it.

Zuo Ming walked over to Lin Yuan, who was the first person behind him with the bronze statue in hand.

Just as Lin Yuan was about to hand the bronze statue to Lin Yuan, Zong Ze walked up to receive the bronze statue and said to Lin Yuan, "Here, pick a topic."

Lin Yuan thanked Zong Ze and dipped his hand into the mouth of the bronze statue to pick up one of the sheepskin scrolls inside.

He pulled out the scroll and looked at Zong Ze suspiciously. Zong Ze's actions were clearly a gesture of courtesy, and this sudden friendly attitude made Lin Yuan wary.

After Lin Yuan thanked him, Zong Ze's hard expression softened into a smile, and he thought to himself, *It looks like my slip of words didn't anger Lin Yuan. He wouldn't have thanked me if he did.*

Zong Ze reached into the bronze statue and took out a sheepskin scroll before returning the bronze beast head statue to Zuo Ming.

Zuo Ming did not find it weird that Zong Ze had extended a friendly hand to Lin Yuan. It was normal for two disciples of members of royalty who were of the same age to become close.

However, the other challengers who were curious about Lin Yuan, who Liu Jie cared so much about, became even more curious. They did not understand what was so special about this young man that he would be so friendly with Chef Supreme's disciple after Chief Guard Ye's disciple had stood up for him.

All of them were green with envy!

There were only 11 participants in the Martial Arts Stage, and the topics were quickly picked.

Zuo Ming checked the time and said, "The time will start now. All of you can choose a breeding room each. You can look at your topics when you enter the breeding room and hand it to the Spirit Guard outside the room. The Spirit Guard will help to prepare your ingredients, and they'll leave immediately after handing you your ingredients. They won't bother you during the competition."

Zuo Ming started to record the time.

Every participant entered a breeding room of their choice.

Although Lin Yuan did not know what topic he had chosen, he quickly picked a breeding room.

There were only a total of 154 young disciples outside the Midnight Palace. Excluding the 25 that participated in the Arts Stage and 75 that participated in the Martial Stage, there were a total of 54 challengers who could have participated in the Martial Arts Stage.

After the 54 challengers had found out about the Martial Arts Stage's stringent rules, only 11 decided to participate in the Martial Arts Stage.

All 11 participants were the cream of the crop, and they were full of confidence in their powers.

Even if Lin Yuan did not manage to emerge as the winner of the Arts Stage component, he was resolved to be second place.

He was not going to waste a second.

After he entered the breeding room, Lin Yuan nodded to the Spirit Guard outside his room and unrolled his scroll to see what his topic was.

All his solemnness was instantly replaced with ease.

The sheepskin scroll read: Evolve 5 Hanging Ear Electric Rabbits from Bronze/Elite to Bronze/Flawless and recover one Bronze/Normal Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit from its life-threatening injuries. Finally, evolve that Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit to Bronze/Flawless as well.

Lin Yuan had used the Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds' first batch of pollen to remove his bad luck before he picked this topic. This meant that his own luck had directed him to pick this topic.

Before Lin Yuan had nurtured the Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds by accident, he had never believed in the existence of luck because it was too flimsy and intangible.

But since the Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds could remove bad luck, it proved the existence of bad luck in the world.

Since there was bad luck, there had to be good luck.

Now that he had experienced the effect of luck, Lin Yuan decided to acquire more feys that could improve his luck when he returned to the Return from Faraway Mansion.

The three Mountain River Eternal Life Carp were also lucky feys.

However, the Mountain River Eternal Life Carp's luck was directed at animals and insects. Their exclusive skills did not have much effect on spirit qi professionals and could only make the lives of spirit qi professionals more comfortable.

Lin Yuan wanted to find lucky feys that could improve the luck of spirit qi professionals. He had seen some when he was browsing in the Rare Lifeform Pavilion.

They had astronomical price tags and were bought up almost immediately after Lin Yuan spotted them.

These expensive lucky feys in the Rare Lifeform Pavilion had low levels, while the high-level ones were all in the hands of the major factions. Nonetheless, feys that could improve luck were very rare. No matter how expensive they were, no faction dared to use these feys as their role.

Usually, factions expanded to second or even third roles once their first role had progressed to a certain level.

For example, when the Sun family was in its prime, they also had Condense Healing on top of Condense Fairy Orchard.

Lin Yuan could now perfectly sustain Sky City's Creation Master role on his own.

## Chapter 865: Lin Yuan's Topic

Besides allowing those who had the Fate Letter to custom-order a Bronze/Epic fey, Sky City was also working with the Sea Bliss Clan, Condense Fairy Orchard, and the Azure Guard.

Master Duan Li was still providing Lin Yuan with free labor, but their deal would be done in a month, and Master Duan Li would no longer need to work hard at concocting Platinum Water Potions for him anymore.

Master Hong Shen was the only Class 4 Creation Master in the Return from Faraway Mansion. However, his time was occupied with researching the basement's construction with Hu Quan and helping Zhang Xiaobai and the rest to evolve their feys.

Master Hong Shen was only human. After he was done evolving feys for Zhang Xiaobai and the rest, he would be busy with evolving the Angelfish of Bliss's grades.

Thus, the Return from Faraway Mansion's Creation Master role would be stagnant for the foreseeable future. Lin Yuan the machine was fully capable of providing all of Sky City's Creation Master resource needs.

Lin Yuan suddenly felt that Sky City could capitalize on his Creation Master techniques to use luck as his role and create a new direction to develop in.

The Spirit Guard outside Lin Yuan's room had been taken aback by Lin Yuan's young age, and he had watched Lin Yuan's expression as he opened the scroll.

This made the Spirit Guard slightly curious because the young man not only did not frown when he saw his topic but even looked more relieved.

During the Arts Stage, the room that this Spirit Guard had been in charge of had also been picked.

However, when that challenger looked at their topic, they immediately furrowed their brow and a look of despair came over their face.

The Spirit Guard looked at the young man as he walked up to him, handed him the sheepskin scroll, and said, "Sorry to inconvenience you."

The Spirit Guard received the sheepskin scroll and checked the topic before heading off to make preparations.

He was sure that the only reason this young man did not look depressed was that he had already resigned himself to his fate.

The topic chosen was the one that tested a Creation Master's ability to evolve a fey's grade the most.

Lin Yuan watched as the Spirit Guard walked over to the enormous cabinets in the breeding room.

The cabinets had over 1,000 drawers in total, and the Spirit Guard reached down to open a drawer on the bottom right corner and took out a Diamond fey storage box from within. He gave the Diamond fey storage box to Lin Yuan before walking out of the room.

His movements had been so agile that it had taken him less than half a minute to finish reading the question and retrieve the ingredients.

Lin Yuan emptied out everything inside the Diamond fey storage box onto the work table and saw five purple-eyed Hanging Ear Electric Rabbits staring curiously at him. Their floppy ears sparked with bright electricity every few moments.

Besides the five healthy Hanging Ear Electric Rabbits, there was also an extremely weak one that was curled into a ball.

Its ears lay limply and were charred black. It was clear that it was seriously injured.

Lin Yuan ascertained that it was about to die after checking on the injured Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit's condition.

This was the Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit mentioned in the sheepskin scroll that Lin Yuan needed to heal.

Although the Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit had a cute expression, could be kept as a pet, and had long soft ears that could be wrapped around one's neck to keep warm, it was a very violent and combative fey.

The severely injured Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit had to have been hit by the recoil of electricity after using its abilities and caused its roots to be damaged.

Other than the six Hanging Ear Electric Rabbits, there was also a large pile of a variety of rare spiritual ingredients in the Diamond fey storage box.

Not many spiritual ingredients were required to evolve and heal the Hanging Ear Electric Rabbits, so the extra spiritual ingredients could only be there to increase the difficulty.

Lin Yuan picked the Silver Anesthetic Leaf that was commonly used by Creation Masters and healing-type spirit qi professionals.

Despite being favored by Creation Masters and healing-type spirit qi professionals, the Anesthetic Leaf could not heal feys but could put feys to sleep when consumed so as to reduce the pain of treatment.

After Sky City started expanding toward the Creation Master direction, the Anesthetic Leaf was a must-have for Lin Yuan when he was nurturing feys.

In order to save time, Lin Yuan always nurtured feys in the Spirit Lock spatial zone. Without the Anesthetic Leaf, the more intelligent feys would have remembered what the Spirit Lock spatial zone looked like, and Lin Yuan did not want this to happen.

First, he fed the six Hanging Ear Electric Rabbits the Anesthetic Leaves, and they quickly fell asleep.

Next, Lin Yuan summoned Genius, which immediately stretched out its five voluminous tails.

Genius scampered up to Lin Yuan's shoulder and nudged its face against Lin Yuan's cheek as it said, "Yuan, Chimey is going to live-stream tonight. I was helping it to decorate its live-streaming room."

This raised a question in Lin Yuan's mind. What was wrong with Chimey's live-streaming room that Genius needed to help decorate it?

But before Lin Yuan could ponder further, he said to Genius, "Genius, pick out the spiritual ingredients that can evolve and heal these six Hanging Ear Electric Rabbits."

Lin Yuan placed his hand on the injured Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit's charred ears and circulated his spiritual power to inject a large amount of pure spiritual power into the Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit's body.

Shortly after, the Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit was healed and its quality evolved to Bronze/Flawless.

Lin Yuan had only used six minutes so far.

Whenever Lin Yuan evolved feys to Epic quality, he spent most of the time at the stage of evolving feys from Flawless to Epic.

It did not require much spirit qi to evolve feys to Flawless quality, and Lin Yuan could do it even when he was not in the Spirit Lock spatial zone.

From the moment he had seen the topic, Lin Yuan knew what the person who had set the question was trying to achieve.

### **Chapter 866: The Young Have Always Emerged as Heroes!**

Lin Yuan also knew how normal Creation Masters would approach this topic.

Other Creation Masters would first heal the injured Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit before evolving the other Hanging Ear Electric Rabbits from Normal to Elite quality.

Next, they would concoct a Grade 3 spirit fluid bottle specifically meant to evolve Bronze grade feys from Elite to Flawless.

It would take some time to concoct a Grade 3 spirit fluid bottle.

It was easy for Class 3 Creation Masters to concoct a Grade 3 spirit fluid for one fey, but it would be a true test of their power to concoct enough spirit fluid for six feys.

Genius would take at least two hours to concoct enough Grade 3 spirit fluids to evolve six feys, and the slightest mistake would result in complete failure.

Yet, Lin Yuan had completed his topic in 17 minutes and 40 seconds.

Lin Yuan stored the spiritual ingredients that Genius had picked out into the Spirit Lock spatial zone before walking out of the breeding room to see Zuo Ming.

Zuo Ming quickly walked up to greet Lin Yuan because he thought an issue had arisen while he was competing.

Most Creation Masters would waste some spiritual ingredients while concocting spirit fluids. However, an extra set of spiritual ingredients had been prepared for the Arts Stage component of the Martial Arts Stage.

Zuo Ming thought, *Is the Radiant Moon Palace's Young Lord coming to ask me to prepare another set of spiritual ingredients? If so, I'll be in a hard spot.*

A mistake must have been made if there was any wastage during the concoction of spirit fluids. It would be impossible to come in amongst the top few in the Arts Stage component in such a situation.

Just as Zuo Ming was about to ask Lin Yuan what had happened, Lin Yuan said in a clear and bright voice, "Senior Zuo Ming, I've finished my topic."

Lin Yuan waited for Zuo Ming to assess his results.

Zuo Ming hurriedly recorded the time and was absolutely shocked.

*It hasn't been that long! Only 18 minutes since I started recording the time! Is it even possible to complete a topic set by the three Class 5 Creation Masters so quickly? Even Lord Bamboo Monarch's disciple took 24 minutes.*

However, Zuo Ming dared not suspect Lin Yuan and quickly said, "Young Lord, let me take a look."

Normally, it should be the Spirit Guard who had prepared Lin Yuan's spiritual ingredients that checked Lin Yuan's results.

Due to the difficulty of the test, the Spirit Guards only returned to stand guard outside the breeding rooms after 20 minutes.

Thus, only Zuo Ming was available to check Lin Yuan's results at the moment.

When Zuo Ming entered the breeding room, he immediately saw the six sleeping Hanging Ear Electric Rabbits.

The Silver Anesthetic Leaf had strong effects, and the Hanging Ear Electric Rabbits would sleep for at least two hours.

Zuo Ming carefully checked every Hanging Ear Electric Rabbit until he was sure that they had all reached Bronze/Flawless.

He suppressed his astonishment and said, "Lord Lin Yuan, I've confirmed your results of the Arts component of the Martial Arts Stage. You are in first place."

Lin Yuan nodded and said with a smile, "Senior Zuo Ming, I'm going to the area outside the palace to prepare for the Martial component of the Martial Arts Stage."

Zuo Ming hurriedly nodded and watched in utter shock as Lin Yuan disappeared down the long corridor.

He pinched his leg, and the pain reminded him that he was not dreaming.

He asked himself how old the Moon Empress' disciple actually was more than once. It was too unbelievable for someone of his age to have this level of Creation Master powers.

Everyone inside and out of the Midnight Palace was waiting with bated breath to see who would be the first to step out of the long corridor and take first place of the Arts Stage component of the Martial Arts Stage.

However, they were also all sure that Chef Supreme's disciple would be the one to attain that top spot.

At that moment, a relaxed young man with a sunny disposition strolled out of the long corridor.

His gait had such sureness of footing that it gave a warm feeling to all that saw him.

But when they saw the young man's figure, a string of gasps erupted from inside and out of the Midnight Palace.

The most dumbfounded of them all was the Moon Empress.

Although the Moon Empress had stopped watching the Martial Arts Stage as a mere spectacle when Lin Yuan decided to participate, she never expected that he would come out as one of the top few.

The moment that she saw Lin Yuan, the Moon Empress was stunned.

The immature and stubborn young man had not only exceeded her expectations by ranking amongst the top few of the Arts Stage component but had even emerged first.

In spite of her shock, the Moon Empress' already straight posture became ramrod straight.

She looked around until her gaze landed on Chef Supreme, and she seemed to be saying, "Did you see that? My disciple is number one!"

The Moon Empress was not in the habit of showing off and maintained her 'still waters run deep' composure even after becoming a Class 5 Creation Master.

But now that Lin Yuan had distinguished himself amongst the young cream of the crop, she was even happier than when she had earned her own achievements.

At that moment, a stern voice cried out, "The young have always emerged as heroes! Xiyue, this young man really lives up to the title of your disciple."

The Moon Empress did not immediately agree. Instead, she said, "Even if he wasn't my disciple, his impressive abilities are undeniable."

The Moon Empress could not help but be amazed as she thought, *?I was already impressed when he gave me the Golden Lotus Brocade Pearls. Who would have thought that he would surprise me again just two days later?*

The Moon Empress was well aware of what level of power was required to complete the Arts Stage component's topic.

From near Chef Supreme's seat, a forceful voice shouted out, "Changlin, Xiao Lin won first place in the Arts Stage component. He's much better than your junior disciple! My father will definitely be dragging him back into the kitchen when they return!"

## Chapter 867: The Enraged Chef Supreme

Li Changlin said with stupefaction, “No matter what happens during the Martial Stage component, Xiao Yuan’s win in the Arts Stage component will have secured him a spot amongst the top 2 in the Martial Arts Stage. When we return, ask your father to give up his last Spirit Savory Pig so that I can cook it for Xiao Yuan.”

Chef Supreme’s expression immediately darkened when he heard what his daughter said.

He had picked up on the way that the Moon Empress was looking at him.

Frankly, Chef Supreme was also shocked that Lin Yuan had been able to finish his topic in under 20 minutes.

It would have been fine if Cold Moon and Mystic Moon had complimented their Young Lord, but why was his daughter singing his praises as well? She had even said that he was much stronger than Zong Ze. Moreover, why was his training of Zong Ze in Creation Master powers called being dragged into the kitchen?

The Creation Master technique he had patented involved using cooking methods to combine spiritual ingredients perfectly.

The way one perfectly combined spiritual ingredients was a kind of expression of their attitude toward life.

The Bamboo Monarch was the only Class 5 Creation Master that used traditional techniques to concoct spirit fluids.

The Moon Empress used her own special method of utilizing moonbeams to refine spiritual ingredients’ aura, essence, and appearance. She combined all these different factors to produce a type of fragrance like she was engineering fragrance.

Chef Supreme remembered how thoughtful his daughter had been when she was young. But from the moment he had accepted Li Changlin as his disciple, Li Changlin started taking Chef Supreme’s daughter around to all sorts of places. Nothing good came out of their being together.

While Chef Supreme was ragging on Li Changlin, Li Changlin started to speak.

What Li Changlin said made Chef Supreme’s already darkened expression turn pitch black.

*See! See! All that rascal Li Changlin does is give me a headache. He actually wants my daughter to convince me to give up my last Spirit Savory Pig. He’s trying to coerce his wife to steal from his own Master and father-in-law. I only have one Spirit Savory Pig left. How can you ask me to give it up? Kitchen Fragrance Palace will have no more of its signature fey!*

*Gu Lang would never ask the Bamboo Monarch to cut down the entire Purple Bamboo Forest, and Lin Yuan would never cut down the two Silver Stamen Golden Luster Cassias.*

Chef Supreme was really at his wits’ end when it came to his first disciple.

When he had scolded Li Changlin a few days ago, his daughter had immediately stormed out.



If he had said even more, his daughter might actually run away with Li Changlin again.

The veteran and top faction leaders had heard what the Moon Empress and the person with the stern voice had said.

It now dawned upon them who Lin Yuan actually was.

However, they were not surprised that Lin Yuan was the Moon Empress' disciple. Nothing could be more surprising than when an 18-year-old young man had been able to beat Chef Supreme's disciple to finish first place in the Arts Stage component of the Martial Arts Stage.

Chef Supreme's youngest disciple was already 23 years old.

Lin Yuan seemed to be four or five years younger than Zong Ze from their appearances.

Now, it seemed appropriate that Lin Yuan was the Moon Empress' disciple.

As Lin Yuan walked over to rejoin his group of friends, the veteran and top faction leaders looked toward Long Tu and the First Elder of Dark Clouds Bird Shrine.

Long Tu and the First Elder of Dark Clouds Bird Shrine did not look shocked, and it was clear that they already knew about Lin Yuan's identity.

The other top and veteran factions were extremely jealous that Coiling Dragon's Valley and Dark Clouds Bird Shrine had formed a connection with the Moon Empress' disciple.

None of the other veteran and top faction leaders wanted to spare Gao Pei even a glance.

Gao Pei was the biggest winner at the Guard Ye Banquet. Not only was his son a part of the group, but he also seemed even closer to the Moon Empress and Chief Guard Ye's disciples than Long Tao and Li Xuan were.

Moreover, Gao Feng had caught the eye of Cicada Song and was likely to be announced as

Cicada Song's disciple in the Guard Ye Banquet.

Gao Pei must have amazing luck to have such a son.

As for Sun Ningxiang, the veteran and top faction leaders were torn.

There had been rumors that there had been some changes to the Sun family, and it was likely that they would fall from the ranks of top factions.

But now, it seemed that there was more than met the eye to Condense Fairy Orchard.

Many top factions intending to prey on top factions were now in turmoil.

At that moment, Zong Ze walked out of the long corridor, and Chef Supreme's expression lightened.

It had already been about 23 minutes since the Arts Stage component had begun, and it was expected that Zong Ze would emerge at such a time.

When he saw Zong Ze, the Bamboo Monarch, who had been mostly silent since Gu Lang entered the Arts Stage, said, "The two fellows set to participate in the Martial Stage component have arrived."

The Bamboo Monarch turned to look at the Moon Empress.

He had seen Zong Ze's powers for himself during all the time that Zong Ze had been around Gu Lang.

The Martial Stage component would demonstrate how powerful the Moon Empress' disciple was when it came to battle.

...

Gao Feng lunged at Lin Yuan and wrapped him in a bear hug.

When Gao Feng patted someone on the shoulder, the person would feel like a block had hit them.

During the hug, Lin Yuan felt like a tank was crushing him.

After being squeezed by Gao Feng, Liu Jie hastily pulled them apart when he saw Lin Yuan's red face.

Long Tao, Li Xuan, and Sun Ningxiang also approached them.

Gao Feng chuckled and said, "Congratulations, Brother! You're the first to complete the Arts Stage component!"

Lin Yuan smiled but not because he had won the Arts Stage component.

### **Chapter 868: Zong Ze's Friendliness**

Lin Yuan knew clearly that he had been able to win first place in the Arts Stage component because of luck. He could have come in last place if he had chosen any other topic.

Lin Yuan could not help but be happy when such genuine friends surrounded him.

After Long Tao congratulated Lin Yuan, he looked at Zong Ze and frowned.

He turned to say to Lin Yuan, "Lin Yuan, how well do you understand Zong Ze's powers?"

Lin Yuan shook his head. He was completely clueless about Zong Ze powers.

However, he was not worried about this because he would be able to use True Data during the fight with Zong Ze to check on Zong Ze's feys and completely understand everything about those feys.

Although Zong Ze was a Creation Master and could also check on Lin Yuan's feys, Lin Yuan had no intention of summoning his feys during the Martial Stage component.

Thus, Zong Ze's Creation Master abilities would be rendered useless during the battle.

Since he was one fight away from becoming the champion of the Martial Arts Stage and his opponent was Zong Ze, Lin Yuan felt that it was time to use the Sacred Sword Wielding Queen.

Now that he knew that Lin Yuan did not know about Zong Ze's powers, Long Tao thought back to the time in Radiance Sacred Hall when he had fought against Zong Ze and said with a grim expression, "Zong

Ze has mostly contracted fire-type feys and uses brute strength. Most importantly, you'll have to watch out for his sudden explosive power."

Long Tao did not elaborate any further because the fight in Radiance Sacred Hall had been secret and because some time had passed since Long Tao and Zong Ze fought.

Zong Ze's power had definitely increased significantly.

Long Tao was afraid of giving Lin Yuan a misconception of Zong Ze's powers if he told Lin Yuan about their previous fight.

If that happened, Long Tao could become the reason for Lin Yuan's defeat.

Hence, Long Tao only gave Lin Yuan a general description and advice.

Long Tao had nearly been burned to ashes by that flood of ferocious fire.

Lin Yuan's eyes lit up when he heard what Long Tao said.

It was great news for Lin Yuan if Zong Ze mainly used fire-type feys.

Due to the laws in the Sacred Sword Wielding Queen's skirt, Lin Yuan had gained resistance to various elements. He was most resistant against dark-type and second-most resistant against fire-type.

There was the Icy Flames Law that the Gild Flames Dragon Lice had comprehended. The Law Crystal fragments had been supplied by Duan He when he first joined Sky City.

Although the Gilt Flames Dragon Lice's Law Crystal had not been complete, it was about 70 or 80% complete.

The unlucky Gilt Flames Dragon Lice had to have been killed by the Thunderwave Sky Chaos Snail and Six-Headed Sea Demon Snake. Otherwise, its Law Crystal would have remained so complete.

Hence, Lin Yuan had an advantage in the fight against Zong Ze.

If Zong Ze's feys were not of the same type as the laws that were carved on the Sacred Sword Wielding Queen's skirt, Lin Yuan would have to be very careful when he used Spirit Essence Explosion even if he used all the combat skills and fighting abilities that had been recorded in the Radiance Federation.

During such close combat, it would not be feasible to use the Ethereal Jellyfish's Spatial Shift to shift a space full of spatial energy to another dimension.

The Ethereal Jellyfish's Spatial Shift would be better suited to shifting a large explosive attack.

Lin Yuan would not be able to afford to flippantly use up so much spiritual power for a one-time usage of Spatial Shift.

Now that he understood Zong Ze's fey types, Lin Yuan felt a sense of assurance.

"Big Brother Long, I will be careful."

When Long Tao looked into Lin Yuan's eyes, he saw no panic but rather resolute confidence.

Long Tao knew that Lin Yuan's powers were beyond his imagination, and he could not help but look forward to the battle between Zong Ze and Lin Yuan.

Zong Ze walked over to Gu Lang, and his gaze drifted over to Lin Yuan.

Gu Lang asked with a mock smile, "What's wrong? Has your confidence taken a hit? Are you—"

Gu Lang stopped speaking because he noticed that Zong Ze did not look disappointed, rather exhilarated.

There was also a faint spark of passion in his eyes.

"Big Brother Gu Lang, I met someone who can curb my obsession for fighting today."

Gu Lang was completely confused.

Zong Ze's bad luck from his curse was a secret that never left the walls of Kitchen Fragrance Palace.

After Chef Supreme had realized that he could not remove Zong Ze's bad luck, he did not seek help from the Bamboo Monarch and the Moon Empress.

Thus, Gu Lang had no clue why Zong Ze was such a fanatic about battling.

Zong Ze grabbed Gu Lang and said, "Let's go. We should introduce ourselves to him."

Before Gu Lang could react, he was already being pulled by Zong Ze over to where Lin Yuan was.

Even after he regained his senses, Gu Lang did not wrench his arm free of Zong Ze's grip. He felt that it was normal to introduce himself.

It was necessary for him to get to know the Moon Empress and Chief Guard Ye's disciple as they would be interacting a fair amount in the future.

However, Gu Lang did not understand why the cold Zong Ze would take the initiative to introduce himself.

Could it be that Zong Ze felt a sense of camaraderie with the Moon Empress' disciple after the Arts Stage component?

Zong Ze pulled Gu Lang over to Lin Yuan and saw Gao Feng with his hand on Lin Yuan's shoulder.

Zong Ze felt the eyes of everyone in Lin Yuan's group on him, and he said, "My name is Zong Ze."

Zong Ze strode forward and inserted himself between Gao Feng and Lin Yuan.

Gao Feng moved aside and assumed that Zong Ze and Lin Yuan were already acquainted.

The content Zong Ze started sniffing and realized that the fragrance that could suppress his bad luck was not present.

### **Chapter 869: Come Over to Say It**

Zong Ze tilted his head and stepped closer to Lin Yuan.

Since Zong Ze was taller than Lin Yuan, it looked like he was smelling Lin Yuan's hair to see if it smelled bad.

Even in his weak state back in the Xia Region, Lin Yuan would still shower every day no matter how tired he was. This had not changed despite him being stronger now.

Moreover, he had used the Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar to cleanse his body of impurities. His hair would not smell bad even if he did not shower for the rest of his life.

Suddenly, he thought about how Zong Ze had said that he smelled great.

At that moment, Lin Yuan realized that Zong Ze had been referring to the smell of the Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds pollen.

Lin Yuan looked at Zong Ze strangely.

The Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds pollen was special in that only those afflicted by bad luck could detect its scent.

The stronger the bad luck, the more appealing the scent of the Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds pollen.

When Lin Yuan ate the Possess Star Intelligent Dark Clouds pollen, he did not smell anything at all. There was only a slightly spicy sting in his throat.

*Could Zong Ze also have bad luck on him??* wondered Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan picked up a small amount of pollen from the Spirit Lock spatial zone that had fallen on the work table and crushed it between his fingers.

He immediately saw a look of excitement cross Zong Ze's face and Zong Ze's sniffing intensified. He looked almost like a dog.

Now that he had tested it, Lin Yuan had confirmed his guess.

Zong Ze did have bad luck stuck to him.

Judging from how sensitive Zong Ze was to the pollen, his bad luck had to be quite severe.

Zong Ze was an unfriendly person and did not say anything much after he inserted himself into Lin Yuan's group.

Gu Lang was a warm person. After his pointed efforts to extend his friendship, Lin Yuan, Liu Jie, Long Tao, Li Xuan, Gao Feng, and Sun Ningxiang all started chatting comfortably with him.

The other young disciples of veteran and top factions were even more envious of this group now.

Zheng Kaiyuan was addressed as 'Second Young Master' wherever he went in Indigo Azure City. But ever since Miao Zhuo had been kicked out, Zheng Kaiyuan had lost his main source of support and had to be cautious in everything that he did.

He initially intended on participating in the Martial Stage. But in his panic, he decided against joining in the end.

Before the Guard Ye Banquet, Miao Qi had instructed him to stick by Miao Zhuo's side.

Now that such a serious matter had happened to Miao Zhuo, he would be implicated no matter how much Miao Qi adored him.

The Miao family would even abandon the Zheng family out of rage.

As he thought about the situation that awaited him in the near future, Zheng Kaiyuan mustered up his strength and walked toward Lin Yuan's group.

He wanted to ask Chief Guard Ye's disciple if he could forgive Miao Zhuo and because he felt that his friendly nature might give him a chance to join the group and become friends with Chief Guard Ye, Chef Supreme, and the Bamboo Monarch's disciples.

Zheng Kaiyuan felt his legs tremble with every step. The group that he was approaching had a status so high that he would never be able to compare to them.

Not even Miao Zhuo, who Zheng Kaiyuan had to keep his head lowered around, could compare to those young men's status.

Otherwise, Miao Zhuo would not have suffered a soul injury after making the slightest mistake.

Zong Ze immediately frowned when he saw Zheng Kaiyuan walking over.

The cold and distant Zong Ze always hated people approaching him at such events. Hence, his expression started to become colder. He would have yelled at Zheng Kaiyuan to get lost if this was any other time.

Zong Ze was unaware of the confrontation that had taken place outside the palace and did not know what kind of relationship Zheng Kaiyuan and Lin Yuan had.

If Zheng Kaiyuan turned out to be Lin Yuan's friend, Zong Ze's explosion of anger would be seen as rude. As such, Zong Ze suppressed his annoyance,

Liu Jie instinctively stepped in front of Lin Yuan when he saw Zheng Kaiyuan approaching.

He had not forgotten about how he and the rest of Lin Yuan's group had been attacked outside Indigo Azure City.

Jiao Hanzhong had been from the Zheng family's third lineage and technically did not have a direct connection to Zheng Kaiyuan.

However, Zheng Kaiyuan had been the one who sent Nightmare VI. This had led to the enmity between Zheng Kaiyuan and them.

If they were not currently outside the Midnight Palace and it was inappropriate for Liu Jie to publicly attack Zheng Kaiyuan despite being the Midnight Palace's Young Liege, Zheng Kaiyuan would have been a dead man.

Zheng Kaiyuan was about to tentatively greet the group and was surprised by Chief Guard Ye's disciple's standoffishness.

Could it be because of that confrontation?

Miao Zhuo had been the main instigator of the confrontation, and all he had done was stand next to Miao Zhuo.

When Lin Yuan saw Zheng Kaiyuan timidly walking over, he immediately knew what Zheng Kaiyuan wanted to do.

A knowing smile appeared on Lin Yuan face, and he gestured to Zheng Kaiyuan, saying, "If you have something to say, come over to say it,"

Zheng Kaiyuan's timidness turned to surprised happiness.

Liu Jie looked at Lin Yuan in confusion as he did not understand what Lin Yuan was trying to do.

Lin Yuan and Zheng Kaiyuan quickly exchanged contact information and did not engage Zheng Kaiyuan any further.

After his identity was announced at the Guard Ye Banquet, the Miao family would definitely try to come up with ways to apologize to him and Liu Jie.

Lin Yuan had not rejected Zheng Kaiyuan's attempt to talk to him and even exchanged contact details because he wanted the other disciples of veteran and top factions to get the wrong idea that he and Zheng Kaiyuan had formed a connection. He also wanted to give the Miao family a way to contact him so that he would be able to sit and wait for them to walk into his trap.

There was more than one way to defeat one's enemies. A conniving poisonous scheme always produced a more devastating effect than a direct confrontation.

At that moment, Zuo Ming and You Zhe led the rest of the Martial Arts Stage's participants out of the long corridor to the area outside the palace.

Lin Yuan took a deep breath, for he knew that the real battle was about to begin.

### **Chapter 870: Rhine Lifeform's Sheng Yin**

A tall girl followed right behind Zuo Ming and You Zhe.

She looked to be about 25 years old, had mature features, an elegant figure, and seemed to be pondering a question as she walked.

She quickened her pace to catch up to You Zhe and asked, "Lord You Zhe, how long did the first and second place winners of the Arts Stage component take to finish their topics?"

You Zhe told her tall girl how long Lin Yuan and Zong Ze had taken.

The entire area outside the Midnight Palace had quietened when Zuo Ming and You Zhe emerged from the long corridor.

The girl was not far from Lin Yuan, and the area outside the Midnight Palace was rather quiet. As such, Lin Yuan clearly heard what she had said.

His eyebrow twitched.

In spite of her mature features, the tall girl had a very child-like and high-pitched voice.

Lin Yuan could sense strong ripples from the tall girl's vitality.

He found the ripples of vitality to be extremely familiar.

Whenever Lin Yuan used the Jasmine Lily's Vitality Imprint, his body became the conductor of the enormous amount of vitality and would continue to radiate vitality even after all the vitality in the Vitality Imprint had been depleted.

The tall girl must have used some sort of secret weapon while completing her topic for the Arts Stage component.

If Lin Yuan's calculation was accurate, she had taken 39 minutes and 27 seconds to complete the topic.

This meant that she had been three minutes quicker than Long Tao. Evidently, she possessed strong Creation Master powers.

The tall girl was wearing green spirit qi clothes that had hundreds of images of healing-type feys on them.

The images did not seem to be printed with any pattern, but they made the green spirit qi clothes stand out in a charming way.

Lin Yuan knew that this tall girl came from the top faction Rhine Lifeform from the icons on her collar.

Rhine Lifeform had unquestionable authority and respect in the Radiance Federation.

Every three years, there was a re-ranking of top factions.

In the last century, Rhine Lifeform had remained securely amongst the top three, and the furthest they had ever fallen was from first place to third place.

Rhine Lifeform's Rhine Guild Club was the champions of last year's S Tournament.

Long Tao noticed Lin Yuan staring at the tall girl from Rhine Lifeform and said, "That girl's name is Sheng Yin. She's the young disciple with the most potential in Rhine Lifeform and the one carrying the entire younger generation of Rhine Lifeform on her back. Although she isn't in the Radiance Hundred Sequence, she is well known amongst the young disciples and leads Rhine Guild Club's team during tournaments. Despite never fighting, she handles all of the Rhine Guild Club's combat strategies."

Lin Yuan immediately thought of Shi Xu.

Shi Xu was Sequence #8 in the Radiance Hundred Sequence and a member of the Rhine Guild Club's main team.

"Given Sheng Yin's age and power, she's definitely up to the standard of the Radiance Hundred Sequence. However, she has never entered the selection. If she did, White Devil would never be



crowned as the strongest healing-type spirit qi professional in the Radiance Hundred Sequence. Rumor has it that Sheng Yin possesses an Order of Radiant Light. Taking into consideration the limitations of healing-type spirit qi professionals' abilities, Sheng Yin can very well become one of the ten Radiance Knights even if she fails to become a Radiance Envoy," said Long Tao with a hint of fear in his voice.

Lin Yuan sensed that Long Tao saw Sheng Yin as his rival and made a mental note of her name.

After the disciples following Zuo Ming and You Zhe dispersed, the girls crowded around Sheng Yin.

Sheng Yin smiled sweetly and greeted every girl around her. She seemed to be very popular.

According to the Martial Arts Stage's rules, she had officially achieved third place in the Martial Arts Stage and did not need to participate in the Martial Stage component.

She would be able to receive the third-place prize of 90 drops of Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar that could cleanse a body's impurities and 10 drops that could cleanse a soul's impurities.

All the attention inside and out of the Midnight Palace was now focused on Lin Yuan and Zong Ze.

Lin Yuan felt his passion rising within him.

He had spent the last few months increasing his power and secret weapons for the sake of the impending battle.

In contrast to Lin Yuan's passion, the battle fanatic Zong Ze was extremely calm now after smelling that special fragrance.

For some reason, Zong Ze was completely entranced by this special fragrance. Or rather, he really liked the feeling of standing next to this young man.

The final battle of the Martial Arts Stage would be between him and Lin Yuan, and he would probably be unable to smell this fragrance during the fight.

At that time, his bad habit would flare up again, and the thrill of battle would completely and uncontrollably consume him.

After Zong Ze had completed his topic for the Arts Stage component, he had naturally assumed that he had secured first place.

It was only afterward that he found out that the first place had already been snatched from him. Hence, Zong Ze was focused on someone else for once and wanted to know who the first-place winner was.

He did not expect the winner to have been that young man with the scent that could soothe his bad luck.

In a way, Zong Ze felt that a special kind of fate connected him and Lin Yuan.

Nonetheless, he was a very competitive person and was determined to make a comeback after his loss during the Arts Stage component.

Zuo Ming walked toward the area where the Martial Stage had been held and announced, “The Arts Stage component of the Martial Arts Stage has officially ended. Lord Lin Yuan and Lord Zong Ze, please come onto the Martial Stage to complete the Martial Stage component of the Martial Arts Stage.”

Zuo Ming’s words made the veteran and top factions’ young disciples inhale sharply when they heard Zuo Ming address Lin Yuan as ‘Lord Lin Yuan’.