

A Sword 121

Chapter 121: Truly Invincible

Sword Sect! The lurking figures fled upon hearing Cao Bai's words.

No one dared to offend Sword Sect. Even the great clans in the Main Guanxuan Academy didn't dare to offend the Sword Sect. They weren't exactly scared, they just really didn't want to provoke the Sword Sect.

Sword Sect was an infamous thorn of the Guanxuan Universe. Their sect members were ill-tempered and were infamous for their bias toward their own. The sect members were also powerful cultivators in their own right with deep and powerful backgrounds.

Even the Academy's Committee could only attempt to restrain them. The Committee had never given any explicit orders to suppress the Sword Sect. Why? They were simply too good at fighting!

The Sword Sect had three Great Sword Sovereigns and many Sword Sovereigns, and they were eccentric and stoic figures who didn't care about what other people thought of them or the backgrounds of those daring enough to offend them.

They were so uncaring that they had even dared to challenge the Committee.

The members of the Committee would always have a headache dealing with matters related to the three Great Sword Sovereigns of the Sword Sect.

Of course, there was a deeper reason why the entire Guanxuan Universe respected them. It was all because of the great loss that the Sword Sect chose to suffer in the Xuzhen Battlefield many years ago.

On that day, many of the Sword Sect's swordsmen fought till their last breaths, and even Sword Sovereign Tingyun almost perished that day.

The Sword Sect declined since that day, and they had never been able to return to their glory days. The good thing was that the Sword Sect refused to interfere with most matters, so they had been left to their own devices

Find Cao Bai to seek revenge at the Sword Sect? Damn! Who's got the balls to do that?

There was no need to do such a thing. They just had to respect the Sword Sect's decision. After all, the world wasn't just about who had the bigger fists. There was a diplomatic way to resolve things.

Ye Guan was shocked to find the lurkers retreating. The Sword Sect was scary. A single sentence from Cao Bai was enough to scare so many people away. Cao Bai was indeed impressive.

Cao Bai stopped glaring at the surroundings.

Ye Guan looked at Cao Bai and smiled apologetically. "Thank you, Brother Cao!"

Cao Bai shook his head lightly and said, "You don't have to thank me. This is all my fault. If I hadn't insisted on exchanging blows with you, you could have easily taken care of those riffraffs."

Ye Guan smiled before looking at Ji Xuan. "Let's go."

Ji Xuan nodded and was about to use the cloud ship when Cao Bai said, "Use this."

Cao Bai opened his palm, and a thirty-meter-long majestic-looking ship appeared in front of them.

Ji Xuan was astonished.

"A star ship!" she cried out.

Ships capable of traversing the starry skies were categorized into different grades, and the cloud ship was at the bottom of the rankings. Star ships came after cloud ships, then space ships, imperial ships,

and finally, divine ships. Needless to say, a star ship was extremely valuable, and they were priced at eight digits.

Ye Guan reckoned that only powerful organizations could afford them, but Cao Bai actually had one for himself. It seemed that the Sword Sect was filthy rich!

Ye Guan was truly surprised.

The Sword Sect was within the Main Guanxuan Academy, so it finally dawned on him why so many people wanted to become a student of the Main Guanxuan Academy. It seemed that the stipend alone would make it a worthwhile journey.

Ye Guan sighed and inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda, do you have some money? If you do, can you lend me some? I'll definitely pay you back. Wait until I find my father, he'll pay you for me. You know my father, right? Wait, do you trust him?"

Little Pagoda grew numb. Damn it! Both father and son really knew how to play this game. They really were blood-related!

Ye Guan asked, "Master Pagoda?"

Little Pagoda was silent. Your father will pay your debt for you? Silly boy. It seems that you have no idea that your father is billions in debt.

Ye Guan wanted to ask more, but Ji Xuan suddenly said, "Let's go."

Ye Guan nodded. "Okay."

They took off moments later. Cao Bai flew on his sword next to them. It seemed that he was truly going to protect Ye Guan for three days. Cao Bai's presence gave Ye Guan and Ji Xuan peace because no one dared to disturb them with Cao Bai next to them.

Cao Bai wasn't that scary—the Sword Sect was scary. Cao Bai was currently representing the Sword Sect. If they didn't respect Cao Bai's words, the Sword Sect would definitely not let them go.

Ye Guan sat cross-legged on the floor of the star ship. He took a medicinal pill to heal before taking out some gold spiritual crystals to absorb. Soon, his complexion returned to normal.

Ye Guan started to reflect on the battle earlier.

He truly got lucky.

He found out that his sword energy couldn't contend against Cao Bai's swords. Indeed, a sword made out of sword energy was too weak compared to a real sword. As for his Path Sword—it would be too much to use it in a spar. It was too overpowered, after all.

He suddenly thought of the Sword Master. The Sword Master's sword had to be extremely overpowered as well, right? He loved his Path Sword, but he was worried about using it often.

He didn't want to feel like he was invincible when it was his sword that allowed him to slice and pierce through everything. Ye Guan was afraid because he could actually feel his confidence and arrogance soar whenever he wielded the Path Sword.

He believed that Master Pagoda could also feel it, so he had to be cautious about it.

Ye Guan was planning to obtain a less powerful sword. A sword that wouldn't make him feel as if he were invincible. The Path Sword was so strong that it made him want to rely on it a lot.

Little Pagoda was speechless upon seeing through Ye Guan's thoughts.

Cao Bai suddenly appeared in front of Ye Guan and Ji Xuan.

He looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Brother Ye, may I know your Master?"

Ye Guan's achievement in the Sword Dao is too high, so his Sword Dao Inheritance must be powerful, which means his Master is an extraordinary individual. Cao Bai was curious.

Ye Guan smiled. "My aunt."

Aunt? Cao Bai froze. He eventually nodded without asking any further. Of course, even if he asked, Ye Guan couldn't really give a proper response.

Cao Bai looked at Ye Guan before sighing to himself. What a waste. If only he were from Sword Sect. It's really a pity.

Can I invite Ye Guan to join us? No, I can't. It's too late.

In addition, he wasn't qualified to make such an offer. The aristocratic faction and the great clans faction respected the Sword Sect, but they weren't afraid of the Sword Sect.

If he invited Ye Guan to join the Sword Sect, it would be tantamount to slapping the faces of those factions as well as the faces of the Main Guanxuan Academy's Committee members.

The Academy, aristocratic faction and great clans faction will never allow the Sword Sect to do that. The Sword Sect is powerful, but it's not strong enough to carry such a huge burden. This is also not a matter I can decide by myself. Three days. This is all I can do.

Cao Bai sighed once more. It was really such a pity.

The Sword Sect had always been united without many internal strifes, and it was all because they had a common enemy.

The Sword Sect was once the sword of the Guanxuan Academy as well—a terrifying sword capable of striking fear into anyone's heart.

The Sword Sect had declined, and it was no longer as strong as many years ago. The Sword Sect also had fewer swordsmen than before, and that was exactly why Cao Bai felt that it was a pity.

Ye Guan was considered a rogue swordsman, and he would certainly reach greater heights if he became a sect member.

Unfortunately, things had gotten so out of control that even if the Sword Sect wanted to do something about it, they had to tread lightly. Of course, things would change if Empress Qingqiu were to awaken.

Empress Qingqiu was the only one capable of turning the entire Academy upside down since the Sword Master's disappearance.

Sigh!

Cao Bao shook his head slightly and turned to look somewhere deep in the starry skies.

He would tell the sect elders the specifics of what he had encountered outside the sect upon his return.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was reflecting on his battle with Cao Bai. He had discovered more weaknesses. The first weakness he had discovered was that he was too slow.

Sure, he was strong against the run-of-the-mill cultivators, but against a Divine Mage or a cultivator on the same level as Cao Bai, his speed wasn't that great because they could just slow him down. He would also become passive once he was slowed down.

The second weakness was a weakness that wasn't new but had become more pronounced during his battle with Cao Bai. It was the fact that his cultivation base was too low to support his consumption of profound energy.

He had to end every single fight as soon as possible, or he would eventually become exhausted and killed. He had to solve these two problems. Otherwise, he would really suffer a lot against powerhouses. Unfortunately, he lacked time.

The journey that was supposed to take a month would only take them twenty days, thanks to the star ship. Twenty days weren't enough for Ye Guan to make breakthroughs. To make matters worse, his enemies were bound to get stronger the closer he got to Qingzhou.

Ye Guan looked up at the starry skies, and his gaze shone sharply.

Now, he only had one option. Kill! He had to kill and fight. He could only become stronger through battles.

Ji Xuan walked up to Ye Guan and said, "We'll definitely make it to Qingzhou."

Ye Guan nodded. He had to lodge an Imperial Appeal to the Sword Master.

Three days later, Cao Bai turned to Ye Guan and clasped his hands.

"Brother Ye, I'm leaving," he said.

Ye Guan smiled and replied, "Thank you, Brother Cao. I will remember this debt forever. If I survive this ordeal, I will go to the Sword Sect to thank you."

"It's fine. It's a small matter." Cao Bai shook his head. He seemed to be hesitating as he said, "Brother Ye, the road ahead is turbulent. Take care."

Ye Guan nodded. "We'll meet again."

Cao Bai turned and hopped onto his sword before disappearing in the blink of an eye.

Ye Guan smiled and said, "Trouble will come and visit us soon."

Ji Xuan smiled and replied, "Let them come."

Ye Guan turned to look at Ji Xuan. He still had no idea of Ji Xuan's breadth—just how powerful was she?

He had never really taken a good look at Ji Xuan's fights.

Ji Xuan suddenly waved her hands in front of Ye Guan's face and smiled. "Why are you staring at me? Is there a flower on my face?"

Ye Guan shook his head and smiled. "No. I was just curious about just how strong you are."

Ji Xuan replied, "I'm so-so."

Ye Guan added, "You were once the Student Representative of the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy."

Ji Xuan nodded and said, "That was a long time ago."

Ye Guan was curious. "Lady Ji Xuan, do you have any family?"

Ji Xuan wordlessly shook her head.

Ye Guan nodded and didn't ask any more questions.

The star ship soared across the starry skies. At this rate, it would only take them fifteen days to reach Qingzhou. The closer they got to Qingzhou, the more dangerous things would become for them, but they were already prepared to face the challenges.

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Meanwhile, a woman was observing Ye Guan's star ship in the shadows.

She was wearing a tight white robe that wrapped around her slender figure while her long hair draped over her shoulders. Her golden hair draped over her shoulders and reached down all the way to her butt. Her pupils shared the same color as her hair.

Her hands were behind her back as she stared at the flying star ship.

A black-robed old man was standing behind her.

The black-robed old man bowed slightly and said, "Are you not going to attack, Young Clan Leader?"

The woman turned out to be the Young Clan Leader of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan—Ao Qianqian.

Ao Qianqian calmly replied, "Elder Ao Xian, I'm sure you've seen the fight between Cao Bai and Young Master Ye three days ago. What do you think?"

Ao Xian hesitated before saying, "Ye Guan is indeed a monstrous talent, and that is exactly why he has to die. He'll become a thorn to our clan if he is given enough time!"

Ao Qianqian smiled and asked, "Elder Ao Xian, is that all you can think of?"

Ao Xian sounded solemn as he said, "Young Clan Leader, please guide me."

Ao Qianqian spoke calmly, "Cao Bai isn't the best swordsman of the Sword Sect, he's still one of the Sword Sect's monstrous talents. He became a Half-step Sword Sovereign at eighteen years of age.

"He has a powerful master guiding him, and he also has three immortal swords, but..." Ao Qianqian trailed off before saying, "He still lost to Young Master Ye."

Ao Xian froze.

Ao Qianqian continued. "Do you still not recognize the severity of this matter?"

"He's indeed extraordinary, but so what?" Ao Xian said, "Why should we be afraid of him?"

"Then go!" said Ao Qianqian.

Ao Xian froze.

Ao Qianqian smiled. "You're not afraid, right? Go ahead and attack him."

Ao Xian's expression turned ugly.

"Elder Ao Xian." Ao Qianqian's smile deepened as she said, "You're not afraid of him because you have the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan as your backer, but have you still not realized that he has never been afraid of us?"

Ao Xian was silent.

Ao Qianqian said softly, "Do you know why I personally came down here?"

Ao Xian stared at Ao Qianqian, seemingly confused.

Ao Qianqian saw that, so she explained, "I'm here to see him for myself, and I can tell that he's special. He's a monstrous talent, yet he's humble.

"He's extremely mature for his age. He's intimidating whenever he makes a move, but he's reserved whenever he's idle."

Ao Qianqian's eyes narrowed. "His Dao Protector must be an incredible figure, and I'm sure she wouldn't have allowed him to kill our people and make an enemy out of us if she's not as strong as us."

“She didn’t stop him, and there’s only one explanation for that: she’s not scared of us and the An Clan, despite their two Martial Goddesses!”

Ao Xian’s jaw dropped to the floor.

Ao Qianqian’s hands slowly clenched into fists. “We’re doomed if we fail to kill him, and we stand nothing to gain even if we kill him.”

Ao Qianqian soon made a decision and loosened her fists. “Tell everyone to back off and make sure to maintain a decent distance from them. I’ll kill those daring enough to attack them without my orders.”

With that, Ao Qianqian turned around.

She was about to leave, but Ao Xian’s trembling voice reached her ears.

“Young Clan Leader, may I know what you’re trying to do?” asked Ao Xian.

Ao Qianqian calmly replied, “Let us gamble with my future and life for once. Let’s see if he’ll survive this ordeal and if his Dao Protector is truly invincible...”

Chapter 122: Kill Ye Xuan and Qin Guan!

Ye Guan sat cross-legged at the bow of the star ship with his hands on his knees. He was absorbing a vast amount of spiritual energy from the gold spiritual crystals in his hands to convert into profound energy.

His body couldn’t contain a lot of profound energy because of his low cultivation base, which meant that he could only perform a few sword moves before running out of profound energy.

Fortunately, he was cultivating an Immortal-rank cultivation method that Master Pagoda had imparted to him.

Otherwise, the disparity between his sword cultivation realm and his cultivation base as a cultivator meant that he could only perform one sword move with a mediocre cultivation method.

Therefore, Ye Guan chose to focus on improving his cultivation base, but he wasn't in a rush because he was well aware that haste would only make waste.

He started researching and was planning on making a natural breakthrough similar to his breakthrough during a battle.

"Little Guan, someone's here," said Ji Xuan.

Ye Guan opened his eyes and got up. A black-robed man stood about a hundred meters away from the star ship. He was holding a black spear in his right hand while his left hand was behind him, and he was giving off a domineering aura.

A spearman!

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at the man. He didn't have to talk to a dead man walking.

The spearman stepped forward, and a terrifying spear intent converged at his spearhead. A thirty-meter-long spear condensed, and it flew toward Ye Guan.

Boom!

The thirty-meter-long spear was incomparably terrifying, and it shattered every inch of space in its way.

Ye Guan remained calm. He was about to make his move, but a terrifying aura suddenly swept toward him from the side.

Ye Guan frowned and turned.

Boom!

A powerful energy collided with the thirty-meter-long spear and destroyed it.

The spearman narrowed his eyes. He turned and saw a white-robed woman approaching them.

Ye Guan's frown deepened upon seeing the white-robed woman. Who is she?

The spearman glared at the white-robed woman and demanded, "Who are you?!"

The white-robed woman stared at the man and said, "Lin Ran, you're a rare talent of the Lushan Blessed Land, why did you decide to jump into these muddy waters?"

Lin Ran calmly replied, "I've heard a lot of rumors about the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Sword Sovereign, so I came here to check him out myself."

"You can leave now," said the white-robed woman.

"So I have to leave just because you said so?" Lin Ran asked sarcastically.

The white-robed woman abruptly vanished.

Lin Ran's pupils constricted, and he immediately thrust forward.

Boom!

A majestic spear intent poured out from the spearhead, which made his spear as intimidating as a dragon and as ferocious as a tsunami.

The white-robed woman reappeared and destroyed Lin Ran's spear intent with a punch.

Lin Ran narrowed his eyes, and he was about to attack once more, but the white-robed woman had already appeared right in front of him. The white-robed woman lifted Lin Ran by the throat.

"Who are you?!" Lin Ran asked, horrified.

The white-robed woman glared at him and said, "I'll let you go, but if you're still here after three seconds, I'll bury you."

With that, she let go of Lin Ran and approached Ye Guan.

Lin Ran stared at the white-robed woman in disbelief. However, he ignored the white-robed woman's words and shouted, "Just who are you?!"

The white-robed woman stopped in her tracks and sighed.

"Why do you ask such stupid questions?" she said and whipped around before sending a punch toward Lin Ran.

Boom!

Lin Ran was instantly reduced to ashes.

The white-robed woman wordlessly made her way to Ye Guan once more.

Ji Xuan looked nervous. She's so strong!

Ye Guan was a bit confused. She looked at her and shook his head before saying to himself. Why did she not take Lin Ran's storage ring? She wasted her spoils.

Ji Xuan didn't dare to move. The white-robed woman was now standing in front of Ye Guan and Ji Xuan.

The white-robed woman chuckled and said, "Young Lord Ye, let me introduce myself. My name is Ao Qianqian!"

Ao? Ye Guan asked, "Are you from the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan?"

"Yes!"

Ye Guan chuckled and asked, "What tricks are you trying to pull this time?"

Ao Qianqian pondered over something before saying, "Young Lord Ye, I've already investigated the matter between you and the True Dragon Clan.

"The True Dragon Clan broke the rules of the martial contest and colluded with the An Clan to target you, and they had even attempted to kill you many times. The evil deed that they had committed is so outrageous, and they're definitely at fault."

Ao Qianqian sighed and added, "My Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan rashly took action against you without investigating the matter, so we made a mistake as well."

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at Ao Qianqian. He was wary of her because the great clans were filled with cunning people.

Ao Qianqian's expression was serious as she said, "Young Lord Ye, I've come here to apologize to you on behalf of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan."

She bowed deeply toward him and added, "Young Lord Ye, I apologize for the trouble that my Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan has caused you."

Ye Guan was stunned speechless.

An apology? How come the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan is now apologizing to me, even though they seemed like they couldn't breathe the same air as me? Is she really not here to kill me and steal my storage ring?

Ye Guan pondered briefly before saying, "Lady Qianqian, I have no powerful backer. Did you come here to investigate me before making a decision? I'm afraid you'll come back and beat me up later after changing your mind. Won't that be an embarrassing outcome for the both of us?"

Ao Qianqian chuckled and explained, "Surely, you jest, Young Lord Ye. I didn't come here to investigate your backer. I'm here because apologizing to you is the right thing to do. My clan has made a mistake, and that is why I'm here."

She opened her palm, and a storage ring flew toward Ye Guan.

"Young Lord Ye, there are ten million gold spiritual crystals in this storage ring. It is my token of apology. Please accept it."

Ye Guan didn't say anything, but he was screaming inwardly. That's a lot of gold spiritual crystals!

However, he didn't accept it readily. He stared at Ao Qianqian and said, "The Main Guanxuan Academy has sent out an order to arrest me along with a bounty on my head. I heard that the Ancient Heavenly Dragon—"

"No, we were not involved." Ao Qianqian interrupted. "It was the An Clan."

Ye Guan silently stared at her.

Ao Qianqian sounded serious as she added, "Young Lord Ye, let me be honest with you. Your situation is more complicated than you think. The aristocratic families and the great clans... they think of you as an enemy because Representative Ye had decided to help you.

“They want to kill you not for our sake but to intimidate the academic faction of the Main Guanxuan Academy.”

Ye Guan suddenly asked, “Is Lady Ye Guanzhi doing fine?”

Ao Qianqian went silent.

Ye Guan frowned and asked, “What happened?”

Ao Qianqian shook her head and said, “Representative Ye has been stripped of her position and authority to mobilize the Guanxuan Guards. She’s also under house arrest in the South Garden.”

“Why?” Ye Guan asked.

“She attempted to impeach the representatives of the aristocratic families and great clans within the Committee upon hearing that they’ve decided to place an arrest warrant on your head.

“In the end, her attempt failed, and the Committee finally had the justification to suppress her even more.”

Ye Guan froze. He didn’t expect that someone whom he had only met twice would provoke those powerful figures and even throw away her own future for him!

Ye Guan’s heart was inundated with complicated emotions.

“Young Lord Ye, you have a tough road ahead of you. Take care!” Ao Qianqian said.

“The average cultivator cannot defeat you, but the monstrous talents of powerful places such as the Nine Heavens and Ten Lands, Lingxu Blessed Land, and Time Paradise are extremely powerful.

“Those bastards on the Divine Martial List are ridiculously strong, and you also have to be wary of some of the Mercenary Union’s top mercenary groups...” Ao Qianqian trailed off. She shook her head and chuckled before continuing. “Yes, there are many strong people out there.”

Ye Guan nodded slightly and smiled before saying, “Lady Qianqian, can you really speak on behalf of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan?”

“Don’t worry, Young Lord Ye, I can definitely represent the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan.” Ao Qianqian said with a smile. After a few moments of silence, she cupped her fists and said, “I’m off, then, Young Lord Ye. I hope to see you again someday.”

With that, she turned around and disappeared.

Ye Guan fell into deep contemplation.

Ji Xuan smiled and asked, “Are you wondering why she did all that?”

Ye Guan nodded.

Ji Xuan laughed and explained, “Well, the answer’s simple. She’s probably thinking that your backers are people the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan cannot afford to provoke, so she decided to resolve the issue and get rid of the bad karma between you and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan.”

Ye Guan shook his head.

“It makes sense that she reached that conclusion. I mean, think about it, you’re already a Sword Sovereign at such a young age, so your backers are definitely extraordinary figures.

“I’m sure the woman in a blood-red skirt was a peerless powerhouse from millions of years ago. Anyway, yeah, you’re definitely not just an ordinary person,” said Ji Xuan.

Ye Guan wordlessly shook his head.

“Master Pagoda and my aunt are very strong, but...” Ye Guan trailed off. He sighed before saying, “I am actually an illegitimate child.”

Ji Xuan froze and went silent.

Ye Guan shook his head and sighed once more before going silent as well.

Little Pagoda was definitely powerful, but he was currently injured. In other words, Little Pagoda wasn't a peerless powerhouse. Otherwise, he wouldn't have gotten injured.

Furthermore, Little Pagoda was pretentious, so he couldn't possibly be a peerless powerhouse. It also seemed that Little Pagoda was worried about something because he kept on insisting on staying humble and low-key.

His plain-skirt aunt was extremely powerful, but even she didn't dare to face the Sword Master in battle. Unfortunately, Ye Guan had made an enemy out of the entire Guanxuan Academy!

Even if Ye Guan somehow managed to defeat everyone else, his efforts would immediately go down the drain if the Sword Master decided to stand on the Guanxuan Academy's side. After all, no one could really stop the Sword Master.

Ye Guan knew that it could happen because the Sword Master was close to the An Clan.

Ye Guan was also worried about the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. In fact, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion was already cooperating with the Guanxuan Academy by blacklisting him.

Ye Guan didn't really find it strange because Qin Guan, the founder of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, and the Sword Master were wife and husband. In other words, becoming an enemy of the Sword Master also meant becoming Qin Guan's enemy!

What was he supposed to do if the Sword Master and Qin Guan decided to kill him?

Ye Guan's temple throbbed at the thought of it alone.

The pressure was starting to feel too heavy.

After a while, Ye Guan clenched his fists. His gaze turned cold as he said, "Master Pagoda, I don't like this feeling. I feel like my destiny isn't under my control. I want to become stronger and wrestle control over my destiny!"

Little Pagoda chuckled and said, "I support you!"

Ye Guan nodded and declared, "I'll work hard! I'll work hard to become even stronger than the Sword Master. If the Guanxuan Academy still hasn't stopped bullying me by then, I'll annihilate the Guanxuan Academy and kill the Sword Master! If the Immortal Treasures Pavilion does the same, I will kill its founder, Qin Guan!

"I'm the master of my own destiny!"

Little Pagoda: ???

Ye Guan nodded once more and said, "It feels really great to have your support, Master Pagoda.

"I'm not really confident about achieving all those without your support, so you have to help me take them down if they insist on bullying me in the future!"

Little Pagoda didn't know what to say.

"You're doomed!" the mysterious voice cried out, "You're doomed, Little Pagoda! You're screwed!"

Chapter 123: Mu Tiandao

Little Pagoda was so startled by Ye Guan's words that his soul almost left his body.

Fuck! This bastard actually harbors such thoughts? Young Master wanted to kill his father, while this bastard wants to kill his father and mother! This is absurd! If Young Master and Young Mistress find out that this bastard has such thoughts, I'm screwed!

Little Pagoda realized that it was getting harder to predict how things would go. He finally understood what it meant to feel like dying. It was so difficult to control this brat!

Little Pagoda sighed to himself, full of worry about the future. He had already decided to retire after he was done with Ye Guan. He did not want to do this anymore.

Ye Guan nodded slightly and took Little Pagoda's silence as consent.

Without Little Pagoda's support, some things were just impossible to achieve.

Little Pagoda was speechless.

Ji Xuan next to him smiled and said, "It's great that the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan is no longer targeting you. You have one less great clan targeting you."

Ye Guan nodded. Honestly, he didn't really care whether or not he had one less enemy, as there were just too many people coming after him. One less or one more enemy no longer made a difference.

Of course, Ao Qianqian's apology had truly come as a curveball to him.

The star ship traveled slowly into the depths of the starry skies. It was quiet everywhere, and stars shone brightly upon them, creating a picturesque scene similar to a painting coming alive.

Ao Qianqian silently stared at the star ship from afar; her thoughts were inscrutable.

A black-robed old man next to her hesitated for a while before saying, "Young Clan Leader, should we inform the Clan Leader and the elders?"

“No need!” Ao Qianqian replied.

The black-robed old man opened his mouth to say something, but he decided not to say it.

Ao Qianqian noticed that, and she turned toward the black-robed old man with a frown.

The black-robed old man’s voice was trembling as he said, “Young Clan Leader, I’ve already informed the Clan Leader and the elders!”

Ao Qianqian narrowed her eyes, and a strong murderous intent inundated the black-robed old man. A terrifying dragon might immobilized him as well.

The black-robed old man’s expression changed in the face of Ao Qianqian’s wrath. He knelt on the ground and was about to say something, but Ao Qianqian sent a palm strike to his head.

Boom!

The black-robed old man exploded into a bloody mist, and even his soul was annihilated.

The nearby members of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan retreated in horror. They didn’t expect that the Young Clan Leader would suddenly kill one of them without saying anything.

“A dumb ally does more harm than a strong enemy.” Ao Qianqian spat coldly. She turned and glanced coldly at her clan members before saying, “All of you better not make a move against Ye Guan. Mark my words—I’ll kill those who dare to attack him!”

Ao Qianqian proceeded to carve a rift in space in front of her.

She stepped into the rift and disappeared.

She had to return to the clan to deal with the matter personally because she was well aware that those arrogant old fogeys of the clan would definitely attack Ye Guan.

She had to stop them in time, or the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan would face a disaster in the future!

The Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan members remained frozen where they were—they didn't dare to make a move after Ao Qianqian's declaration.

...

Meanwhile, someone else had been observing Ye Guan...

It was none other than Liu Bing of the Hantian Clan.

Liu Bing was silent as he observed the star ship from afar. He felt indignant about his loss back then, and it was all because he didn't get to unleash the full extent of his cultivation base.

However, Liu Bing realized that he was no longer Ye Guan's match after witnessing the battle between Ye Guan and Cao Bai.

He was doubtful if he could defeat Ye Guan, even if he gave it his all. Of course, he had a trump card up his sleeve, but it wasn't like Ye Guan had zero trump cards.

Revenge? Liu Bing pondered over it and hesitated. I don't feel good giving up just like this, but I'm too weak to take revenge.

Liu Bing thought about it for a long time, but he eventually sighed and turned around to leave. He hadn't given up on taking revenge.

He vowed to take revenge on the future. However, his plan was to keep delaying his revenge until he was certain that he would defeat Ye Guan. Until then, he wouldn't do anything against Ye Guan.

I'm not dumb enough to attack him right now.

Ye Guan was too strong, and there were only a handful of people capable of fighting him toe-to-toe, especially among his peers. In other words, Liu Bing couldn't afford to take revenge.

However, he could always take revenge anytime as long as Ye Guan was still alive!

Liu Bing vanished and disappeared into the depths of the starry skies.

...

Ye Guan and Ji Xuan's star ship came to a halt.

They had no choice but to stop because there were a thousand people ahead.

A young man stood at the helm of the group. He was wearing a brocade robe, and he was carrying a sheathed longsword in his right hand. He was smiling, but his smile was without mirth nor resentment.

A standard-bearer stood next to the young man, and the former was carrying a banner emblazoned with two bold words—Riverside Mercenary.

Another mercenary group? Ye Guan frowned at the sight.

The young man smiled at Ye Guan and said, "Young Lord Ye, I am the leader of the Riverside Mercenary. Young Lord Ye is too powerful for us to defeat one-on-one, so we decided to besiege you, you don't mind us doing that, right? Haha..."

"Besiege!" the group of mercenaries shouted at once. They clearly believed that they had a high chance of winning if they were to gang up on Ye Guan rather than fight him one-on-one.

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at the young man.

The young man smiled sinisterly and said, “Everyone! Follow—”

Swoosh!

Ye Guan abruptly disappeared with his sword.

The space in front of the young man was torn open. The young man’s pupils constricted, and he reached out to unsheathe his longsword. However, Ye Guan’s sword was already inches away from his forehead.

Fresh blood stained Ye Guan’s sword as he pushed it slightly into the young man’s forehead.

The young man’s eyes shot wide open.

He was about to open his mouth to speak, but Ye Guan shook his head and exclaimed, “I don’t want to hear it!”

Slash!

The young man’s head went flying.

The faces of the remaining mercenaries instantly changed. They were about to charge toward Ye Guan, but Ye Guan declared, “The first person to move will die.”

The first person to move will die? The mercenaries stopped in their tracks.

Who would make the first move?

The mercenaries looked at each other, but no one dared to do anything.

Moments later, a mercenary shouted, “Damn it! All of us should—”

Shwik!

A flying sword pierced the mercenary’s forehead, interrupting him.

The remaining mercenaries were horrified.

Ye Guan swept his gaze at the mercenaries and said, “I will kill whoever makes the first move and whoever speaks first.”

They stared at Ye Guan in fear. He’s too scary! He’s strong enough to kill any one of us in just one sword move!

Ye Guan ignored the remaining mercenaries and gathered his spoils.

Afterward, he turned around and returned to the star ship.

The mercenaries looked at each other, but none of them dared to do anything. They didn’t want to die!

Just like that, they watched as Ye Guan’s star ship departed.

Ye Guan closed both of his eyes. He could have killed them all if he wanted, but he chose not to do so because he was sure that there were lurkers waiting for him to exhaust himself after killing those mercenaries.

What could he do once he was exhausted? Ask Master Pagoda for help?

Master Pagoda was injured, so it wouldn’t be nice to ask him for help! Furthermore, Master Pagoda had already helped him many times before, and he couldn’t always rely on the former.

Ye Guan clenched his fists. He had to stay calm during times like this, and he couldn't afford to be reckless!

The mercenaries of the Riverside Mercenary didn't dare to move and only watched him depart. They were terrified upon seeing their leader die in the blink of an eye.

They definitely stood a chance if they attacked him at once, but how many of them would lose their lives? They had come here to make a fortune, not to throw their lives away.

In the end, the Riverside Mercenary left, defeated.

A young woman was staring at Ye Guan's star ship from afar. Her attire was rather plain; she was wearing a white skirt and a pair of slippers made from cloth. Her clothes were simple, but her appearance was alluring. She was so beautiful that everything else seemed dull in comparison.

A beautiful woman was standing behind her.

The young woman stared at Ye Guan and asked, "Is he the one who defeated that cultivator from Milky Way?"

The beautiful woman nodded and said, "Yes, and he even killed the Heavenly Dao of the Zhongtu Divine Continent!"

"Impressive!" replied the young woman.

"He's not just a simple cultivator. In fact, we still haven't been able to uncover his identity or origins," said the beautiful woman. She paused for a few moments before continuing. "If we kill him, we'll obtain three strands of Great Dao Destiny..."

The young woman shook her head and said, "The An Clan is the root cause of this issue. They're sore losers adamant about winning, and this has nothing to do with Young Lord Ye. If I were in his shoes, I would have done the same as him."

"We shouldn't take the An Clan's side just because of their special status."

The beautiful woman nodded slightly, but she fell silent.

The young woman suddenly frowned and said, "I truly didn't expect to see the Academy blatantly siding with the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan."

The beautiful woman shook her head and replied, "This matter is more complicated than what it seems. They're targeting Young Lord Ye, but the aristocratic families faction and the great clans faction within the Main Guanxuan Academy are doing that to suppress the academic faction in the bigger picture."

The young woman muttered, "The Academy no longer upholds justice."

The beautiful woman's face changed slightly, and she hurriedly said, "Young Miss, you mustn't criticize the Academy!"

The young woman ignored the beautiful woman and looked away to stare at the star ship. Moments later, the young woman opened her palm and sent a storage ring toward the beautiful woman.

"Give this to him for me," she said.

"A space ship?" The beautiful woman froze. She hesitated for quite a while before asking, "Is this necessary, Young Miss?"

The young woman shook her head and said, "I agree with what you said earlier. He's not just a simple cultivator, so help me out."

The beautiful woman was unwilling. She didn't want to wade into the muddy waters around Ye Guan.

The young woman silently stared at the beautiful woman.

The beautiful woman's expression changed.

She had accompanied the young woman for such a long time that she could easily deduce the latter's thoughts. Her deduction was telling her that the young woman was starting to get mad, so she didn't hesitate any longer.

She turned into a ray of light that chased after the star ship.

Ye Guan's eyebrows furrowed. He whipped around and slashed out, and his sword force collided against a ray of light.

Boom!

The ray of light dimmed, revealing the figure of a beautiful woman.

Ye Guan stared murderously at her.

The beautiful woman hurriedly said, "Young Lord Ye, I have no ill intentions!"

She opened her palm, and a storage ring floated over to Ye Guan. Ye Guan examined the storage ring and found a space ship inside of it, and it was more than five times bigger than the star ship he was using.

Ye Guan was stunned. Space ships were fast despite their size, so Ye Guan reckoned that he would reach Qingzhou in at most ten days using a space ship.

However, Ye Guan was slightly confused by the unexpected boon.

He stared intently at the beautiful woman and asked, "Why?"

The beautiful woman replied, "Young Miss told me to give you that space ship in hopes that you'll reach Qingzhou as soon as possible."

Ye Guan was bewildered. "Young Miss?"

The beautiful woman nodded and glanced somewhere. Ye Guan followed her gaze and saw a young woman standing thousands of meters away. She was standing in the void silently, and her looks bedazzled Ye Guan.

She's beautiful! It was Ye Guan's first time seeing another woman whose beauty was comparable to Little Jia's beauty.

The young woman was surprised to see Ye Guan staring at her.

She clasped her hands tightly and hesitated for quite a while before nodding slightly in greeting. She was clearly not that great at socializing, and she also seemed a bit meek.

Ye Guan stared at the beautiful woman once more before asking, "Who is she?"

The beautiful woman shook her head and said, "I can't tell you anything, Young Lord Ye, unless Young Miss explicitly tells me to do so."

Ye Guan pondered briefly before asking once more, "Can I talk to her?"

The beautiful woman shook her head once again and said, "Young Miss isn't that great at socializing, and she's not fond of talking to others, so I'm afraid that I will have to reject your request, Young Lord Ye."

The beautiful woman didn't wait for Ye Guan's reply as she turned around and left.

"All the best, Young Lord Ye!" said the beautiful woman before she disappeared into the distance.

Left all alone, Ye Guan frowned. Who was she?

Ye Guan seemed to have thought of something, so he inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda, do you know her?"

Little Pagoda replied sarcastically, "Am I omnipotent?"

Ye Guan didn't know what to say.

Meanwhile, the beautiful woman approached the young woman, who seemed a bit displeased. As expected, the young woman grumbled, "You could have just left after giving him the storage ring, why did you drag me with you in front of him?"

The beautiful woman chuckled bitterly and replied, "How do you think he would interpret it if I only did that, Young Miss?"

"I understand." The young woman shook her head in resignation and said, "Let's go."

"Young Miss, where are we going?" asked the beautiful woman.

"We're going to the Main Guanxuan Academy," the young woman replied, "There are many ancient books there, and we might stumble upon Master!"

The beautiful woman smiled and said, "I don't think Department Chief Mu is in the Academy right now."

The young woman smiled as well and explained, "Let's just go there and try our luck!"

The beautiful woman seemed to have recalled something, and she said, "Young Miss, I don't think the Guanxuan Universe's Main Academy will let us in if we just go there like this."

The young woman's lips curved up slightly. She opened her palm, revealing a sword.

"I have the Heavenly Dao Sword that Master gave me, so I don't think they're daring enough to stop me."

The beautiful woman chuckled and nodded. "You're right. They're not that daring."

With that, the two flew and made their way to the Main Guanxuan Academy.

The beautiful woman suddenly asked, "Young Miss, is it because you helped Young Lord Ye out of the kindness of your heart that you didn't want to let him know who you are?"

The young woman chuckled and replied, "I simply wanted to do a good deed. There was no need to reveal my identity because I'm not expecting any repayment."

.

Hearing that, the woman shook her head and sighed. Young Miss is great in every aspect, but her one weakness is that she's too kind. Yes, kindness is a huge weakness in the world of cultivation.

The beautiful woman turned to look in Ye Guan's direction before sighing once again.

We lost another?space ship, and we're getting nothing in return once again! What a waste!

Chapter 124: Unity Between Heart and Sword, Man and Sword Unification!

Ye Guan stared blankly at the storage ring in front of him.

She casually gave him a space ship. If that wasn't the epitome of generosity, then what would it be? However, she was so generous that Ye Guan couldn't help but feel doubtful of her intentions.

Ji Xuan suddenly laughed and said, "What if she has taken a liking to you and is trying to take you as her husband?"

Ye Guan shook his head and replied, "That's impossible!"

"Why not?" Ji Xuan asked.

"Stop making fun of me, Lady Ji Xuan..." Ye Guan chuckled bitterly. She has taken a liking to me? She didn't look like the type who'd like someone so easily.

However, Ye Guan couldn't figure out why she was so generous.

They didn't even know each other, so why did she help him?

A space ship was extremely expensive!

Ji Xuan pondered briefly before saying, "I think you don't have to think too much about her intentions. Perhaps she decided to give you a hand because she couldn't withstand the An Clan and the Academy's shamelessness."

"That makes sense." Ye Guan chuckled hollowly. He looked at the storage ring in his hand and carved the young woman's act of kindness in his heart. He would definitely repay her good deed in the future.

Moments later, they used the space ship and were now traveling much faster than before. However, Ye Guan's heart started aching because it meant that his gold spiritual crystals were being spent faster than ever.

He felt like he was burning money! However, it wasn't too bad, as he had killed quite a number of people and obtained a ton of gold spiritual crystals from them. If it hadn't been for those people, Ye Guan's wallet would have dried up long ago.

Ji Xuan suddenly said, "It seems that we'll reach Qingzhou in less than ten days, which means that we should encounter fewer attackers."

Ji Xuan paused to stare deeply at Ye Guan before adding, "It means that they're going to make their move soon!"

Ye Guan nodded and stared into the distance. The starry sky was beautiful and quiet, but he could feel countless eyes staring at him.

Those eyes belonged to those who wanted to kill him, but it seemed that they were keeping each other in check by letting someone else initiate the attack. With that thought in mind, Ye Guan hopped onto his sword and flew away.

Ji Xuan was stunned. What is he trying to do?

Ye Guan looked around and boisterously laughed. "I'm sure you people have come here to kill me, so why are you guys still hiding in the shadows?"

Ye Guan lifted his right hand and caressed his neck with a smile. "My head is worth three strands of the Great Dao Destiny, are you not going to come out and get it?"

Ye Guan stood all alone amidst the starry skies with a sword in hand. His white robe fluttered under the undulations of his sword intent.

Ji Xuan smiled while staring at him. She had already known long ago that Ye Guan was the type to dominate rather than submit. Ji Xuan abruptly blushed. Seriously, what am I thinking right now?

The lurkers in the shadows didn't expect that Ye Guan would challenge them openly.

What is this bastard trying to do? Has he gone crazy? Does he not know how many people are trying to kill him?

The lurkers in the shadows were bewildered, and they didn't respond to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan definitely had trump cards up his sleeves, but in the end, everyone was aware of his breadth as a cultivator. Indeed, he was a Sword Sovereign, but his cultivation base was a bit lacking.

Otherwise, none of these lurkers would have come here.

The space in front of Ye Guan trembled slightly and was torn open.

A young man slowly emerged from the rift in space. He stared at Ye Guan and jeered, "Since when did Zhongzhou's talents become arrogant? Let me teach you how—"

Shwik!

A dazzling sword light erupted, and before anyone could react, Ye Guan's sword was already a few inches away from the young man's forehead.

The lurkers in the shadows were shocked.

The young man's eyes widened, but before he could say anything, Ye Guan slashed out.

Slice!

The young man's head flew into the air.

Ye Guan retracted his sword and said calmly, "Next challenger, please!"

Next challenger!

Ye Guan sounded calm, but what he had done just now was like a powerful thunderbolt from out of the blue for everyone.

It was an instant kill. The young man had died in just one sword move!

Ye Guan looked around and suggested, "Since no one is daring enough to attack me, why don't all of you attack together?"

Attack together?

The lurkers in the shadows were furious. How arrogant!

"Hahaha!" A peal of boisterous laughter echoed nearby. "Sword Sovereigns are indeed terrifying! I guess there's a reason why Sword Sovereigns are rare."

Ye Guan turned and saw a white-haired young man.

"Zhang Longhu!" a lurker in the shadows exclaimed, "He's ranked sixth on the Lingxu Blessed Land's gifted list! He's a super talent of the Lingxu Blessed Land!"

Ranked sixth on the Lingxu Blessed Land's gifted list! Ye Guan stared intently at the white-haired young man. The white-haired young man was exuding a terrifying aura that made the space in a thirty-meter radius around him tremble ever so slightly.

He was a foe to be reckoned with, but the scariest part was that a strand of the Great Dao could be felt from the young man's aura. In other words, he was a Dao Tribulation Realm cultivator!

Zhang Longhu smiled at Ye Guan and asked, "Shall we exchange a few moves, Young Lord Ye?"

Ye Guan agreed. "Sure!"

Zhang Longhu grinned and stomped with his right leg.

Boom!

The space beneath his right leg's heel collapsed, and Zhang Longhu used the force behind the destruction to jump toward Ye Guan.

Flames and lightning burst out of him, and the space in front of him collapsed as he went past them, creating a horrifying sight. Most importantly, he was too fast. He still hadn't reached Ye Guan, but his aura had already enveloped Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's eyes shone fiercely. I've finally met someone worth fighting!

Ye Guan chose not to face the terrifying attack head-on. His figure blurred, and he reappeared several meters away.

Zhang Longhu was fast, but Ye Guan was faster.

Boom!

Zhang Longhu's attack struck nothing but space, causing it to collapse. Zhang Longhu's pupils constricted, and he whipped around to see a sword noiselessly flying toward him. The sword was flying toward his neck.

The oncoming sword made Zhang Longhu feel a sense of crisis. He was shocked. He knew Ye Guan was fast, but there was indeed a vast difference between knowing and first-hand experience.

He couldn't dodge the oncoming sword, so he didn't bother trying. He clenched his fists and crossed them in front of his chest.

"Armor!" he cried out.

Boom!

A golden armor instantly enveloped Zhang Longhu.

Clang!

A shrill noise echoed as Ye Guan's sword stopped dead in its tracks upon colliding with the golden armor.

Zhang Longhu yelled, "Reflect!"

Rumble!

A golden wave shattered Ye Guan's sword and sent him flying thirty meters away.

Zhang Longhu put one foot forward and clenched his right fist. A golden light surged and enveloped his right arm. He jumped toward Ye Guan and shouted, "Open Mountain!"

Boom!

A golden wave appeared behind Zhang Longhu's fist, creating a terrifying sight.

Ye Guan's pupils constricted, and he retreated frantically.

Boom!

A deafening explosion echoed throughout the starry sky.

A massive black hole spanning hundreds of meters wide appeared where Ye Guan was standing earlier. Multiple rifts surrounded the black hole, and those rifts were spreading at an alarming rate.

Zhang Longhu had only sent one punch, but one punch was enough for him to create a black hole.

The lurkers in the shadows were horrified.

However, Ye Guan wasn't idle. While the lurkers in the shadows were reeling from the shock, the space in front of Zhang Longhu was torn open and out came a sword!

Ye Guan's sword seemed capable of killing anyone in one hit, so the lurkers in the shadows felt a shiver down their spines upon seeing the flying sword.

Zhang Longhu was incredibly strong, and his punches possessed cataclysmic might, seemingly capable of collapsing the heavens and splitting the earth, but Ye Guan was too fast.

Zhang Longhu fought boldly with his fists, whereas Ye Guan fought like an old cunning fox, lashing out with his sword at unexpected moments, making the lurkers in the shadows feel nervous about every single one of Ye Guan's movements.

Zhang Longhu's expression changed. He had to admit that he had underestimated Ye Guan's speed and experience. Without sufficient experience, Ye Guan wouldn't have been capable of finding tiny gaps to take advantage of and retaliate.

Ye Guan was doing a great job at defending and counter-attacking at the same time!

In the face of Ye Guan's sword attack, Zhang Longhu didn't dare to be careless at all. He crossed his arms in front of his chest and summoned that golden armor once again.

Clang!

Ye Guan's sword collided with the golden armor, and the impact caused Zhang Longhu to fly away. Moments later, a golden wave struck Ye Guan's sword, shattering it into pieces.

However, Ye Guan remained undeterred as he sent yet another sword toward Zhang Longhu.

Clang!

The sword collided with Zhang Longhu's golden armor and forced him to retreat.

A few moments later, a golden wave burst and shattered Ye Guan's sword.

Every single one of Ye Guan's sword moves was lethal, and he was relentless in his attacks, clearly unwilling to give Zhang Longhu even the time to breathe, not to mention retaliate.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The lurkers in the shadows watched as Zhang Longhu retreated. Ye Guan had completely suppressed him. He couldn't make any move at all!

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was slowly approaching Zhang Longhu while sending out ray after ray of sword light toward the latter from a safe distance using the Royal Sword Art.

The lurkers in the shadows were dumbfounded, but they were stupefied upon seeing Ye Guan close his eyes.

Ye Guan's eyes were closed, but his attacks didn't stop. In fact, the lurkers in the shadows were horrified to realize that Ye Guan's attacks were getting heavier and heavier as time went on.

Ji Xuan's expression changed. "His mind and sword intent have become one. It doesn't matter if he's swinging his sword personally or if he has sent it flying toward his enemies. There is not much difference between the two anymore.

"This is the legendary unity between heart and sword, man and sword unification!"

Man and Sword Unification!

The Sword Master's Sword Manual had described such a state, and a swordsman becoming one with their sword meant their attacks would become several times stronger than without Man and Sword Unification.

While under the Man and Sword Unification state, a swordsman would lose track of everything else aside from their sword.

A Sword Sovereign achieving Man and Sword Unification meant that they were on the cusp of becoming a Great Sword Sovereign!

The fastest swordsman to make a breakthrough from Sword Sovereign to Great Sword Sovereign was Ye Yu, and she had done it in just twelve years.

She was the fastest swordsman to have become a Great Sword Sovereign over the past thirty million years.

Ye Guan had just achieved the legendary state of Man and Sword Unification, which meant that he would inevitably become a Great Sword Sovereign. It was just a matter of time!

Could Ye Guan beat Great Sword Sovereign Ye Yu's record and become the fastest swordsman to become a Great Sword Sovereign?

Chapter 125: Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign!

Unity between heart and sword, Man and Sword Unification!

A few powerhouses lurking in the shadows also recognized the special state that Ye Guan had entered, and they were incomparably shocked!

A Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign!

A Sword Sovereign was a monstrous talent, but a Great Sword Sovereign was a step higher than that. Great Sword Sovereigns were heaven-defying talents!

They could even leave their names on the Qianqiu List.

The Qianqiu List was created by the Guanxuan Academy's Literary Department. The Qianqiu List contained the names of all heaven-defying talents since the Sword Master's generation, as well as remarkable and noteworthy figures.

There had only been a hundred people on the Qianqiu list.

Those on the Qianqiu List were unprecedented talents! It was the most prestigious list of the Guanxuan Universe because everyone on the list was a heaven-defying talent over the past thirty million years.

Ye Guan had to become a Great Sword Sovereign within the next twelve years, or it would be difficult for him to enter the Qianqiu List. Nonetheless, he could still be considered an extremely monstrous talent, even if he failed to enter the Qianqiu List.

The lurkers in the shadows were stupefied.

Meanwhile, Zhang Longhu still couldn't do anything against Ye Guan.

Boom!

There was an explosion as Zhang Longhu's golden armor finally collapsed.

The instant it shattered, a sword arrived a few inches away from his forehead.

Everyone fell silent.

Zhang Longhu had lost!

A black-robed old man suddenly appeared near Ye Guan, and he cried out, "Please have mercy, Young Lord Ye!"

Ye Guan ignored the old man and opened his eyes. He looked at Zhang Longhu and waved his hand.

The sword made out of sword energy scattered into innumerable light particles.

Zhang Longhu remained unmoving.

Ye Guan calmly said, "That was a good fight."

Zhang Longhu's expression was complicated.

"Congratulations," he said.

"Why?" Ye Guan asked, bewildered.

Zhang Longhu replied, "I'm congratulating you for reaching the realm of unity between heart and sword, Man and Sword Unification."

Ye Guan hesitated before asking, "Unity between heart and sword, Man and Sword Unification? What's that?"

Zhang Longhu was speechless. The fuck? Are you kidding me?

However, Ye Guan sounded serious as he explained, "I really have no idea what you're talking about. Earlier, I had comprehended something, and I suddenly found myself in a very mysterious and profound state.

"I have no idea what Man and Sword Unification means. I've never heard of that before."

Ye Guan didn't seem like he was lying, prompting Zhang Longhu to ask, "You have a master, right?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes, but my master is seldom around."

Zhang Longhu went silent. Your master is seldom around, but you managed to become such a powerful swordsman? I don't even know what to say...

Zhang Longhu sighed to himself. He hated to admit it, but he did feel a bit humbled. He was a rare talent in the eyes of other people, and he even thought that he was a rare talent. However, he was clearly insignificant compared to Ye Guan.

He no longer felt that he was the best, only better than the average.

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Can you tell me more about the Man and Sword Unification?"

Zhang Longhu emerged from his complicated thoughts and explained, "It's a state unique to swordsmen. It happens when your heart and body become one, and it is a state where your sword's location does not matter anymore. Those capable of entering the Man and Sword Unification state are Quasi-Great Sword Sovereigns!"

Quasi-Great Sword Sovereigns!

Ye Guan fell silent. He pondered briefly before saying, "I understand!"

Zhang Longhu stared deeply at Ye Guan before saying, "Young Lord Ye, I concede defeat!"

So what if I concede defeat? I—Zhang Longhu—am not afraid of losing at all.

The worst cultivators were the sore losers.

Zhang Longhu considered those people as worse than animals.

A cultivator had to be a good sport. One would lose some, one would win some.

Ye Guan stared at Zhang Longhu and replied, "Brother Zhang, I would like to ask for your guidance on something, but I'm afraid I might offend—"

Zhang Longhu interrupted with a peal of laughter and said, "Brother Ye, you're being too polite! I don't think I can provide you with guidance, but if there is something you don't understand, ask away."

Ye Guan nodded and asked, "Your fists were amazing, Brother Zhang. Every punch of yours contained the power of a thousand fists. I couldn't be careless at all because your punches were strong enough to turn me into a bloody mist.

"Anyway, are you using an Imperial-rank martial skill?"

Zhang Longhu grinned and replied, "Yes! It's a martial skill from the Lingxu Blessed Land. I've been training my fists since I was young, but I also incorporated some of my own ideas into my fists... Brother Ye, were my punches really strong?"

Ye Guan nodded. He sounded serious as he said, "Yes, especially that Open Mountain move you made earlier! It was terrifying. I could feel your fist's suffocating power before it could even reach me."

Ye Guan shook his head and sighed in admiration before continuing. "The Lingxu Blessed Land is indeed worthy of its reputation as the top Blessed Land of the universe.

"Brother Zhang, you really made me realize that there is always a higher mountain to climb. I must visit the Lingxu Blessed Land one day and see what it looks like for myself!"

The black-robed old man was from Lingxu Blessed Land as well, and he smiled in delight at Ye Guan's words.

They were reassured. They lost to Ye Guan, but look! He was already a Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign despite his young age, but he was still full of admiration for the Lingxu Blessed Land. He even wanted to visit them.

It had to be known that Ye Guan hadn't said such words upon defeating Cao Bai.

Zhang Longhu was also delighted, and he replied, "Brother Ye, tell me once you're ready to visit the Lingxu Blessed Land. I'll personally show you around and show you our beautiful land!"

Ye Guan smiled and replied, "Let's spar once again by then."

"That goes without saying!" Zhang Longhu boisterously laughed.

"Cough!" Ye Guan suddenly coughed violently, and he looked beyond pallid.

Zhang Longhu stared at Ye Guan in concern. "Are you okay, Brother Ye?"

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "I'm fine. Brother Zhang's fist intent was too strong, so my organs got a bit injured."

Zhang Longhu felt a bit bad upon hearing that.

"I should have held back, Brother Ye. If I had, you wouldn't have—"

"It's fine." Ye Guan chuckled. Then, he looked around worriedly.

Zhang Longhu saw that and said, "Brother Ye, I'll protect you for three days."

Three days!

The black-robed old man froze. He wanted to say something, but he decided not to say anything upon seeing Ye Guan's condition. In addition, Ye Guan was such a promising young man that it would be great if they managed to befriend him.

Lingxu Blessed Land was definitely capable of protecting him for three days.

Ye Guan hesitated and muttered, "Brother Zhang, I don't want to trouble you or the Lingxu—"

Zhang Longhu shook his head and interrupted. "Don't worry about it, Brother Ye. It's just three days, my Lingxu Blessed Land is definitely capable of protecting you for the next three days."

Ye Guan nodded slightly and said, "I'll have to thank you, then, Brother Zhang."

Zhang Longhu nodded and replied, "All right, you should focus on healing up."

Ye Guan nodded and cupped his fists toward Zhang Longhu and the black-robed old man as a gesture of thanks.

The black-robed old man nodded slightly and said, "You should focus on recovering as soon as possible."

Ye Guan nodded once again before returning to his space ship.

Ji Xuan stared worriedly at him before asking, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine!" said Ye Guan. He then sat cross-legged on the deck to tend to his injuries.

Meanwhile, Zhang Longhu looked around and declared, "Everyone, my Lingxu Blessed Land will be escorting Brother Ye for three days. If anyone wants to kill Brother Ye within the next three days, you may come and find me instead."

The lurkers in the shadows fell silent. These old fogeys would never want to provoke the Sword Sect or the Lingxu Blessed Land, even if their life depended on it, so they felt somber upon hearing Zhang Longhu's declaration.

Fuck! Aren't you all from the Guanyuan Universe? Why are you guys helping him after putting a bounty on his head and even sending out an arrest warrant? What is this? A joke?

Zhang Longhu walked up to the black-robed old man and said, "Grand Elder..."

The black-robed old man nodded slightly. He looked dignified as he replied, "It's fine, our Lingxu Blessed Land can definitely afford to help him for three days."

Zhang Longhu sighed in relief. He wouldn't be able to protect Ye Guan by himself, as he was aware that there were terrifying powerhouses who would definitely attempt to kill Ye Guan. Those ancient families and clans had even sent people to kill Ye Guan.

Zhang Longhu needed the support of the Lingxu Blessed Land if he wanted to protect Ye Guan in the next three days.

The black-robed old man stared at Ye Guan and said seriously, "His talent is insane, so his backer must be an extremely powerful powerhouse. It would be great to be his friend."

Zhang Longhu nodded, but he hesitated for a bit before saying, "The Academy..."

The black-robed old man said, "He's going to Qingzhou for the sword aura that the Sword Master had left behind. If he manages to summon the Sword Master, will the Sword Master side with the An Clan? What do you think?"

"I don't know; it's hard to say.

"Indeed. The An Clan has a special relationship with the Sword Master, but I feel that it's a gamble worth taking. What if the Sword Master handles the matter fairly? You have to know that the An Clan is at fault here. If the Sword Master decides to be impartial, the An Clan's fate would be sealed."

Zhang Longhu contemplated the black-robed old man's words in silence.

Indeed! Once the Sword Master adjudicates that the An Clan was at fault, the Guanxuan Academy will immediately retract the arrest warrant on Ye Guan. The aristocratic families faction and the great clans faction will be brought down to their fucking knees!

It was still doubtful if Ye Guan could even make it to Qingzhou, but the Lingxu Blessed Land was betting on the fact that he would make it to Qingzhou and that the Sword Master would take his side.

The black-robed old man glanced at Ye Guan once again. He was willing to gamble because he felt that Ye Guan was a great young man, and it was also because the Lingxu Blessed Land could handle the ramifications.

Respect begets respect. Relationships require mutual consent, but...

The Lingxu Blessed Land was also prepared to fight Ye Guan if he decided to wipe out those who had dared to make an attempt on his life. After all, the Lingxu Blessed Land had done just that as well.

Meanwhile, Little Pagoda suddenly said, "You really are an evil little bastard..."

He was obviously referring to what Ye Guan had done earlier.

Ye Guan pondered briefly and said, "Master Pagoda, I'm not evil at all."

"How come?" Little Pagoda asked in confusion.

"I believe that one's actions are what matters the most," said Ye Guan before explaining, "If we say that someone is evil, just because they harbor selfish thoughts, everyone in this world would be evil..."

"I was just respecting Brother Zhang and the Lingxu Blessed Land's faces. Otherwise, their reputation would go down the drain. Should I have done that instead?"

Little Pagoda went silent.

However, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet. "I had selfish intentions, yes, but my actions didn't bring any harm to the Lingxu Blessed Land or to Brother Zhang. They got to save their face, and I got a new friend instead of an enemy. Isn't that great?"

Little Pagoda still didn't say anything.

Ye Guan said, "I had my own selfish intentions, but Brother Zhang and that black-robed old man must have their own selfish intentions as well. If we judge people for their thoughts, won't everyone in the world be evil?"

Ye Guan shook his head and added, "If we consider every person with selfish thoughts as bad people, I wonder how many good people there would be in this world..."

Little Pagoda truly had no idea what to say.

Chapter 126: Princess Xin

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Ye Guan went silent and focused on his recovery.

Meanwhile, the mysterious voice said, "That made sense."

Little Pagoda remained silent.

The mysterious voice asked hesitantly, "Little Pagoda, are you angry?"

Little Pagoda calmly asked, "Am I petty?"

The mysterious voice chuckled. "Actually, you should be thankful. This guy has a good personality, and the way that he handled the situation just now shows that he is a smart person who knows how to give and take. He also knows how to manipulate situations to get what he wants. I believe that he has a bright future ahead of him!"

Little Pagoda agreed, "You're right! He has exceeded our expectations many times before, but I think we have to continue hiding the truth from him. Otherwise, he'll go down the wrong path. I'll hide the truth from him as long as I can!"

The mysterious voice chuckled. Little Pagoda was clearly holding a grudge.

Ye Guan was busy recovering and reflecting on his battle with Zhang Longhu.

He didn't lie. He truly thought that Zhang Longhu was strong. Zhang Longhu's fist was incredibly powerful. If he had been slightly careless, he would have died. He was fast, but he wasn't invincible.

This was especially so in his current situation. Those daring enough to challenge him were those confident of handling Ye Guan's speed. More importantly, Ye Guan still hadn't encountered people from the Guanxuan Academy.

He also still hadn't encountered a powerhouse from the An Clan.

The An Clan was defeated, but it was a clan with deep roots. They were still going strong. The An Clan would definitely not allow Ye Guan to take a step on Qingzhou.

Meanwhile, the Main Guanxuan Academy would definitely take the An Clan's side. After all, if the Sword Master showed up and stood on his side, the Guanxuan Academy would suffer greatly.

The aristocratic families faction and the great clans factions couldn't take that big of a risk, so they would definitely stop him from reaching Qingzhou no matter what.

Ye Guan clenched his fists. This is going to be difficult.

He would be lying if he said that he wasn't stressed.

He had made an enemy out of the Main Guanxuan Academy, and he was about to skip the hierarchy by going directly to the Sword Master. Ye Guan reckoned that the Main Guanxuan Academy wouldn't let that happen.

They would definitely do their best to kill him.

Ye Guan shook his head and sighed. Casting his thoughts aside, Ye Guan decided to focus on recovering. He had to make sure that he was always in optimal condition.

The next day, Ji Xuan approached Ye Guan and said, "At this rate, we should reach Qingzhou in nine days so long as nothing goes wrong. The Lingxu Blessed Land's promise is three days, which means we'll be safe for six[1] days.

"However, I'm worried if the Lingxu Blessed Land can even fulfill their promise..."

Ye Guan looked around, and his face fell upon noticing a few mysterious auras around the space ship. The black-robed old man and Zhang Longhu also wore stern expressions.

The mysterious auras had gotten stronger and were only getting stronger.

Cao Bai had chased them all with one sentence, but the owners of those mysterious auras were powerful powerhouses.

"Grand Elder, what do we do?" asked Zhang Longhu.

The black-robed old man stayed silent

He knew that the people hiding in the dark were trying to force them to run. They still hadn't made a move to give the Lingxu Blessed Land face, but it was only a matter of time before he and Zhang Longhu had to leave.

The black-robed old man felt awful being stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Just then, Ye Guan shouted, "Brother Zhang, I've recovered! I don't need your help anymore!"

The black-robed old man and Zhang Longhu turned to look at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled at them and said, "Thank you for the escort. The two of you can go."

Zhang Longhu hesitated for a while before muttering, "Brother Ye..."

Ye Guan nodded and said, "I will remember this favor. You can go; I'll face them myself."

Zhang Longhu fell silent.

Ye Guan turned toward the black-robed old man and smiled before saying, "Senior, please leave with Brother Zhang."

The black-robed old man hesitated before replying, "All the best, Young Lord Ye."

He opened his palm, and a white jade bottle flew toward Ye Guan.

Then, he grabbed Zhang Longhu and disappeared.

They couldn't stay here any longer.

However, it wasn't like the Lingxu Blessed Land was too weak to face the owner of those mysterious auras. Even the Sword Sect would give up on escorting Ye Guan at this point, much less the Lingxu Blessed Land.

Ye Guan examined the white jade bottle and saw three Immortal-grade spiritual pills inside of it. These pills would definitely heal his internal injuries, and he would instantly recover a vast amount of profound energy upon consuming a pill.

Ye Guan muttered, "They're thoughtful..."

These three Immortal-grade spiritual pills would keep him in battle for much longer.

Ye Guanzhi also gave him Immortal-grade spiritual pills, and Ye Guan hadn't used them up just yet.

There were times when fights would become a war of attrition, which meant a slight difference in resources would decide the outcome of the fight.

Ji Xuan looked around and pointed out. "There are more of them now."

Ye Guan fell silent. Indeed, the divine sense transfixed on their space ship had gotten thicker, and it was only getting thicker. In other words, more and more cultivators were heading their way.

A million immortal spiritual crystals and three strands of Great Dao Destiny. Who wouldn't be enticed?

Ye Guan chuckled, prompting Ji Xuan to ask, "Why are you laughing?"

Ye Guan remarked, "I just can't believe that I'm so expensive!"

Ji Xuan shook her head and laughed.

Just then, Ye Guan's expression turned grim.

He stared deeply at Ji Xuan and said, "Lady Ji Xuan, are you sure you want to stay here? I really don't want to drag you down with me!"

Ji Xuan's gaze deepened as she replied, "Everyone knows that I'm your companion. I can't leave, and I won't leave. And what can I do even if I left?"

Ye Guan went silent.

Ji Xuan added, "Don't worry, I'll run once it becomes necessary. I won't die with you."

Ye Guan was reassured, and he nodded. "All right!"

He truly didn't want to drag people down with him.

Rumble!

The space ship abruptly slowed down.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed, and he watched as the space ship slowed down to a turtle's pace until it came to a complete stop.

A young woman in a long purple shirt could be seen around thirty meters away from the space ship. Her long hair draped over her waist like a curtain, and she was wearing a veil while holding a deep blue rod in her right hand.

The deep blue rod sparkled like a crystal, and there was a lamp at the tip of the rod.

The lamp gave off a light capable of vanquishing the darkness of the starry skies, which made the rod appear mysterious.

She's a Divine Mage! Ye Guan and Ji Xuan revealed serious looks.

Ji Xuan stared at the young woman and pointed out. "She's definitely a Sky Realm Divine Mage, at the very least!"

Ye Guan went silent upon hearing that. He could still remember the Divine Mage he had encountered on his journey to Qingzhou, and he could still remember how the battle had become a challenge because of that Divine Mage's presence.

She wasn't even a Sky Realm Divine Mage, but now, Ye Guan was about to go up against a Sky Realm Divine Mage.

More importantly, she was definitely from the Guanxuan Universe.

Divine Mages from the Zhongtu Divine Continent couldn't compare to Divine Mages from the Guanxuan Universe based on the number of Divine Mage inheritances within the Guanxuan Universe.

The young woman's clothing also looked expensive, and Ye Guan couldn't help but wonder if Divine Mages needed to prepare a lot before they could fight effectively.

Honestly, Ye Guan didn't like fighting Divine Mages. A Divine Mage could cast many spells with many different effects, so they had always been a troublesome bunch to handle.

Just then, the young woman spoke, "Young Lord Ye, I'm Qiao Xingyao from the Time Paradise, and as you can see, I'm a Divine Mage. I'm here for a spar."

Time Paradise! The Time Paradise was the strongest among the Nine Heavens and Ten Lands.

Ye Guan asked, "Are you here for the strands of Great Dao Destiny?"

Qiao Xingyao pondered briefly before saying, “Yes, but I changed my mind after seeing your disposition wasn’t evil. However, I’m already here, so it would be a waste to just go home like this, so I stepped out to spar with you today.

”I don’t have any other intentions.”

”You’re a student of the Academy.” Ye Guan pointed out and asked, “Are you not afraid of incurring the Academy’s displeasure?”

Qiao Xingyao shook her head and replied, “Young Lord Ye, morals are a person’s own standard of behavior and beliefs. Even a child can see who is in the right and who is in the wrong.”

Qiao Xingyao paused for a while before continuing. “Unfortunately, I cannot do anything about your predicament.”

Ye Guan nodded. “I understand.”

People like Ye Guanzhi were rare in the Academy—no, Ye Guan reckoned that Ye Guanzhi was one of a kind. She was the only one daring enough to question the Academy’s integrity.

However, Ye Guan wasn’t really blaming those organizations, powers, and individuals who were afraid of the Academy. He also didn’t blame Qiao Xingyao for her inability to intervene.

Ye Guan would have done the same if he were in her shoes.

Qiao Xingyao said, “Young Lord Ye, please spar with me.”

Ye Guan nodded, but Ji Xuan interrupted. “Lady Qiao, you’re strong, so Little Guan will definitely sustain injuries if you spar with him because it’s definitely going to be an intense spar.

”Once he’s injured, I’m afraid that the lurkers will take advantage of that to attack him!

Qiao Xingyao frowned. Ji Xuan's words made sense.

Ji Xuan continued. "Lady Qiao, I'm afraid you and the Time Paradise will be implicated even if you decide to escort us for even one day. How about we postpone the sparring between you two?"

Qiao Xingyao pondered over Ji Xuan's suggestion.

"I didn't think that far," she said with a nod. Qiao Xingyao then looked at Ye Guan and said, "You must spar with me in the future, Young Lord Ye."

"Sure!" Ye Guan smiled. "If I survive this journey to Qingzhou, I'll go to the Time Paradise one day to visit you."

Qiao Xingyao was delighted. "I will show you around by—"

"I'm afraid he won't live to see that day!"

Qiao Xingyao frowned at the interruption.

Everyone turned around and saw a man wearing a luxurious robe that made him appear as though he were royalty. A long saber was on his waist, and his hair that was touching his shoulders fluttered gently.

The powerful saber energy he was emitting made the space around him quiver ever so slightly.

"Marquis Hao!" a lurker in the shadows exclaimed, "He's ranked fourth on the Divine Martial List—the youngest Marquis throughout the Gu Clan's history."

The Gu Clan! The lurkers were stunned upon hearing the Gu Clan's name.

They were part of the aristocratic faction of the Main Guanxuan Academy, and they were one of the most powerful clans throughout the Guanxuan universe.

They were so powerful with so many people under them that they resembled a nation more than a clan. Of course, it went without saying that the powerhouses of the Gu Clan were forces to be reckoned with.

The leader standing at the helm of the Gu Clan was Princess Xin!

During the previous great war throughout the universe, she had a few million soldiers under her banner. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say Princess Xin's every step was capable of sending tremors throughout the universe.

1. It says six in the raws ☹️

Chapter 127: You Don't Even Have A Proper Sword

Gu Hao was the youngest Marquis in all of history after he was bestowed the title of Marquis due to his breakthrough in the Saber Sovereign Realm. The onlookers were surprised that the Gu Clan would send someone to hunt Ye Guan down.

They were determined not to let Ye Guan enter Qingzhou.

Qiao Xingyao frowned deeply as she looked at Gu Hao. She didn't expect to see Gu Hao here.

She transmitted her voice to Ye Guan using profound energy and said, "His name is Gu Hao, and he's from the Gu Clan, which is one of the four great clans in the Main Guanxuan Academy.

"The Gu Clan is the strongest clan in the Main Guanxuan Academy. They're so powerful and influential that the Committee has to tread lightly in matters concerning them."

Ye Guan stared at the approaching Gu Hao in silence. It seemed that he was about to fight a true powerhouse.

Gu Hao came to a halt. He stared at Ye Guan from afar and jeered, "Young Lord Ye, I'm afraid you'll die here today, so you won't get to visit the Time Paradise."

Gu Hao looked around before continuing. "The stars are pretty here. It's a great grave for the likes of you."

Ye Guan said blandly, "I think it won't be too difficult to annihilate your clan."

Qiao Xingyao turned to look at Ye Guan in horror.

Meanwhile, Gu Hao's eyes narrowed, and his expression turned cold.

"I mean, who doesn't know how to brag?" asked Ye Guan.

"Pfft!" Qiao Xingyao erupted into laughter, but she hurriedly stopped herself. However, her quivering shoulders made it obvious that she couldn't control her laughter at all.

This is inappropriate... Qiao Xingyao thought to herself as she held her laughter in while staring at Ye Guan. Ye Guan was an interesting man. He was markedly different compared to the typical stoic swordsmen.

Gu Hao glared at Ye Guan and said, "There are some things in this world that are off-limits. Otherwise, you—"

Ye Guan shook his head and interrupted. "Marquis Hao, are you here to talk to me, or are you here to kill me? You're here to kill me, right? Come on, attack me with your strongest move instead of running your mouth. Can your mouth kill?"

A few lurkers in the shadows nodded. Ye Guan was indeed an entertaining young man to behold, but he was right. Marquis Hao was supposed to kill him, so why was Marquis Hao talking to him?

Wouldn't it be better for him to be more direct?

Gu Hao's eyes shone in a sharp light.

Ye Guan glanced at Qiao Xingyao and said, “Lady Qiao, please move aside.”

Qiao Xingyao nodded, and she moved to one corner with Ji Xuan.

Soon, an arena was created for Ye Guan and Gu Hao.

Gu Hao’s gaze turned sinister, and he abruptly rushed at Ye Guan with his saber.

Swoosh!

Space collapsed as Gu Hao’s saber drew a beautiful arc in the air.

Gu Hao’s saber still hadn’t arrived, but Ye Guan could already feel its power. The saber was seemingly as heavy as ten thousand mountains, and it threatened to squash Ye Guan into a pancake.

The saber also emitted a unique wave of energy that suppressed Ye Guan’s speed.

Ye Guan stomped and dashed with his sword. He had decided to face the attack head-on.

A deluge of sword energy gathered at the tip of Ye Guan’s sword as the two weapons collided with each other.

Boom!

Sword and saber light briefly illuminated the starry skies.

Ye Guan’s sword shattered upon impact.

Gu Hao saw that, and he quickly swung his saber.

Rumble!

A cacophony of noises echoed as Gu Hao's saber tore space apart.

Clang!

There was a collision, and a figure retreated backward. It was Ye Guan!

Gu Hao was thrilled to see Ye Guan's retreat.

He rushed forward with his saber—victory was already right in front of him!

Ye Guan abruptly vanished from his spot, and a shrill noise echoed as Ye Guan's sword reappeared in front of Gu Hao.

Gu Hao scoffed, but he didn't retreat.

Ye Guan's sword made out of sword energy was no match for his saber.

There was no way Ye Guan could overpower him in a direct collision.

Boom!

As expected, Ye Guan's sword was destroyed once again.

Ye Guan teleported like a ghost behind Gu Hao.

Gu Hao whipped around, but Ye Guan retreated. He decided not to attack Gu Hao for some reason.

Gu Hao was surprised by Ye Guan's decision, but little did he know that a sword had silently manifested behind him.

Ye Guan was perfectly capable of manipulating his swords in a way that they would move as if they were independent existences. Gu Hao was taken aback by the sneak attack, and he didn't have enough time to put up a defense.

There was no way he would let himself die just like that, but Gu Hao stood unmoving and allowed the sword to fly toward him.

A stream of black light rushed out from him and created an armor that protected him.

Bam!

The sword trembled violently. A beam of black light burst from the armor and struck the sword.

Boom!

The sword was destroyed again.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed at the black armor that Gu Hao was wearing. The armor shimmering in the dark was made out of jet-black scales intricately pieced together. It was obviously not an ordinary item.

"That's an Immortal-grade armor!" someone cried out.

The lurkers in the shadows shook their heads in silence.

Gu Hao was a Saber Sovereign, so he had gone too far by wearing an Immortal-grade armor. Of course, there wasn't anything wrong about wearing armor to battle, but the lurkers in the shadows expected an intense fight between Gu Hao and Ye Guan, not a spiritual artifact?comparison.

They wanted a fight similar to Ye Guan's fight against Cao Bai. The Sword Sect wasn't as rich as the Gu Clan, but they weren't poor enough that they couldn't afford an Immortal-grade armor?for their exceptionally talented sect members.

However, Cao Bai had faced Ye Guan without an armor.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan remained calm as he stared at Gu Hao. His enemy's spiritual artifact was indeed better than his own spiritual artifact, and there was nothing wrong with having a better spiritual artifact, as a spiritual artifact?was also a part of a cultivator's strength.

Gu Hao smirked at Ye Guan and asked, "You don't mind me wearing an Immortal-grade armor, right?"

"I mind," said Ye Guan.

Gu Hao was surprised by Ye Guan's frankness.

"Since I mind, are you going to take it off?" asked Ye Guan.

Gu Hao laughed. "Of course not!"

"Then, why did you even bother asking?" Ye Guan asked, "Were you hoping that I would say the opposite? Would it make you feel better if I had said that I didn't mind?"

Gu Hao stared agape at Ye Guan.

He was about to say something, but Ye Guan shook his head and continued. "It's not like I can do something, even if you're using better spiritual artifacts than me. It constitutes a great proportion of your power, so there's nothing wrong with wearing excellent spiritual artifacts.

“However, the fact that you asked me such a question makes you appear like the emperor in the emperor’s new clothes, and I’m the boy who called you out for that.”

Gu Hao was about to say something again, but Ye Guan beat him to the chase. “If you’re afraid of other people’s opinions, even though you’re interested in using it, what makes you different from a whore showing off her body by a window?”

Ye Guan’s words echoed throughout the starry skies, and his words felt like sharp needles piercing Gu Hao’s heart.

Gu Hao’s expression turned ugly beyond description. He actually had no plans of using an Immortal-grade armor. He initially wanted to kill Ye Guan swiftly and win a battle that would go down in the annals of history.

However, he had underestimated Ye Guan’s speed.

Earlier, he would have lost if he hadn’t activated the Immortal-grade armor.

In fact, the reason he was so talkative was that he wanted to maintain his image, but he didn’t expect Ye Guan to call him out just like that.

In addition, most cultivators would pretend like they didn’t mind their opponents using better spiritual artifacts than them. If Ye Guan had done that as well, Gu Hao would have been able to paint a beautiful picture.

However, Ye Guan’s response placed Gu Hao between a rock and a hard place.

Gu Hao took a deep breath to compose himself.

“You’re trying to agitate me,” he said.

Ye Guan shook his head and replied, "You think too highly of yourself."

Gu Hao jeered, "You're right. Spiritual artifacts constitute a great portion of one's strength. If you're unhappy, you should bring out your spiritual artifacts as well."

Ye Guan shook his head and looked around before saying, "Is he really ranked fourth on the Divine Martial List?"

"I—" Gu Hao started.

"Stop talking." A voice interrupted Gu Hao.

Gu Hao turned around and saw a young man. The young man in a white shirt was holding a long spear.

Gu Hao's pupils constricted upon seeing the young man.

"Jiang Fan!" he exclaimed.

"Isn't Jiang Fan ranked third on the Divine Martial List?" someone screamed, "He's the unrivaled spearman, Jiang Fan, right?!"

Jiang Fan stared with dissatisfaction at Gu Hao. "Hurry up and return to being a pampered Marquis. Stop bringing shame to the rankers of the Divine Martial List!"

Gu Hao frowned and snapped, "Jiang Fan! How dare you insult me!"

"How about you?!" Jiang Fan glared and challenged. "Do you dare fight me in a death match? Just you and me, without our clans supporting us."

Gu Hao's face fell, but he didn't dare to respond.

Jiang Fan jeered and scolded, "Gu Hao! Do you really think that we have no idea how you got to your current position as the fourth-strongest ranker on the Divine Martial List?"

"I'm pretty sure you still have better armor than that Immortal-grade armor. What was it again? A Supreme Divine-grade armor! That's right! You relied solely on that armor to beat Brother Qin Gu."

"We all know, but no one dares to speak up because of your clan. I really didn't expect that you'd be bold enough to think that your achievements so far were achieved by your efforts alone."

Jiang Fan humiliated Gu Hao without giving the latter any time to breathe.

"If you're unhappy, let's duke it out in a deathmatch. You can use the strongest armor that you have. I'm not afraid, and I don't mind," said Jiang Fan.

Ye Guan's eyes landed on Gu Hao's storage ring. If he has even better armor than what he's wearing right now, he's definitely rich!

Gu Hao snickered and said, "Jiang Fan, I'll duke it out with you in a deathmatch if you want, but step aside. I'm currently in a death match against Ye Guan."

Jiang Fan frowned and said, "Are you even a man? How come you're still running away from me, even though I've already humiliated you?"

"You truly bring nothing but shame to your clan, especially to your crown prince. He must be embarrassed to have such a scoundrel as his fellow clansman."

Gu Hao ignored Jiang Fan and turned toward Ye Guan.

He gestured and said, "Let's continue. You should use your spiritual artifact. I don't want you to say that I'm bullying you here. If you don't have any spiritual artifacts, tough luck."

"I won't use any spiritual artifacts," Ye Guan responded.

Gu Hao glowered, "Are you looking down on me by not using any spiritual artifact?"

Ye Guan said, "You shouldn't use spiritual artifacts?as well to level the playing field."

Gu Hao was astonished, but he quickly recovered and snapped, "Shut it! Do whatever you want, but I'll use my artifacts."

With that, Gu Hao charged at Ye Guan with his saber.

Ye Guan abruptly vanished.

Right before they were about to clash, Gu Hao smirked and thought. You don't even have a proper sword, but you actually want to fight me head-on, you poor swordsman? Can you even handle my spiritual artifacts?

Swoosh!

All of a sudden, the Path Sword appeared in Ye Guan's hand, replacing the sword made out of sword energy. Ye Guan had no plans of using the Path Sword so soon, but his opponent was too rich for him to ignore that he reluctantly?took it out.

Chapter 128: A Tradition of the Yang Family

Ye Guan and Gu Hao moved so fast that the lurkers in the shadows squinted to track them down.

Clang!

The Path Sword shattered the saber in Gu Hao's hand.

There was a burst of dazzling light as the Path Sword pierced Gu Hao's forehead.

Gu Hao froze in mid-air, and Ye Guan reappeared behind him. By the time he reappeared, he was already holding a sword made out of sword energy.

He had moved as fast as lightning, and his sleight of hand was so smooth that most of the onlookers didn't notice Ye Guan changing his sword.

However, there was a low chance that any of the lurkers in the shadows would recognize the Path Sword, even if Ye Guan hadn't switched it out. After all, only a few people managed to live to see another day upon witnessing the Path Sword's might for themselves, and most of them had already died long ago at this point.

The onlookers were dumbfounded by the result. How did he do it?

The unrivaled spearman, Jiang Fan, stared at Ye Guan with a somber look.

Ye Guan approached Gu Hao. Surprisingly, he was still alive.

Gu Hao's voice was trembling as he stammered, "Y-y-you used a different sword!"

Ye Guan wordlessly collected Gu Hao's storage ring.

He inspected it and saw more than ten million gold spiritual crystals and twenty thousand immortal spiritual crystals. There was also a collection of spiritual pills, and some of them were Immortal-grade spiritual pills.

However, none of them could beat the Supreme Divine-grade armor that Ye Guan saw in the storage ring.

"You're so rich!" exclaimed Ye Guan in awe.

Gu Hao glared at Ye Guan and threatened. “Killing me means waging war on the Gu Clan!”

Ye Guan shook his head and said, “Dumbass, your clan won’t let me go even if I were to let you go.”

Swoosh!

Ye Guan swung his sword decisively, chopping off Gu Hao’s head.

Gu Hao was dead!

The air grew heavy at the sight. Ye Guan had just killed a member of the Gu Clan.

The Gu Clan was a superpower more powerful and influential than the An Clan.

Ye Guan was indeed a bold man.

Jiang Fan stared at Ye Guan in shock. Ye Guan’s strength had taken him by surprise.

Gu Hao wasn’t exactly a powerhouse, but he was still a formidable opponent. However, Ye Guan killed him without much effort.

Jiang Fan was also stupefied by the fact that Ye Guan had actually killed a Gu Clan member. If he were in Ye Guan’s shoes, Jiang Fan wouldn’t dare to do it. After all, they were talking about the Gu Clan here.

Ye Guan was correct in hindsight. Gu Hao was the type to hold grudges, so Ye Guan had most likely decided to kill Gu Hao to save himself from future troubles.

Jiang Fan shook his head and sighed.

The people who had stepped forward to fight Ye Guan had been too kind and well-mannered. Ye Guan hadn't killed them, despite his victory. He even built a rapport with them.

However, it all changed when Gu Hao stepped up to attack Ye Guan.

Gu Hao was rude, and he had also openly declared that he would kill Ye Guan. In other words, there wasn't anything wrong with his death. He deserved it!

Ye Guan started walking toward Ji Xuan. He opened his palm, revealing a dark gold armor appeared. The armor was made from golden scales covered in strange markings.

It was none other than the Supreme Divine-grade armor that Gu Hao had been carrying around.

Ye Guan gave the armor to Ji Xuan and said, "It's yours."

Ji Xuan was stunned. The lurkers in the shadows were stunned as well.

Why did he decide to give the armor to her?

The floor price of a Supreme Divine-grade armor was at least a hundred million gold crystals, but it wasn't the type of spiritual artifact that one could buy, even if they had the money to buy it.

The demand for it was so intense that one would practically need immortal spiritual crystals to purchase it.

One needed at least a million immortal spiritual crystals to participate in the auction whenever a Supreme Divine-grade armor appeared in the market.

A million immortal spiritual crystals was a hefty sum. It wasn't that much for the great clans and aristocratic families in the Main Guanyuan Academy, but a million immortal spiritual crystals was a sum that most cultivators from the Zhongtu Divine Continent would never see their entire lives.

It was simply too much money.

There were only a handful of powers on the Zhongtu Divine Continent capable of coughing up such a sum, but Ye Guan had actually given out such an expensive piece of armor to someone else as if it were worth nothing.

He was too generous!

Ji Xuan stared in disbelief at Ye Guan.

“Why?” she asked. She truly didn’t expect that Ye Guan would give such armor to her. After all, it was a Supreme Divine-grade armor.

Ye Guan suddenly asked, “What’s up with that stare?”

Ji Xuan said, “Why are you giving this to me?”

Ye Guan smiled and answered, “Because you’ll be safer with it...”

Ji Xuan cried, “But this is a Supreme?Divine-grade armor... it’s practically priceless!”

Ye Guan shook his head and said, “It’s valuable, yes, but it can’t compare to the company you have given me on this journey. Don’t misunderstand. I’m not using this armor to repay you. I truly feel like you’ll be safer wearing it.”

Ye Guan didn’t wait for Ji Xuan’s reply. He shoved the Supreme Divine-grade armor into the latter’s hands before turning around to face Jiang Fan.

Ji Xuan looked down at the Supreme Divine-grade armor in her hands before turning to look at Ye Guan. A faint smile slowly crept up her lips, and her eyes shone in a warm, gentle light.

Ye Guan walked over to Jiang Fan and asked, "How are we going to fight?"

A sparring or a death match?

Jiang Fan stared at Ye Guan for a while before saying, "Let's spar."

A death match? There was no need for that.

Jiang Fan was convinced that the swordsman in front of him wasn't evil, and he also had no reason to be on bad terms with him.

In addition, what if Ye Guan truly reached Qingzhou and managed to summon the Sword Master?

There were no grudges between them, so there was no reason for them to fight to the death. Jiang Fan was aware that he had to be careful about his every step on the arduous path to the summit.

Ye Guan nodded. "All right."

"Brother Ye." Jiang Fan's gaze shone in determination as he said, "Please don't hold back."

"Sure," responded Ye Guan.

Jiang Fan's eyes narrowed, and he charged at Ye Guan with his spear.

A brilliant light pervaded the starry skies. Ye Guan felt a sense of foreboding from the spear light, and the spear light was too fast as well. The spear light surrounded him almost instantly, so Ye Guan had no choice but to retreat.

Jiang Fan was incredibly fast, and his attacks rained down on Ye Guan like a torrential downpour.

Ye Guan retreated without stopping, but he didn't slow down. He avoided Jiang Fan's attacks by a hair's breadth. However, Jiang Fan was getting faster and faster. He was also getting closer and closer to Ye Guan with each attack.

Nonetheless, Ye Guan didn't make any counterattacks.

He carefully analyzed Jiang Fan's moves. Jiang Fan's flurry of attacks lasted for quite a while until Ye Guan had retreated a few hundred meters away from his initial location.

Jiang Fan stopped. He had unleashed close to ten thousand thrusts with his spear using the full extent of his cultivation base, so it wasn't strange that he was tired.

He stopped and retreated to catch his breath.

Swoosh!

However, Ye Guan finally made his move and vanished abruptly like a ghost.

Jiang Fan's pupils constricted. He raised his spear in front of him.

The space around him vibrated, and streaks of spear light enveloped him, forming a sturdy shield.

However, Ye Guan came to a halt. He stared at Jiang Fan from afar.

Jiang Fan's face turned ugly. He snorted in fury and charged at Ye Guan.

Jiang Fan pointed his spear at Ye Guan and shouted, "Spear Art!"

A thirty-meter-long red-colored spear light burst out of him, shattering the surrounding space.

Ye Guan retreated a bit more, and he wordlessly stared at Jiang Fan once more from afar.

Jiang Fan's expression turned grim. He charged at Ye Guan once more as spear light streamed out of his sword.

Ye Guan vanished once again.

Swoosh!

Jiang Fan's spear thrust struck nothing but air.

A cold shiver immediately ran down his spine, and he whipped around fiercely to see a sword flying toward his face.

Jiang Fan urgently brought his spear up to block the attack.

Clang!

The collision staggered him, and before he could regain his balance, another sword flew toward him.

Clang!

Jiang Fan was staggered once more.

Moments later, a dramatic but incredulous scene unfolded. Ye Guan took slow steps toward Jiang Fan. With every step he took, a sword light would flash, and Jiang Fan would stagger backward, leaving the latter no choice but to keep on defending.

It didn't take that long for him to get completely overwhelmed. Soon, Jiang Fan was already a few hundred meters away from his initial position. Ye Guan vanished once again, and he reappeared behind Jiang Fan with a sword in hand.

Jiang Fan's expression fell at the prickling sensation on his nape.

He whipped around, but the prickling sensation remained, which meant a sword was oncoming from behind him.

Human Sword Separation!

It was a sword technique that Ye Guan had comprehended by himself.

Human Sword Separation required half-truths and half-lies to work, and it was a technique that would inflict great confusion on one's opponent. Jiang Fan went beyond pallid upon sensing a sharp tip resting on his back.

He had lost, but it was a frustrating loss. If he had turned around, he would have faced Ye Guan's attack, but if he hadn't turned around, Ye Guan's sword would have created another hole in his body.

The ultimate reason for his defeat was Ye Guan's speed.

His attacks were too fast for Jiang Fan to dodge.

Jiang Fan stayed still, and the sword didn't move as well.

It simply rested on his back.

Jiang Fan turned to Ye Guan and said, "I admit defeat."

"Mmhm!" Ye Guan nodded. He flicked his sleeve, and the sword holding Jiang Fan hostage disappeared.

Jiang Fan's expression was complicated as he said, "Your sword is too fast..."

Ye Guan smiled. "Thank you."

Jiang Fan shook his head and opened his palm, revealing a white jade bottle that soon flew toward Ye Guan.

Jiang Fan explained, "The jade bottle contains a spiritual pill that'll help you recover your profound energy and strength."

Ye Guan accepted the gift and said, "Thank you."

Jiang Fan said, "Brother Ye, your situation is too complicated, and my clan is too weak to intervene. I can't be of much help to you. All the best!"

With that, Jiang Fan turned around and left.

Ye Guan stared at the departing Jiang Fan. After a while, he turned around and walked toward Ji Xuan.

"Let's go," he said.

Ji Xuan nodded, and the two boarded the space ship once again.

Ye Guan wordlessly stared into the distance at the bow of the space ship.

Ji Xuan stood next to him and said, "I was really surprised."

Ye Guan turned toward her.

Ji Xuan smiled and said, "I thought that those powerhouses from the Guanxuan Universe would come here to kill you, so I was surprised that we haven't met a ton of them yet. I guess they're pretty wise."

Ye Guan nodded. There were good and bad people in this world, and it was applicable to the Guanxuan Academy as well. Ye Guan believed that his destiny wasn't set in stone just yet because he would seek justice for himself in Qingzhou.

Justice!?Ye Guan closed his eyes and inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda, will the Sword Master take my side and seek justice for me?"

Little Pagoda calmly replied, "If he doesn't, you can just kill him. I'll give you moral support."

Ye Guan abruptly froze.

"Little Pagoda!" the mysterious voice shouted, "You're treading on dangerous waters here!"

Little Pagoda remained calm as he said, "What's wrong with what I said? I've completely given up on reforming their parricidal thoughts. However, this brat is actually worse because he's thinking of killing his father and his mother!"

"This brat is stronger and bolder than the previous ones that it's actually getting ridiculous. They're demons, I'm telling you—extremely powerful demons! And they also leave me alone to do all the dirty work. I wonder when they'll appreciate me."

Little Pagoda was upset, and he felt incredibly wronged as well.

He had served three generations of the same family, so he had completely grasped the family's tradition. Little Pagoda was very upset at the fact that the masters he had served so far had a few screws loose.

Chapter 129: Master Pagoda, What Is Your Origin?

Kill the Sword Master??Ye Guan shook his head and laughed.

It seemed that Master Pagoda also knew how to crack jokes.

A thought popped up in his mind, and Ye Guan hesitated for a while before asking, “Master Pagoda, didn’t you say that the Sword Master had to give you face as well?”

Little Pagoda answered, “I was bragging.”

Ye Guan fell silent. Master Pagoda was becoming more and more cautious.

He had to find another way to bait answers out of Master Pagoda.

The lurkers in the shadows were no longer courageous enough to fight Ye Guan, so the latter finally had peace. They were roughly seven days away from reaching Qingzhou, and the danger level increased the closer they got to Qingzhou.

There were more and more lurkers in the shadows as well.

Ye Guan wasn’t worried about his peers. However, the older generation was cause for concern. He wasn’t scared of his peers unless he was outnumbered.

Ji Xuan frowned. She had the same concern as Ye Guan.

There were three strands of Great Dao Destiny as a reward alongside other rewards, and virtually no age limit, which meant even old monsters could attack Ye Guan to claim three strands of Great Dao Destiny for themselves.

Ye Guan’s monstrous peers weren’t really a threat to Ye Guan anymore, so there was a high chance that old fogeys and old monsters would soon make a move against him.

Two days flashed by in the blink of an eye, and they were now five days away from Qingzhou. No one had made a move over the past two days, which greatly unsettled Ye Guan and Ji Xuan. They could feel it—it was the calm before the storm.

An old cultivator abruptly appeared a few hundred meters away from the space ship.

The old cultivator raised his right hand and slowly brought it down.

A wave of powerful energy flew toward the space ship.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed, and he shouted, "Dismiss the space ship!"

Ye Guan jumped out of the space ship and swung his sword at the oncoming attack.

Swoosh!

Space was torn apart, but the wave of energy managed to suppress Ye Guan's sword.

The old cultivator silently stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at the old cultivator as well. The old cultivator was a Divine Tribulation Realm cultivator.

At last, an older generation cultivator had appeared.

The old cultivator opened his palm, and lightning converged above his palm.

Rumble!

The space around the old cultivator distorted, and the old cultivator shouted, "Go!"

The lightning in his palm transformed into a few hundred-meter-long lightning dragon that made a beeline for Ye Guan. It carried a terrifying amount of energy, and it destroyed everything in its path, including space, creating a horrifying sight.

Ye Guan's pupils constricted, but he charged at the lightning dragon.

Whoosh!

A flash of sword light briefly pervaded the surroundings—Instant Death Strike!

Everything seemed to have slowed down as Ye Guan performed the sword move.

Slice!

Ye Guan sliced the lightning dragon into two before rushing at the old cultivator.

The old cultivator's eyes narrowed. He flicked his sleeve, and a wave of lightning erupted from him.

Crackle!

Ye Guan was forced to retreat, but a sword had crept up behind the old cultivator.

However, the old cultivator remained composed. He lightly tapped the floor with his right foot, and he transformed into a bolt of lightning that flew toward Ye Guan.

Wooosh!

Ye Guan's sword sliced nothing but air.

Ye Guan stopped and braced himself. His eyes narrowed slightly upon seeing the lightning bolt heading toward him. When the old cultivator was just a few meters away from him, Ye Guan glared at the old cultivator with a determined look.

Slice!

Ye Guan unleashed a single sword strike. The sword strike looked ordinary, but Ye Guan had unleashed it with the full extent of his cultivation base. In other words, this sword move would decide life and death between him and his target.

Crackle!

The lightning dragon exploded, and the old cultivator was blown away. He had just recovered, but a sword was already flying toward him.

The old cultivator's eyes narrowed.

He was about to dodge, but Ye Guan appeared like a ghost behind him. The old cultivator's heart jumped, and he instinctively whipped around.

However, a chill went down his spine upon realizing that a sword was still flying toward him from behind.

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Boom!

An unidentified black light collided with Ye Guan's sword.

The old cultivator saw the opportunity, and he immediately took it. His figure blurred, and he reappeared a few hundred meters away.

He stared fearfully at Ye Guan from afar.

Ye Guan turned and saw a middle-aged man. The middle-aged man was a Divine Tribulation Realm cultivator as well, and he was the reason the old cultivator was still alive.

The middle-aged man stared deeply at Ye Guan before turning to look at the old cultivator and laughing. "Hahaha, Old Zhang! I told you he's not simple. Do you still want to fight him by yourself?"

Old Zhang stared at Ye Guan and muttered, "I underestimated him."

The middle-aged man chuckled and said, "He's definitely the greatest talent of the Zhongtu Divine Continent. I'm afraid that even a Seal Shattering Realm cultivator would find it hard to kill him by themselves, not to mention a lone Divine Tribulation Realm cultivator.

"In other words, we should confront him as a team."

There were sixteen people gathered around the middle-aged man, and every single one of them was a Divine Tribulation Realm cultivator. They were all members of the older generation, but they had actually decided to team up against Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's expression fell.

The middle-aged man chuckled and explained, "Young Lord Ye, we are the Dragon Tribe Mercenary from the Guanxuan Universe. We don't have any grudges against you. We're only doing this for the money."

The middle-aged man paused before continuing. "If you have a backer, tell me. We have been in Guanxuan Universe for many years, and we do know a few prominent people here and there.

"If your backing has any connections to us, or if they're someone we cannot afford to offend, we'll definitely not fight you. In fact, we'll apologize to you for the interruption."

Ye Guan stared at the middle-aged man for quite a while before answering, "My backer is Master Pagoda."

Ye Guan was left with no choice but to mention Master Pagoda.

Master Pagoda?

The middle-aged man frowned. He exchanged looks with the people behind him. Eventually, he turned to Ye Guan and shook his head before saying. "Young Lord Ye, we've never heard of your Master Pagoda. What is his origin?"

Ye Guan inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda, what is your origin?"

Little Pagoda remained silent. What is my origin? Goddamned it, I'm from your family!

Little Pagoda didn't know what to say.

Ye Guan urged, "Master Pagoda, hurry up and tell me! Otherwise, they'll gang up on me!"

Little Pagoda calmly replied, "Don't worry, they're just a few Divine Tribulation Realm cultivators. You can handle them!"

Ye Guan's expression turned ashen.

He was strong, but he had to admit that it would be extremely difficult for him to stand toe-to-toe against so many Divine Tribulation Realm cultivators at once.

Of course, it would be a different story if he were a Divine Tribulation Realm cultivator himself, but Ye Guan was just a Space Annihilation Realm cultivator. It was too much for him to fight so many Divine Tribulation Realm cultivators by himself!

He needed a strategy to survive. He couldn't afford to fight them head-on.

The middle-aged man said, "Young Lord Ye, you still haven't answered me."

The middle-aged man didn't dare to attack rashly because there was a high chance that Ye Guan had a powerful backer. He didn't believe that Ye Guan's backer could defeat the Main Guanxuan Academy, but they could be stronger than their mercenary group.

Therefore, he had to be cautious.

Ye Guan stared at the middle-aged man and asked, "Do you really want to know?"

The middle-aged man nodded. "Yes!"

"Are you sure?" Ye Guan calmly asked, "Have you not heard about how more than a thousand An Clan members perished that day?"

The middle-aged man grew silent.

"The powerhouses of the An Clan present at the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy that day had perished. I even defeated the Chosen One. He summoned the Heavenly Dao of the Zhongtu Divine Continent, but I managed to kill it. In the end, the Chosen One survived by a hair's breadth."

Ye Guan grinned and added, "They say that the Chosen One is invincible among his peers, but... hehe."

The middle-aged man stared thoughtfully at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan saw that and continued. "I became a Sword Sovereign at eighteen years of age, and I'm already a Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign. Can you really believe that my Master Pagoda is ordinary?"

Since Little Pagoda was staying silent, Ye Guan had to hype the former up.

The middle-aged man remained silent, but he still had some doubts.

Ye Guan noticed that and said, "I cannot reveal my Master Pagoda's real identity, but if you think he's weak, you can try."

The middle-aged man was still silent.

"It's true that the Guanxuan Academy has decided to persecute me, but you're smart, and I believe you know the ins and outs of my circumstances. My plan is to plead my case to the Sword Master in Qingzhou.

"If the Sword Master acknowledges my talent and accepts me as his disciple..." Ye Guan trailed off. Some things didn't require words to understand.

The middle-aged man's face fell. Everyone knew that Ye Guan was headed to Qingzhou to plead with the Sword Master, but how come he was daring enough to attempt such a thing?

It was all because Ye Guan himself was aware that he had been wronged. Of course, everyone also knew that the An Clan, the aristocratic family faction, and the clan faction had been bullying him.

Would the Sword Master seek justice for Ye Guan?

There was room for doubt, but there was a high chance that the Sword Master would do that. Ye Guan was also a monstrous talent among monstrous talents, so the Sword Master would probably take him in as a disciple as well.

If they were to offend Ye Guan, and the latter survived to become the Sword Master's disciple...

The middle-aged man didn't even want to imagine it.

The expressions of his fellow mercenaries turned serious as well.

Ye Guan added, "I will be honest. My backer can't take on the entire Guanxuan Academy, but my backer was able to kill the powerhouses of the An Clan. Do you really think that you're stronger than the An Clan's powerhouses?"

The middle-aged man looked down for quite a while before saying, "Young Lord Ye, it seems that I was foolish. I apologize for the interruption."

The middle-aged man cupped his hands and gestured. "Let's go."

No one opposed him.

The three strands of Great Dao Destiny were alluring rewards, but Ye Guan's backer was incredibly powerful. In other words, the middle-aged man's mercenary group had no business wading into this muddy waters.

This issue was best left to the Guanxuan Academy to handle.

Ye Guan suddenly called out, "Please wait."

The middle-aged man turned toward Ye Guan.

Ye Guan asked, "Can I request protection from you?"

The middle-aged man shook his head and said, "Please don't joke around, Young Lord Ye. Your enemies are the Guanxuan Academy, the aristocratic family faction, and the great clan faction.

"We're just a mercenary group trying to make a living, Young Lord Ye. We don't want to die by protecting you and offending those behemoths. All right, we'll be off now, Young Lord Ye. Farewell."

The middle-aged man didn't even wait for Ye Guan's reply.

He turned around and fled.

Chapter 130: The Young Man Carrying His Sister On His Back

The middle-aged man was truly dumbfounded. Protect you? Who in this universe would dare to protect you?

At this point, protecting Ye Guan was equivalent to waging war on Guanxuan Academy. Who would do such a thing?

The group of mercenaries turned and left without hesitation. They were already hesitant about attacking Ye Guan. Three strands of Great Dao Destiny were simply too alluring for them to pass up.

It was an opportunity to change their destiny.

Changing one's destiny was harder than ascending to the heavens if one was at the bottom of society. However, it was a different story with a strand of Great Dao Destiny.

It wouldn't make their life a breeze, but it would definitely help them through many difficulties. Luck would often be on their side, and luck alone was enough for many cultivators at the bottom to rise up the ranks.

However, they evidently still had concerns, so they decided to ask questions rather than just attacking Ye Guan outright. The reason behind their mercenary group's growth was their meticulous and careful nature.

Regardless of whether it was a mission or task, they would always be extra cautious.

They were reluctant to leave, but they had no choice.

The middle-aged man and Ye Guan didn't talk by way of voice transmission, so everyone heard their conversation. The members of the mercenary group made their decision based on their conversation.

They had to admit that they had indeed been captivated by the alluring promise of strands of Great Dao Destiny and a million immortal spiritual crystals. The rewards were so tempting that they were blinded and ignored the facts of the situation.

Ye Guan's Dao Protector slaughtered over a thousand powerhouses of the An Clan.

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To make matters worse, it seemed that they had also forgotten about how Ye Guan had defeated the Chosen One, who hailed from the Five Dimensions Universe and how Ye Guan murdered the Heavenly Dao of the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

In other words, wouldn't his backer be extremely powerful?

Ye Guan had defeated even the so-called invincible Chosen One. Moreover, Ye Guan's cultivation base was drastically lower than the Chosen One, so the fact that Ye Guan emerged victorious meant that he was an extremely powerful swordsman.

In addition, Ye Guan's Dao Protector was definitely not capable of taking on the entire Main Guanxuan Academy by herself, but she could definitely slaughter a mercenary group.

Killing Ye Guan meant that they would become the target of Ye Guan's Dao Protector, and Ye Guan's Dao Protector was daring enough to kill the powerhouses of the An Clan.

How about them?

The members of the mercenary group snapped back to reality. It was great to be rich, but they had to be alive to enjoy it. They had to retreat and refrain from attacking Ye Guan if they wanted to live.

Therefore, they quickly disappeared from Ye Guan's eyes.

Ye Guan and Ji Xuan boarded the space ship once more and continued on their journey to Qingzhou. Ye Guan stood at the bow of the space ship with closed eyes.

Qingzhou!

His words had scared away quite a few cultivators, but he was also aware that not everyone would be terrified of his words. However, Ye Guan reckoned that those daring enough to stay after his speech were powerhouses from the great clans or powerhouses from the Guanxuan Academy.

The Guanxuan Academy! Ye Guan clenched his fists. He was prepared for the worst-case scenario, and he was also willing to take drastic measures if he had no choice but to do so.

Ji Xuan walked toward Ye Guan and smiled warmly at him. “Don’t worry. The Sword Master will definitely seek justice for us!”

They spent the next three days in peace—no one made a move against them.

Ji Xuan was standing next to Ye Guan as she pointed out. “That should be Qingzhou’s star field ahead of us.”

Qingzhou’s star field.

Upon entering Qingzhou’s star field, they would reach Qingzhou’s Guanxuan Academy in two days at most.

Two days! Ye Guan turned to look at Ji Xuan.

Ji Xuan rolled her eyes at him and chuckled. “Are you trying to chase me away again?”

Ye Guan went silent. Ji Xuan smoothened her fringe next to her face and said, “Don’t worry, I’ll definitely run if the enemy is too strong. It’s not like we’re close enough for me to sacrifice my life for you.”

Ye Guan sounded serious as she said, “You have to run by yourself if the situation calls for it.”

Ji Xuan nodded. “I know!”

Ye Guan nodded and went silent.

He stared into the distant star field, seemingly in deep thought.

Soon, the space ship entered Qingzhou’s star field.

A rift in space opened around a hundred meters away from the space ship.

A black-robed old man and two powerhouses clad in black-scaled armor stepped out of the rift. A badge was on the right chest of the old man, and it was emblazoned with crimson red words—Discipline Committee.

“The Discipline Committee Guards!” a lurker in the shadows shroud.

The Discipline Committee Guards of Guanxuan Academy had arrived. The aura of the old man at the helm of the group was powerful, and it was nothing like the mercenary group that Ye Guan had recently encountered.

The old man was a Seal Shattering Realm cultivator!

The expressions of the onlookers and lurkers turned grim. They were surprised not because of the old man’s cultivation realm but the fact that he was in the Discipline Committee, which was the law enforcer of the Guanxuan Academy.

The black-robed old man stared at Ye Guan with a straight face. There was a sharp glint in his eyes as he said, “The Academy has issued an arrest warrant for Ye Guan. If he resists, he shall be killed on the spot.”

Killed on the spot! Without wasting any more words, the black-robed old man waved his right hand and the two Discipline Committee Guards behind him vanished into thin air.

A murderous light flashed in Ye Guan's eyes as he stood at the bow of the space ship. He stepped forward and slashed down fiercely.

Bam!

Sword light exploded, and the two Discipline Committee Guards were forced a few meters backward. There was dead silence in the surroundings, everyone was surprised by what Ye Guan had done.

He was resisting arrest! He was defying the Academy's orders.

The black-robed old man glared murderously at Ye Guan.

"You are courting death!" he roared and vanished.

Whoosh!

The black-robed old man turned into a bolt of lightning that made a beeline for Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's expression hardened. The black-robed old man was more than five times stronger than the Divine Tribulation Realm cultivators he had fought before.

Ye Guan knew that the Academy's powerhouses were bound to be stronger than their peers, so he couldn't afford to be careless against the black-robed old man.

Ye Guan dashed forward. He turned into a sword light that streaked across the sky.

He performed the Instant Death Strike and shattered the spacetime rule while wielding the Path Sword in hand. Ye Guan had decided to use the Path Sword because he didn't want to take any chances with his opponents.

The black-robed old man was eight cultivation realms higher than him, after all. In other words, he would have to exert a ton of effort to defeat the black-robed old man if he refrained from using the Path Sword.

The black-robed old man noticed that Ye Guan was wielding a different sword, and his expression fell. He could feel death approaching him as Ye Guan's sword made a beeline for him.

However, it was already too late.

Crackle!

The Path Sword shredded the lightning bolt, and Ye Guan thrust the Path Sword into the black-robed old man's head. A hole appeared in the black-robed old man's skull as blood haphazardly spurted into the air.

Ye Guan had instantly killed a Seal Shattering Realm cultivator, shocking the lurkers and onlookers. He had been hiding his strength?!

Ye Guan turned toward Ji Xuan. He smiled and said, "Lady Ji Xuan, thank you for escorting me on this journey. Qingzhou is right in front of us, and you will definitely be in danger if you stay with me any further.

"I will definitely repay you in the future, so let's see each other again by then."

With that, Ye Guan hopped onto his sword and disappeared into the horizon. He was heading for Qingzhou. He didn't wait for Ji Xuan's reply because he knew that he had to make the final stretch of the journey by himself.

He couldn't drag Ji Xuan down, and his Sword Travel was much faster than the space ship. Granted, the energy consumption was high, but he had enough spiritual pills to recover until he reached Qingzhou.

Qingzhou's Guanxuan Academy would definitely send more people after him, so Ye Guan knew that he had to reach Qingzhou as fast as he could before his enemies could surround him.

He was going to Qingzhou to seek justice, and there wasn't anyone else who could give him justice other than the Sword Master.

Ye Guan wasn't a god.

He couldn't confront an entire Guanxuan Academy by himself.

In fact, it was actually a ludicrous idea.

Swoosh!

Ji Xuan suddenly appeared in front of Ye Guan, surprising him.

Ji Xuan stared at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you afraid of dragging me down, or are you afraid that I will slow you down?"

"I—" Ye Guan started.

However, Ji Xuan laughed and said, "You're probably afraid of both, right?"

Ye Guan remained silent.

Ji Xuan got even closer to him. She stared into his eyes and asked, "Or are you afraid that I'll fall for you?"

Ye Guan remained silent, eliciting a chuckle from Ji Xuan.

“Am I not allowed to like you?” she asked.

Ye Guan shook his head and explained, “Lady Ji Xuan, this is a very perilous journey.”

Ji Xuan remained steadfast as she looked at him and demanded, “Answer me.”

Ye Guan fell silent.

Ji Xuan asked, “Is it that hard to answer?”

Ye Guan shook his head. “I just don’t want to put you in danger.”

Ji Xuan took a few steps toward Ye Guan. “I’ll repeat my question then: am I not allowed to like you?”

Ji Xuan had gathered the courage to speak because she knew that she might no longer have a chance to say it if she were to refrain from saying it.

Ye Guan was silent.

Ji Xuan’s head drooped, and she asked, “Can you like me? Like me, and I’ll treat you the best in the world.”

The best in the world! Ye Guan stared blankly at Ji Xuan. After a while, he looked down at the Path Sword in his hands and responded, “Someone gave up her life for me, and I think she’ll be very sad if I were to like another woman in this lifetime.”

With that, he turned and disappeared into the distance.

Ji Xuan stared at the disappearing ray of sword light. She burst into laughter and couldn't stop laughing. Soon, tears welled up in her eyes, and they trickled down her face.

"I'm supposed to be angry, and I should hate you, but why? Why do I feel like I've fallen even deeper for you?"

...

The lurkers and onlookers in the starry skies wore grim expressions. Ye Guan had just killed a Discipline Committee member. His crimes had gotten too great for the Guanxuan Academy to possibly pardon.

A Discipline Committee Guard crushed a transmission talisman.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was using Sword Travel in the starry skies. Ji Xuan had told him about where Qingzhou was located, so he wasn't concerned about getting lost at all.

Rumble!

A rift was abruptly torn open in front of him, and an old man walked out of it.

Ye Guan glanced at the old man, but he didn't stop.

The old man had no choice but to shout, "Young Lord Ye, please stop!"

Ye Guan came to a halt and stared at the old man.

"Who are you?" he asked.

The old man answered, "I am a guard of Qingzhou's star field."

Ye Guan was aware that every star field had a guard.

"Young Lord Ye," the old man started and said, "I know why you want to reach Qingzhou, and I also know what happened between you and the An Clan.

"I know your circumstances, and I sympathize with you. I'm in no position to interfere with your journey, but the Main Guanxuan Academy has issued an arrest warrant for you. Therefore, I cannot let you enter Qingzhou."

Ye Guan approached the old man and said, "I'm here to see the Sword Master. If the Academy has done no evil, why do they not want me to meet the Sword Master?"

The old man shook his head and answered, "You shouldn't have killed the Heavenly Dao of the Zhongtu Divine Continent, and you should have spared that elder of the Discipline Committee. You've effectively challenged the Academy's authority."

Ye Guan chuckled and said, "The Heavenly Dao wanted to kill me. Are you saying that I should have just accepted my death?

"It seems that everyone knows what I've done, but what about the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan? Does everyone know what they did to me?"

Ye Guan shook his head and scoffed, "I know.... I am completely aware that I am powerless with no family background and backer?to speak of.

"The influential figures of the Academy wouldn't offend the An Clan for my sake, and I also got dragged into the muddy waters of the Academy. In other words, almost everyone in the Academy wants me to die!"

The old man remained silent.

Ye Guan continued, "Who else aside from Representative Ye was concerned about who was in the right and who was in the wrong? No one else! The Academy has always been revered by everyone as the most powerful organization in the universe.

"However, the Academy had long forgotten to care about what was right and what was wrong. The Academy only cares about the potential profits and benefits. Of course, only their clans will reap those profits and benefits!"

"If the Academy had truly been fair, why do they not want me to see the Sword Master? Why are they afraid?" he asked.

The old man sighed and said, "Young Lord Ye, I'm only trying to do my job. You shouldn't voice out your concerns to me."

Ye Guan stared deeply at the old man and said, "Senior, I don't think you're a bad person from the way you talk. Please step aside, I don't want to kill you."

The old man briefly pondered before suggesting, "Let's exchange a move for a show."

Ye Guan nodded. "All right."

Swoosh!

Their figures blurred, and they disappeared from their spots.

There was a loud explosion as the old man was sent flying away from the collision.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan had already turned into a ray of sword light that quickly vanished into the distance.

The old man stood rooted and stared at the sword light rapidly speeding away.

He sighed to himself. What a shame...

...

Mount Canglan was the most famous mountain in Qingzhou, and Qingzhou's Guanxuan Academy was located on Mount Canglan. The Sword Master had studied here before, so it was a respected sacred land in Qingzhou.

A long, long time ago, the Guanxuan Academy wasn't here, but the Canglan Academy. At the moment, there were only a handful of people who knew about such a fact, but it wasn't strange, as it had been a long time since Qingzhou's Guanxuan Academy was built here.

The young man who had come here for help with his sister on his back could have never imagined that his descendant would one day end up here as well to ask for help.