

A Sword 171

Chapter 171: Welcome the New King

Sigh! Ye Guan sighed to himself. He was truly having a difficult time.

Great Sword Sovereign! He was a Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign, so he knew that it wasn't so easy to just take the next step and become a full-fledged Great Sword Sovereign.

The most glaring issue here was that he felt like he was carrying the weight of a thousand mountains. At this point, he had to become a Great Sword Sovereign whether he liked it or not!

The Path Sword trembled slightly as if it were trying to say something.

Ye Guan blinked and suddenly said, "I understand!"

Little Pagoda suddenly asked, "Wait, you can understand it?"

Ye Guan nodded and said, "Yes!"

Little Pagoda was a little curious, so he asked, "What did it say?"

Ye Guan's expression changed to that of a serious look as he replied, "It told me that I should ask you for help and that you should give me martial skills and techniques that are at least Simplicity-rank!"

"You're full of shit!" said Little Pagoda. "You and your father are terrible—"

Little Pagoda abruptly shut his mouth.

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued.

“Master Pagoda, was my father a terrible person?” he asked.

“No,” said Little Pagoda. No, he’s not a good person at all!

Ye Guan thought for a while before saying, “Master Pagoda, how do I become a Great Sword Sovereign?”

After a long moment of silence, Little Pagoda finally replied, “You shouldn’t think of the Sword Dao in that manner. One’s Sword Dao only improves through comprehension and enlightenment rather than absorbing enough profound energy to make breakthroughs.

“One must not have any obsession or distractions in their heart. One’s heart and mind must be calm, and one must not be easily affected by worldly affairs.

“One must stay true to their Dao, or one will never become invincible.”

“That sounds great, Master Pagoda,” Ye Guan said before adding, “The senior who told you that must be a true powerhouse.”

Little Pagoda unconsciously blurted out, “Indeed, she’s pretty—”

Fortunately, Little Pagoda caught himself in time.

Fuck! I fell into his trap again!

Ye Guan laughed, but he didn’t say anything anymore. He calmed down and pondered over Little Pagoda’s words. ‘One’s Sword Dao only improves through comprehension and enlightenment rather than absorbing enough profound energy to make breakthroughs...’

Meanwhile, the mysterious voice in the tiny pagoda said, “The Path Sword is truly capable of ruining his mindset.”

Little Pagoda replied, "I have no comments whatsoever."

The mysterious voice laughed and said, "It's fine. He's such a wonderful person, and he's very disciplined as well. He still hasn't gotten complacent despite owning a powerful divine sword like the Path Sword. In fact, he has even reflected on himself and has been constantly improving. He is indeed an extremely rare seedling."

"Are you saying that because you want to take him in as your disciple?" asked Little Pagoda.

The mysterious voice was silent for a long time before saying, "He's already on the path to invincibility!"

"So what?" Little Pagoda smiled and said, "You can still teach him a thing or two."

"Have you still not realized that only his aunt is qualified to teach him?" asked the mysterious voice.

Little Pagoda fell silent at that.

...

Ye Guanzhi was reading the Guanxuan Report in the South Garden of the Main Guanxuan Academy. Soon, she put the Guanxuan Report down and leaned in her lounge chair with closed eyes. A light breeze blew the corners of her skirt up slightly.

An old woman was standing next to Ye Guanzhi. "Who would have thought that he would become a Great Sword Sovereign in such a short amount of time?"

Ye Guanzhi smiled, but she didn't reply.

The old woman made a sidelong glance at Ye Guanzhi and said, "My lady, do you really think that Ye Guan will win?"

Ye Guanzhi calmly asked back, "Has the Sword Master suffered any defeat?"

The old woman was stunned.

Ye Guanzhi laughed and answered her own question, "Yes, he has suffered defeat, but not at the hands of someone as young as Ye Guan."

Ye Guanzhi paused and opened her eyes.

The sunlight was blinding, so she closed them back before continuing. "So what? Who said that the Chosen One isn't allowed to lose? Lu Tian thinks that he can't afford to lose because of the overwhelming power of the previous Chosen Ones.

"Unfortunately, such a mindset is akin to an obsession. It is an inner demon!"

The old woman muttered, "He's still the Chosen One..."

Ye Guanzhi remained calm as she said, "His status as the Chosen One is a double-edged sword. He'll become invincible if he were to use it correctly, but using it in the wrong way is equivalent to self-sabotage.

"The Chosen One's mental state had already suffered an injury during that battle against Young Lord Ye on the Zhongtu Divine Continent? How come, you ask? It is all because he felt that he shouldn't have lost, which created a demon in his heart.

"In other words, Young Lord Ye has become his inner demon."

Ye Guanzhi paused. She shook her head slightly before saying, "His inner demon forced him to declare that only one of them can continue living in this world.

"It is unfortunate, but the Chosen One only has two choices if he wants to get rid of his inner demon: surrender to Ye Guan and face his own flaws fearlessly and with sincerity, or kill Young Lord Ye."

The old woman remained silent.

Ye Guanzhi said softly, "He chose the latter, and he ended up pushing himself to the edge of a cliff. He has to defeat Ye Guan to reach the heavens; otherwise, he will remain mediocre throughout his life."

"Who are you rooting for?" the old woman asked Ye Guanzhi.

Ye Guanzhi immediately answered, "Young Lord Ye!"

The old woman frowned and asked, "Why?"

Ye Guanzhi chuckled and asked, "Do you remember the first time I fought him?"

"Of course!" said the old woman with a nod.

Ye Guanzhi said, "I won, but he wasn't indignant, nor did he get discouraged by his defeat. He humbled himself and asked me for advice. His actions told me that he isn't particularly focused on winning or losing. Winning is great, but he thinks that it's okay to lose as well."

The old woman was confused. "Why would losing be okay?"

"One has to lose to recognize their shortcomings and flaws," Ye Guan explained, "If he was convinced that he was already invincible, why would he continue becoming even stronger?"

"Those at the summit of their own path are lonely people, and they do not want people to think that they are invincible, as they want to lose as well. Those who are truly strong have the same way of thinking, and Young Lord Ye had exhibited the same mentality as them."

"And the Chosen One does not have that mentality?" asked the old woman.

Ye Guanzhi said, "The Chosen One's status is special. He's so special that he feels that defeat is unacceptable. However, he's not the only one who thinks that way. The entire universe thinks that way as well."

Ye Guanzhi frowned upon saying that, seemingly worried about something.

"I'm actually worried about his supporters."

The old woman sounded confused as she asked, "What about them?"

Ye Guanzhi explained, "A huge group of people are supporting the Chosen One, and I'm sure that they do not want to see the Chosen One's defeat. What will happen to them if the Chosen One fails to defeat Ye Guan?"

"The Immortal Treasures Pavilion, the Milky Way Clan, and the Future Clan are standing on the Chosen One's side, and the vested interests of many people are on the Chosen One's shoulders as well."

"In other words, they won't let the Chosen One lose!"

The old woman's face turned ugly. "Are they really going to pull any dirty tricks? If they were to do that in the middle of the battle, it would be a blatant disrespect to everyone involved and a clear disregard of the laws."

Ye Guanzhi calmly explained, "You have no idea just what kind of people they are. I'm sure they're willing to do anything, as the stakes are so high. I think they might even stage a rebellion, not to mention pulling a dirty trick or two!"

The old woman hurriedly shook his head and said, "The Academy will instantly suppress them, so why would they dare to stage a rebellion?"

Ye Guanzhi said, "The Chosen One's status is special. He has the Sword Master's Dao Imprint, so it won't be that difficult to justify a rebellion if they are forced to do such a thing."

“The Committee won’t let that happen!”

“What if there are Committee members on the Chosen One’s side?”

The old woman froze and went silent.

Ye Guanzhi continued, “Actually, the biggest factor here is the support of the four great aristocratic clans. He can just suppress the Committee and take control of the Academy using the four great aristocratic clans’ help.

“The Immortal Treasures Pavilion is on his side as well, so they won’t have any issues when it comes to manpower and money.”

Ye Guanzhi sat up straight before saying, “If the Gu Clan and the Yue Clan choose to stand on the Chosen One’s side, he’ll have a ninety percent chance of becoming the next Academy Master.”

“Ninety percent?” said the old woman before asking, “Why not a hundred?”

Ye Guanzhi wryly said, “The Sword Master can appear and refuse to hand the position over to him. Senior Qingqiu might also wake up and refuse to acknowledge him as the next Academy Master.”

The old woman chuckled bitterly. It had been many years since those two had shown up with their true bodies rather than just their wills.

“I’m sure Lu Tian will do his best to earn the support of the four great aristocratic clans. If he succeeds, it’s over,” said Ye Guanzhi. With that, she stood up and turned around to leave.

“Where are you going?” asked the old woman.

Ye Guanzhi said, “I’m going to visit Young Lord Ye and tell him everything he needs to know.”

The old woman stiffened and went silent.

Ye Guanzhi was about to take a step out of the South Garden, but a terrifying aura locked onto her. A black-robed old man appeared in front of her and said, "Representative Ye, you're not allowed to leave the South Garden without explicit permission from the Committee."

Ye Guanzhi slowly balled her right hand into a fist.

The old man hurriedly said, "Representative Ye, Committee Head Li has no ill intentions toward you! I suggest you don't do this. Otherwise, your enemies will have the justification to mete out a more severe punishment to you."

The old man quickly left after saying his piece.

Ye Guanzhi turned to look at the old woman and said, "Tell Young Lord Ye to come here and meet me."

The old woman obliged and said, "Okay!"

She then left to carry out Ye Guanzhi's orders.

A hint of worry flashed past Ye Guanzhi's eyes. The bad blood between Ye Guan and the Chosen One had blown up.

Ye Guan had a bad history with the aristocratic family and the great clan factions of the Main Guanxuan Academy, so they would definitely not support him. However, if those factions went all-in and declared their stance, they would definitely not let Ye Guan defeat the Chosen One in their upcoming battle.

The profit they stood to gain from ensuring the Chosen One's victory was definitely enough for them to do just about anything. The Sword Master hadn't shown up with his true body in over thirty million years as well, which emboldened them.

...

As usual, Li Banzhi was busy dealing with the affairs of the Guanxuan Committee. She was the Committee Head, after all, and she had many things to do every day.

Old Zhang approached her. He bowed slightly before saying, "Is the Committee not going to suppress it?"

Li Banzhi smiled and asked, "How do we suppress it?"

Old Zhang fell silent.

"We can't suppress it." Li Banzhi shook her head and explained, "Lu Tian has been consistently gathering supporters since he arrived at the Guanxuan Academy. His motives are clear—he wants to become the next Academy Master. The motives of the factions and people behind him are clear as well.

"They want to rise and become even more powerful, and they've chosen to stand on the Chosen One's side because of the massive profits they stand to gain. The Sword Master has even created a precedent by helping many families and clans rise in power as he established the Guanxuan Academy."

"Lu Tian has many supporters. It is bad news for the Committee..." Old Zhang trailed off. He made a sidelong glance at Li Banzhi before asking, "Should we recall a batch of Guanxuan Guards and Dao Soldiers from the Xuzhen Battlefield?"

Li Banzhi smiled slightly and reassured him. "I have my own plans, so don't worry. Just do your job."

Old Zhang hesitated for quite a while, but he eventually left without saying anything.

Left all alone, Li Banzhi took out a portrait of Ye Guan. She stared at it for a very long time before turning to look outside the window and muttering, "He is indeed an extremely talented young man. It's great that he's doing well.

She tied her hair up, and white strands of hair briefly appeared. She chuckled lightly and said, "I've been protecting this world for you for such a long time; it's about time it ends."

She rolled the portrait up and put it away.

The light in her eyes turned cold as she said, "Pass my orders to Chief An You. I want him to bring the strongest members of the Shadow Department back to the Main Academy. Tell them that they have to come back to welcome their new king!

"Make sure to hide this from those factions!"

An old man vanished into thin air to carry out Li Banzhi's orders.

They were going to welcome their new king and quell the strife within the Academy!

Chapter 172: Mad Demon Bloodline Appears!

There were thousands of huge mountains behind the Sword Sect's Floating Mountain. They were huddled together and stretched on for as far as the eye could see. The vastness of the mountain range made it a magnificent and wondrous sight.

Dawn.

Ye Guan was standing at the edge of a cliff behind Floating Mountain. He looked around and saw that the mountain range was being submerged in a sea of clouds. The mountains bobbed up and down, and one could hear the sound of metal clashing against metal from every mountain.

The rising red sun vanquished the sea of clouds.

It was peaceful and quiet.

Little Pagoda's words yesterday had really struck a chord in him.

One's Sword Dao only improves through comprehension and enlightenment rather than absorbing enough profound energy to make breakthroughs...

A swordsman couldn't have any obsessions, as obsessions create inner demons. Some could subdue their inner demons and use them as the impetus for their rise, but most would get consumed and bound by their inner demons. They would get stuck in a prison in their hearts and wouldn't be able to come out of it until they die.

Ye Guan smiled. He had finally figured it out!

The path to the summit of cultivation was like climbing a mountain. The higher one's altitude, the harder the journey would become. Naturally, they would encounter many hardships along the way, especially against their own mental demons.

A cultivator had to be careful at all times, or their hearts would give birth to inner demons that would bring them down to the abyss.

One had to be calm and stay true to oneself.

Let oneself go and become as calm as a placid lake.

Ye Guan closed his eyes and opened his palms. The light breeze caressed him lightly, and it made him feel refreshed.

Ye Guan suddenly heard footsteps approaching him. He opened his eyes and found Chen Guanzi.

"First Senior Brother!" Ye Guan greeted.

Chen Guanzi examined Ye Guan from top to bottom and nodded in approval.

"Do not think too much into it. Be calm," he said.

Ye Guan chuckled bitterly and said, "Senior Brother, you can tell?"

Chen Guanzi nodded.

He was the only one who could tell that Ye Guan was still a Sword Sovereign, and it was all because he was on the cusp of becoming a Great Sword Sovereign. In other words, he was the most familiar with what Ye Guan was going through at the moment.

He was afraid that the pressure would become too much for Ye Guan to bear, which would give birth to mental demons, so he decided to come here and give Ye Guan advice. Fortunately, it seemed that Ye Guan was in great condition.

It's a great thing he's okay. Chen Guanzi said, "Follow me!"

He turned around and left. Ye Guan followed closely behind him.

Every swordsman would bow toward Chen Guanzi upon seeing him. It wouldn't take a genius to deduce that Chen Guanzi was truly a beloved disciple of the Sword Sect.

Chen Guanzi brought Ye Guan to a deep spot in the mountains. They had walked for a long period of time before they finally stopped in their tracks.

Ye Guan looked far in the distance and was surprised to see swords standing upright, stuck in the ground.

Chen Guanzi explained, "We're in the Sword Tomb. The swords here were left behind by our Sword Sect ancestors. Disciples of the Sword Sect may come here and try to take these swords with them along with the inheritance within them."

Ye Guan asked, "The ancestors..."

Chen Guanzi nodded and said, "They're dead!"

Ye Guan looked around and reckoned that there were at least a million swords here!

There were many Divine-grade swords and quite a few Simplicity-grade swords in the tomb.

It was a terrifying sight to behold.

Ye Guan was shocked. "We're at a tomb of a million swordsmen?"

A forlorn light flashed past Chen Guanzi's eyes as he swept his gaze across the swords.

"Yes," he replied.

Ye Guan asked, "Xuzhen World?"

Chen Guanzi nodded and explained, "The Xuzhen World claims the lives of many Sword Sect disciples every year since that war thirty million years ago."

Chen Guanzi walked over to a huge boulder.

There were eight swords sticking out of the boulder. He crouched in front of the boulder and caressed it lightly before saying, "Senior Brother, Senior Sister... I'm here. Little Guanzi is here to see you guys."

Ye Guan quietly stared at the eight swords.

Chen Guanzi's back was facing Ye Guan, so Ye Guan didn't see that tears had fallen down Chen Guanzi's eyes. After a long time, Chen Guanzi said softly, "I used to be the youngest and the weakest disciple of the Sword Sect, but now, I've become the strongest disciple of the Sword Sect's younger generation."

Ye Guan remained silent.

Chen Guanzi slowly got up. He didn't turn around as he said, "Junior Brother Ye, you may take any sword that you like here. You can also come here to train whenever you feel like it. The swords here are accompanied by their owner's sword intent. You can communicate with them and learn things from them.

"You're one of us, so our ancestors will take care of you."

He opened his palm, and a storage ring floated over to Ye Guan.

The storage ring astonishingly contained thirty million immortal spiritual crystals!

Chen Guanzi said, "No one can do anything to you as long as you remain here in the Sword Sect. If you ever get disturbed, it means that the disciples of the Sword Sect have been annihilated."

With that, Chen Guanzi hopped onto his sword and disappeared into the horizon.

Ye Guan felt warm all over as he stared at the floating storage ring. After a long while, he put the storage ring away and walked toward the Sword Tomb with his eyes closed. Chen Guanzi was right; the swords contained sword intent.

Each and every sword had its own unique sword intent.

The swords remained silent even after sensing Ye Guan's arrival.

Ye Guan stopped in his tracks. He bowed deeply and paid his respects. "My name is Ye Guan, and I am a disciple of the Sword Sect. I pay my respects to all of you, Senior Brothers and Senior Sisters!"

He received not a single response.

Soon, the swords trembled, and strands of sword intent rose and enveloped Ye Guan. Ye Guan responded by taking a step forward and opening his palm, revealing his own powerful sword intent.

His sword intent as a Sword Sovereign rose to the skies!

Ye Guan bowed deeply once more and said, "Ye Guan greets my fellow senior brothers and sisters!"

Boom!

The Sword Tomb trembled violently as countless sword intent surged toward Ye Guan and engulfed him in an instant.

Ye Guan closed his eyes as he basked in the multitudinous sword intent.

Sword Dao Inheritance!

He already had his own Sword Dao Inheritance, but his plain-skirt aunt's sword inheritance was too profound for him to appreciate and understand. On the contrary, he would benefit greatly if he were to receive the sword inheritances of the swords here!

The owners of these swords were Sword Immortals, at the very least, but there were countless Sword Sovereigns as well. Of course, there were also quite a few Great Sword Sovereigns.

Their knowledge of the Sword Dao was priceless to the current Ye Guan.

The sword intent of the swords entered Ye Guan's sea of consciousness like a deluge. He clearly felt the Sword Dao of the Sword Sect ancestors, and they showed everything to Ye Guan without any reservations.

Ye Guan sat down cross-legged to digest the Sword Dao of the Sword Sect ancestors. He had been cultivating the Sword Dao using his own understanding, as his Master Pagoda only knew how to fool people.

In other words, Ye Guan's knowledge of the Sword Dao was basic and shallow. It was the reason Ye Guan had been wanting to meet other swordsmen. He wanted to know just how they had interpreted the Sword Dao.

And it was the reason he had decided to visit the Sword Sect. He really wanted to have a deeper understanding of the Sword Dao, and he knew that he had to learn from others if he wanted to become a powerful swordsman.

Time passed, and Ye Guan eventually developed a new understanding of the Sword Dao.

Little Pagoda couldn't help but ask, "What do you think? Can he make a breakthrough and become a Great Sword Sovereign?"

The mysterious voice replied, "I think it's going to be difficult. Knowledge isn't enough to cross that chasm, but it is possible if he manages to assimilate all the knowledge he just obtained while staying true to his own Dao and Sword Dao."

Little Pagoda asked softly, "Stay true to his own Dao?"

"Yes!" said the mysterious voice.

Little Pagoda was silent.

The mysterious voice explained, "It can't be helped because he has already formed his own Dao. Right now, he needs to learn from others, but he has to stay true to his own Dao. In other words, he needs to have what martial artists call a resolute Dao heart."

"If he succeeds, it won't be too difficult for him to become a Great Sword Sovereign. Otherwise, he will get influenced by the Dao of other people, just like what happened to your Young Master. I remember that he even had to start from square one just to create his own resolute Dao heart, am I right?"

"I think... Little Pagoda muttered, "I believe that he'll stay true to his own Dao."

“I think so, too,” said the mysterious voice. “His heart is as solid as a boulder. I doubt the Sword Dao of others are capable of influencing him.”

“That’s true.” Little Pagoda nodded before admitting, “Actually, I’m more worried about his bloodline,” Little Pagoda said.

The mysterious voice asked with curiosity, “Bloodline?”

Little Pagoda explained worriedly, “I thought Ji Xuan and Nalan Jia’s death would awaken his bloodline, but it didn’t happen. He really is different from his father and grandfather.”

“He’s so calm that I’m getting worried about just what kind of monster will appear once his bloodline has awakened. You know that the quietest and kindest people are often the scariest people once they’re pissed off, right?”

The mysterious voice fell silent.

Little Pagoda sighed before continuing. “There aren’t many people capable of suppressing the Mad Demon Bloodline, and I’m really nervous because we’re talking about that brat here...”

“Don’t worry,” said the mysterious voice. “I’ll suppress him by then!”

Little Pagoda was shocked. “Are you sure?”

“What?” the mysterious voice retorted, “Do you have a better idea?”

Little Pagoda couldn’t retort at all.

...

The Head Military Official stood quietly at a certain mountain peak.

Lu Tian was standing next to him.

The Head Military Official stared deeply at Lu Tian and asked, "Are you still confident about defeating Ye Guan now that he has become a Great Sword Sovereign?"

After a moment of silence, Lu Tian replied, "I can put up a good fight."

He could put up a good fight, but he didn't dare to say that he would definitely win.

The Head Military Official was silent for a long time.

"We must acquire the support of the four great aristocratic clans."

Lu Tian remarked, "The four great aristocratic clans have yet to make a stance. They're waiting to see what's going to happen. I'm sure they're going to support the winner in my fight against Ye Guan."

The Head Military Official nodded. "I agree."

"Tutor," said Lu Tian before asking, "Do you have any solutions?"

The Head Military Official turned to Lu Tian and opened his palm, revealing a white jade bottle.

"Do you know what's in here?" he asked.

Lu Tian shook his head with eyes full of curiosity.

"The Sword Master's blood is in this jade bottle!"

Lu Tian's jaw dropped to the floor as he stood frozen and silent.

The Head Military Official explained, "The Sword Master left behind a few drops of his blood during the great war at Xuzhen many years ago. His blood was distributed to a few demonic beasts as a reward for participating in the battle.

"The Sword Master's blood is capable of enhancing the bloodline of just about anyone out there. My ancestor managed to get a drop of the Sword Master's blood by a stroke of luck."

"Tutor!" Lu Tian caught on to what the Head Military Official was saying, and he stared at the latter in shock, "You..."

The Head Military Official stared at Lu Tian and said, "The Sword Master's Dao Imprint isn't enough for you to acquire the support of the four great aristocratic clans. You need to have the Mad Demon Bloodline."

Lu Tian's voice was trembling as he asked, "Tutor... are you asking me to impersonate the Sword Master's descendant?"

The Head Military Official nodded.

Lu Tian was stupefied.

The Head Military Official stared deeply at Lu Tian and said, "Those capable of achieving great things aren't worried about such trivial matters. The Academy is divided, and it will continue to weaken until it is revitalized.

"You're the Chosen One of this generation, and it is your responsibility to revitalize the Academy."

Lu Tian cupped his fist, but he didn't say anything in response.

The Head Military Official continued. "The Academy Master seat is guaranteed to be yours with the support of the four great aristocratic clans. Even if Ye Guan defeats you, the position will still be yours, and no one can challenge you."

Lu Tian's eyes narrowed, but he still didn't say anything in response.

The Head Military Official added, "It's your duty to revitalize the Guanxuan Academy and unite the entire universe as the Chosen One of this generation. And who has never used any means to achieve great things?"

Lu Tian closed his eyes. After a long time, he opened his eyes and stared resolutely at the Head Military Official before saying, "I understand."

The Head Military Official nodded and said, "Your blood vessels aren't strong enough to withstand this Mad Demon Blood, even though it's just a drop.

"I will use a secret method to blend this drop of blood with your current bloodline, and then I will seal it. I'll give you an incantation that you can recite in your mind to stimulate it when necessary. Other people will be able to sense the drop of Mad Demon Blood in your veins once you've stimulated it."

Lu Tian nodded. "All right."

The Head Military Official swung his sleeve, and a drop of blood flew out of the white jade bottle and struck Lu Tian.

Lu Tian's eyes shot wide open. A wave of excruciating pain struck him, and he felt like his body was about to explode anytime soon.

The Head Military Official hurriedly used his secret method, and Lu Tian immediately felt better.

After a long while, the Head Military Official said, "Use the Stimulating Art!"

The Chosen One nodded and chanted the Stimulating Art.

His skin soon gave off a faint red glow. The Chosen One was stupefied to find that he was indeed giving off the aura of the Mad Demon Bloodline.

The Head Military Official nodded slightly and said, "Yes, that's good enough."

Lu Tian asked worriedly, "Are you sure that no one will suspect anything?"

The Head Military Official chuckled and said, "You're the Chosen One, and you possess the Sword Master's Dao Imprint. Who would dare to suspect you now that you've awakened the Mad Demon Bloodline as well?"

Lu Tian nodded slightly and no longer said a word.

The Head Military Official continued, "I've already contacted a few powerful clans and families, and they've agreed to support you. The Milky Way Clan and the Future Clan have also agreed to send their powerhouses to the Main Academy. Of course, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion has also offered to give us their full assistance.

"The best outcome possible is you killing Ye Guan fair and square."

"What if I fail?" Lu Tian asked.

The Head Military Official's expression remained unperturbed as he said, "It doesn't matter; he's still going to die."

"That sounds great," said Lu Tian.

The Head Military Official remarked, "The two of the biggest factions of the Academy are on the same boat as you, and they will not allow you to fail. I won't let you fail as well. You have to become the next Academy Master!"

Lu Tian nodded once again.

“All right!” the Head Military Official exclaimed, “Let’s go visit the Yue Clan!”

“Will the Yue Clan support me?”

“They’ll definitely support you now!” said the Head Military Official before disappearing into the horizon with Lu Tian.

Moments later, a blurry figure appeared on the same mountain peak where the Head Military Official and Lu Tian had conversed just now. The figure’s gaze was filled with a cold and murderous light as they stared at the horizon.

...

Li Banzhi was busy working in the Guanxuan Committee Hall when a blurry figure abruptly appeared in front of her.

“Chief An You, you’ve worked hard!” praised Li Banzhi.

Li Banzhi had secretly transferred the Head of the Shadow Department, Academy Chief An You back to the Main Guanxuan Academy after she discovered the young man’s identity.

An You dropped everything in his hand and rushed to the Main Academy upon hearing Li Banzhi’s order.

An You asked, “Lady Li, are we going to take them down soon?”

Li Banzhi shook her head.

An You was confused. "Why?"

Li Banzhi calmly replied, "Lu Tian needs to defeat Ye Guan for the sake of establishing his fame, but he's not the only one who needs a stepping stone. That young man needs a stepping stone as well."

An You was stunned, but he eventually replied, "I understand!"

Li Banzhi asked, "How are the elites of the Shadow Department? Have they arrived yet?"

An You nodded and explained, "The Shadow Department's three hundred thousand elites are on their way here from Xuzhen while making sure not to alarm anyone. It is impossible for an outsider to detect our elites, so please be at ease, my lady."

Li Banzhi nodded and said, "I don't dare to mobilize the Guanxuan Guards and the Dao Soldiers. The members of the aristocratic family faction and great clan faction have gotten far too deep into those armed forces, so I can only make use of your men."

An You bowed deeply and said, "I am thankful for your trust in us, my lady!"

Li Banzhi suddenly asked, "How many people does he have around him?"

An You replied, "There are thirty-six Supreme Immortals, eighteen Dao Immortals and three Time Immortals around him."

After a long silence, Li Banzhi replied, "They're not nearly enough."

An You was slightly stunned.

"Pass down my orders," said Li Banzhi. She stood up and continued. "Get those from the Nether Palace to return at once!"

An You nodded and replied, "Yes, my lady!"

He was about to leave when Li Banzhi called out to him. "Wait!"

An You stared at Li Banzhi.

Li Banzhi said, "I want you to go to Xuzhen. Find the Yang Clan's ancestor and tell her that their most outstanding talent so far has appeared. I'm sure she knows what to do by then."

An You nodded. He turned around to leave, but Li Banzhi called out to him once more. "Tell Mu Tiandao to return and take charge of the overall situation. Tell him to restrain all the Heavenly Daos as well!"

Chapter 173: Goodbye Young Master

An You bowed and left.

Inside the hall, Li Banzhi turned and looked up at the sky. She stared at the white cloud drifting around in silence. She had to consider the whole picture, so she couldn't afford to be negligent lest things went wrong.

However, Li Banzhi knew that she had to take risks as well, but she thought it was justifiable so long as the Academy would end up having a powerful and virtuous leader.

...

The most powerful clans of the Guanxuan Universe were the Gu Clan in Gu World and the Yue Clan in Yue World.

In the past, Empress Yue and Princess Xin led a few hundred thousand soldiers in a campaign to unify and conquer the various territories in the Guanxuan Universe. It could be said that they had conquered eighty percent of the Guanxuan Universe.

Of course, the Sword Master had supported them. Otherwise, they wouldn't have been able to accomplish such a feat.

The Sword Master's support allowed the Yue Clan and the Gu Clan to become two of the four strongest clans in the Guanxuan Universe. The Chosen One was special, but he was a mere ant in front of these two great aristocratic clans.

The four great aristocratic clans only feared one person—the Sword Master.

The Head Military Official brought Lu Tian to Yue Nation, where the Yue Clan was located, and the Yue Clan welcomed them. They had to be respectful toward the Chosen One and the Head Military Official.

The Head Military Official cupped his fist and said, "Grand Elder Yue Qian, long time no see."

"Head Military Official, it's nice to see you." Yue Qian smiled. He gestured with his hand and said, "Let's head in and talk."

The Head Military Official nodded, and the three of them walked into a hall.

Yue Qian smiled amiably at Lu Tian and the Head Military Official.

The Head Military Official said, "Grand Elder Yue Qian, I will get straight to the point. Lu Tian hopes to get the Yue Clan's support."

Yue Qian smiled. "Everyone is a part of the Academy, so it is only natural for us to get along."

The Head Military Official noticed Yue Qian's reluctance.

He glanced at Lu Tian and said, "Show it."

Lu Tian activated the Sword Master's Dao Imprint. It appeared on his glabella, and Yue Qian frowned upon seeing it.

The Head Military Official stared at Yue Qian and said, "Grand Elder Yue Qian, you should know the significance of the Sword Master's Dao Imprint."

Yue Qian was silent for quite a while. Eventually, he shook his head and said, "My ancestors have decreed that the Yue Clan will only support the descendants of the Sword Master."

The Head Military Official said, "Lu Tian."

Lu Tian nodded and inwardly chanted.

A terrifying bloodline power poured out of him and enveloped everything around him.

Elder Yue Qian jumped in shock. "The Mad Demon Bloodline!"

The Head Military Official nodded.

Yue Qian stared deeply at Lu Tian with his fists clenched and his face painted with surprise.

"Grand Elder Yue Qian, we need the Yue Clan's support," said the Head Military Official.

Yue Qian was silent.

The Head Military Official was about to say something, but Yue Qian said, "Okay!"

The Head Military Official was surprised.

Yue Qian explained, "The Yue Clan is loyal to the Sword Master. Lu Tian is a descendant of the Sword Master, so we're loyal to him as well."

Lu Tian and the Head Military Official grinned at Yue Qian's declaration.

The Head Military Official said, "I'm sure there will be mishaps on the day of Lu Tian's battle against Ye Guan. We hope that the Yue Clan will help us overcome those hardships by then."

"Of course." Yue Qian nodded. He went quiet for quite a while before continuing. "Afterward..."

The Head Military Official nodded and said, "The Yue Clan will reach greater heights."

Yue Qian was delighted. "I'm glad to hear that!"

The Head Military Official cupped his fist and said, "Grand Elder Yue Qian, farewell."

With that, he led Lu Tian out of the hall.

Yue Qian bowed deeply and said, "Young Master, goodbye."

Young Master! Lu Tian was startled, but he broke into a grin soon afterward and said, "Thank you."

With that, he left with the Head Military Official.

Yue Qian's bright demeanor vanished and was replaced by a cold look. A young man who seemed to be about twenty years old walked toward him. The young man was dressed in a white robe, and he was staring into the distance in silence.

The young man was none other than Yue Chen, and he was Rank 2 on the Divine Martial List of the Main Guanxuan Academy.

Yue Qian glanced at Yue Chen and asked, "There's something fishy about it, so why did you tell me to support them?"

Yue Chen calmly said, "Lu Tian isn't a descendant of the Sword Master."

Yue Qian frowned and asked, "Why do you think so?"

The young man explained, "He wouldn't have come here to ask for our support if he were truly the Sword Master's son. He could have revealed it in public, and our Yue Clan would have immediately supported him."

"Indeed!" Yue Qian nodded and said, "They want us to help them during the battle by suppressing Ye Guan once he gains the upper hand."

Yue Qian shook his head and said, "It seems Lu Tian isn't confident against him."

Yue Chen suddenly asked, "Grand Elder, are you familiar with Ye Guan?"

Yue Qian nodded. "I've investigated him."

Yue Chen asked, "What if he's the Sword Master's son?"

Yue Qian was stupefied.

Yue Chen paced around the room as he said, "There are three suspicious points about Ye Guan. The first one is the fact that he had such a powerful sword inheritance, even though he was from Nanzhou, a remote and tiny location somewhere in the Lower Realm.

"How come his rate of progress is at breakneck speed? I've mulled over that point, and I've finally discovered the answer. Ye Guan's tutor is a powerful swordsman. It is the answer, but how come our Yue Clan still couldn't ascertain Ye Guan's identity?"

“What does that mean? It means that Ye Guan’s tutor is hiding Ye Guan’s identity.”

Yue Qian sat down on a chair with a frown.

Yue Chen continued. “The second suspicious point appeared when Ye Guan went to Qingzhou and met the Sword Master. The Sword Master punished the An Clan, and he had a long conversation with Ye Guan.

“When Ye Guan collapsed, the Sword Master carried Ye Guan with his own hands rather than just using his sword energy to catch him. It shows that he favors Ye Guan.”

Beaded cold sweat covered Yue Qian’s face as he listened to Yue Chen’s explanation.

Of course, Yue Chen wasn’t done just yet as he added, “The third suspicious point I’ve discovered is the fact that Committee Head Li still hadn’t done anything. It is really strange how the Guanxuan Committee still hasn’t done anything even though the matter between Lu Tian and Ye Guan had already blown up to such an extent.

“Why is that?”

Yue Chen pondered for a while before answering his own question, “Grand Elder, I’m convinced that Ye Guan is the son of the Sword Master. I’m sure Committee Head Li already knows about Ye Guan’s identity, and she’s simply hiding it.”

Yue Qian directed a confused gaze at Yue Chen before asking, “Why?”

Yue Chen’s eyes narrowed. “I’m sure she wants to take advantage of the upcoming battle to sever the rotten parts of the Academy and cull the corrupted members of the aristocratic family and great clan factions.”

Yue Qian was taken aback, but his expression quickly turned sour.

Yue Chen continued, "It's a rare opportunity, as those greedy clans and families will definitely show themselves for the sake of taking a slice of the pie. She just has to reel in the net by then."

"Is she not afraid of a rebellion?" Yue Qian asked.

Yue Chen chuckled and said, "I'm sure she would love it if they rebelled. Grand Elder, do you really think that they will succeed if they rebel?"

Yue Qian couldn't say anything in response.

Yue Chen laughed at that and pointed out. "I'm sure you're thinking that it's possible, right? After all, it has been so many years since the Sword Master went missing, and everyone suspects that he had perished during that battle."

"I'm sure you're thinking that the aristocratic family faction and the great clan factions will be successful in their rebellion if they choose to rebel because of the Sword Master's absence, am I right?"

Yue Qian was silent.

"I've found two reasons behind why our ancestors had decreed that we should follow the Sword Master's descendant." Yue Chen abruptly changed the topic. "The first reason is that they truly want us to become loyal to the Sword Master's descendant, but the second reason is a bit complicated..."

"It is a warning. The ancestors have warned us to be careful even during the Sword Master's absence."

Yue Qian looked at Yue Chen and asked, "Are you saying that we still have to remain as their subjects, even though it has been such a long time since our ancestors' declaration?"

Yue Chen burst out laughing and said, "Grand Elder, we would have long vanished from the universe if it weren't for the undeniable fact that we are the Sword Master's subjects."

Yue Qian frowned.

“The universe still respects the Sword Master,” said Yue Chen with a smile. “It is impossible for us to obtain the support of anyone if we were to rebel, and we can’t really rebel. I also don’t believe that the Sword Master didn’t have any contingency plans before he disappeared somewhere.

“He was kind, so he let our clan be, but it doesn’t mean that he has completely lowered his guard.”

Yue Chen looked outside and said, “We’re starting to lose our respect for him because it has truly been a really long time since his last appearance. We’re truly becoming too prideful.”

Yue Qian sighed softly, but he didn’t say anything in the end.

Yue Chen added, “It’s a good thing that strength still towers over everything in this universe. In other words, if we want to remain as the overlord of the universe, we simply have to crush the Sword Master’s son. Might makes right, after all.”

Yue Chen chuckled bitterly and said, “Unfortunately, I don’t think I can defeat Ye Guan if he truly is the Sword Master’s son.”

Yue Qian chuckled bitterly as well.

Yue Chen said, “Grand Elder, you should go and visit our Clan Leader. Tell her my deductions. The decision is up to her, and I am not worthy enough of making the call here.”

Yue Qian nodded. However, he seemed to have suddenly thought of something as he turned toward Yue Chen and asked, “Who’s going to win in a fair fight between them?”

“Ye Guan!” Yue Chen answered almost immediately

Stunned, Yue Qian asked, “Why?”

Yue Chen chuckled and explained, “The Chosen One summoned the Heavenly Dao upon realizing that he was losing. He had truly embarrassed himself, and it’s only natural for people to look down on him after what he had done. He’s a sore loser”

Yue Qian laughed and nodded. “Indeed.”

Yue Chen’s voice deepened as he said, “Grand Elder, hurry up and inform the Clan Leader. This matter is critical to our clan. Once we’ve confirmed Ye Guan’s identity, we have to get ready.”

Yue Qian asked, “Get ready for what?”

Yue Chen said, “We have to get ready to welcome the new king!”

...

Lu Tian sighed as he streaked across the clouds.

He and the Head Military Official had just departed the Yue World.

Young Master! It was music to his ears. How proud were the four great clans of the Guanxuan Universe?

They didn’t even bother to greet him when he first visited him, but after revealing the aura of the Mad Demon Bloodline, the Grand Elder of the Yue Clan actually bowed to him.

Lu Tian was sure that the entire Guanxuan Academy would bow to him if he were to reveal the aura of the Mad Demon Bloodline to them!

Lu Tian clenched his fists tightly as he grinned in excitement.

He felt his blood boil at the mere thought of it.

The Head Military Official suddenly said, "Calm down."

Lu Tian let out a long exhale and suppressed his thoughts. He turned toward somewhere and muttered, "The Lingxu Blessed Land, Time Paradise and the Sword Sect..."

His expression turned sour. He vowed to make them pay in the future.

Those daring enough to oppose me will die!

"It's over once we've gotten the support of the Gu Clan," said the Head Military Official. "Ye Guan is still going to die, even if he has the support of a thousand Great Sword Sovereigns."

The Head Military Official made a sidelong glance at Lu Tian and continued. "Kill him, and you'll become king—the King of the Guanxuan Universe!"

Chapter 174: It Has Been Decided, A New Era Shall Begin!

The King of the Guanxuan Universe!

Lu Tian closed his eyes with clenched fists. His blood boiled once more.

He wanted to remain calm, but he couldn't help it.

The Head Military Official smiled slightly and said, "Calm down!"

Lu Tian suddenly bowed deeply to the Head Military Official and said, "Regardless of whether I become the new king of the universe or not, you will still be my tutor, sir."

The Head Military Official smiled and said, "Let's head to the Gu Clan! Things will be more or less settled once you've acquired the Gu Clan's support. You just have to fight Ye Guan, and your era will start afterward."

Lu Tian nodded, and the two quickly arrived at Gu World.

The Gu Clan welcomed them warmly. The important figures of the Gu Clan even stepped forward to greet them personally, including Crown Prince Gu.

Crown Prince Gu was Rank 1 on the Divine Martial List, and Princess Xin appointed him as the crown prince of Gu Nation. Princess Xin was often in Xuzhen World, so Crown Prince Gu was in charge of the Gu Clan's affairs in the Guanxuan Universe.

Crown Prince Gu was clad in a long green robe. He was tall with a warm and gentle demeanor. He seemed like a refined gentleman.

Crown Prince Gu cupped his fist upon seeing the Head Military Official and Lu Tian.

"Head Military Official, Brother Lu, welcome! It's so nice to see you."

The Head Military Official smiled and asked, "Is it convenient for us to talk, Crown Prince?"

"Of course it is!" Crown Prince Gu smiled and said, "Let's head in!"

The three soon arrived at a large hall.

A maidservant served them tea before leaving them alone in the grand hall.

Crown Prince Gu sipped his tea, but he didn't speak.

The Head Military Official shattered the ice and said. "Crown Prince, we hope to acquire the Gu Clan's support."

Crown Prince Gu asked, “You want the Gu Clan to support Brother Lu?”

The Head Military Official nodded.

Crown Prince Gu fell silent.

The Head Military Official directed a meaningful gaze at Lu Tian.

Lu Tian stood up and spread open his palm. A faint red glow enveloped his skin.

Boom!

A bloodline power pervaded the air around them.

Crown Prince Gu’s eyes narrowed. “The Mad Demon Bloodline?”

The Head Military Official nodded.

Crown Prince Gu didn’t say anything in response.

The Head Military Official stared at Crown Prince Gu and asked, “Crown Prince, is the Gu Clan willing to help us? It’s completely fine if the Gu Clan is not willing to take on such a risk.”

Crown Prince Gu smiled and asked, “What do you want us to do?”

The Head Military Official smiled and said, “Crown Prince, you’re smart. You should know why I’m here.”

Crown Prince Gu looked at Lu Tian and asked, “Brother Lu, how confident are you in defeating Ye Guan?”

Lu Tian replied, "I'm a hundred percent confident."

A hundred percent? Crown Prince Gu fell silent. I'm not sure where you got that arrogance from, and I don't even know what to say.

The Head Military Official asked, "What do you think? Please speak your mind, Crown Prince."

Crown Prince Gu calmly said, "I can't make a decision by myself. I have to consult my ancestors."

The Head Military Official nodded. "All right!"

He stood up and cupped his fist. "We'll head off first, Crown Prince."

Crown Prince Gu nodded. "Safe travels."

The Head Military Official and Lu Tian left the grand hall.

Crown Prince Gu was left alone in his seat. He shook his head and chuckled.

Just then, a young woman walked toward him and sat down across from him. She glanced outside the hall and asked, "Brother, is Lu Tian really the son of the Sword Master?"

Crown Prince Gu shook his head. "No!"

The young woman frowned and pointed out. "But he has the Mad Demon Bloodline!"

Crown Prince Gu shook his head and said, "That doesn't prove anything. The Yang Clan has the Mad Demon Bloodline running through their veins, does that mean they're all descendants of the Sword Master?"

The young woman fell silent.

Crown Prince Gu continued. "The Head Military Official and Lu Tian are going down the wrong path as well."

The young woman frowned and asked, "What does that mean, Brother?"

Crown Prince Gu chuckled and said, "Did you not see them just now? They're not confident in their chances of succeeding. Otherwise, they wouldn't have come here and asked for our clan's help."

Crown Prince Gu glanced outside before continuing. "Nothing is going to happen if Brother Lu defeats Ye Guan, but if Ye Guan wins, the factions behind Lu Tian will definitely make a move to suppress Ye Guan."

The young woman lifted a brow and asked bitinglly, "Will they dare?"

Crown Prince Gu calmly responded, "Why wouldn't they? The vested interests of so many families and clans are behind them. The support of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, the Milky Way, and Future Clan are worth mentioning as well.

"It would be foolish for anyone to underestimate their combined power."

"Aren't we one of the four great clans of the Guanxuan Universe?" said the young woman.

Crown Prince Gu's eyes narrowed.

The young woman picked up the subtle change in his mood.

"What's wrong?" asked the young woman.

“Something is weird.” Crown Prince Gu said.

The young woman frowned and asked, “What is it?”

The Crown Prince clenched his fists and pointed out. “The Committee is too quiet!”

This revelation surprised the young woman as well.

“B-B-Brother, are you saying...” she stammered.

Crown Prince Gu explained, “The Chosen One is openly pulling people to his side, so how come the Committee is still silent? Isn’t that weird?”

The young woman muttered, “It is weird...”

“I’ve come up with two possibilities...” Crown Prince Gu muttered, “The first possibility is that Lu Tian is truly the Chosen One, and the Committee has allowed him to build a foundation for himself.

“The second possibility is terrifying. The Committee knows that he’s not the Chosen One, and they’re using him to bait out the corrupt members of the Guanxuan Academy.”

The young woman’s expression turned serious.

Crown Prince Gu’s voice deepened as he continued. “Committee Head Li placed Representative Ye on house arrest, but she didn’t punish her. I think that was her way of protecting Representative Ye from the factions that are against her.”

“Aren’t we one of those factions, Brother?” asked the young woman.

Crown Prince Gu’s pupils quivered as he asked, “What do you think will happen if the Gu Clan and the Yue Clan ended up supporting the wrong side?”

The young woman frowned and pointed out. "What can the Committee do at that point? The Gu Clan and Yue Clan are influential and powerful enough to just hand the Academy Master position over to him, even if he's not the Sword Master's son."

If the Yue Clan and the Gu Clan worked together, there wouldn't be any need for them to be afraid of the Guanxuan Committee. Even if the armed forces of the Guanxuan Academy were deployed along with their Dao Soldiers, the combined forces of the Gu Clan and the Yue Clan could still overpower them.

After all, both clans had a total of almost ten million troops, each on par with every troop of the Guanxuan Academy.

"You should be correct... Crown Prince Gu trailed off before saying, "But..."

"But?"

Crown Prince Gu stared intently at the young woman. His voice was trembling as he asked, "What if... what if Ye Guan is the Sword Master's son?"

"That's impossible!" the young woman jumped up with a face filled with disbelief and exclaimed, "How could that be?!"

Crown Prince Gu calmly said, "Why is it impossible? If Ye Guan is the Sword Master's son, standing on Lu Tian's side means damning ourselves. The Committee will say that we've rebelled as a justification to destroy our clan.

"By then, we would only have two options: go all-out in an actual rebellion or surrender to the Committee and accept our punishment."

The young woman asked, "What if we actually rebelled?"

“Our clan will be annihilated!” exclaimed Crown Prince Gu. “The Sword Master is missing, but who can say for sure that he’s already dead?”

”And so what if he’s already dead? Empress Qingqiu is still alive. Even if she remains asleep, the powerhouses loyal to the Sword Master are strong enough to reduce our Gu Clan to mere specks of dust.”

Crown Prince Gu shook his head and said, “Our ancestors told us to follow the descendants of the Sword Master. Why do you think they told us that? I believe it’s a decision they’ve made, not just because they’re loyal to the Sword Master but for the Gu Clan’s survival as well.”

The young woman was silent for quite a while.

Eventually, she spoke hesitantly, “We still can’t say for sure if Ye Guan is really the Sword Master’s son.”

“I’m sure of it,” said Crown Prince Gu.

The young woman stared at Crown Prince Gu in surprise.

“How?” she asked.

Crown Prince Gu nodded and said, “I have evidence!”

“Really? What evidence do you have?” asked the young woman.

Crown Prince Gu opened his palm, and a portrait floated over to the young woman.

“This is Ye Guan’s portrait.”

The young woman’s eyes brightened, and she exclaimed, “How come he’s so handsome?!”

Crown Prince Gu rolled his eyes at her and said, "Look at this."

The young woman chuckled and took a closer look at the portrait.

"He has a great figure as well!" said the young woman.

Crown Prince Gu's expression darkened.

"Don't you think he looks similar to the Sword Master?" He pointed out.

The young woman was startled. She examined the portrait once again, and her expression turned serious.

"He's most likely the Sword Master's son!" exclaimed Crown Prince Gu.

The young woman stared at Crown Prince Gu and asked, "What should we do?"

Crown Prince Gu pondered for a while before saying, "We should go ahead and tell our ancestors what we think. They have to come here and wait for the reveal."

Crown Prince Gu fell silent, seemingly pondering over something.

"I'll tell the Head Military Official that our clan is willing to support him."

The young woman asked in confusion, "Why?"

Crown Prince Gu calmly explained, "We'll support Lu Tian on the surface. This way, the clans and families that are still waiting on the sidelines will surely support Lu Tian. We'll support Ye Guan behind the scenes, and we'll jump ships to openly support Ye Guan at the right time."

The young woman fell silent at Crown Prince Gu's reply. Eventually, she asked, "If Ye Guan loses against the Chosen One in a fair battle, what's going to happen?"

Crown Prince Gu remained calm as he said, "If Ye Guan loses even though he's the Sword Master's son, it means the end of the Sword Master's era. The strongest will become the next King of the Guanxuan Universe. Mm... I think we can give it a try!"

The young woman went silent.

Crown Prince Gu continued. "I can also follow the footsteps of our ancestors and help Ye Guan like what they had done for the Sword Master.

"If he's more outstanding than me, I'll have to support him. His background is better than mine as well, so I'm willing to support him. However, I will have to check if he's a good-for-nothing. If he is, then forget it! I will not support a wastrel!"

"Sounds great!" exclaimed the young woman.

"All right." Crown Prince Gu nodded and said, "I'll go ahead and contact our ancestors!"

"Wait!" the young woman called out and said, "Gu Hao tried to kill Ye Guan in Qingzhou because of the Great Dao Destiny."

Crown Prince Gu frowned. "I would have forgotten that if you hadn't mentioned it! Didn't I forbid anyone from intervening?"

The young woman sighed helplessly. "He secretly went out and did it, anyway."

"Wait, can you repeat what you said earlier?" Crown Prince Gu asked.

The young woman was surprised, but she obliged, "Gu Hao tried—"

“Gu Hao?” Crown Prince Gu frowned. “Who is that? I don’t know a Gu Hao.”

The young woman didn’t know what to say.

...

On a mountain peak of the Martial Department.

The Head Military Official received a letter. He read it and smiled lightly once he was done. He turned to look at Lu Tian cultivating nearby and said, “The Gu Clan has decided to support us. It’s done!”

Lu Tian’s grinned.

He eventually failed to remain calm and burst out laughing. It’s done! My era is here!

Chapter 175: Invincible In This World

Lu Tian stood on top of a mountain of the Martial Department. He held his hands behind his back and stared at Guanxuan Academy in the distance. There was a small smile playing on his lips.

Now, the two strongest clans in Guanxuan Universe were supporting him. In essence, his position was secured. Even the Committee would not be able to stop him.

It has been thirty million years since the Academy had a new master. Now, he was going to assume that position.

The Head Military Official walked towards Lu Tian and whispered, “Your era is about to begin!”

Lu Tian nodded. He was not bashful at all. As the Chosen One, he was destined to be invincible.

The Head Military Official added, "Although you have the support of the Yue Clan and the Gu Clan, there is one more place we need to go to get their support."

Lu Tian looked at the Head Military Official, and the Head Military Official said, "The Demon Domain!"

The Demon Domain! Lu Tian started to frown.

The Demon Clan had a low profile inside the Academy. It wasn't because they were weak. On the contrary, they were very, very strong.

The reason why they had low presence in the Academy was because they were self-governing, and most of them lived in the Demon Domain. They rarely interacted with outsiders. However, the Academy also oversaw them.

This was the arrangement because if the Demon Clan and humans lived together, conflicts could easily happen.

Therefore, the Demon Clan and humans lived separately, but they had interactions. Every ten years, the younger generation of the Demon Clan and the humans would spar in a battle.

The Head Military Official said, "Inside the Demon Domain, there are a few hundred thousand demon clans. We cannot get the support of the entire Demon Clan but we only need a few of them to support us. That would be enough!"

As he said this, he smiled, "We will return their support by supporting them to become the king of the Demon Clan in the future. I believe no one will turn down this offer."

Lu Tian muttered, "The Heavenly Dragon Clan..."

The Head Military Official said, "Don't bother about them anymore! When you become king, you can look at their expressions. That will be entertaining."

Lu Tian smirked. "Indeed."

The Head Military Official nodded. "Alright! Let's head to the Demon Domain!"

A thought jumped into his mind, and he asked, "Teacher, are the Yue Clan and the Gu Clan truly supportive of us?"

The Head Military Official laughed, "They have no reason to trick us unless the true descendant of the Sword Master appears. However, is that possible?"

Lu Tian nodded. Very soon, the two of them teleported away.

.....

In the Sword Tomb in Sword Sect.

Ye Guan had spent the past three days here training. During this time, he had been learning from the sword intent of his ancestors.

He would create his own path by learning from others.

Regardless of whether it was cultivation or swordsmanship, he could not be overly objective and disregard all outside influence. He had to pool wisdom from those before him and learn from them. This would broaden his mindset and allow him to go further.

Outside the Sword Tomb, Chen Guanzi was staring at Ye Guan in silence.

Cao Bai was standing beside him.

Cao Bai asked in a deep voice, "First Senior Brother, I feel like there are people around us, but I went around to check, and I did not find anyone. Am I mistaken? Or are they an extremely formidable stealth technique?"

Chen Guanzi raised his head and looked at the sky in silence.

Cao Bai noticed Chen Guanzi's expression, and his facial muscles tightened. He asked, "First Senior Brother, is there really someone who is watching us?"

Chen Guanzi nodded.

"How dare they!"

A cold look passed by Cao Bai's eyes, and he shouted, "What do they want? Do they want to kill Junior Brother Ye Guan?"

Chen Guanzi remained silent.

He could sense that there were people watching them. Furthermore, they were abnormally strong!

Cao Bai's voice deepened, and he said, "First Senior Brother, we must inform our elders and seniors in the Xuzhen World."

Chen Guanzi nodded. "I have already notified them."

Cao Bai nodded, and he continued to stare at the sky with worry.

Chen Guanzi said, "Don't bother about them. I will keep watch here."

Cao Bai nodded.

Just then, Ye Guan suddenly opened his eyes.

Buzz!

A sword hum rang out with a shrill sound in the Sword Tomb. It shot into the sky, and the earth vibrated. Around Ye Guan, sword intent that was flowing like streams of water returned to his sword.

The Sword Tomb grew calm again.

Cao Bai was surprised by this scene, and he stammered, "W-What?"

Chen Guanzi stared at Ye Guan in the distance, but he remained silent.

Ye Guan stood up slowly. He was deep in thought now.

Little Pagoda asked, "How do you feel?"

Ye Guan smiled but remained silent.

Little Pagoda snapped, "Stop pretending, tell me!"

Ye Guan grinned. "Not too bad."

Little Pagoda asked, "What do you mean by not too bad?"

After pondering for a while, Ye Guan said, "I feel good. I learned the Sword Dao from the seniors here, and I find them really great."

Little Pagoda asked, "And then?"

Ye Guan said, "But I think that my Sword Dao is better."

Little Pagoda stayed silent, and Ye Guan laughed, "I comprehended a lot, and I learned a lot."

The mysterious voice said, "Little Pagoda, tell him that he should not let others influence him. He should..."

Suddenly, Ye Guan said, "I feel like I can learn other's Dao and even become a Martial God from that. However, I must maintain my own Dao because that is my core. Therefore, after learning the Sword Dao of the seniors here, I am more determined to solidify my own Sword Dao!"

He paused for a while before continuing, "If I am not invincible in my life, I will eventually die. If one person between me and my enemy has to die, then it better be my enemy."

Little Pagoda was at a loss for words.

"Ha ha!" The mysterious voice burst out laughing, "Incredible, incredible! His character will make him invincible!"

Little Pagoda asked, "Has he become a Great Sword Sovereign?"

The mysterious voice scolded, "You fool!"

Little Pagoda was speechless, and the mysterious voice asked, "Do you know what is the most terrifying thing?"

Little Pagoda said, "Just get straight to the point and stop winding around. My head will hurt if you take too many turns. Don't you know that my mind is very simple?"

After a while, the mysterious voice said, "The most terrifying thing is when a person is able to remain grounded after experiencing glory and fame instead of being blinded by the riches in front of him."

Little Pagoda said, "Yes, you're saying that one should remain true to themselves even after experiencing glory."

The mysterious voice asked, "Oh, you read books, too?"

Little Pagoda said, "That response was instinctive!"

The mysterious voice was at a loss for words.

Little Pagoda asked, "Has he become a Great Sword Sovereign?"

The mysterious voice said, "I think he's only one step away!"

Little Pagoda frowned. "One step away?"

The mysterious voice said, "Yes! I think he can make a breakthrough whenever he wants, but he simply doesn't want to."

Little Pagoda was confused, and he asked, "Why?"

The mysterious voice thought for a while before saying, "This lad is a complicated person. Who knows what he is thinking?"

"I agree." Little Pagoda quickly added, "And it's annoying how complicated he is!"

The mysterious voice didn't know what to say.

Just then, Ye Guan walked to Chen Guanzi and Cao Bai. He smiled and greeted, "First Senior Brother!"

Chen Guanzi nodded but did not say anything. He turned and left.

Ye Guan was surprised by his behavior, but Cao Bai smiled and explained, "First Senior Brother has always been like that; he is not fond of talking, but he has been talking a lot recently because of you!"

Ye Guan said, "First Senior Brother is awesome!"

Cao Bai nodded. "Yes! When we entered the Sword Sect, he guided us all along. To us disciples of the Sword Sect, he is the one we respect the most."

A thought jumped into his mind, and he suddenly said, "Junior Brother Ye, Representative Ye has sent someone for you. She's waiting for you here."

Ye Guan was surprised, and he asked, "Representative Ye? Ye Guanzhi?"

Cao Bai nodded. "Yes!"

Ye Guan hurriedly asked, "Where is she?"

Cao Bai said, "In the guest house."

Ye Guan smiled and said, "Senior Brother, please lead me there."

Senior Brother! Cao Bai laughed and said, "Let's go!"

The two of them hopped onto a sword and vanished into the sky.

In the guest hall, Ye Guan saw an old lady there. She stood up and immediately said, "Young Lord Ye, I am Guanzhi's helper. I am here under her orders. She wants to meet you."

Ye Guan nodded. "Alright!"

He also wanted to see Ye Guanzhi.

However, Cao Bai suddenly said, "No way!"

Ye Guan and Madame Li looked at Cao Bai, and Cao Bai said, "It's not appropriate at the moment."

Madame Li frowned and asked, "Why?"

Ye Guan was surprised too, and Cao Bai explained, "This is a special time. If you leave the Sword Sect now, we..."

Ye Guan asked, "Is someone watching me?"

Cao Bai nodded. "Yes!"

Ye Guan frowned.

Madame Li's expression also turned cold. She asked, "What do they want?"

Cao Bai shook his head. "Regardless, Junior Brother Ye is safest if he remains in the Sword Sect."

Ye Guan thought about it before he smiled and said, "Senior Brother Cao, don't worry! They will not do anything to me now, and they have no reason to do so unless the Chosen One is not confident of beating me at all."

Cao Bai pondered for a while and decided that Ye Guan was right. He nodded and said, "I will accompany you to the South Garden."

Ye Guan smiled and assured, "No need for that, don't worry. If I truly meet any danger, I can protect myself."

After a while, Cao Bai nodded and said, "Be careful."

Ye Guan turned towards Madame Li and said, "Senior, let's go!"

Madame Li nodded, and the two turned around and left.

They headed straight to South Garden immediately after they left the Sword Sect.

Inside the pagoda, Little Pagoda suddenly said, "The auras that are watching him are too strong. It is not normal!"

The mysterious voice said, "I don't sense any bad intentions from them, and they don't seem to be watching him. They are probably trying to protect him!"

Little Pagoda's voice deepened, and he said, "Have they discovered his identity? That can't be! I hid it well!"

The mysterious voice asked, "Are you sure you hid it well?"

Little Pagoda said, "I think I did, but what do you think?"

The mysterious voice was at a loss for words.

Beside Ye Guan, Madame Li surveyed Ye Guan and sighed to herself. She had to admit that the young man was not just talented; he also had an excellent character and an incredible disposition.

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Senior, how is Lady Guanzhi in South Garden?"

Madame Li shook her head and sighed, "She's still under house arrest."

Ye Guan suddenly turned to Madame Li.

Madame Li turned to look at Ye Guan as well.

Ye Guan asked, "Madame Li, where is the Committee?"

Madame Li was stunned. "What do you want to do?"

Ye Guan said, "I want to make an Imperial Appeal!"

An Imperial Appeal!

Madame Li stared at Ye Guan silently.

Ye Guan calmly said, "If no one wants to seek justice for Lady Guanzhi, I will do it myself."

Madame Li looked at Ye Guan with a complicated expression. She sighed to herself and muttered, "My lady... he is a good man indeed."

Chapter 176: Master Pagoda Can Take the Impact For Me

Ye Guan looked at Madame Li and said, "Senior, I want to go to the Committee."

Madame Li shook her head and said, "Young Lord Ye, I'm sorry, but I can't let you go to the Committee."

Ye Guan was confused. "Why?"

Madame Li replied, "It's complicated..."

Ye Guan asked, "Senior, are you talking about the aristocratic family and the great clan factions?"

Madame Li nodded. The aristocratic and clan factions were just too powerful, and she didn't want Ye Guan to get drenched in such muddy waters. The fact that Ye Guan had entertained such a thought was more than enough for her.

However, Ye Guan insisted, "I still want to go to the Committee, Senior."

Madame Li stared quizzically at Ye Guan and asked, "Why?"

Ye Guan softly explained, "Senior Ye Guanzhi stood up for me despite being aware of the consequences."

Madame Li fell silent, feeling slightly hesitant.

Ye Guan said in a serious tone, "Senior, please bring me to the Committee. You don't have to say anything else, I've already made up my mind."

Madame Li stared intently at Ye Guan for a few moments. She realized that Ye Guan was determined to visit the Committee, so she could only nod and agree, "All right."

In all honesty, she also had some pent-up anger in her heart. Ye Guanzhi hadn't done anything wrong, so why was she being punished? She felt like there was no longer any logic to the world.

Having made up her mind, Madame Li guided Ye Guan to the Main Guanxuan Academy, and they soon arrived at the Committee Hall. A statue stood right in front of the Committee Hall.

It was the statue of the Sword Master.

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at the statue before walking into the Committee Hall.

A terrifying aura engulfed Ye Guan just as he was about to enter the Committee Hall.

A voice echoed from afar. "Stop right there!"

Ye Guan stopped in his tracks.

"What do you want?" asked the voice.

Ye Guan looked straight at the Committee Hall and said, "I would like to lodge an Imperial Appeal!"

An Imperial Appeal!

Ye Guan's voice echoed loudly and clearly. His actions immediately attracted the attention of the nearby students, and they were stunned upon seeing that Ye Guan had come here.

Ye Guan's reputation was at an all-time high, as he was daring enough to challenge the Chosen One.

An Imperial Appeal?

The students' interest was piqued upon hearing that Ye Guan had come here to lodge an Imperial Appeal.

The news that Ye Guan had arrived to lodge an Imperial Appeal quickly spread throughout the entire Academy. More and more students gathered near the Committee Hall.

South Garden.

Ye Guanzhi was stupefied upon hearing that Ye Guan was standing in front of the Committee Hall to lodge an Imperial Appeal on her behalf. She truly didn't expect that Ye Guan would do that for her.

Soon, she recovered from her shock and revealed a beautiful smile. She was moved, and she felt an inexplicable joy in her heart. She wanted to continue reading the book in her hand, but for some reason, she couldn't focus on it anymore.

A strong breeze swept past her, disturbing the serenity of the nearby lake.

...

The students in front of the Committee Hall were stupefied.

Ye Guan was truly brave!

He had challenged the Chosen One, and now, he was lodging an Imperial Appeal.

The students were curious about Ye Guan's target.

Ye Guan stared straight at the Committee Hall with no fear in his eyes.

After a few moments of silence, a voice echoed out from the Committee Hall.

"Against whom?" asked the voice.

Ye Guan calmly responded, "Against the Committee!"

'Against the Committee'?!

The crowd of onlookers burst out into murmurs.

Was Ye Guan mad? Was he seriously trying to lodge an Imperial Appeal against the Committee? The Guanxuan Committee was the most powerful organization in the Guanxuan Universe!

Lodging an Imperial Appeal against the Committee? What? Do you really think that the Academy belongs to your family? This is too absurd![1]

The Committee Hall fell silent.

Ye Guan spoke once more and explained, "I was a competitor of the Upper Realm's martial contest. The True Dragon Clan broke the rules, and they worked together with the An Clan to deal with me.

"Lady Guanzhi dealt with the matter impartially and punished the An Clan, but Lady Guanzhi's actions attracted the ire of the aristocratic family faction and the great clan faction.

"They retaliated by suppressing her and dismissing her from her position before locking her up in the South Garden."

Ye Guan's gaze turned cold as he continued. "I would like to ask the Committee. Does the Guanxuan Academy belong to the Sword Master, or does it belong to the factions?"

The expressions of the students abruptly changed.

He really went mad!

Ye Guan had just openly challenged the aristocratic family faction and the great clan faction. Many of the students' gazes turned hostile, as they were members of those aristocratic families and clans.

However, Ye Guan remained calm. Factions? They can go to hell! I'm only nice to those nice to me!

“How impudent!” an old man roared and walked over to Ye Guan before asking, “Just who do you think you are? How dare you question the Committee’s decisions?”

Ye Guan looked at the old man and asked, “Are you from the Committee?”

The old man replied coldly, “No!”

Ye Guan frowned and retorted, “Then, how is this any of your business?”

Everyone was utterly speechless.

The old man was furious, and he snapped, “I am an elder of the Central Department; how dare you look down on me!”

Ye Guan glanced sideways at Madame Li and asked, “What does the Central Department do?”

Madame Li explained, “Whenever the Committee makes any decisions, they will pass their orders down to the Central Department. The Central Department executes the Committee’s orders.”

Ye Guan nodded slightly, then looked at the elder before asking, “Does my Imperial Appeal against the Committee matter to the Central Department?”

“You!” The old man stumbled over his words in anger. “Y-Ye Guan! You can’t afford to mess around like this because the Sword Sect is backing you up!”

Ye Guan stared deeply at the old man and asked, “Does it look like I’m messing around?”

“You—” the old man started.

However, Ye Guan shook his head and interrupted him. "Stop nagging, I don't want to listen to your nonsense. If you're unhappy about what I'm doing, then let's fight. I'll bury you myself!"

The old man was enraged. He wanted to retort, but an old man walked out of the Committee Hall.

Everyone hurriedly bowed and said, "Greetings, Elder Zhang!"

Elder Zhang!

Elder Zhang wasn't a member of the Committee, but he was the only individual who could enter and leave the Committee Hall freely. It was only a matter of time before he became a member of the Committee. After all, the Sword Master was the one who had given him his special status many years ago.

The old man from the Central Department bowed and said, "Elder Zhang!"

Elder Zhang glanced sideways at the old man.

The old man hurriedly said, "This Ye Guan is truly a lawbreaker. He should be kicked out of the Guanxuan Academy and be sent to the Heaven's Writ Prison—"

"Shut up!" Old Zhang roared like thunder.

Everyone was shocked by Old Zhang's reaction.

The old man stammered, "E-Elder Zhang?"

Old Zhang glared at the old man and asked, "Ye Guan is a lawbreaker? What law did he break, then?"

The old man's voice was trembling as he answered, "He wants to lodge an Imperial Appeal against the Committee..."

Old Zhang remained expressionless as he replied, "Who said that one couldn't lodge an Imperial Appeal against the Committee?"

The old man froze, and he soon went beyond pallid. Fuck, there's something wrong here. Why does it feel like Elder Zhang is on Ye Guan's side?

Old Zhang glared at the old man and asked, "Elder Yu, who said that Ye Guan can't lodge an Imperial Appeal against the Committee? I don't think the Sword Master made that kind of a rule, so what are you trying to imply here?"

"Are you implying that you're more powerful than the Sword Master?"

Elder Yu's face immediately changed. He fell to his knees and begged. "Elder Zhang, I was wrong!"

Everyone looked at Elder Yu with strange expressions. They truly didn't expect Elder Yu's bootlicking to backfire on him!

Old Zhang nodded slightly and said, "Holding power in the Academy is equivalent to holding a deadly weapon; it tends to fill people with intrusive thoughts. We're powerful, and that is exactly why we have to be careful not to abuse our power."

"Do you understand?"

Elder Yu hurriedly replied, "Yes, I understand! I was wrong!"

Everyone nodded to express their agreement with Old Zhang's words.

Ye Guan looked at Old Zhang. This old man is pretty great!

Old Zhang waved his hand in dismissal and said, "You may leave."

Elder Yu took one last glance at Ye Guan before leaving.

Old Zhang examined Ye Guan from top to bottom.

His gaze softened, and he smiled as he asked, "You want to lodge an Imperial Appeal against the Committee?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

"Then, come with me," said Old Zhang. He turned around and started walking toward the Committee Hall.

Ye Guan followed him closely, but he seemed to have thought of something as he asked hesitantly, "This isn't a trap, right? You're not luring me into the building to surround me with the Committee's powerhouses, right?"

Ye Guan was still wary of the Guanxuan Committee. After all, they had locked up even someone as kind as Ye Guanzhi. They must be super corrupt!

Old Zhang was so dumbfounded by Ye Guan's words that he couldn't help but chuckle.

"Are you scared?" asked Old Zhang.

Ye Guan shook his head and replied, "No!"

He continued on following Old Zhang, but he inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda, are you familiar with the influential figures of the Academy?"

Little Pagoda calmly replied, "I'm familiar with every single one of them!"

Ye Guan's face darkened. "I'm really serious here, Master Pagoda. Just where did you get the habit of bragging? You should be more humble, Master Pagoda."

Little Pagoda was speechless. This bastard never believes me whenever I tell him the truth.

Ye Guan followed Old Zhang into the Committee Hall.

Meanwhile, the onlookers outside the Committee Hall were curious about how the Committee would deal with Ye Guan. The Committee would definitely not tolerate anyone challenging their power.

The Committee would definitely challenge Ye Guan to make an example out of him.

Madame Li stared at Ye Guan's departing back with worried eyes, as she was unaware of the Committee's stance.

Ye Guan was astounded to find that the Committee Hall was more spacious than he thought. There was a huge table with a mountain of documents on top of it. A woman was sitting in front of the huge table, and she was busy going through the reports.

The woman put down the brush and looked at Ye Guan. She smiled and asked, "You want to lodge an Imperial Appeal against the Committee?"

"Yes!" said Ye Guan with a nod.

The woman chuckled and said, "Old Zhang, bring me another chair."

Old Zhang nodded and placed a chair in front of the woman.

The woman turned to Ye Guan and said, "Have a seat."

Ye Guan was wary, and he felt that there was something wrong here. The Committee members were way more accommodating than he expected. Ye Guan dismissed his thoughts and sat down.

The woman quietly smiled at him.

Ye Guan pondered in the deafening silence for quite a while before taking out a tiny pagoda. He had no other intentions; he just felt more at ease with his Master Pagoda in front of him.

Ye Guan was convinced that his Master Pagoda would take the impact for him first.

Of course, Ye Guan would step up once Master Pagoda couldn't take it anymore.

Little Pagoda was stupefied by Ye Guan's abrupt decision to take him out.

The woman grinned at Ye Guan's decision. What a clever little guy.

Ye Guan hesitated briefly before asking, "Senior, do you recognize my Master Pagoda?"

The woman blinked and replied, "I do!"

Ye Guan was shocked.

"You do?" he repeated.

The woman nodded and replied, "Yes!"

Ye Guan muttered, "To think that Master Pagoda actually has such a great network!"

The woman burst out laughing.

Old Zhang laughed as well. His gaze softened as he stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was slightly confused, so he asked, "Senior, why are you laughing?"

"It's nothing," said the woman. "Anyway, don't you want to lodge an Imperial Appeal against the Committee? You can start now."

Ye Guan pondered over something for a few moments before asking, "Senior, what crime did Lady Ye Guanzhi commit?"

The woman smiled and said, "She didn't do anything wrong."

Ye Guan frowned and asked, "Why did you lock her up, then?"

The woman replied, "It was a mistake."

Ye Guan froze and went silent. What the fuck?

The woman grinned and continued. "We've investigated her case, and we found out that she didn't commit any crimes, so we've decided to release her."

Ye Guan remained silent. Why are these guys so easy to talk to? I feel ashamed having come here with such bravado.

"Do you have any other questions?" asked the woman.

"When will Lady Ye Guanzhi be released?" Ye Guan asked.

“She’ll be released very soon. We’ve already collected a ton of evidence against the An Clan and the True Dragon Clan. We’ll release Lady Ye Guanzhi once things are finalized. After all, we still have to follow the protocols, don’t you think so?”

Ye Guan gazed intently at the woman before saying, “Are you sure you’re not just trying to push the blame onto someone else?”

“Rest assured, we’re not trying to do that.” She opened her palm, and a decree appeared in front of Ye Guan. “Look, we’ve already signed the decree that will release Lady Ye Guanzhi. She’ll be released once the formalities are over.”

“All right.” nodded Ye Guan. He suddenly thought of something, but he hesitated for a few moments before asking, “Senior, the Sword Master’s Qingxuan Sword... is it in the Academy?”

The woman nodded. “Yes, it’s here.”

“Can I borrow it?”

“Yes, you can, but you must defeat the Chosen One first.”

Defeat the Chosen One! Ye Guan went silent.

Eventually, he nodded and said, “I understand.”

The woman’s smile deepened as she asked, “Is there anything else?”

Ye Guan stood up. He cupped his fist and said, “Senior, I’m sorry for the disturbance when you’re so busy. I’ll be taking my leave.”

Ye Guan turned around and started walking away.

The woman called out to him. "Wait!"

Ye Guan turned and directed a confused gaze at the woman.

The woman pointed at the tiny pagoda on the desk and asked, "Do you not want that tiny pagoda anymore?"

Little Pagoda truly had no idea what to say.

1. Hahahaha, if only they knew that it was indeed founded by his family. 📧

Chapter 177: Creating A Sword Domain

Ye Guan chuckled sheepishly and turned around to retrieve the tiny pagoda before leaving. He couldn't afford to lose the tiny pagoda. Master Pagoda was the only one capable of suppressing any mishaps beyond his power.

Old Zhang hurriedly stood up to escort Ye Guan outside.

Upon reaching the entrance, Old Zhang said, "Watch your steps."

Ye Guan's expression froze. Are you serious, Elder Zhang?

Old Zhang made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan and saw the latter's confusion.

However, it seemed Old Zhang wasn't done just yet as he took out a storage ring and placed it into Ye Guan's pocket.

He sounded serious as he said, "We're aware of the problems that you've raised. Rest assured, we'll reflect on our mistakes, and we've also decided to reward you for your valuable feedback."

Old Zhang turned around and left without waiting for Ye Guan's reply.

Ye Guan stared at Old Zhang's departing back in a daze.

He took out the storage ring from his pocket and found that there were five million immortal spiritual crystals in it.

"What the fuck?" Ye Guan unknowingly blurted out. We're talking immortal spiritual crystals here

Who would give five million immortal spiritual crystals to someone just because they gave some feedback?

Ye Guan reckoned that he was definitely not the reason why Old Zhang had decided to give him five million immortal spiritual crystals. After a few moments of silence, Ye Guan inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda, this is all because of you, right?"

"Of course," said Little Pagoda in a hurry. He had no plans of letting Ye Guan think too deeply into the matter. Ye Guan was scary whenever he was mulling things over, as he was too smart for his own good.

Ye Guan fell silent. After a while, he asked, "Master Pagoda, they were really accommodating with me earlier, especially Elder Zhang. They were respectful to me as well.

"However, they treated you indifferently. Are you sure they were nice to me because of you and not because of my father?"

Little Pagoda was at a loss for words.

Fortunately, Madame Li ran up to Ye Guan and asked, "Young Lord Ye, are you okay?"

Ye Guan retracted his thoughts and nodded. "I'm fine!"

Madame Li heaved a sigh of relief and said, "I'm glad to hear that. All right, let's go to the South Garden!"

Ye Guan nodded slightly and said, "All right, let's go."

I should go and meet Lady Ye Guanzhi first. I'll try and bait Master Pagoda for answers later.

Meanwhile, the onlookers were bewildered to see Ye Guan leave unscathed.

Just what kind of conversation did Ye Guan and the Committee have? Will the Committee release Ye Guanzhi?

They were extremely curious, but they were bound to receive no answers to their question.

...

Old Zhang stood respectfully next to Li Banzhi in the Committee Hall.

Li Banzhi asked softly, "What do you think of him?"

Old Zhang hurriedly replied, "He's an extremely talented individual—a talent that appears only once every million years."

Li Banzhi quietly smiled at Old Zhang.

Old Zhang chuckled bitterly and said, "I'm not trying to be a bootlicker here. I was serious."

Li Banzhi agreed. "Indeed, he's an excellent seedling."

Old Zhang nodded and replied, "Yes!"

Li Banzhi suddenly called out, “Chief An You!”

A blurry figure appeared next to her.

“Are there any movements from the Immortal Treasures Pavilion?” she asked.

The blurry figure nodded and said, “They’ve mobilized the Immortal Soldiers, Dao Soldiers, and the Martial Court’s Divine Guards!”

Li Banzhi’s eyes narrowed, and a cold light flitted across her eyes as she said, “Keep a closer eye on them!”

An You nodded slightly and left.

...

Ye Guan and Madame Li soon found themselves in the South Garden.

Ye Guan spotted Ye Guanzhi by the lake.

She was wearing a long skirt that was as white as snow, and there was a purple belt around her waist that made her outfit less plain and more elegant, along with making her give off a scholarly air in combination with her charms.

Ye Guanzhi looked at him with a smile. Her eyes were as clear as spring water, and her features were perfect. She was extraordinarily beautiful—not just in the Guanxuan Academy but in the entire Guanxuan Universe.

“Young Lord Ye!” Ye Guanzhi exclaimed, “Long time no see!”

Ye Guan smiled back and said, "Lady Guanzhi, long time no see."

Madame Li glanced at the two of them before retreating.

Ye Guanzhi examined Ye Guan from top to bottom and smiled. "Sword Sovereign?"

Ye Guan nodded.

Ye Guanzhi's eyes lit up, and she remarked, "Impressive."

A silence enveloped the two before Ye Guan shattered it. He sounded apologetic as he said, "I'm sorry... I know it's my fault that you had to stay here for so long."

Ye Guanzhi shook her head and said, "It's fine. I just did what I thought was right."

Ye Guan glanced sideways at Ye Guanzhi and sighed to himself.

She was indeed a kindhearted woman.

Ye Guanzhi put down her book. She looked around briefly before saying, "I've also learned a lot from reading and studying here."

Ye Guan smiled and asked, "Really?"

"Yes," Ye Guanzhi said, "I learned that there are some things that are just difficult to change. My thoughts were indeed too shallow at the time, but..."

Ye Guanzhi paused before continuing. "I still won't give up! I really like what Pavilion Master Qin once told me—the road is long, but you'll eventually get there as long as you don't stop walking. It is difficult, but it'll eventually come to an end."

Ye Guan nodded slightly and said, "I went to the Committee earlier, and a Committee senior told me that she'll release you soon!"

Ye Guanzhi laughed and asked, "Is that so?"

Ye Guan nodded and added, "I don't think she was lying."

Ye Guanzhi smiled and said, "Let's set that aside for now and start talking about you!"

Ye Guan was slightly curious. "Me?"

"It's really impressive how you've become a Sword Sovereign so quickly. You said that you have a master, right? Master Pagoda? Has he been the one teaching you about the Sword Dao?"

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "I guess you could say that."

Ye Guanzhi's lips curled up, and she asked, "What do you mean?"

Ye Guan chuckled and changed the topic. "Lady Guanzhi, would you like to exchange some moves?"

Ye Guan had suffered a crushing defeat at Ye Guanzhi's hands. It had been a long time since then, so he wanted to try again and see if he would still get crushed in the same manner as back then.

Ye Guanzhi blinked and grumbled. "I don't feel like fighting, but since you said so, I guess we should go ahead and do it."

"Great!" Ye Guan chuckled.

Ye Guanzhi looked around her and said, "I think we have to fight somewhere else."

“Can we go out?” Ye Guan asked.

Ye Guanzhi smiled and said, “Let’s try.”

She tried to walk out of the South Garden, but an aura abruptly restrained her.

Ye Guanzhi said, “I’m just going to exchange some moves with Young Lord Ye. I’ll return once I’m done!”

The oppressive aura vanished moments later.

Ye Guanzhi turned to look at Ye Guan and said, “Let’s go!”

Ye Guan nodded. “All right.”

Soon, the two found themselves in a corner of the starry skies after using a teleportation array.

Ye Guanzhi looked around and said, “This is my exclusive training ground. No one can come here and eavesdrop on us. Of course, no one can see us here as well.”

Ye Guan still had to fight the Chosen One, so Ye Guanzhi wanted to make sure that no one else would witness Ye Guan’s true prowess.

Ye Guan nodded and said, “Lady Guanzhi, I’m going to make my move now!”

“Go ahead!”

Schwing!

The space in front of Ye Guanzhi split open, and a sword came out of the rift.

Instant Death Strike!

The sword attack shattered the spacetime rules, but Ye Guan hadn't even used his sword energy. He simply wielded Dragon's Roar.

However, Ye Guan wasn't underestimating Ye Guanzhi in the slightest. Actually, he didn't dare to underestimate her.

Rumble!

A mysterious force restrained Ye Guan's sword when it was just a few inches away from Ye Guanzhi.

Ye Guan's pupils constricted in shock.

Ye Guanzhi raised her right hand and brought it down slowly. "Suppress!"

Boom!

The space around Ye Guan trembled slightly, and a mysterious force restrained him.

At the same time, countless golden runes appeared and surrounded him. The golden runes were like tadpoles swimming around in space, and each of them gave off a terrifying aura as they suppressed Ye Guan.

Ye Guan felt as if there were a hundred mountains weighing down on him. He couldn't move at all, and the pressure weighing down on him was getting stronger and stronger!

Ye Guan balled both his hands into fists.

Boom!

A terrifying sword force surged out of him, but Ye Guanzhi brought her hand lower.

Ye Guan's sword force shattered, but multiple rifts in space manifested around Ye Guanzhi. They spat swords one after another, and each sword traveled at astonishing speeds.

They were so fast that only their trails were visible as they made a beeline for Ye Guanzhi.

Ye Guanzhi was stunned. She had been suppressing Ye Guan, so he should have been unable to condense any swords, but the reality wasn't what she expected.

There was only one explanation—Ye Guan had to have condensed these swords in advance, and he had been hiding them in the pockets of space around Ye Guanzhi!

Ye Guanzhi set her thoughts aside and swiped at them.

The swords were sent flying away, but Ye Guan took advantage of the distraction to break out of the restraints and thrust his sword toward Ye Guanzhi.

Rumble!

The space in front of both Ye Guan and Ye Guanzhi was torn open.

A sword flew out of the rift before Ye Guanzhi.

Instant Death Strike!

It was a terrifying attack, but Ye Guanzhi remained calm and raised her hand.

She used only two of her fingers to stop Ye Guan's sword move!

Rumble!

However, the space behind Ye Guanzhi quivered violently and spat out a sword traveling at breakneck speeds. It rushed toward Ye Guanzhi's back.

The sword behind her was Ye Guan's killing move!

Nonetheless, Ye Guanzhi remained calm.

She vanished like a ghost, and the sword struck nothing but air.

Ye Guan's pupils constricted. He whipped around, and his expression changed upon realizing that a deluge of a mysterious force was rushing toward him.

Inscrutable golden runes started to manifest around him; Ye Guanzhi was clearly trying to suppress him again.

However, Ye Guan wasn't willing to be suppressed just like that.

He balled his hand into a fist and punched out.

World Devastation Art!

Boom!

A terrifying power exploded from Ye Guan's fist, which shattered the space around him. Ye Guanzhi was sent flying away, and every inch of space that made contact with her figure shattered upon contact.

Ye Guanzhi stared in astonishment at Ye Guan as she flew away.

A sword had been waiting for her, and it appeared the moment she stopped flying.

Ye Guanzhi pointed at the sword, and a golden light burst out of her fingertip.

The golden light forcefully suppressed Ye Guan's sword.

At the same time, however, multiple swords made a beeline for Ye Guanzhi.

Ye Guan had disappeared as well.

Schwing!

A ray of sword light flitted across the starry skies toward Ye Guanzhi.

Ye Guanzhi raised her open palm, and a tidal wave of space struck Ye Guan and his sword, sending them flying at least a hundred meters away.

Countless inscrutable golden runes abruptly surrounded Ye Guan, and waves of terrifying pressure swept across him, immobilizing him.

Ye Guan was about to break out, but Ye Guanzhi pointed at him and exclaimed, "Descend! Mighty Heaven and Earth Righteousness Force!"

Boom!

A seemingly inexhaustible and mysterious force entered the inscrutable golden runes around Ye Guan. The pressure weighing down on him increased drastically in a blink of an eye.

Ye Guan felt like there were thousands of mountains pressing down on him.

He felt like his fleshly body was about to explode.

He gnashed his teeth and clenched his fists. He wanted to attack with his sword, but he couldn't overcome the mighty pressure weighing down on him unless he took that crucial step and became a Great Sword Sovereign!

A mysterious voice suddenly echoed in Ye Guan's head. "She's using a rune domain. Why don't you create your own sword domain?"

It's not Master Pagoda's voice! It's a female's voice!

Ye Guan froze and went silent.

The mysterious voice continued. "A sword domain can shatter her rune domain."

However, Ye Guan shook his head and said, "No!"

The mysterious voice was stunned.

Ye Guan clenched his right fist.

Rumble!

A terrifying force erupted from his fist.

World Devastation Art!

The space around him had been strengthened by the golden runes, but the space actually warped under the terrifying power of the World Devastation Art.

However, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet. The space all around him trembled violently. He executed the World Devastation Art three more times consecutively!

Boom, boom, boom!

The space shattered like glass the fourth time it was struck by the World Devastation Art.

Ye Guan was freed from the restraints, and he appeared in front of Ye Guanzhi.

Ye Guanzhi's pupils constricted.

She took a step back, and her rune domain blossomed once again.

Ye Guan manifested ten swords at once and thrust them at the same time toward Ye Guanzhi.

Crack!

A small crack appeared in Ye Guanzhi's rune domain.

"Achilles Heel Strike!" exclaimed Ye Guanzhi and the mysterious voice at once.

The mysterious voice muttered in awe, "He's indeed a rare genius! He was born to be a swordsman!"

Little Pagoda boisterously laughed and said, "It's all because I've been such a great tutor! You're so awesome, me! Hahaha..."

The mysterious voice was rendered speechless.

Chapter 178: Awaken Empress Qingqiu

“Achilles Heel Strike!”

Ye Guanzhi’s gaze sparkled with joy and astonishment as she stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was indeed a monstrous talent!

Ye Guan took a deep breath. It was an attack born from a sudden epiphany. I’m fast, so why don’t I use my speed to attack just one spot at the same time?

Ye Guan gave it a try, and it worked. He was surprised by the terrifying effect of attacking just a single spot at once multiple times.

Ye Guanzhi walked up to Ye Guan.

She smiled at him and asked, “Did someone tell you to do what you did just now?”

Ye Guan shook his head and said, “No, I just thought of it while we were fighting, and I decided to give it a try.”

“Ah...” Ye Guanzhi gasped in awe and said, “Young Lord Ye, you truly are talented.”

Ye Guan chuckled sheepishly and rubbed his head shyly before saying, “No, you’re the one who’s really impressive, Lady Guanzhi. Your rune domain was terrifying!”

He wasn’t lying, Ye Guanzhi’s rune domain was terrifying. Ye Guan had gone all-in, but Ye Guanzhi’s rune domain still managed to suppress him.

However, Ye Guan was actually thrilled by the fact that Ye Guanzhi managed to suppress him. Lady Ye Guanzhi is a true powerhouse! It’s fun exchanging moves with her!

Ye Guan closed his eyes and inwardly said, “Master Pagoda, I want to—”

Little Pagoda’s curiosity was piqued. “What is it?”

Ye Guan muttered, “I want to lose.”

Little Pagoda fell silent.

Ye Guan sighed and said, “The number of people in this generation who can stand toe-to-toe against me are too few and far between. I want to get beaten up, I want to be challenged, and I want to be defeated. Really...”

Little Pagoda was silent. Ye Guan’s conundrum reminded him of someone—the invincible Freedom Swordsman!

Little Pagoda sighed to himself. The way this lad approached the Sword Dao was too similar to that of Freedom Swordsman. It was no wonder he had caught the attention of the sword intent that Little Freedom had left behind.

Ye Guanzhi suddenly said, “Young Lord Ye, you really amaze me. You are a Sword Sovereign and a Martial God at the same time; that’s really rare!”

Ye Guan suddenly asked, “Lady Guanzhi, you didn’t go all out earlier, right?”

Ye Guanzhi blinked. She smiled wryly, but she didn’t say anything in response.

Eventually, Ye Guanzhi shook her head and laughed. “We’re friends, so I couldn’t direct my killing intent toward you. I couldn’t go all out because of that, and isn’t it the same for you as well?”

Ye Guan nodded. “Yes...”

Ye Guanzhi suddenly sounded serious as she said, “Young Lord Ye, your prowess is heaven-defying, but you do have some shortcomings.”

Ye Guan hurriedly said, “Lady Guanzhi, please feel free to criticize me.”

Ye Guanzhi smiled lightly and explained, “Firstly, your swords are capable of shattering the rules, but domains are more powerful than rules. You’re having trouble shattering domains.

“I’m sure you’ll be hard-pressed to defeat a powerhouse whose domain is more powerful than my domain.”

Ye Guan nodded. “That’s true.”

Ye Guanzhi continued. “Secondly, your cultivation realm is too low. This is your biggest weakness. I could have just dragged out our fight earlier, and you would have run out of profound energy in just thirty minutes.”

“I agree.”

“Lastly, you’re still not fast enough.”

Ye Guan was surprised.

Ye Guanzhi laughed and asked, “Is that surprising?”

Ye Guan nodded and said, “You’re the first person to have ever told me that I’m still not fast enough.”

Ye Guanzhi explained, “If you were twice as fast as you are at the moment, my domain wouldn’t have been able to suppress you.”

Twice as fast? Ye Guan laughed bitterly. His speed was already terrifying, and even he thought that it was ridiculous for him to try and become even faster.

Ye Guanzhi added, "Your cultivation realm is too low, and your physique isn't that strong, so your choice at the moment is to become even faster. Under normal circumstances, it's very difficult for you to become even faster at this point.

"However, you still haven't cultivated any body cultivation technique, so I'm sure your speed will increase drastically once you've started cultivating a body cultivation technique."

Ye Guan asked, "Body cultivation techniques?"

"Yes!" Ye Guanzhi nodded and explained, "Your speed has reached the limits of what your physique and cultivation realm can withstand.

"There are only two ways for you to become even faster: you can break through realms and improve your physique, or you can cultivate a body cultivation technique!"

Ye Guanzhi pondered briefly before continuing. "Your current speed has reached the limits of the physical realm. However, I'm sure you'll surpass that limit once you've started cultivating a body cultivation technique."

"Anyway, did you know that Pavilion Master Qin introduced the concept of physical realms here from Milky Way?" Ye Guanzhi asked. She laughed and added, "I was so surprised when I first heard it. Physical sounds a bit dirty, doesn't it? It's like getting physical, if you know what I mean. I would really love to explore the Milky Way just to see how vulgar they speak! I think they always go like fuck, fuck, fuck..."

Ye Guanzhi caught herself and giggled.

She was obviously ignorant about Milky Way's society.

Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled.

“I honestly thought about cultivating a body cultivation technique, but I don’t have any...” he admitted.

“I have them!” exclaimed Ye Guanzhi.

Ye Guan hesitated briefly before asking, “Hmm... how much? Are they... expensive?”

Ye Guanzhi rolled her eyes at him and said, “Money isn’t an issue between us.”

“I’ll feel bad taking it for free.”

“It’s fine!”

Ye Guanzhi walked up to Ye Guan and opened her palm, revealing a black scroll appeared.

Ye Guan was slightly curious and asked, “What is that?”

Ye Guanzhi explained, “Thunderclap. It’s the best Simplicity-rank body cultivation technique of the Guanxuan Academy.”

Ye Guan said, “I saw Lu Tian use that the other day.”

Ye Guanzhi nodded. “He’s the Chosen One, so it makes sense that the Academy has given him the best.”

Ye Guan asked, “Does the Academy only have Simplicity-rank items and techniques?”

“Of course not!”

“Why did the Academy not give the Chosen One better techniques than Simplicity?”

“Because he can’t cultivate them for now...”

“Why not?”

“It seems that you still don’t really know much about the ranking system.”

Ye Guan quickly nodded and said, “Yes, I really don’t know much about it!”

Ye Guanzhi asked, “Do you know the realm above the Seal Shattering Realm?”

Ye Guan shook his head. His cultivation realm was extremely low, so he never really paid much attention to what the higher cultivation realms were.

“All right, I’ll tell you then.” Ye Guanzhi chuckled and said, “The Pinnacle Realm is above the Seal Shattering Realm. Actually, the two of them are technically on the same stretch of road known as the Path to the Pinnacle.

“However, why does the Pinnacle Realm have the world Pinnacle in it? It is all because becoming a Pinnacle Realm cultivation means that a cultivator has reached their physical limits.

“The realm after the Pinnacle Realm is the Ultimate Realm, but it is extremely difficult to reach. A cultivator has to withstand a Heavenly Tribulation to reach it.”

Ye Guan frowned and asked, “Withstand a Heavenly Tribulation?”

Ye Guanzhi nodded and said, “Yes, this was stipulated by Pavilion Master Qin back then. If you want to go further after reaching the Pinnacle Realm, you would need to undergo a Heavenly Tribulation. The Heavenly Dao determines the strength of your Heavenly Tribulation.

“Surviving the Heavenly Tribulation means becoming an Ultimate Realm cultivator. By then, you would be considered a true cultivator. Ultimate Realm cultivators are considered elite cultivators in the Guanyuan Universe!”

Ye Guanzhi paused briefly before continuing, "Pavilion Master Qin was also the one who had started using the word elite to describe such powerhouses."

Ye Guan shook his head and laughed. He inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda, is Pavilion Master Qin a good person or a bad person?"

"She's a good person!" Little Pagoda hurriedly said, "No, she's a great person! The Immortal Treasures Pavilion is a different story, but she really is a good person. Really!"

Little Pagoda didn't dare to lie anymore.

He was afraid of going too far with his lies and paying for them in the future.

Ye Guan nodded slightly, then looked at Ye Guanzhi.

Ye Guanzhi smiled and said, "A newly minted Ultimate Realm cultivator will receive rewards in the form of Heavenly Dao gifts. They would be able to control Heavenly Tribulation Power as well.

"Needless to say, cultivators capable of wielding the Heavenly Tribulation are extremely strong. A wave of their sleeve is enough for them to destroy entire nations.

"An Ultimate Realm cultivator would also possess the Heavenly Tribulation Tempered Physique, which is a huge power boost!"

Ye Guanzhi paused, allowing Ye Guan to digest the information she had just shared with him. Eventually, she continued. "The prerequisite to cultivating body techniques, martial skills, and cultivation methods above Simplicity is Heavenly Tribulation Power.

"It is all because body techniques, martial skills, and cultivation methods above Simplicity are extremely terrifying. Cultivating them allows a cultivator to display might far stronger than Heavenly Tribulations, so only Ultimate Realm cultivators can cultivate them.

"You can say that the gap between the Ultimate Realm and the realms below it is as big as the gap between heaven and earth."

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Lady Guanzhi, what is your cultivation realm?"

Ye Guanzhi laughed and said, "I'm an Ultimate Realm cultivator!"

Ultimate Realm! Ye Guan went silent.

"However, I'm not an ordinary Ultimate Realm cultivator," said Ye Guanzhi. "I have a high understanding of domains, and I have my own domain as well. If it hadn't been for my domain, I would have lost against you. Your sword is so fast that it's absurd."

Ye Guan asked, "How do I create my own domain?"

Ye Guanzhi explained, "You can only do it once you've reached the Ultimate Realm, as a domain requires great physical and mental strength to create. Your cultivation realm is too low, so even if you somehow comprehended a sword domain, you won't be able to activate it for an extended period of time.

"The profound energy consumption will be too much for you to handle. In addition, you also have to break Heaven and Earth Laws to create your own domain. You're strong, but even you can only do such a thing for a few moments, not to mention that it's also doubtful if you can even do it in the first place."

"I understand." Ye Guan nodded.

Ye Guanzhi smiled and said, "I think you should work on two things for now. First of all, you should cultivate the Thunderclap Body Technique to bring your speed to a whole new level. If you manage to successfully cultivate Thunderclap, you will be able to instantly kill anyone as long as they are not in the Ultimate Realm.

"Afterward, you should go ahead and master the Achilles Heel Strike!"

Ye Guan frowned and asked, "Achilles Heel Strike?"

Ye Guanzhi nodded and said in a serious tone, "Yes, mastering Achilles Heel Strike means even cultivators with domains won't be able to suppress you for a long time, and by then..."

Ye Guanzhi trailed off. She gesticulated with her right hand and continued. "You'll be invincible even amongst Ultimate Realm cultivators, and you can easily kill those below the Ultimate Realm."

After thinking for a little while, Ye Guan said, "I really don't have a clue on how I can work on mastering the Achilles Heel Strike. I just did it because of an epiphany. Lady Guanzhi, do you have any suggestions on how I should proceed? I will do whatever you say!"

I will do whatever you say... Ye Guanzhi grinned and said, "In order to truly master the Achilles Heel Strike, you need to master another special technique known as the Critical Method. There are only two people in the Academy who have mastered it. The first is the Head Military Official. He's extremely powerful with deep knowledge of martial arts. However, he's the Chosen One's teacher, so he'll definitely not teach you the Critical Method."

Ye Guan hurriedly asked, "Who's the other person?"

Ye Guanzhi replied, "Chief Seng Wu of the Buddhism Department. He's the only Department Chief who is always around in the Academy. He has been an influential figure for millions of years. However, he often stays in his temple, and he rarely gets involved in the matters of the Academy."

Ye Guan asked, "Will he be willing to teach me?"

Ye Guanzhi shook her head and shrugged. "I don't know, but you can try."

Ye Guan nodded. "All right!"

"You have to go and find him yourself. I'm still under house arrest, so I won't be able to go with you."

“Lady Guanzhi, thank you so much for everything!”

“Don’t mention it!”

“I’ll come and see you another day.”

“Sure!”

Ye Guan nodded slightly and disappeared into the horizon with his sword.

Madame Li appeared next to Ye Guanzhi and asked, “What would have happened if you had gone all out?”

Ye Guanzhi chuckled and replied, “I can beat him in a sparring match, but I’ll lose in a life-or-death battle.

Madame Li frowned and asked, “Why?”

Ye Guanzhi said softly, “How can a sword exert the full extent of its might without killing intent? His attacks were much weaker than usual, as they weren’t fueled with killing intent. It was especially glaring when he inadvertently used the Achilles Heel Strike against me earlier. He was afraid of hurting me, so he held back a bit in time.”

Ye Guanzhi shook her head and laughed.

“Our fight was like playing house,” she remarked.

Madame Li muttered, “What a wonderful young man.”

Ye Guanzhi nodded. "Indeed."

Madame Li wordlessly stared at her.

Ye Guanzhi suddenly asked, "Are there any movements on the Chosen One's side?"

Madame Li nodded and said in a low voice, "Yes, and they're pretty big movements, too. The Head Military Official has been bringing Lu Tian to many different places these days.

"They're obviously in a campaign trying to acquire the support of the indecisive families and clans. You know that he has a special status, so those indecisive families and clans will definitely welcome him."

Ye Guanzhi said, "On the day of their battle, I'll go to Mount Qingqiu."

Madame Li was shocked. "Why?"

Ye Guanzhi calmly explained, "If anyone dares to go against the grain and bring injustice to Young Lord Ye, I will go and awaken Senior Qingqiu, even if it means losing my life."

"You can't!" Madame Li exclaimed. "Lady Qingqiu has left a message that no one else must disturb her other than the Sword Master. You know that she does not care about the Academy anymore since the Sword Master's disappearance.

The consequences will be disastrous if you attract her ire. Furthermore, there are mysterious elite cultivators guarding that place. If you trespass, they'll definitely kill you. Even the Committee can't control those mysterious elites, so—"

Ye Guanzhi interrupted with a shake of her head. "I know!"

Madame Li was confused, and she asked anxiously, "Why are you still entertaining such thoughts? Are you perhaps—"

Ye Guanzhi looked at her feet and muttered, "I just find it unfair that the Academy still insists on treating him unfairly. It really doesn't make any sense."

Chapter 179: The Son of an Old Acquaintance

Buddhism Department.

Ye Guan asked around and quickly found where the Buddhism Department was located.

The Guanyuan Committee was the largest group in the Main Guanyuan Academy, and there were nine departments beneath the Guanyuan Academy: the Martial Department, the Department of Arts, the Benevolence Department, the Demon Department, the Heavenly Dao Department, the Shadow Department, the Discipline Department, the Divine Dao Department, and the Buddhism Department.

The Central Department was below the nine departments.

The most powerful departments were the Martial Department and the Demon Department. The Martial Department had consistently produced top talents from their branches in the Main Guanyuan Academy branches throughout the universe.

The Demon Department was powerful, but their main department wasn't in the Main Guanyuan Academy but in the Demon Domain. Hence, the students of the Academy weren't really familiar with them.

However, no one dared to underestimate the Demon Department.

For the past thousand years, the demons of the Demon Department had always won the majority of the fights between demons and humans, and their great performance often caused conflict in the Guanyuan Universe.

The most low-profile department among the nine departments was the Buddhism Department.

The Department Chief of the Buddhism Department was a low-profile individual, and most of the Buddhism Department's students were monks. They placed great importance on harmony and were seldom jealous of others.

Ye Guan found himself standing at the entrance of an ancient temple.

A young monk was cleaning the stone steps of the ancient temple.

Ye Guan walked over and brought his palms together. "Greetings, young monk."

The young monk glanced at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you here for something?"

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "My name is Ye Guan, and I would like to see Department Chief Seng Wu."

The young monk shook his head.

"Master is currently in seclusion, and no one is allowed to disturb him," he said. He continued sweeping the stone steps afterward.

Ye Guan pondered briefly before retrieving a storage ring and placing it in the young monk's hand. "Young monk, please help me."

The young monk froze upon seeing the storage ring. He exclaimed hesitantly, "Young Lord, what are you doing?! I am... not that kind of person!"

Ye Guan said seriously, "You just have to help me pass a message."

The young monk hesitated before discreetly storing the storage ring away. "You must be a good person, considering your bright demeanor. My master has always said that we must spread kindness and help others. Forget it. I'm sure Master will scold me, but I will help you pass a message."

The young monk turned around to leave.

However, Ye Guan suddenly called out, "Young monk, wait!"

The young monk looked at Ye Guan in confusion. "What is the matter?"

Ye Guan took out Little Pagoda and said, "Please take this pagoda with you and let your master see it. Tell him that the son of an old acquaintance is here to see him."

"???" Little Pagoda was utterly confused.

The mysterious voice spoke, "Does he know something, or is he making a guess here?"

Little Pagoda sounded solemn as he said, "I don't know!"

The mysterious voice exclaimed, "He can be really scary sometimes!"

Little Pagoda sighed. This little bastard is really starting to scare me. It's difficult, but I have no choice. I just have to go with the flow.

The young monk set his thoughts aside. He took the tiny pagoda with him and headed into the temple.

Ye Guan stood quietly in front of the ancient temple's stone steps.

He handed over the tiny pagoda to the young monk because he knew that he was just a nameless junior. There was no reason for the Department Chief Seng Wu to come and meet him. In other words, he had decided to take his Master Pagoda out in an attempt to ride on his Master Pagoda's coattails.

Ye Guan was convinced that his Master Pagoda had to have been roaming the universe for more than thirty million years. Ye Guan thought that perhaps Department Chief Seng Wu would recognize Master Pagoda.

If Department Chief Seng Wu failed to recognize Master Pagoda, it wouldn't be that big of a deal. He stood nothing to lose at all.

How about Master Pagoda's safety?

Ye Guan had considered it, but his instinct told him that a cultivator would find it hard-pressed to harm Master Pagoda. There was also a mysterious senior in the tiny pagoda. In addition, Ye Guan was aware that even though Master Pagoda was often mischievous, the latter wasn't too weak to succumb to the run-of-the-mill cultivators.

Ye Guan knew that he was currently too weak, so he had to rely on his Master Pagoda at such a critical juncture.

An old monk walked out and hurriedly approached Ye Guan.

He froze upon taking a closer look at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan hurriedly greeted, "Greetings, Department Chief Seng Wu."

Seng Wu stared at Ye Guan for a long time before a complicated expression flashed across his eyes. "Let's talk in the temple."

"Okay," replied Ye Guan. He heaved a sigh of relief. Seng Wu had recognized Master Pagoda. His Master Pagoda was indeed impressive!

Seng Wu brought Ye Guan into a hall.

He placed Little Pagoda in front of Ye Guan and said, "Have a seat!"

Ye Guan hesitated before saying, "I'm fine standing."

Seng Wu didn't mind Ye Guan's response and asked softly, "Is Master Pagoda the only one with you?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

Seng Wu looked at Ye Guan and smiled. "Take a seat; it's fine."

Ye Guan obliged and asked, "Department Chief Seng Wu, do you know Master Pagoda?"

Seng Wu nodded. "Yes, I do."

"How about my parents? Ye Guan asked, "Do you know them, Senior?"

Seng Wu nodded slightly. "Yes, I do."

Ye Guan explained, "Master Pagoda has always been unwilling to divulge any details about my parents, especially their identities. You're not going to tell me their identities as well, right?"

Seng Wu smiled and asked, "Do you really want to know?"

"Of course." Ye Guan nodded. "I spent my childhood in Nanzhou, and the people there—save for the members of the Ye Clan—would always bully me for not having parents. They kept on telling me that I was a bastard, and it is... not a pleasant feeling."

Seng Wu was silent for a long while before he replied, "You'll find out soon. Is it okay if you wait until then?"

Ye Guan smiled and pointed out. "Senior, you're really making this thing too complicated. Of course, I'm also talking about Master Pagoda."

Seng Wu smiled softly and replied, “We do not have ill intentions.”

“Master Pagoda said that my parents are really good people. Is it true?” he asked.

Seng Wu nodded. “Yes, they are great people.”

Ye Guan nodded slightly and said, “Okay, I won’t ask you about their identities, Senior, but I really want to know whether they left me anything or not. For example, did they leave any properties or valuables for me?”

Seng Wu looked at Ye Guan in silence. Seng Wu felt as if he were looking at that man—the man with eight hundred schemes and contingency plans. It seemed that Ye Guan was difficult to fool as well.

Seng Wu pondered briefly before saying. “I don’t think they left you any properties or valuables. However, I recall that your father had a lot of debt. He often said that his debt would become his son’s debt.”

Ye Guan’s expression became as dark as the bottom of a kettle. Was there really such an unreliable father in this world? It wasn’t right for a father to push his problems to his child. Mm... surely, he’s jesting. I don’t think my father is that heartless.

Seng Wu suddenly asked, “Do you have any business with me?”

Ye Guan pushed aside his thoughts and nodded. “Senior, I’m here to seek guidance in Critical Method.”

Seng Wu froze before asking, “Critical Method?”

Ye Guan nodded. He then told Seng Wu about his conversation with Ye Guanzhi.

Seng Wu was silent for quite a while before saying, “You’ve shattered the surface?”

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

Seng Wu stood up and waved his sleeve. The scenery peeled, and Ye Guan was startled to find that he was already somewhere in the starry skies. Seng Wu was indeed a powerful monk; to think that he could shift spacetime with just a wave of his sleeve.

How horrifying!

Seng Wu smiled and said, "Do your best."

"Okay." Ye Guan nodded and opened his palm. Dragon's Roar appeared in his hands, and Ye Guan sent Dragon's Roar flying with nine other swords toward one spot.

Boom!

The ten swords struck the space that Seng Wu had reinforced, but Ye Guan's swords only managed to send ripples throughout the reinforced space.

Ye Guan stored Dragon's Roar away and looked at Seng Wu.

Seng Wu smiled and asked, "Do you know why it's called Critical Method?"

"No." Ye Guan shook his head. He sounded respectful as he said, "Please guide me, Senior."

Seng Wu's smile deepened as he explained, "The Critical Method is all about pushing yourself to your limits until your abilities experience a qualitative change. Your swords aren't that strong individually, but their power took a qualitative leap when you combined them earlier."

"You did it right, but it's not the Critical Method."

Ye Guan asked, "Am I still not fast enough?"

“You’re both too slow and too weak,” replied Seng Wu.

Ye Guan thought about it before sending his swords flying out once more. This time, his swords were imbued with both sword intent and sword force. The swords’ individual power increased drastically, and it could be said that a qualitative change had occurred.

However, Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled bitterly.

He seldom imbued his sword with either sword force or sword intent, not to mention both, and it was all because the profound energy consumption was too absurd.

Ye Guan had decided not to use such a trick unless it was absolutely necessary. He was aware that his greatest strength was his high realm in the Sword Dao, and his most glaring weakness was his low cultivation base.

Seng Wu pointed out. “Your swords have become more powerful thanks to your sword intent and sword force. Try it again and see if your swords are equally powerful. Remember, you have to be fast. It’s best if they hit the same spot at the same time.”

Ye Guan nodded and flung his sleeve.

Crack!

The reinforced space cracked, and the crack quickly spread throughout the reinforced space.

However, Ye Guan wasn’t happy.

He had just discovered a massive issue. The swords were weaker than the previous swords. In fact, the final three swords were only about sixty percent as strong as the first sword.

Seng Wu smiled at Ye Guan upon seeing his somber look.

“Don’t be disheartened; this is just the beginning. Once your ninth sword becomes as strong as your first sword, you’ll have mastery over the Critical Method,” said Seng Wu.

Ye Guan nodded and flung his sleeve once more, but he only sent three swords rather than ten. He realized that his current limit was three swords. The power of the fourth sword was no longer consistent with the first three swords.

In other words, his next breakthrough was the fourth sword. With that in mind, Ye Guan started training. He wasn’t in a rush to achieve success, as he knew that it was impossible to succeed so easily.

He had decided to start on the fourth sword rather than forcibly practice with ten swords at once. After all, haste would always make waste.

Soon, the speed and power of Ye Guan’s fourth sword finally matched the speed and power of his first sword. He then started training with his fifth sword.

Ye Guan’s heart was gripped with excitement and anticipation as he worked on his fifth sword, and it was a feeling that he reckoned would never get old for him.

Before long, his fifth sword had reached the same level as his fourth sword. However, things had gotten more difficult, and it became obvious when he started working on his sixth sword. He was starting to feel frustrated.

Seeing this, Seng Wu was about to speak when Ye Guan placed down his sword and took a deep breath.

“This can’t be,” he muttered to no one in particular, “I can’t be anxious or hasty. It’ll be easy for me to lose track of my goals once I become uneasy and hasty. I may not achieve what I want by then. I have to remain calm and take it slowly.”

Seng Wu was at a loss for words. I thought you needed guidance?

He stared at Ye Guan in awe. What a talented young man.

Ye Guan suddenly turned to look at Seng Wu and asked, "Senior, the Critical Method brings about qualitative change, but can there be another qualitative change? For example, will my hundredth sword become as fast and as strong as my sword?"

Seng Wu smiled and explained, "Qualitative changes are split into three levels: the first level is breaking through spacetime. I'm sure you're aware of this, as it is kind of related to spacetime rules. Most people can easily break through space, but it's a bit complicated when it comes to spacetime.

"Time and space are separate and independent, after all.

"Anyway, the first level of qualitative change means you're now capable of breaking through spacetime rather than just briefly shattering the spacetime rules.

"The second level is breaking through realms. A hundred thousand miles of spacetime forms a realm. A hundred swords on the second level of qualitative change is enough to destroy a hundred thousand miles of spacetime."

Ye Guan asked, "What about the third level?"

Seng Wu replied, "Breaking through domains!"

Ye Guan's brows furrowed. "Breaking through domains?"

"That's right." Seng Wu nodded. "A million miles of spacetime forms a domain. A thousand swords on the third level of qualitative change means you're now capable of destroying a small world."

Ye Guan was astounded.

"One's cultivation base isn't the only measurement of strength. There can be a vast difference between two people with the same cultivation base but on a different realm in a different Dao.

“You’re a great example of it: your cultivation base is low, but your realm in the Sword Dao is high. In other words, even if you’re up against a cultivator with a higher physical realm[1] than you, they’re not necessarily stronger than you.”

Seng Wu paused before continuing. “It sounds weird, right? I know, but it’s not strange. You’ve already reached the pinnacle of what we call the Sword Dao’s physical realm, and it’s the Sword Sovereign Realm.

“You would be an extremely terrifying opponent to fight if your physical realm is at the pinnacle as well.”

Ye Guan nodded. “I understand.”

Seng Wu smiled, “Feel free to ask questions if you need clarifications.”

Ye Guan bowed slightly and said, “Thank you.”

Seng Wu put his palms together. He was about to speak, but he suddenly frowned and said, “Someone’s here. I’ll go out and meet them. You can stay here and train.”

“Okay,” replied Ye Guan.

Seng Wu nodded before turning around to leave.

Seng Wu soon arrived at the entrance of the ancient temple and saw two people waiting for him—the Head Military Official and Lu Tian.

The Head Military Official smiled at Seng Wu and said, “I apologize for the disturbance, Department Chief Seng Wu.”

Seng Wu swept his gaze across the two and smiled. “What brings you here, Head Military Official?”

“Can we go in and talk?” asked the Head Military Official.

Seng Wu nodded. “Of course!”

The three soon found themselves in a hall.

The Head Military Official wasted no time and started talking. “Department Chief Seng Wu, you know about the upcoming battle between Lu Tian and Ye Guan, right?”

Seng Wu nodded. “Yes.”

The Head Military Official stared intently at Seng Wu and said, “Department Chief Seng Wu, we’re here to acquire the support of the Buddhism Department.”

Seng Wu glanced at Lu Tian before asking, “What do you mean?”

The Head Military Official glanced at Lu Tian.

Lu Tian stepped up and circulated his cultivation base.

Soon, he started exuding a faint red glow.

“The Mad Demon Bloodline?” asked Seng Wu in astonishment.

Lu Tian nodded and smiled. “Yes.”

The Head Military Official turned to look at Seng Wu and said, “Department Chief Seng Wu... I’m sure I don’t have to tell you about Lu Tian’s identity, right?”

Seng Wu didn't know what to say. Goddamn it, you bastards! You two are a pair of good-for-nothings. Are you two even humans?! How dare you lie to a monk!

1. It seems that cultivation realms like Space Shattering Realm, Space Annihilation Realm, Earth Law Realm, etc. are called physical realms ㄟ

Chapter 180: Long Live Young Lord

Seeing Seng Wu remain silent, the Head Military Official hurriedly asked, "Department Chief Seng Wu?"

Seng Wu put his hands together and pretended to be surprised. "Oh, you're actually the descendant of the Sword Master? Pardon me..."

Lu Tian smiled softly, "You don't have to be so polite, Department Chief Seng Wu."

Seng Wu went silent. A trace of killing intent flitted across his heart as he almost went against his oath of not killing anybody.

The Head Military Official smiled and said, "Department Chief Seng Wu, there will be some changes after the fight between Lu Tian and Ye Guan, but we hope that you'll support us until the end."

Seng Wu looked at Lu Tian before saying seriously, "My Buddhism Department will do our best to support Young Lord Lu Tian."

Lu Tian's demeanor brightened up, and he grinned widely.

The Head Military Official's lips also curled up. "Much obliged, Department Chief Seng Wu. We won't disturb you further."

Seng Wu put his hands together in a prayer position.

“Head Military Official and Lu Tian, have a safe trip,” he said.

Lu Tian smiled softly and remarked, “Department Chief Seng Wu, there is no need to be so polite. I will support both you and the Buddhism Department once everything is over.”

“Thank you!” Seng Wu hurriedly said, “Thank you, young lord. May you be blessed with a long life. Long live the young lord!”

Lu Tian smiled. “Thank you.”

Seng Wu went silent. You two better leave soon, or I may just smack you.

Lu Tian turned to the Head Military Official and said, “Let’s go, Tutor.”

The Head Military Official nodded, and they turned around to leave.

Seng Wu looked into the sky and was silent for a long while before he shook his head and sighed. “He can’t be compared to Young Lord Ye Guan and Boundless Master.”

Seng Wu then frowned and muttered, “Is he really the Chosen One?”

He was suspicious. He had come across the Chosen Ones of the past two generations, and each of them was more than what met the eyes, but the Chosen One of this generation was just...

Seng Wu shook his head. There was no real benefit of being the Chosen One. The Chosen One was just a forever god.

With that, he turned around to leave.

Meanwhile, the Head Military Official and Lu Tian were traveling through the clouds.

Lu Tian turned to the Head Military Official and smiled before saying, "Tutor, Department Chief Seng Wu didn't seem to be very smart..."

The Head Military Official spoke seriously, "Don't underestimate him. The Sword Master personally gave him his current position as the Department Chief of the Buddhism Department. There must be a reason behind it."

Lu Tian's smile waned. He nodded slightly and said, "I understand."

The Head Military Official continued. "Our chances of success have increased significantly with the Buddhism Department's support."

Lu Tian nodded and said calmly, "Don't worry, Tutor. I will definitely kill him by then; it doesn't matter, even if he's a Great Sword Sovereign."

The Head Military Official nodded slightly and said, "It'll be great if that happens. Still, we need to have a backup clan."

Lu Tian nodded. "Indeed."

The Head Military Official said, "Let's go!"

The two soon disappeared into the distance.

Moments later, an illusory figure appeared from the stretch of clouds where the two had conversed before disappearing into the horizon. The illusory figure was An You.

An You stared at where the two had disappeared before vanishing as well.

...

Ye Guan was busy cultivating. His sixth sword now had the same speed and power as his first sword. He sent out six swords consecutively, and each of them was as powerful and as fast as the first.

It was exhausting, but the combined power of the swords was horrifying.

The swords had become more powerful than his World Devastation Art.

It would be great if he could use the World Devastation Art consecutively, like what he could do with his swords, but he couldn't do it. The World Devastation Art required a wind-up time, and it was a Simplicity-rank martial skill as well.

In other words, it consumed a ton of profound energy.

Ye Guan trained his seventh sword. Old Zhang gave him five million immortal spiritual crystals, so he had plenty of cultivation resources. However, he was still burning money as if it were paper—he had already spent ten million gold spiritual crystals.

Seng Wu accompanied Ye Guan. Whenever Ye Guan stumbled upon issues, he would give Ye Guan advice on how to resolve them.

Ten days later, Ye Guan could finally send out nine swords consecutively, with each sword as powerful as the first sword. The swords were so fast that they looked like they had combined into one sword whenever they were traveling toward their target.

Ye Guan hovered quietly in the empty space. He was filled with peace. He was extremely calm and focused.

Moments later, Ye Guan abruptly flung nine swords toward a certain point.

Crack!

A crack appeared at the target, and it expanded until it covered an area of at least three hundred meters before shattering. Ye Guan's nine swords had just shattered not only Seng Wu's reinforced space but its spacetime as well.

Exactly one second later, the shattered spacetime recovered.

Seng Wu smiled and said, "Congratulations! You've done it!"

However, Ye Guan shook his head and pointed out. "I'm still missing the final sword."

Seng Wu said seriously, "It's going to be difficult—really difficult."

Stacking consecutive attacks like what Ye Guan had been doing was bound to get even more difficult the more stacks there were.

Ye Guan looked at Seng Wu and smiled, "I think I haven't reached my limit yet. I can do better."

Seng Wu froze and smiled. "Go ahead and continue."

Ye Guan nodded and swallowed a recovery pill.

Moments later, he took a deep breath and started his training once more.

Seng Wu stared at the serious-looking Ye Guan and smiled softly. What a capable young man. He's much steadier than his father, and he's less ostentatious as well.

Ye Guan sent his swords out once again. The final sword was truly the most difficult sword to cultivate, but he wasn't willing to give up. He knew his limit, and if it were really impossible, he would have given it up. He wouldn't have continued.

After all, one had to work smart as well, not just hard. He decided to continue because he felt that he could still do better. He still hadn't reached his limits.

With that, Ye Guan sent his swords out over and over again, revising his technique with each attempt. Seng Wu's reinforced space cracked and recovered over and over again.

Ye Guan kept on failing, but he was delighted rather than discouraged.

He was delighted because he had just realized that he still had room to become even stronger. He could finally send out ten swords at the same time, but the power of the final sword was only seventy percent of the first sword.

However, Ye Guan didn't mind it. When he had just started, his tenth sword was only twenty percent as powerful as his first sword, but now, his tenth sword was already seventy percent as powerful as his first sword.

In other words, he was making progress.

Five days later, a loud noise echoed through the starry skies. Seng Wu's reinforced space was torn open. The cataclysmic event caused a flood of power to spread outward for over three hundred meters, creating a spider web-like crack all over the space.

Ye Guan collapsed to the ground.

A soft energy enveloped Ye Guan and pulled him up.

Seng Wu walked toward Ye Guan. He had been with Ye Guan all this while.

Ye Guan closed his eyes with a smile.

He had done it! And he felt that he had finally reached his limit.

Seng Wu smiled and asked, "How do you feel?"

Ye Guan took a deep breath before grinning. "I feel great!"

"Congratulations!" said Seng Wu with a casual nod, but he was shocked inside. He thought Ye Guan's limit was the ninth sword, so he was stupefied to see Ye Guan cultivating the tenth sword.

After resting for a while, Ye Guan suddenly sat up.

He stuck his finger out and pointed at the space ahead of him.

Crackle!

A rift in spacetime was torn open, and a sword flew out. At first glance, it was just a sword, but it was actually ten swords.

Crack!

The spacetime in a radius of eighty meters shattered upon impact.

Seng Wu froze and asked, "Was that the Royal Sword Art?"

"Yes!" Ye Guan smiled and explained, "I found that the Royal Sword Art can be used in the same manner as well!"

"Your Royal Sword Art is extremely fast," Seng Wu lamented, "It's a pity that you're using swords made out of sword energy. With ten real swords, I'm sure the power of your attack will increase by at least fivefold!"

Ye Guan nodded. "I'll ask my seniors at the Sword Sect if they have swords I can borrow."

“Sounds great,” said Seng Wu with a smile.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan asked, “Senior, I want to cultivate another technique. Can I stay here for a few more days?”

Seng Wu replied, “You can stay for as long as you want!”

Ye Guan hesitated before asking, “Senior, how are you acquainted with my father—”

Seng Wu interrupted with a soft smile. “You will know in the future.”

“All right then!” Ye Guan nodded. With that, Ye Guan cultivated the Simplicity-rank body technique—Thunderclap.

As the name said, it allowed Ye Guan to summon a thunderclap with a thought.

Ye Guan was shocked when he first saw Lu Tian using Thunderclap. It was truly a terrifying body technique that allowed Lu Tian to match his speed. Of course, he was more awesome than Lu Tian, as he was already extremely fast without Thunderclap.

If he managed to cultivate Thunderclap, he would become doubly awesome—awe-awesome!

It took Ye Guan less than two days to gain mastery over the Thunderclap body technique, and his speed had doubled under the effects of Thunderclap. His speed was already heaven-defying, and now that he had become twice as fast as before; his speed could only be described as horrifying.

Unfortunately, Ye Guan’s physical realm was still his biggest obstacle. His profound energy reservoir was too low to accommodate his achievements in the Sword Dao, so he couldn’t find a long, drawn-out battle.

Seng Wu suddenly said, "You're invincible to anyone whose realms are lower than you, considering your current speed. As for those in the same realm as you, as long as they aren't geniuses with domains; you're invincible against them as well!"

Ye Guan smiled softly without saying anything.

Seng Wu smiled and asked, "How confident are you against the Chosen One?"

Ye Guan replied calmly, "I have only one opponent."

Seng Wu hesitated slightly before asking, "Who?"

Ye Guan replied, "Myself!"

Seng Wu was stunned.

Ye Guan said softly, "I'm on the Invincible Sword Dao. My true enemy is myself. I am invincible as long as my mindset is right and I stick to my morals and faith. The only one capable of defeating me is my future self."

Seng Wu said seriously, "You're on the Invincible Sword Dao?"

Ye Guan nodded.

Seng Wu's expression turned grim as he asked, "Are you even aware that the Invincible Sword Dao allows not even a single failure?"

"You're wrong, Senior," said Ye Guan with a smile before explaining, "It's not that one cannot fail while one is on the Invincible Sword Dao. In fact, failure is a must."

Seng Wu froze.

Ye Guan said seriously, "Failure allows one to see which part of them needs improvement. What cannot fail is my heart and will. You can defeat me as an individual, but you cannot crush my faith and will."

Bam!

A terrifying sword intent burst out of Ye Guan.

Seng Wu was shocked.

Ye Guan pressed down with his right hand and forcefully suppressed the sword intent.

Seng Wu stared at Ye Guan in a daze. "T-that was the sword intent of a Great Sword Sovereign.... You..."

Ye Guan grinned without saying anything.

Seng Wu's expression turned serious as he continued. "You're suppressing your sword dao realm."

Ye Guan was still smiling, but he didn't say anything in response.

Seng Wu looked at Ye Guan. "Why?"

Ye Guan thought about it before replying. "I'm still quite weak. I'm not invincible like the Sword Master nor as strong as the elite cultivators of the Guanxuan Universe, so I think it's better for me to keep a low profile rather than boast and show off. I'll emphasize—it's better to keep one's trump cards to oneself.

"Don't show all of your cards to your opponent." Ye Guan paused before continuing. "A swordsman can't just fight. The world is too complex, and might is sometimes not strong enough to resolve issues.

“There are many powerhouses out there as well. If I only know how to fight, I’ll eventually make an enemy out of everyone, which will definitely become my undoing. In other words, I have to be soft at times and scheming at times.

“As the saying goes—use force and gentleness in tandem. I think it’s a saying that makes a lot of sense. I want my enemies to only see my cards once I’m about to bury them!”

Seng Wu went silent. Even the son is a devious brat!