

I Have A Sword

#Chapter 18: Can Someone Really Take a Blow from That? - Read I Have A Sword Chapter 18: Can Someone Really Take a Blow from That?

Chapter 18: Can Someone Really Take a Blow from That?

Ye Guan looked down at himself and was stunned by his injuries. He looked pitiful, and he knew that he had to heal himself.

The speed of this phantom was ridiculously fast.

It had to be in the legendary Divine Soul Realm, at the very least.

The realm above the Divine Path Realm was the Divine Soul Realm, and it could only be reached by the confluence of soul and physique. A Divine Soul Realm cultivator could perform divine abilities, and they could raze a small city to the ground with a flick of their sleeve.

The phantom didn't use any divine abilities, but its sword energy was powerful enough to destroy an entire city wall. It was also extremely fast. If Ye Guan hadn't somehow gotten used to the speed of the phantoms on the previous floors, and if he had challenged this floor directly from the start, he would have instantly died.

The phantom on this floor was that strong—he stood no chance at all.

Ye Guan took a deep breath and brought the phantom's sword even closer to him before focusing on healing. The sight seemed to have rendered the phantom speechless.

The majority of Ye Guan's wounds healed an hour later. He stood up and picked up the sword on the ground before handing it over to the phantom.

"Let's do it again," he said.

The phantom didn't bother saying anything. It rushed up and thrust its sword at Ye Guan's forehead in the proverbial blink of an eye. Ye Guan still didn't counterattack. He continued dodging to the best of his abilities.

Soon, he was riddled with injuries, and he confiscated the phantom's sword once again to heal himself.

Ye Guan repeated the cycle for ten days, but it wasn't like Ye Guan hadn't been learning anything. In addition to getting used to the phantom's speed, he finally had a

grasp of the phantom's techniques and attack patterns, as well as its responses to certain movements.

Just like that, another five days passed...

The swift phantom thrust its sword continuously at Ye Guan, and its attacks seemed like rain as they rained down on the latter. However, Ye Guan managed to dodge each and every attack by ducking, crouching, and sidestepping.

Ye Guan lasted thirty minutes without sustaining any injuries.

The phantom thrust its sword at Ye Guan, but this time, Ye Guan flipped his palm open, revealing a strand of sword energy. The phantom's attack failed, and it retracted its sword to unleash another attack.

Unfortunately, Ye Guan took advantage of the brief gap to send the sword energy flying toward the phantom's throat.

Squelch!

A grotesque noise echoed as Ye Guan's sword energy pierced the phantom's throat.

The phantom stood rooted and gradually disappeared. However, its sword dropped to the ground instead of disappearing with it.

Ye Guan picked up the sword and examined it. He could see that it was an Earth-rank sword at the very least, which wasn't a bad harvest at all.

He put the sword away and sat cross-legged instead of going to the ninth floor.

Ye Guan was confident that Sun Xiong was no longer capable of inflicting injuries on him. On the contrary, Sun Xiong was no longer his match. He could easily defeat the latter, and of course, he wasn't just bragging.

However, Ye Guan knew that the reason he managed to defeat the phantom on the eighth floor was that the phantom was just an illusion. He was currently in a cultivation ground, so it was only natural that he couldn't die here.

Unfortunately, there was no way Ye Guan could do the same tactic he had been using against the phantoms on a real battlefield.

He took a deep breath and looked at the teleportation array leading to the ninth floor.

His expression turned grim. The phantom on the ninth floor has to be really, really strong! I think its cultivation base is above Divine Soul. I don't think I stand a chance against such a strong opponent—

Ye Guan shook his head, interrupting his train of thought. He smiled and muttered, "How can I leave without taking a look?"

With that, he stepped into the teleportation array. He was inundated with a dazzling light, and he found himself in a different illusory realm upon opening his eyes.

There was a shining door, and a boy was sitting cross-legged next to the door. The boy looked to be only about sixteen or seventeen years of age. He was wearing a green robe, and a spear lay next to him.

The boy seemed bewildered upon seeing Ye Guan. He had been on the ninth floor for a very long time, and it was the first time that someone had made it up here.

Ye Guan smiled at the boy and asked, "My name's Ye Guan. What's your name?"

The boy examined Ye Guan from top to bottom.

"My name's Siao Ge!" he answered.

Ye Guan walked up to Siao Ge while looking around with a confused look.

"Brother Siao, why isn't there a phantom here?"

Siao Ge pointed at the shining door and said, "Knock on that door, and that bastard will appear!"

Ye Guan blinked and asked, "Is it strong?"

Siao Ge said with a straight face, "No, I've defeated it many times before."

Ye Guan merely stared at Siao Ge. As if I'll believe you!

Siao Ge blinked and suggested. "Brother Ye, why don't you try it for yourself?"

Ye Guan laughed and agreed. "Sure."

With that, Ye Guan walked over to the shining door.

The corners of Siao Ge's lips curled up slightly, and his eyes shone maliciously.

Ye Guan knocked on the door.

Siao Ge's smile widened, but his expression suddenly went stiff. He turned around to run, and he moved so fast that Ye Guan couldn't even see him anymore.

Siao Ge's expression changed. The shining door was flung open, and a massive ax emerged from the door at lightning speed.

The target of the massive ax was none other than Siao Ge.

Siao Ge's eyes narrowed. He knew that it was already too late for him to escape now that the ax was flying toward him. Siao Ge could only face the ax head-on, so he pointed his spear at the flying ax and thrust.

A strand of light shot out from the spearhead.

Boom!

The strand of light was shattered in an instant, and Siao Ge flew around thirty meters away. His landing was rough, and blood sprayed out of his mouth.

Fortunately, the massive ax flew into the shining door. It didn't continue to attack Siao Ge.

Ye Guan walked over to Siao Ge and asked, "Brother Siao, are you okay?"

Siao Ge wordlessly stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan stared incredulously at the shining door.

"What was that ax? It was ridiculously strong!" Ye Guan gasped.

Honestly, he was terrified by the sudden turn of events. Damn it! If I were the target, I would have died or sustained severe injuries! It was just that strong...

Siao Ge wiped the blood at the corner of his lips while wordlessly staring at Ye Guan.

He wasn't mad. He tricked Ye Guan into knocking on the door, but he ended up suffering from his deceit, so he couldn't really blame anyone. He could only admit that he wasn't that good at deceiving others.

A real man knew to admit defeat. Sore losers were losers!

"Brother Siao, who's behind that shining door?" asked Ye Guan.

Siao Ge shook his head and said, "I don't know..."

Ye Guan frowned. "You still haven't met the individual behind the door?"

"I can't even face that ax, so what makes you think that I've already met the individual behind that door?" Siao Ge shook his head once more. He glanced at the shining door

and continued. "The powerful cultivators from the Main Academy left this shining door here, so it is definitely extraordinary. It's a pity that no one has ever managed to get in the door since Nanzhou's Guanxuan Academy was established. As far as I can remember, even the ridiculous talents only managed to come this far."

Hearing that, Ye Guan suddenly suggested. "How about we work together?"

Siao Ge was stunned.

"Work together?" he asked.

Ye Guan nodded and explained, "The ax was too strong. There's no way we can face it head-on, but I think we can beat it if we're together."

Siao Ge made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan. "Are you sure?" he asked.

Ye Guan nodded once again. "Yes, but we have to agree not to betray each other before we do anything else."

"I won't betray you as long as you don't betray me first!" muttered Siao Ge.

Ye Guan nodded and said, "You'll take the blow, and I'll destroy the ax from the side."

Siao Ge worldlessly gazed at Ye Guan for a moment before saying, "Why don't you take the blow, and I'll destroy the ax from the side?"

Ye Guan responded, "Your spear was powerful, and the spear energy you have honed was majestic and strong. You even managed to comprehend spear light, so the difference between you and the massive ax from earlier isn't that huge. Of course, the ax is still stronger than you."

"You don't have to butter me up because I don't want to take the blow," said Siao Ge, seemingly exasperated. He stretched out his right arm and said, "Look, it's bleeding!"

Ye Guan flipped his palm, and a sword energy manifested over his palm. He then waved his hand, and the sword energy flew like a wave at breakneck speed.

Siao Ge's eyes lit up, and he exclaimed, "A swordsman? Are you really a swordsman, Brother Ye?!"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes, I'm a swordsman. Anyway, you're sturdier than me, so you should take the blow. I'm a swordsman, so I'm quick on my feet. I should have no issues ambushing the ax and destroying it from the side."

Siao Ge went silent.

Ye Guan gazed at him and asked, "Don't you wish to see what's beyond that door?"

Siao Ge remained silent. However, he eventually gnashed his teeth and said, "Let's do this then!"

Ye Guan nodded. "All right. Go ahead and knock on the door."

"Let me heal myself first," said Siao Ge with a nod. He took a thumb-sized pill and popped it into his mouth. The pill was effective, and it healed Siao Ge's wounds at a speed visible to the naked eye.

Ye Guan was astonished at the sight, and he couldn't help but ask, "Brother Siao, do you have more of that pill?"

Siao Ge hesitated, but he quickly gave in and said, "Yeah, but I only have a few...."

Ye Guan blinked a few times before asking, "Can you lend me two? I'm sure we'll have to give it our all later, and we'll definitely have a higher chance of succeeding with those pills on hand."

Siao Ge didn't say anything in response.

He seemed to be hesitating, but he eventually agreed. "All right!"

He flipped his palm, and two pills floated over to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan nodded slightly and said, "Thank you."

Siao Ge nodded.

He took a deep breath and said, "Brother Ye, I'm going over there to knock on the door. Get ready."

Ye Guan's expression turned solemn at Siao Ge's words.

Siao Ge walked up to the shining door and knocked on it before immediately running away without looking back at the door. In an instant, he was already ten meters away from the door.

Moments later, the shining door flung open and a massive ax flew toward Siao Ge.

Siao Ge's expression changed slightly, but his eyes contained no fear. He took a step forward and thrust his spear fiercely at the massive ax.

"Connecting Galaxies!" he exclaimed, and innumerable strands of spear light poured out of the spearhead.

Ye Guan was stupefied at the sight. That bastard is actually in the Divine Soul Realm?! He's just a boy, but he's already a Divine Soul Realm cultivator; what a monstrous talent!

Siao Ge was unaware of Ye Guan's thoughts as he promptly thrust his spear once more.

Boom!

There was a loud explosion as Siao Ge's spear struck the massive ax.

A series of rumbling noises echoed as the spear light and spear shadows shattered from the collision. Siao Ge staggered backward, but the massive ax was unlucky because Ye Guan had already arrived behind it.

Ye Guan didn't hesitate. He swung his sword fiercely at the massive ax.

Boom!

A loud boom echoed as the ax crashed to the ground and was split into two.

Tremble!

Ye Guan and Siao Ge thought that it was over, but the massive ax suddenly started trembling.

At the sight, Ye Guan hurriedly shouted, "Come here! Hurry up!"

Siao Ge rushed over to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan explained, "Someone is trying to take the ax back, so let's hurry up and carry it away from the door!"

With that, Ye Guan and Siao Ge carried the ax away before scampering away like rabbits. In the blink of an eye, they were already three hundred meters away from the door, and the massive ax finally stopped trembling.

Ye Guan and Siao Ge heaved sighs of relief.

"Wait!" Ye Guan exclaimed. He seemed to have come up with an idea as he said, "I think we should throw it into that teleportation array."

Siao Ge didn't object, and the two of them threw both halves of the ax into the teleportation array that led to the eighth floor.

The teleportation array activated and engulfed the ax.

They heaved another sigh of relief.

Thud!

A dull noise could be heard from the shining door. Ye Guan and Siao Ge turned to look at the shining door with grim expressions, and they were stupefied to find a giant walking out of the door while holding another massive ax.

Siao Ge and Ye Guan froze.

Ye Guan recovered first, and he gulped before saying, "Brother Siao, let's do it again. Take the blow, and I'll attack!"

Siao Ge turned to look at Ye Guan, and his voice was trembling as he asked, "Can someone really take a blow from that thing, Brother Ye?"

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Chapter 19: Old Friend

Siao Ge and Ye Guan's hearts sank upon seeing the giant walking out of the shining door with a massive ax.

Damn it! Another ax? Ye Guan and Siao Ge exchanged gazes. Run!

The two of them dashed toward the teleportation array.

Fweee!

A shrill noise could be heard as something flew toward them at incredible speed. A massive ax flew past Ye Guan and Siao Ge, and it struck the teleportation array.

Boom!

The teleportation array crumbled, forcing Ye Guan and Siao Ge to come to a halt.

We're dead! They inwardly exclaimed.

Ye Guan composed himself. He stared deeply at the giant and said, "Brother Siao, we have no other choice but to do it!"

Siao Ge was silent. Their escape route was destroyed, so they had no choice but to fight for their lives. Siao Ge nodded at Ye Guan and said, "I will hold him back. Go and look for an opportunity to strike."

Siao Ge took a stance with his spear and hurled it at the giant.

Screech!

The spear screeched as it carved a path in mid-air and flew toward the giant. The giant opened its right hand, and the massive ax returned to its hand.

Moments later, the giant smacked the flying spear away.

Boom!

Siao Ge's spear flew into the air from the impact. However, Siao Ge soared into the sky as well and snatched his spear out of mid-air. He twisted and pointed the spearhead at the giant before plummeting.

A burst of light erupted from the spearhead.

The giant remained indifferent.

It casually raised its ax and smacked the spear once more.

Boom!

A deafening noise echoed from the collision as both Siao Ge and his spear were thrown backward. However, Ye Guan appeared behind the giant like a ghost, and he thrust his sword into the giant's head.

Puchi!

Ye Guan's sword pierced the giant's skin, but it got stuck after only a few inches.

Ye Guan was flustered. He mustered his sword energy to retrieve his sword before immediately rolling away.

Swoosh!

The massive ax swept past his previous location, and the air shrieked as it shattered beneath the force behind the ax.

Ye Guan had to retreat a few meters away. Upon recovering, he flipped over his palm and mustered his sword energy.

The giant stared at Ye Guan, and it was about to attack when a shrill noise echoed behind the giant. It abruptly turned and saw a spear flying toward it.

Ye Guan took advantage of the opening and rolled forward.

The giant raised its ax and smacked the spear away, sending Siao Ge and his weapon flying away. This time, however, the impact sent Siao Ge flying over a hundred meters away.

He crashed to the ground, and blood spurted out of his mouth.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan stabbed the giant's crotch with his sword.

Was it a despicable move? Indeed. However, this was a life-or-death battle, so Ye Guan had more than enough reason to stab the giant's family jewels!

Ye Guan's sword dug a few inches deeper than earlier, but it still ended up getting stuck.

Ye Guan was dumbfounded by the sight. What the heck?! How can it get stuck there?

Ye Guan's train of thought was interrupted by a horrifying energy above him. Ye Guan let go of his sword and rolled away, dodging the giant's powerful attack. He flicked his finger and created a sword out of sword energy.

Unfortunately, the sword energy could only create a few superficial scratches on the giant's neck before the giant shattered it with a smack.

Ye Guan's expression grew solemn, and his thoughts were indecipherable as he stared at the giant's neck.

The giant started moving toward Ye Guan, and the floor trembled with every step it took.

At the sight, Ye Guan blurted out. "Brother Siao, help me distract it for an hour."

"An hour?!" Siao Ge's eyes widened. He immediately lay on the ground and shouted, "I give up!"

Ye Guan hurriedly said, "No, thirty minutes. Give me thirty minutes, and I'll kill it."

Thirty minutes... Siao Ge was silent.

Ye Guan could see Siao Ge's hesitation, so he added, "Just give me thirty minutes, and I'll definitely kill it!"

Siao Ge gnashed his teeth. However, he eventually stood up and rushed at the giant. He moved quickly, and he carried with him an imposing aura as he charged at the giant.

The giant reacted and brought its ax down on Siao Ge.

Boom!

Siao Ge was sent flying away.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was busy controlling several sword energies. The sword energies hacked away at the giant's neck.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Loud noises echoed incessantly as the sword energies exploded upon every collision, but Ye Guan's tactic was working because the wound on the giant's neck got bigger and bigger as time went on.

The giant suddenly took a stance with its ax and swung it in a circle.

Boom!

More than ten sword energies were destroyed at once, but Ye Guan suddenly appeared in front of the giant and thrust his sword into the giant's throat.

Crack!

The wound in the giant's neck grew larger. However, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet.

He spared no quarter as he attacked incessantly with his sword while unleashing creating swords out sword energy at the same time. Eventually, Ye Guan backflipped away from the giant and immediately turned around to run away upon landing.

While running, Ye Guan flicked his finger and—

Slice!

The giant's wound deepened as Ye Guan's sword energy lacerated it.

Crack!

A grotesque noise echoed as the giant's neck split open.

However, the giant was still standing, and it finally realized that Ye Guan was the biggest threat to its life. It turned its attention to the running Ye Guan and changed at the latter with its ax.

Ye Guan's expression changed at the sight.

"Brother Siao, help me!" he hurriedly shouted.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan rolled to the side, dodging an attack that would have ended his life.

Meanwhile, Siao Ge was covered in his own blood. He growled and dashed at the giant upon hearing Ye Guan's shout.

The giant turned and swung its ax toward Siao Ge.

Boom!

There was another loud explosion as Siao Ge was sent flying for over a hundred and fifty meters with his spear broken in one section. He crashed to the ground, and he immediately started seizing as blood flowed incessantly out of his mouth.

Meanwhile, several sword energies were attacking the giant's throat non-stop.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Several explosions reverberated, and a gaping wound finally appeared in the giant's neck. The giant staggered backward, and it seemed to have finally realized that it was in peril.

Ye Guan was delighted by the sight, and he hurriedly cried out. "Brother Siao, distract him! I'm going to finish him!"

Siao Ge's voice was trembling, and he barely managed to shout, "I'm a spearman, not a physique cultivator!"

The giant was furious upon sustaining a severe wound, and it charged at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's expression changed. He turned around and ran. Fortunately, he had been running away and dodging the phantoms' attacks on the lower floors, so he managed to dodge the crazed attacks of the crazed giant.

Ye Guan knew that he was way weaker than the giant, so he chose to run away and dodge. If he were to take the brunt of even a single hit from the crazed giant, Ye Guan was sure that he would die outright or be immediately incapacitated.

However, Ye Guan was also aware that he couldn't keep on running forever. He turned to look at Siao Ge and cried out, "Brother Siao, hurry up! One last time—distract him one last time!"

Siao Ge was on the ground, and he struggled to lift his head to look at the giant. He saw the gaping wound in the giant's neck, and a sinister light appeared in his eyes.

He forced himself to stand up and charged at the giant once more.

The giant turned sharply and swung its ax toward Siao Ge.

Boom!

Siao Ge's spear was broken, and Siao Ge himself flew almost three hundred meters away from the impact. He crashed to the floor, and he seized violently.

Siao Ge tried his best to squeeze words out of his throat. "I can't... I really can't do it anymore..."

While the giant was distracted by Siao Ge, Ye Guan approached the giant and stabbed the giant's neck with his sword.

Squelch!

A grotesque sound echoed as Ye Guan's sword coated with sword energy pierced the giant's neck.

However, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet. His eyes flashed sinisterly as he twisted and swung his sword.

Swoosh!

The giant's head flew into the air.

Ye Guan immediately breathed a sigh of relief.

However, the giant's hand moved autonomously and swung the ax in its hand toward Ye Guan. To make matters worse, the ax was enveloped by terrifying lightning energy.

Ye Guan's expression changed. He wanted to dodge, but it was too late.

Boom!

Ye Guan could only defend himself with his sword, but he was sent flying away upon impact. Coincidentally, he flew right into the severely injured Siao Ge, and the two of them were sent flying for another thirty meters before stopping.

Siao Ge groaned, and blood spurted out of Ye Guan's mouth. However, he didn't bother wiping the blood at the corner of his lips as he hurriedly looked at the giant.

The giant collapsed to the ground and disappeared.

Ye Guan breathed another sigh of relief before lying next to Siao Ge.

Ye Guan glanced at Siao Ge and said, "Brother Siao, that wasn't too bad, was it?"

“What do you mean, it wasn’t too bad? I almost died!” Siao Ge retorted in a trembling voice.

Ye Guan grinned and exclaimed, “We won!”

Siao Ge nodded and said, “If we lost, we would have had no choice but to see each other in our next lives.”

Ye Guan boisterously laughed. It felt great to fight in such a perilous fight!

Meanwhile, the shining door started trembling.

Ye Guan and Siao Ge’s faces changed as their gazes turned to the shining door. A woman walked out of the door, eliciting a frown from the two.

The woman was an illusory figure, and she was wearing an emerald green dress. A sword sheath was on her back.

A swordswoman?

The woman walked over to the two. She gazed deeply at them before smiling. “Did the two of you work together to complete this floor?”

Ye Guan nodded. “Yes!”

The woman looked at Ye Guan and Siao Ge before saying, “You did great. I’ll group you two into one, and you two are the second conqueror of the ninth floor.”

Second? Siao Ge and Ye Guan stiffened.

Siao Ge stood up and asked, “Who was the first?”

The woman smiled and said, “She’s a woman called Ji Xuan from Zhongtu Divine Continent. And she cleared the ninth floor by herself! She was also about the same age as you two back then, roughly seventeen years old.”

Ye Guan and Siao Ge’s faces fell. The delight they felt from clearing the ninth floor instantly evaporated.

The woman seemed to have noticed that, and she smiled at them before saying, “Do not be discouraged. You two are outstanding as well! Come, let me give you a reward.”

She flipped her palm, and a box appeared in front of Ye Guan and Siao Ge.

Ye Guan blinked at the woman and muttered, “Just one?”

The woman nodded and replied, "Yes, just one."

Ye Guan asked, "There are two of us here, can you give us another one?"

The woman repeatedly blinked before saying, "No..."

Ye Guan went silent. He opened the box to take a look and found a scroll in it.

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued. "What is it?"

The woman smiled and replied. "It's an Immortal-rank cultivation manual."

That's definitely higher than Sky-rank! Ye Guan and Xiao Ge's expressions changed.

They were certain that not even the Guanxuan Academy had an Immortal-rank cultivation manual. They exchanged looks, and Ye Guan eventually said, "We'll take a look at it together."

Xiao Ge nodded in agreement.

Ye Guan added, "It'll belong to me once we're done memorizing it."

Xiao Ge shook his head in disagreement.

With that, Ye Guan turned to look at the woman. He hesitated for quite a while before asking, "Can you give us another one?"

"No, I—" The woman was about to speak, but she stopped speaking upon seemingly realizing something. Her expression changed, and she grabbed Ye Guan's hand with her right hand.

Ye Guan stiffened and stood rooted.

The woman stared at Ye Guan in disbelief before muttering, "Crazy Devil—"

The woman abruptly cut herself off and stopped speaking.

The confused Ye Guan stared at the woman. Moments later, the woman finally recovered from her trance. She looked deeply into Ye Guan's eyes, and her expression softened as she released Ye Guan's hand before saying with a smile, "Okay."

She took out another box and gave it to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan and Xiao Ge were overjoyed.

The woman looked at Ye Guan with a warm but complex look.

“My projection is about to disappear. Anyway, I’m looking forward to seeing the both of you in the Main Academy,” she said.

Ye Guan muttered, “You’re from the Main Academy?”

The woman smiled and replied, “Yes, I’m from the Guanxuan Universe’s Guanxuan Academy. The Main Academy is a really fun place, so you better come here and visit!”

With that, the woman’s illusory figure faded away.

Meanwhile, Little Pagoda in the tiny pagoda spoke, “I didn’t expect to see Ye Yu here and in that way, to boot…”

The mysterious voice in the tiny pagoda responded, “Was she really Ye Yu?”

Little Pagoda replied, “She was just a little girl back then. Anyway, I really didn’t expect to see her like that.”

Chapter 20: Unrivaled Talent!

Ye Guan and Siao Ge were delighted upon receiving an Immortal-rank cultivation manual. They reckoned that the entire Nanzhou probably didn’t have even one Immortal-rank cultivation manual.

In other words, an Immortal-rank cultivation manual was rare, and one would become a powerful cultivator by cultivating one. Ye Guan and Siao Ge’s looks of dissatisfaction were replaced by bright smiles.

The teleportation array in the distance suddenly vibrated. Ye Guan turned to look at it and deduced that the Guanxuan Academy was in the middle of fixing the array.

Ye Guan turned to look at Siao Ge and said, “Brother Siao, I want you to go down first and tell everyone that you conquered the tower by yourself.”

Siao Ge was confused. “Why?”

Ye Guan smiled and explained, “I have enemies in the academy, and I want to keep a low profile.”

Siao Ge blinked, but he quickly caught on and exclaimed, “So you want to pretend to be a pig to eat a tiger!”

Ye Guan chuckled and nodded. “That’s right!”

Siao Ge fell into contemplation before saying, “I’m honestly not comfortable with what you want me to do. It makes me feel ashamed.”

“Just think of it as doing me a favor,” said Ye Guan.

A talented man would attract jealous people. Ye Guan had to keep a low profile because he didn't want people to constantly take note of him.

One has to make it big while maintaining a low profile!

Fame? Ye Guan didn't care about fame.

Siao Ge was silent for a while before responding, “Okay.”

Ye Guan smiled and said, “Thank you.”

Siao Ge stared deeply at Ye Guan before asking, “Did you just join the academy?”

“Yes!” Ye Guan nodded and said, “I just enrolled.”

Siao Ge smiled and said, “I guess we'll meet soon. Your flying sword art was strong. You should look for me when you have time, and we can exchange pointers.”

“Sure,” said Ye Guan.

The vibration of the teleportation array intensified.

Ye Guan saw that and said, “See you next time, Brother Siao.”

With that, Ye Guan looked for a place to hide.

Meanwhile, Siao Ge started walking toward the vibrating teleportation array with a smile.

An old man emerged from the teleportation array along with the three tutors and Lu Chen. The old man at the helm was none other than the Guanxuan Academy's Academy Chief—Song Fu.

Siao Ge hurriedly greeted them. “Tutors!”

Song Fu patted Siao Ge's shoulder and smiled. “You did great.”

The expressions of the three tutors were complicated. It couldn't be helped because someone finally conquered the ninth floor.

“We should go,” said Song Fu.

With that, they turned around and walked into the teleportation array.

Song Fu glanced at a corner of the floor before eventually walking into the array.

Ye Guan waited for a while before coming out of hiding and walking into the teleportation array. He quietly left the tower.

Siao Ge's conquest of the ninth floor spread like wildfire throughout the entire Guanxuan Academy. The fact that Guanxuan Academy had no intentions of hiding Siao Ge's feat also helped in the spread of the news. Siao Ge quickly became famous.

Meanwhile, Tutor Xiao visited the seventh floor of another trial tower.

Nan Xuan was cultivating like crazy in the tower, and it seemed that he had no intentions of slacking until the end of the month.

Tutor Xiao said, "Someone conquered the ninth floor of the tower..."

Nan Xuan froze. His face turned sour as he asked, "Was it Ye Guan?"

Tutor Xiao smiled and replied, "Don't worry. It wasn't him. It was Siao Ge."

"Siao Ge?" Nan Xuan frowned. "I have never heard of that name."

Tutor Xiao nodded and explained, "It's not strange that you haven't heard of him. He's a talent that the Academy Chief has been teaching personally. It was only when the news broke out did all of us finally hear of him."

Nan Xuan's voice turned solemn as he said, "Does that mean that he's going to become the Chief Student Representative?"

Tutor Xiao nodded. "That's right. We have more or less decided that he'll be the Chief Student Representative. He might even become the next Academy Chief."

Nan Xuan was silent.

Tutor Xiao didn't mind his silence and continued with a smile. "Now, you have two tasks. Firstly, you'll have to conquer this floor. Conquering this floor means you'll have an eighty percent chance of killing Ye Guan. Secondly, you should befriend Siao Ge. You'll profit greatly from being his friend because he has relatives on the Upper Realm."

"Upper Realm?" Nan Xuan frowned slightly. "He's not from Nanzhou?"

Tutor Xiao nodded and said, "He's definitely not from Nanzhou, but I'm not sure about his actual identity. Basically, you won't suffer a loss by befriend him. It would be great if you managed to create tension between him and Ye Guan because we will also be able to suppress his tutor."

Nan Xuan went silent before muttering, "I heard that Ye Guan has a sister in the academy..."

Tutor Xiao shook his head and rejected the idea. "Fei Banqing is taking care of Ye Nan, and she's keeping tabs on the latter, so you better not think of any nonsense."

Nan Xuan nodded slightly and said, "It will take me at most five more days to finish this floor. I'll go and befriend Siao Ge once I'm done here."

"All right, focus on your cultivation, then." Tutor Xiao nodded before turning around to leave.

Left alone, Nan Xuan's eyes glimmered in a sinister light.

...

Ye Guan returned to his palace and took out the Immortal-rank cultivation manual that he had received as a reward. He unfurled the scroll, and a ray of light shot from the scroll and into his glabella.

A few words popped up in Ye Guan's mind—Mysterious Heart Art.

It was an Immortal-rank cultivation method. Ye Guan quickly sat down and began absorbing the spiritual energy in the surroundings. Moments later, every particle of spiritual energy on Mount Banqing surged toward him.

Ye Guan's heart skipped a beat, and he immediately stopped cultivating.

The spiritual energy abruptly scattered.

Ye Guan was stupefied, and he exclaimed, "What was that? That was so scary..."

Ye Guan was shocked upon realizing that the Immortal-rank cultivation method was ten times more powerful at absorbing spiritual energy than the Sky-rank cultivation method he had been cultivating until now.

This is insane! Ye Guan inwardly exclaimed, but he seemed to have remembered something as he stood up and headed for Nalan Jia's palace. He was about to knock on the door, but someone else opened the door for him.

Nalan Jia walked out of her palace sporting a light blue dress with her hair draping down her shoulders. Her skin was like jade, and her eyes glimmered like stars.

Nalan Jia smiled upon seeing Ye Guan. "What is it?" she asked.

“I—” Ye Guan started, but he stopped to take a closer look at Nalan Jia. “You’ve reached the Divine Soul Realm?”

Nalan Jia nodded. “Yup!”

If my memories are serving me correctly, then wasn’t Nalan Jia just a Truth Realm cultivator while we were still in Ancient Desolate City? Now, she’s already a Divine Soul Realm cultivator...

Ye Guan was startled. Did she really break through three realms, even though it hasn’t been that long since we got here?

Nalan Jia saw the bewilderment on Ye Guan’s face, and she explained, “My physique is unique, and Tutor told me that I won’t face any bottlenecks while cultivating.”

Ye Guan shook his head in awe and smiled. “That’s awesome...”

Nalan Jia smiled without saying anything. Ye Guan quickly took out the Immortal-rank cultivation manual and handed it over to Nalan Jia.

“Give it back to me once you’re done memorizing it,” he said.

Nalan Jia unfurled the scroll and froze. “An Immortal-rank cultivation manual?”

She made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan. Ye Guan hesitated beneath Nalan Jia’s gaze.

Nalan Jia reminded him. “You promised not to hide anything from me.”

Ye Guan nodded and told her what had happened in the trial tower.

Nalan Jia went silent after hearing Ye Guan’s story. In the end, she muttered, “I thought I could easily beat you if we exchanged pointers, but it seems that I don’t stand a chance against you.”

Ye Guan smiled without saying anything.

Nalan Jia looked down at the scroll in her hands. She didn’t try to return the scroll to Ye Guan. She unfurled it once more and read it.

It didn’t take that long for her to memorize every word in the scroll, and she returned it to Ye Guan once she was done memorizing it.

Ye Guan accepted the scroll.

Nalan Jia said, “There’s only half a month until your death match with Nan Xuan, right?”

“Yes,” said Ye Guan with a nod.

Nalan Jia stared deeply at Ye Guan before saying, “I’ll be there and cheer you on!”

Ye Guan smiled at her and said, “Okay...”

Nalan Jia grinned and said, “All right, I’ll be cultivating until then.”

Ye Guan nodded and said, “Okay, see you there.”

With that, Ye Guan turned around to leave.

However, Nalan Jia exclaimed, “Wait!”

Ye Guan turned around and saw Nalan Jia extending over a purple scented sachet.

“This is yours,” said Nalan Jia.

Ye Guan took the scented sachet and looked at it.

“Did you make it by yourself?” he asked.

Nalan Jia nodded and smiled. “Yup. It has a few special ingredients that’ll heighten your focus while you’re carrying it with you.”

Ye Guan was overjoyed, and he said, “Thank you; I appreciate it.”

Nalan Jia laughed. “You’re welcome.”

Ye Guan hung the scented sachet by his waist. However, Nalan Jia shook her head at the sight.

“That’s not how you carry it around...” she said before walking over to Ye Guan. She reached out and tied the scented sachet to Ye Guan’s clothes. Nalan Jia was standing so close to Ye Guan that the latter caught a whiff of her alluring scent.

Ye Guan’s heart became filled with warmth as he stared at the beautiful lady in front of him.

Meanwhile, Nalan Jia was finally done tying the scented sachet. She looked at Ye Guan and said, “It’s done. All right, I’m going to cultivate now.”

With that, she turned around and left for her palace.

Ye Guan looked down at the scented sachet attached to his clothes, and he was all smiles as he returned to his palace.

Ye Guan was unaware, but Nalan Jia had walked out of her palace to watch him leave while smiling softly.

...

Ye Guan's next destination was Fei Banqing's palace.

Ye Guan was about to knock on the door, but Fei Banqing interrupted him.

"Come in," she said from behind the door.

Ye Guan carefully opened the door and walked into the palace. He approached Fei Banqing and bowed in front of her. "Tutor."

Fei Banqing nodded and said, "Take a seat."

Ye Guan obliged and sat in front of her.

Fei Banqing asked calmly, "Do you have any business with me?"

Ye Guan nodded, and he wordlessly took out the Immortal-rank cultivation manual and placed it in front of Fei Banqing.

Fei Banqing stared at the scroll for a few moments before looking at Ye Guan. She didn't say anything, but she could feel that Ye Guan truly cared about her. The thought made Fei Banqing smile as she asked, "Is this the reward?"

Ye Guan nodded and said, "Yes, and the two of us have our own manual."

Fei Banqing gazed deeply at Ye Guan. "You are giving it to me?"

"Yes!" Ye Guan exclaimed.

Fei Banqing smiled and asked, "Are you giving it to me because I gave you a Sky-rank cultivation manual? Is this your repayment?"

Ye Guan didn't know what to say.

However, Fei Banqing remained calm as she said, "I know that you don't want to be indebted to me. Anyway, leave the manual here, and we're even."

"Tutor, it's a misunderstanding..." Ye Guan said.

Fei Banqing went silent and simply stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan knew that he had to be serious here, so his expression turned serious as he explained, "Tutor, I really appreciated your kindness, but I'm not here to give you this Immortal-rank cultivation for the sake of repaying my debt to you. I'm giving it to you because I feel that it suits you more than me; that's all."

Fei Banqing wordlessly gazed at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan emphasized. "I'm serious!"

Fei Banqing finally said, "Okay, I understand..."

At the positive answer, Ye Guan stood up and bowed slightly.

"Thank you for accepting it, Tutor. Anyway, I'll be going ahead to cultivate," he said.

With that, Ye Guan turned around and left.

All alone in her vast palace, Fei Banqing stared at the Immortal-rank cultivation manual for a while. A smile eventually broke out on her lips.