

## **A Sword 181**

### Chapter 181: Annihilate the Martial Department

Ye Guan put his sword away and said, "Senior, I will take my leave now."

Seng Wu pushed aside his thoughts and asked, "Are you returning to the Sword Sect?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

"All right," said Seng Wu with a smile.

Ye Guan bowed slightly. "Thank you for your guidance, Senior. Farewell."

Seng Wu nodded. "All right."

Ye Guan turned around and flew into the horizon on his sword.

Seng Wu wordlessly stared at the bright light on the horizon. After a while, he smiled and muttered, "I'm sure you guys will be pleased to see this lad." He turned to look in another direction and said, "The Guanyuan Universe's successor is here."

...

Ye Guan went to look for Chen Guanzi upon arriving at the Sword Sect.

In a hall, Chen Guanzi looked at Ye Guan, "You need swords?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes, and I need eight of them."

Chen Guanzi nodded and said, "Follow me."

He hopped onto his sword and disappeared into the horizon.

Ye Guan hurriedly chased after him.

The two soon found themselves in the depths of the Sword Tomb. A boulder was in front of them, and there was a sword case on the boulder.

The sword case was pitch-black in color, and there wasn't a single character emblazoned on it.

Chen Guanzi gestured, and the sword case hovered in front of him.

He tapped the case, and twelve swords took off to pierce the clouds. The twelve swords soon spun in a circle above them.

Chen Guanzi gestured once more, and the twelve swords returned.

The twelve swords appeared in front of Ye Guan. The swords had a width of about two fingers next to each other, and they were about three feet long. The swords were clearly made to be used as throwables, as they didn't have a hilt.

Chen Guanzi turned to look at Ye Guan and explained, "This is Senior Murong's sword case. Its name is Zhuxie[1]. The swords floating in front of you are called Zhuxie Flying Blades, and they are all Divine-rank items.

"Senior Murong died thirty years ago on the Xuzhen Battlefield. His sword case has been dormant here for the past thirty years. From now on, Senior Murong's swords shall follow you."

Ye Guan hurriedly said, "All right."

He reached out for the sword case.

Buzz!

The sword case vibrated violently, and a horrifying sword intent surged out from it.

Ye Guan's hand bounced off of the sword case.

Ye Guan was shocked. He looked at Chen Guanzi and asked, "Senior? What was that?"

Chen Guanzi responded, "People who can choose their swords, but swords can choose their wielders as well. You have to convince them."

"Ah, that makes sense." Ye Guan smiled. He looked at the sword case and stepped forward before flicking his finger toward the sword case.

Boom!

The sword case trembled, and a loud vibration shook the air.

Twelve blades flew toward Ye Guan, and Ye Guan didn't dare to be negligent against the twelve blades. He took a stance, and the swords haphazardly slashed at him.

Clang, clang, clang!

The twelve blades were sent flying away.

Ye Guan waved his sleeve, and twelve swords made out of sword energy manifested and flew toward the twelve blades.

Clang!

The twelve Zhuxie Flying Blades were quickly suppressed. After all, Ye Guan had created his twelve swords with both his sword intent and sword force as well as his sword energy.

The twelve Zhuxie Flying Blades were indignant, and they continued resisting.

Ye Guan stared at the twelve Zhuxie Flying Blades with a smile.

“If you are that unwilling, I will not force you to come with me,” he said. He then waved his sleeve, and his twelve swords melted into innumerable light particles before disappearing. Ye Guan turned around and left.

The twelve blades froze. The heck? Why are you leaving?

The Zhuxie sword case quivered, and the twelve blades cut Ye Guan off. They vibrated slightly as if they were trying to say something to him.

Ye Guan smiled and asked, “Are you all willing to follow me?”

The twelve blades vibrated at the same time.

Ye Guan laughed. He grabbed the Zhuxie sword case with his right hand, and it turned into a ray of black light before entering his glabella.

Boom!

The image of a sword case appeared in Ye Guan’s sea of consciousness.

The Zhuxie sword case and the Zhuxie Flying Blades fused into his divine sense.

Now, he could mobilize the twelve blades with just a thought.

Ye Guan looked up and mobilized them.

Buzz!

A buzzing noise pervaded the air as the twelve blades manifested. The twelve blades shot into the sky and pierced the clouds.

Ye Guan stared at the twelve Zhuxie Flying Blades and sent them slicing away at the clouds with just his thoughts. The twelve blades danced around each other, forming an intricate pattern. Moments later, a drawing with hundreds of lines was carved on the clouds, creating a picturesque sight.

Ye Guan was thrilled. Each of these blades was a Divine-rank item!

He had to admit that swords made out of sword energy could only hope to match the twelve blades' might. Ye Guan stared deeply at the twelve blades and sighed. It was still better to be in an organization.

He had nothing as a lone wolf, but now that he was with an organization, he suddenly had access to a lot of money and a ton of resources.

Chen Guanxi suddenly said, "There's still one more month."

Ye Guan looked at Chen Guanxi.

Chen Guanxi stared at him and asked, "What else do you need? Let me know, and I'll give it to you if we have it here."

"I'll let you know, thanks," said Ye Guan with a nod.

Chen Guanzi went silent and turned around to leave.

Ye Guan didn't leave but closed his eyes. One month...seems like a long time, but it's not.

Swoosh!

A figure suddenly appeared in front of Ye Guan.

Ye Guan opened his eyes and found Cao Bai standing in front of him.

Cao Bai stared at him and said, "Something happened, and it's related to you."

Ye Guan pushed aside his thoughts and asked curiously, "What happened?"

Cao Bai asked solemnly, "Do you still remember Lin Qian?"

Lin Qian. Ye Guan's brows furrowed. It was a familiar name.

Cao Bai looked at Ye Guan. "Lin Qian from the Shangxiao Clan."

Ye Guan's eyes widened in realization. "Oh, yeah, I remember him!"

Lin Qian was an accomplice to Ye Guan and Ye Qing's murder of Liu Bing's younger brother in the Profound World. I actually forgot about him.

Cao Bai nodded and explained, "He's in a miserable state."

Ye Guan frowned slightly. "What do you mean?"

Cao Bai said solemnly, "Shangxiao Clan wants to take the Chosen One's side, but Lin Qian objected to it publicly. He said that he's your friend, and he'll stand by your side even if in the afterlife. The Shangxiao Clan decided to expel him from the clan before forcing him out of the clan."

"He's a student of the Guanxuan Academy, but he's struggling because he's bullied by the members of the aristocratic family factions and the great clan factions. He is struggling right now. He's really in a miserable state right now."

Ye Guan was silent. That bastard actually went that far...

Cao Bai looked at Ye Guan. "You have to deal with this for the sake of your reputation."

Ye Guan shook his head and smiled before asking, "Where is he?"

Cao Bai said, "He's at the Martial Department's territory."

"I'll go there, then," said Ye Guan.

Cao Bai said, "I'll go with you."

Ye Guan nodded. "All right."

The two hopped onto their swords and disappeared into the horizon.

Meanwhile, Lin Qian went to class as always in one of the Martial Department's classrooms. However, a few students stopped him on his way to the classroom.

Lin Qian glanced at them before turning to look at a man in white, who seemed to be the leader of the group

"Why are you here, Li Chuan? Are you here to fight me?" asked Lin Qian.

Li Chuan smiled and said, “Lin Qian, I truly admire you. You’re a true man, I give you that. However, I really am curious. Is Ye Guan really worth risking your life for?”

Lin Qian was silent.

Li Chuan continued. “Lin Qian, we’re cut from the same cloth; we should stand together.”

Lin Qian quietly stared at Li Chuan.

Li Chuan’s smile deepened as he explained, “We’re at the bottom of our society, and it is extremely difficult for us to change our fate. However, a huge opportunity has appeared right in front of us—an opportunity to change our destiny.

“We just have to stand on Senior Lu Tian’s side, and that’s it. We’ll be able to change not just our own future but the future of our clan and families.”

Lin Qian suddenly asked, “What if my Brother Ye wins?”

Li Chuan snorted, “Do you really think that’s possible?”

Lin Qian calmly pointed out. “Have you already forgotten that Brother Ye has already defeated Lu Tian back on the Zhongtu Divine Continent?”

The smile on Li Chuan’s lips vanished. His expression was dark as he said, “It’s all because Senior Lu Tian didn’t go all out back then. And what’s the big deal of losing once?”

“Brother Ye won the fight back then, so what makes you think that he can’t do it again?” asked Lin Qian.

Li Chuan glared at Lin Qian and pointed out. “Senior Lu is the Chosen One!”



"If he's the Chosen One, how come he lost to Brother Ye?" asked Lin Qian.

Li Chuan was annoyed. "Do you want a fight?"

"We're just having a conversation. I'm not here to start a fight," said Lin Qian with a smile before asking, "Anyway, don't you think that this is a joke?"

Lin Qian shook his head and explained, "I don't even dare to say that Brother Ye will definitely defeat Lu Tian, so how come you people are so confident that he'll lose? Is it because Lu Tian is the Chosen One? Is that it?"

"It is impressive to be crowned as the Chosen One, but just because the previous Chosen One—the Sword Master—was invincible doesn't mean that Lu Tian is invincible by virtue of his status as the Chosen One."

Li Chuan glared menacingly at Li Qian. "You really are stubborn. I'll ask you, then. Has there anyone out there who has succeeded in life without a backer? Lu Tian has the support of the Milky Way Clan, the Future Clan, and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

"Many clans and aristocratic families are backing him as well. What about Ye Guan? The Sword Sect? The Lingxu Blessed Land? Time Paradise? The Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan? I don't think that they can compare to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion alone, even if they were combined."

Lin Qian smiled, unfazed. "Let me ask you, then. What's going to happen if Brother Ye wins the upcoming battle between them?"

Li Chuan sneered, "Do you really think that's possible?"

"What if?"

Li Chuan waved his sleeve and snorted, "It's impossible. The Chosen One is invincible."

Lin Qian glared at Li Chuan and exclaimed, "He has already lost to Brother Ye!"

"So what?" Li Chuan stared with narrowed eyes at Lin Qian. "Does losing once even matter in the grand scheme of things? The future is more important than the present when it comes to the journey to the summit."

Lin Qian glared at Li Chuan for a moment before muttering under his breath. "When dogs meet, they either sniff or lick each other. Dogs are one thing, but people who imitate dogs by licking others are just disgusting."

"Say that again!" Li Chuan roared. He glared at Lin Qian and said, "Lin Qian, just because I've decided to treat you with some respect doesn't mean that you should forget your place. I guess it's no wonder that the Shangxiao Clan decided to kick you out; a short-sighted dumbass like you has no place in the Shangxiao Clan."

"Enjoy starving to death with no one backing you, you dumbass!"

Lin Qian calmly retorted, "I'd rather starve to death rather than kiss and lick someone else's ass. I never said that Brother Ye will definitely defeat the Chosen One, but even if he loses, I'll still stand next to him!"

Li Chuan jeered, "The Shangxiao Clan has kicked you out and disowned you, and what did he do for you, huh?"

Lin Qian smiled and said, "How about the Chosen One? You've kissed and licked his ass for the longest time, but what has he done for you? I really don't understand. A human should have self-respect; why did you choose to lick someone else's ass?"

Li Chuan glared at Lin Qian and roared, "Shut his mouth for me!"

The students of the Martial Department rushed toward Lin Qian.

“Touch him, and you will die!” The students came to a screeching halt and looked up. The voice had come from the skies. “I’ll annihilate the Martial Department as well!”

## 1. Punishing Evil ❸

### Chapter 182: Brother!

Annihilate the Martial Department! Such boastful words enraged everyone present. However, they froze to their spots the next instant and immediately retracted their anger.

The words had come from Ye Guan.

Ye Guan and Cao Bai walked toward Li Chuan.

Li Chuan gulped, and his face was painted with terror upon seeing Ye Guan. Ye Guan wasn’t a swordsman whom Li Chuan could provoke.

Ye Guan stared at Li Chuan and asked, “Are you trying to bully him?”

Li Chuan was fearful, but he did not back down. “Ye Guan, we’re in the Martial Department.”

Ye Guan glared at Li Chuan and said, “Yeah, so go ahead and try me if you want to see whether I’ll kill you or not.”

Li Chuan was terrified, and he clenched his fists. Try?

Of course, he wasn’t dumb enough to try!

He supported Lu Tian, but he wasn’t dumb enough to purposely seek death. He could wave Lu Tian’s banner and cheer, but would he risk his life for Lu Tian? No way.

Li Chuan's eyes softened a bit as he scoffed, "Ye Guan, rashness will get you into trouble one day. I hope that you won't be so arrogant in the future."

With that, he turned around and left.

Ye Guan suddenly called out to him. "Hold on!"

Li Chuan turned toward Ye Guan and snickered, "What? Do you want to kill me? If you kill an innocent person without justification in the Academy, it'll be tantamount to giving up your life."

"I know. Ye Guan nodded and said, "I won't kill you, but I will beat you up."

Ye Guan flicked his sleeve.

Slap!

The flat of a sword slapped Li Chuan's face, and he flew a few meters away upon being struck. He landed harshly on the floor.

Everyone was flabbergasted.

Li Qian looked at Ye Guan and thought to himself. He's so arrogant!

"Ye Guan!" Li Chuan jumped up. He glared at Ye Guan and roared, "You actually dare to beat an innocent student of the Academy?"

Ye Guan turned toward Cao Bai and asked, "Brother Cao, what punishment will I receive for beating people up in the Academy?"

Cao Bai calmly replied, "You will be fined."

Ye Guan asked, "How much?"

Cao Bai said, "It depends on the situation. However, it normally wouldn't exceed three hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals."

Ye Guan opened his palm, and a storage ring landed in front of Li Chuan.

The storage ring contained three hundred thousand and one gold spiritual crystals.

"I'm generous." Ye Guan stared at Li Chuan and said, "Keep the change."

"Ye Guan!" Li Chuan flushed red in fury.

Ye Guan flicked his sleeve once more.

Slap!

Another sword slapped Li Chuan's face, and the force threw Li Chuan a few meters away. He struck a stone wall, and the stone wall crumbled upon impact.

"How dare you!" An enraged voice boomed throughout the Martial Department.

A group of Martial Department students appeared. In the blink of an eye, the grounds became filled with a few hundred Martial Department Students. They were all glaring at Ye Guan, and one of them boldly chided, "Ye Guan, how dare you bully us!"

Ye Guan flicked his sleeve.

Slap!

The bold student was sent flying.

The students were furious.

They were about to attack, but Ye Guan shouted, “Those daring enough to move will die!”

The students’ expressions darkened. There were only two people in the Martial Department capable of fighting Ye Guan—Chen Ge and the Chosen One.

A female student boldly stepped forward. She stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, “Young Lord Ye, I’m sure your grudge is against Senior Brother Lu. Why are you bullying the students of the Martial Department?”

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at the young woman and laughed. “I bullied the students of the Martial Department? A student of the Martial Department caused all of this.”

The young woman frowned.

Ye Guan explained, “My opponent is Lu Tian, but Li Chuan is trying to curry favor with Lu Tian by bullying my brother. Do you really think that’s acceptable?”

The Martial Department students stared at Li Chuan with disgusted looks.

The students of the Martial Department were supporting Lu Tian, as they were students of the same department. However, they weren’t fanatics blindly supporting Lu Tian, and many students were aware of the bottom lines that had to be avoided.

The students were disgusted by what Li Chuan had done.

Li Chuan's expression was ugly as he glared at Ye Guan. "Ye Guan, you attacked a Martial Department student in public, and you're disrespecting the Martial Department. You even said that you'll annihilate the Martial Department!"

Li Chuan wanted to rally the students of the Martial Department to him. He was too weak to compare to Ye Guan, and he was aware that he would only stand a chance against Ye Guan if the entire Martial Department were to stand by his side.

The expressions of a few students turned sour. It was indeed a great insult for someone to declare that they would annihilate the Martial Department.

Ye Guan simply smiled at the students and said, "If the Martial Department is unhappy about what I did today, you can go ahead and look for me anytime. I can fight you guys in a deathmatch."

"From now on, I'll beat you up every time I see you in the Academy," Ye Guan said to Li Chuan before turning to look at Lin Qian. "Let's go."

Lin Qian scowled at Li Chuan and mocked, "Keep on licking those boots."

With that, he turned around and followed Ye Guan.

Li Chuan's expression was as dark as the bottom of a pot. He turned toward his classmates and said, "Why did you let them go? How are we supposed to lift our heads up high in the future now that you've let them go?"

One of the male students looked at him and said, "Weren't you the one who sought trouble for yourself first?"

Li Chuan roared in rage, "We are all from the Martial Department! How come you guys are speaking up for Ye Guan? Where does your heart lie, huh?!"

The male student shook his head and corrected, "You sought trouble on your own, so don't you dare drag the rest of the Martial Department into your matters."

"It is unacceptable that you led a group to bully Lin Qian. Your actions were truly distasteful."

Someone chimed in and said, "Li Chuan, we all support Senior Brother Lu Tian because he is a part of the Martial Department. However, this doesn't mean that other people cannot support Ye Guan."

"You are staining the reputation of Senior Brother Lu Tian and the Martial Department. Don't let your selfish acts tarnish the Martial Department."

Everyone glared at Li Chuan in disgust. At first, they thought that Ye Guan had come here to kick up a fuss, but after learning about what had truly happened, they were furious at Li Chuan.

He was shameless and with no dignity!

They disliked Ye Guan, but they were disgusted with an idiot like Li Chuan.

They glared coldly at Li Chuan before leaving.

Li Chuan's expression slowly turned pale. He knew that he was done.

Just then, the few people behind Li Chuan hesitated for a while before one of them said, "Li Chuan, we will not involve ourselves with you anymore. From now on, we are no longer tied to you!"

They departed, leaving a speechless Li Chuan by himself.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was quietly staring at Lin Qian.

Lin Qian grinned and said, "Brother Ye."

The Shangxiao Clan had decided to support the Chosen One, leaving him in an awkward position.



Lin Qian had decided to stand on Ye Guan's side, but it wasn't like he had any choice in the first place. Everyone knew that he and Ye Guan were sworn brothers, so he couldn't support Lu Tian at all. If he were to betray Ye Guan to support Lu Tian, it would be the end of him because Lu Tian wouldn't dare to take a traitor like him in.

Of course, Lin Qian didn't really mind, as he and his father were quite fond of Ye Guan. Lu Tian was also a sore loser who had summoned the Heavenly Dao upon realizing that he had lost. He was a shameless man.

Lin Qian talked about it with his father, and they reached the conclusion that Lin Qian should keep on supporting Ye Guan. Unfortunately, the price that Lin Qian had to pay was expulsion.

Still, he and his father felt that it was worth it.

Ye Guan suddenly chuckled and asked, "Brother Lin, what are you trying to do here?"

Lin Qian chuckled and replied, "Nothing. I'm genuinely supporting you."

Ye Guan stared at Lin Qian for quite a while before quietly smiling.

Lin Qian said, "I don't have any ill intentions toward you."

Ye Guan nodded. "I know."

Lin Qian's voice deepened, and he said, "Brother Ye, my father wants me to tell you that the factions standing behind Lu Tian have created a massive alliance. The vested interests have become too huge, so they can't let the Chosen One lose.

"He has to win the battle or—"

Lin Qian didn't finish his sentence.

"I know," said Ye Guan.

On the other side, Cao Bai suddenly said, "Brother Ye, don't worry, the Sword Sect will escort you safely."

Ye Guan smiled warmly and then looked at Lin Qian. "For now, you have to keep a low profile in the Academy. Don't let them find trouble with you."

"All right." Lin Qian nodded. He took out a storage ring and gave it to Ye Guan. "My father told me to give this to you. The Lin Family is a small clan, and we can't give you much support, so I hope you don't mind."

Ye Guan examined the storage ring. There were a million immortal spiritual crystals in it. Ye Guan smiled and said, "I appreciate it, but—"

Lin Qian stopped Ye Guan from returning the storage ring. He shook his head and said, "Brother Ye, don't turn it down. We know that you're struggling financially."

"A million immortal spiritual crystals are not much in the grand scheme of things, but they should be able to help you get some pills. Anyway, I'm sorry that we can't give you more than that, and I hope that you'll keep it."

Ye Guan was silent.

Lin Qian continued. "I'll keep a low profile and avoid them, but I'll go and cheer for you in the battle one month later."

With that, Lin Qian turned around and left.

Ye Guan stared silently at Lin Qian's departing figure.

Cao Bai chuckled lightly and commented, "He's not too bad."

Ye Guan smiled in response.

Just then, a young man appeared in front of Ye Guan and Cao Bai. The young man quickly shuffled towards Ye Guan and gave him a storage ring. There were three million immortal spiritual crystals in it.

Ye Guan was stunned. "Who are you?"

The young man replied, "I'm working for Elder Qin Feng."

Ye Guan was astonished.

The young man hurriedly said, "Aside from the three million immortal spiritual crystals, there are also thirty Divine-grade recovery pills and thirty Divine-grade healing pills inside of the storage ring.

"Elder Qin said that he can't meet you personally, and he hopes that you'll understand. He also said that he regards you as his brother forever."

The young man turned around and left after saying his piece.

Ye Guan stood rooted in silence.

Chapter 183: Shadow Department

Qin Feng!

There was no way Ye Guan could forget Qin Feng, who had helped him tremendously on the Zhongtu Divine Continent. Ye Guan wanted to visit Qin Feng, but he was afraid of implicating the latter, so he refrained from visiting.

It had been quite a while since the two saw each other, so Ye Guan was surprised to see that Qin Feng had actually sent someone to contact him. Qin Feng even gave him immortal spiritual crystals!

Ye Guan smiled as he looked down at the storage ring in his hand. He had made many enemies, but he had made friends as well. His friends weren't as many as his enemies, but they were all incredible people.

Ye Guan stored the storage ring away and looked at Cao Bai.

"Brother Cao, let's return to the Sword Sect," he said with a smile.

The two hopped onto their swords and disappeared into the horizon.

After returning to the Sword Sect, Ye Guan went over to a vast expanse of seemingly unending land. It was the cultivation ground of the Sword Sect, and it had an abundance of spiritual energy.

There was one month until his battle with the Chosen One, and Ye Guan wanted to make good use of that time by training and cultivating. This time, he wanted to make a breakthrough by himself.

The rhythmic collision of swords soon echoed across the plains.

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Li Banzhi was reading through the memorials when she suddenly looked up.

A blurry figure slowly solidified in front of her.

The figure was An You.

Li Banzhi stared at An You and asked, "How is it?"

An You shook his head and replied. "I couldn't find anything."

Nothing? Li Banzhi frowned. After a while, she said, "Stop investigating it. You'll eventually get in trouble the deeper you dig into it."

An You nodded. After some hesitation, he said, "Committee Head Li, I have a bad feeling about this. Things might be more complicated than what it seems, and I believe there's a mastermind behind the scenes."

Li Banzhi nodded and agreed, "I know, but you really have to stop investigating. You might alarm them, and they might take action against you if you were to dig any deeper."

An You nodded. "I understand."

Li Banzhi suddenly asked, "How are the people protecting him?"

An You was slightly surprised, but he quickly said, "Committee Head, don't worry. The people of the Shadow Department are loyal to the Sword Master."

Li Banzhi suddenly said, "I want you to send five Time Immortals to Nanzhou. Protect the Ye Clan and the Nalan Clan there. If anything happens, I want you to bring those two clans here."

An You nodded. "All right."

Li Banzhi added, "I also want you to send a Time Immortal to look after Lady Fei Banqing of Nanzhou's Guanxuan Academy."

An You nodded. "Understood."

Li Banzhi instructed, “You’re dismissed.”

An You bowed respectfully and left.

The space in front of Li Banzhi split open, and an old man wearing a black robe emerged from the rift in space. Thirty men dressed in pitch-black war armor stood behind the black-robed old man.

They were wearing the Guanxuan Divine Armor—the strongest armor of the Guanxuan Academy. The thirty men were the strongest troops of the Guanxuan Academy—the Ancient Guanxuan Guards.

They survived the Xuzhen Great War thirty million years ago.

These men were second only to a handful of top elites in the Guanxuan Universe, and there were less than ten thousand of them throughout the Guanxuan Universe.

The black-robed old man bowed respectfully toward Li Banzhi.

The thirty men bowed as well.

Li Banzhi stared at the black-robed old man and said, “I’ll leave the Young Master’s safety to you all.”

It wasn’t that Li Banzhi had no trust in An You, but she wanted to be prepared for anything. He wasn’t here, so she had to be prepared to face the worst-case scenario.

The black-robed old man nodded and said, “Committee Head, don’t worry. The Young Master will never be in danger with us protecting him.”

Li Banzhi nodded and said, “All right. You’re dismissed.”

They bowed quietly and left.

Li Banzhi stood up and left the Committee Hall. She soon found herself in a starry sky, and there was a huge palace ahead of her.

The Nether Palace.

The Nether Palace was under the Guanxuan Academy's governance, but there were only a few people who knew their existence.

Li Banzhi soon arrived at the Nether Palace.

A silver-haired young woman walked out to welcome her. The silver-haired young woman was dressed in a snow-white long skirt.

The young woman stared at Li Banzhi and asked, "Who are you?"

Li Banzhi smiled and said, "You must be Lady Ji Xuan."

Ji Xuan was slightly surprised. "You know me?"

Li Banzhi nodded. "Yes."

After some hesitation, Ji Xuan asked, "Who are you?"

Li Banzhi replied, "My name is Li Banzhi."

Ji Xuan was stunned. The next moment, her face was flooded with surprise, and she cried out, "You're the Committee Head of the Guanxuan Committee!"

Li Banzhi nodded. "Yes."

Ji Xuan hurriedly bowed and greeted, "Greetings to Committee Head!"

Li Banzhi shook her head and said, "You don't have to stand on ceremony. Anyway, how are you doing here?"

Ji Xuan replied, "I'm doing great. My tutor has been treating me really well."

Li Banzhi nodded and said, "Lead me to your tutor."

"This way, please," said Ji Xuan before guiding Li Banzhi into the Nether Palace.

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The Martial Tower was in chaos. A cacophony of noises echoed, and the remnant energies of the collisions alone were enough to make space quiver violently.

The Head Military Official was quietly observing what was happening in the tower.

Boom!

A rift in space that seemed to be at least a thousand meters in length manifested, and a man walked out of it.

It was Lu Tian.

Lu Tian brought his hand down, and a thirty-meter wave of energy shattered the spacetime ahead of him.

The Head Military Official smiled in satisfaction.



Moments later, the spacetime recovered. Lu Tian breathed in deeply.

The Head Military Official smiled at him and said, "Congratulations on reaching the Ultimate Realm!"

Lu Tian had just made a breakthrough into the Ultimate Realm!

Lu Tian chuckled and asked, "Should I continue?"

Lu Tian didn't wait for a reply. He stepped forward, and a terrifying, inscrutable aura gushed out of him, causing the skies to darken.

The aura of Heavenly Tribulation?

The Head Military Official was shocked.

He had just survived the second Heavenly Tribulation of the Ultimate Realm, and he was already prepared to take on the third Heavenly Tribulation of his life?

Crackle!

Thunder boomed as lightning flitted across the dark clouds. An oppressive force bore down on anyone beneath the clouds, and the ground quivered violently as it let out a low, rumbling noise. Witnessing the approach of the Heavenly Tribulation was akin to witnessing the end of the world.

Lu Tian's expression was dark, but he bravely stared at the lightning up above him and roared, "Come here!"

Crackle!

A lightning bolt went out and made a beeline for Lu Tian.

Lu Tian gracefully waved his sleeve.

Boom!

Lu Tian cast a powerful spell, and it collided with the lightning in a cataclysmic explosion. The lightning was torn apart, and it was reduced to nothing but a few insignificant sparks as it eventually vanished.

Lu Tian had done it—he had survived through three Heavenly Tribulations!

The Head Military Official grinned.

Crackle!

However, it seemed that the Heavenly Tribulation clouds had another idea as thunder crackled above the dark clouds that had yet to dissipate.

The Head Military Official stared blankly at the dark clouds for a few moments before exclaiming, “It’s the rumored Secret Tribulation!”

Lu Tian looked at the Head Military Official and frowned. “Secret Tribulation?”

“Yes!” exclaimed the Head Military Official. He was obviously thrilled at the turn of events as he explained, “One has to endure three Heavenly Tribulations in total in the Ultimate Realm. Many people are unaware, but there’s actually a Secret Tribulation that is only triggered by top talents.

”Pavilion Master Qin had arranged it herself, and surviving the Secret Tribulation means receiving a gift from the Heavenly Dao as well as receiving a secret award!”

The Head Military Official grew more excited as he explained, “Lu Tian, you truly are a heaven-defying talent. I’m not the only one who had underestimated you; it turns out that the entire world had underestimated you as well!”

Lu Tian sighed deeply, and he stared intently at the dark clouds. He saw an ominous light red lightning bolt forming in the clouds. The lightning bolt was massive; Lu Tian estimated it to be at least three hundred meters in length.

The light red lightning bolt was annihilating the spacetime around it, creating a terrifying sight.

A determined light flitted across Lu Tian’s eyes as he yelled, “Come!”

He stomped forcefully with his right foot and turned into a divine seal that soared into the skies.

Crackle!

The light red lightning shattered upon making contact with the divine seal, and the collision was so powerful that the spacetime in the immediate vicinity was destroyed in a cataclysmic manner.

Moments later, the surrounding spacetime recovered, and Lu Tian finally emerged above the clouds. His hands were behind his back, and the divine seal mark on his glabella slowly faded away.

A white band of light abruptly enveloped Lu Tian.

The Heavenly Dao’s gift was its pure energy.

Boom!

Lu Tian’s aura burst forth, and the aura he was giving off stirred the surroundings.

The white light soon dispersed, and Lu Tian could finally move once more.

He sighed deeply and waved his sleeve.

Crackle!

A massive lightning bolt flashed, shattering the spacetime at the location where it had burst. The lightning bolt just now had a tinge of light red, similar to the lightning bolt of the Secret Tribulation earlier.

The Head Military Official smiled. "The Ultimate Secret Tribulation Realm!"

Lu Tian closed his eyes and grinned. "A Great Sword Sovereign? I'm afraid that's not enough to threaten me anymore!"

"Let me tell you a secret!" said the Head Military Official.

Lu Tian looked at the Head Military Official, and the latter said, "I received reports about how Ye Guan is most likely not a Great Sword Sovereign."

Lu Tian frowned and asked, "He's not a Great Sword Sovereign?"

"Yes." The Head Military Official nodded and explained, "The Immortal Treasures Pavillion invited a few elites to analyze the sword might that he had displayed that day. The elites discovered that Ye Guan's burst of power back then had to have come from his sword rather than him.

In other words, Ye Guan isn't a Great Sword Sovereign. He just has a special sword. If our presumption is right, you'll surely win in the upcoming battle. After all, your Dao Imprint is capable of suppressing just about anything in this world, so I'm sure it can suppress Ye Guan's sword."

Lu Tian chuckled. "Great!"

The Head Military Official smiled gently and said, "You should keep on cultivating here. I'll contact the aristocratic family faction and the great clan faction for you."

Lu Tian bowed deeply and said, "Thank you so much, Tutor."

The Head Military Official nodded and left.

Lu Tian closed his eyes. A mysterious voice spoke in his head. "I really want to know how they'll react once they find out that you have a Dual Dao Physique in addition to the ability to control two domains."

"I'm curious about the reaction of Ye Guan's Dao Protector in a month's time," said Lu Tian with a smile. He suddenly recalled something and said, "She must be special as well."

The mysterious voice chuckled and said, "Don't worry. No one else aside from the Sword Master and Empress Qingqiu are strong enough to be my opponents. Of course, Boundless Master and the Great Sword Sovereigns here aren't strong enough, either. They're nothing but ants in front of me."

## Chapter 184: As Long As You Are Okay

There was still one month left until the battle between Lu Tian and Ye Guan, but many people had already gathered at the Main Guanxuan Academy. Who would want to miss the upcoming battle that would literally change the world?

Although the Guanxuan Academy hadn't advertised the battle, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion was actively doing so. Of course, they were marketing Lu Tian and trying to increase his popularity, and Lu Tian's fame soared like a fiery arrow.

Lu Tian was undoubtedly the most famous individual throughout the Guanxuan Universe. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion had also been shouting that he was the Chosen One. They purposely linked him to the Sword Master, so many people suspected that Lu Tian was the Sword Master's son.

It has been thirty million years since the Sword Master truly appeared in the Guanxuan Universe, and anyone would be excited to know that the Sword Master's son had appeared.

Ye Guan was a Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign, but he was an ant compared to the Chosen One.

The Sword Master was like a supreme god in everyone's eyes, and it extended to the Chosen One as well. The battle between the Chosen One and Ye Guan was the most anticipated battle in the history of the Guanxuan Universe.

Meanwhile, Academy Chief Song Fu of Nanzhou's Guanxuan Academy had long arranged for Ye Xiao and the Ye Clan to be brought to the Guanxuan Academy. They knew what was about to happen in the Main Guanxuan Academy, as the Immortal Treasures Pavilion was actively promoting it.

Ye Guan was about to fight the Chosen One, but Song Fu and the others still didn't hesitate to support Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was a student of Nanzhou's Guanxuan Academy. If Ye Guan won, Nanzhou's Guanxuan Academy could brag about it forever.

The entire Nanzhou was rooting for Ye Guan, and Nanzhou's Guanxuan Academy treated Ye Guan as if he were a deity.

Ye Xiao and Nalan Ming were leisurely strolling down the lakeside of one of the mountains behind Nanzhou's Guanxuan Academy.

The Nalan Clan's status in Nanzhou had taken off, and it was all thanks to the clan's relationship with Ye Guan. The story of what the Nalan Clan had done for Ye Guan had spread around like a legend.

Ye Guan was just a cripple back then, but the Nalan Clan didn't choose to break off the engagement. The Nalan Clan had become a household name for loyalty and commitment.

Ye Xiao suddenly marveled, "That young man has truly gone a long way..."

Nalan Ming nodded. "I knew that he had a bright future, but I never expected that he would be able to go so far. He has truly surprised everyone."

Ye Xiao shook his head with a laugh and said, "Indeed."

Nalan Ming asked, "Elder Ye, just what is Ye Guan's background?"

Ye Xiao shrugged and replied, "I don't know either. He was a baby who suddenly appeared at our doorstep one day. I don't know anything else."

Nalan Ming remarked, "There's definitely more than what meets the eye."

Ye Xiao nodded, and his expression fell. Of course, he knew that Ye Guan would eventually leave the Ye Clan.

Nalan Ming smiled and said, "You shouldn't worry about it."

Ye Xiao smiled as well and explained, "I'm fine. If he could go even further by leaving the Ye Clan, I'd be happy to let him leave."

Nalan Ming nodded and turned to the starry skies.

"Little Jia... she really found the right man," he remarked.

...

A woman walked briskly down a street somewhere on the Upper Realm.

The woman was none other than Fei Banqing.

After learning about the battle between Ye Guan and the Chosen One, she decisively headed for the Main Guanxuan Academy. It was torture waiting for news in the distant Nanzhou. She wanted to see him, even from afar.

Swoosh!

An old man abruptly appeared in front of her.

Fei Banqing frowned and said, "Profound Sky Clan!"

The old man smiled and said, "Fei Banqing, I'm surprised to see you here on the Upper Realm."

Fei Banqing silently glared at the old man.

The old man snickered and said, "When Ye Guan defeated An Mu of Qingzhou, the Profound Sky Clan could only stand back and avoid him. Who would have known that he would provoke the Chosen One? His days are obviously numbered."

Swoosh!

The powerhouses of the Profound Sky Clan descended and surrounded Fei Banqing.

Fei Banqing's expression darkened.

The old man sneered and mocked, "Fei Banqing, you'll die here today."

Swoosh!

An old man wearing a black shirt suddenly appeared in front of Fei Banqing.



Everyone was startled to see the old man.

The Sect Leader of the Profound Sky Clan was just about to speak when the old man wearing a black shirt waved his sleeve.

A gust of wind blew past everyone, and the powerhouses of the Profound Sky Clan were reduced to ashes.

Fei Banqing's heart leaped up to her throat at the terrifying sight.

The old man wearing a black shirt stared at Fei Banqing and asked, "Are you heading to the Main Guanxuan Academy?"

Fei Banqing nodded. She stared warily at the old man wearing a black shirt before asking, "Who are you?"

The old man replied, "I'm with the Young Master, and I am here to protect you."

Fei Banqing was startled. "Who is your Young Master?"

Rather than replying, the old man flicked his sleeve.

Rumble!

Spacetime was torn apart, and a spacetime tunnel appeared in front of them.

Fei Banqing's eyes narrowed. What was that?

The old man explained, "This spacetime tunnel will lead you to the Main Guanxuan Academy. Head in, and you'll be there."

Fei Banqing glared at the old man and repeated. "Who is your Young Master?"

The old man went silent and dragged her into the spacetime tunnel.

The two disappeared into the spacetime tunnel.

Meanwhile, the Sect Leader of the Profound Sky Clan was rumored to have abruptly died in peace.

...

Zhang Yuntian and the elders of the Lingxu Blessed Land were gathered in a large hall. Everyone wore grim expressions, as the Lingxu Blessed Land was currently in a tough spot.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion had blacklisted them, so they couldn't use the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's services. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion had also declared them as enemies and had issued bounties on them.

Their heads now fetched a hefty sum once delivered to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, which was the exact reason the Lingxu Blessed Land isolated themselves from the outside world upon escorting Ye Guan to the Sword Sect.

A bounty from the Immortal Treasures Pavilion was terrifying, as the pavilion was rich and generous.

There was still a month to go until the battle between Ye Guan and Lu Tian.

Their fates would be decided one month later. They would live if Ye Guan won, but if Ye Guan lost, the Lingxu Blessed Land would vanish from the face of the earth. The Lingxu Blessed Land had truly placed its existence on the line.

Zhang Yuntian suddenly laughed, "Everyone, we've chosen to support Young Lord Ye, so we will support him until the end."

“That’s right! And he’s invincible!” shouted the Grand Elder.

The elders soon echoed him. Ye Guan was still far from invincible, but they had to think of him as invincible, or they would find it difficult to handle the mounting pressure.

.....

The elders of Time Paradise were gathered in a hall.

Nanli Yin was sitting in the highest seat. Nanli Yin was calm, while the Grand Elder and the Second Elder next to her were beaming with joy.

The elders were speechless as they stared at the three. The three knew that they were like ants on a hot pan due to the stress they were under, yet the three still refused to reveal any details.

Honestly, Nanli Yin was the most anxious among everyone here.

After all, the upcoming battle would determine Time Paradise’s survival.

If Ye Guan lost, they were doomed. Who could withstand the fury of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion and the Guanxuan Academy? She believed in Ye Guan, she couldn’t help but worry about the matter since it involved the lives of her entire clan.

However, the Grand Elder and the Second Elder weren’t worried in the slightest.

The Grand Elder suddenly laughed and said, “Come on, don’t be so serious. Cheer up, everyone!”

The expressions of the elders darkened. Fuck off!

.....

Chen Guanzi was standing by the entrance of the Sword Sect's Sword Hall. Cao Bai was standing next to him.

Chen Guanzi was staring quietly at the distant horizon

Cao Bai suddenly asked, "Senior Brother, what do you think about Ye Guan's chances of winning?"

Chen Guanzi calmly replied, "Winning and losing is normal, but everything has to be fair. Those daring enough to employ dirty tricks on that fateful day will die."

"Of course!" Cao Bai nodded. He glanced at somewhere with a cold gaze. "I don't think they're daring enough to do such a thing."

Chen Guanzi said, "We can't be so sure."

Chen Guanzi's words froze Cao Bai and rendered him silent.

Meanwhile, it had been twenty-nine days since Ye Guan entered the cultivation ground of the Sword Sect. Ye Guan sat cross-legged on the plains. He could feel the energy of both heaven and earth floating about him.

The energy was known as Heaven and Earth energy. A Heaven Law Realm cultivator was capable of controlling such energy, and Ye Guan had to be able to do the same for him to become a Heaven Law Realm cultivator.

Soon, the Heaven and Earth energy around him thickened.

Ye Guan wasn't having any difficulties raising his cultivation base. He had the Universe Beholdment Skill, and he had also received the inheritances of the Zhang Clan's ancestors back at the Lingxu Blessed Land.

The only reason Ye Guan's physical realm cultivation base was so low was the fact that he wanted to pursue a complete understanding of the next realm before making a breakthrough into it. He didn't want to make breakthroughs for the sake of it alone.

And that was exactly why his rate of progress was slow but stable.

The stability of Ye Guan's foundation was unmatched.

Ye Guan opened his palm, and the Heaven and Earth energy converged on him. The multicolored elements surrounded him, and Ye Guan suddenly clenched his fist.

Crackle!

A lightning bolt appeared in his palm. He flicked his sleeve and sent it flying.

Boom!

Space shattered the moment the lightning bolt exploded like a firework.

Ye Guan slowly stood up.

Rumble!

A powerful aura gushed out of him.

He gestured with his hand, and the elemental energy of heaven and earth vanished. He was now in the Heaven Law Realm.

Ye Guan breathed in deeply and looked around. He smiled in satisfaction before turning around to leave.

Ye Guan was shocked to find a young woman waiting for him in the Sword Sect.

A silver-haired woman dressed in a snow-white long skirt was waiting for him, and she was none other than Ji Xuan.

Ji Xuan smiled. "Long time no see!"

Ye Guan walked up to her and muttered, "Lady Ji Xuan..."

Ji Xuan said, "I'm going to the Xuzhen World."

Surprised, Ye Guan asked, "The Xuzhen World?"

"I am going there with my tutor." Ji Xuan nodded. She paused for a while before continuing. "Of course, I'm going after your battle with Lu Tian tomorrow."

Ye Guan was silent.

Ji Xuan suddenly waved her hand in front of his face.

"What are you thinking about?"

Ye Guan stared directly at her and muttered, "Lady Ji Xuan, I'm sorry..."

Ji Xuan looked down. A while later, she looked up at Ye Guan again and grinned. "You idiot, you don't have to apologize to me. I'm treating you this way because I like you. I'll be happy if you reciprocate my feelings, but it's fine even if you can't reciprocate my feelings. It's fine as long as you're okay and doing well."

Ye Guan lowered his head and went silent.

"I'm going off now," said Ji Xuan. She turned around and left without looking back.

Her nose soured, and she didn't dare to look back as a tear dripped down her cheek.

She thought that she could finally face him bravely, but her tears still fell uncontrollably when she was faced with the harsh reality.

## Chapter 185: Day of the Battle

Ye Guan silently watched as Ji Xuan walked further and further away until she disappeared into the horizon.

After a long time, Ye Guan muttered, "What a strong wind..."

He rubbed his eyes and turned around to leave.

Meanwhile, the mysterious voice in the tiny pagoda suddenly said, "I finally know his flaw!"

"What is it?" Little Pagoda asked.

The mysterious voice explained, "All along, this brat has been the best in the world in terms of both talent and character. It was almost as if he had no flaws, but he's actually so indecisive when it comes to his relationships. That's it!"

Little Pagoda said, "I don't think that's a flaw, though."

The mysterious voice asked, "Why?"

Little Pagoda said, "It'll be a shame if he has a heart made out of stone and is only capable of wielding the sword."

The mysterious voice fell silent at that remark.

Ye Guan returned to the Sword Sect and visited Sword Master Qingshan's statue.

He stared at it in silence.

Little Pagoda suddenly asked, "What is it?"

Ye Guan smiled and asked, "Master Pagoda, who is stronger between Sword Master Qingshan and the Sword Master?"

Little Pagoda smiled and asked back, "Who do you think?"

Ye Guan shook his head and replied, "I don't know."

Little Pagoda laughed heartily and said, "You'll meet them in the future, so ask them by then."

Ye Guan nodded. "All right!"

Chen Guanzi walked up to Ye Guan.

He stared intently at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you ready?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

"Sounds great," said Chen Guanzi.



Night eventually arrived, and Ye Guan was sitting on the stone steps of the Sword Sect's Sword Hall. He looked up and saw that the night sky was filled with stars.

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Master Pagoda, what kind of place is the Xuzhen World?"

After a moment of silence, Little Pagoda replied, "It's a battlefield!"

Ye Guan frowned and asked, "A battlefield?"

"Yes," replied Master Pagoda.

Ye Guan wanted to ask more questions, but he heard oncoming footsteps.

Ye Guan turned and found a young woman wearing a long green skirt. Her long hair draped over her shoulders. Her hands were behind her as she stared at Ye Guan with a grin.

Ye Guan was taken aback.

The young woman smiled and said, "Junior Disciple Ye!"

She was Nanling Yiyi!

Ye Guan beamed with a smile and exclaimed, "Senior Disciple Yiyi!"

Nanling Yiyi walked up to Ye Guan and sat down next to him.

"Were you surprised?" she asked.

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "Yes! What are you doing here?"

Nanling Yiyi explained, "I left the Daoist Sect that day and became a student of the Main Guanxuan Academy. I was taken in as a student of the Divine Dao Department, and I've become the direct disciple of the Divine Dao Department's Department Chief.

"I was in closed-door cultivation, so I had no idea that you were here. I came here to find you after I heard that you're in the Sword Sect."

Ye Guan grinned and said, "Congratulations."

"It was all thanks to the spellbooks that you gave me," said Nanling Yiyi. After a brief pause, she sounded serious as she continued. "The elders of the Divine Dao Department were beyond thrilled when they saw those spellbooks, Junior Disciple Ye.

"They contacted the Department Chief, and the Department Chief took me in as a direct disciple. Junior Disciple Ye, your Master Pagoda must be an extremely powerful expert!"

"Pfft!" Master Pagoda chuckled. She got that right, all right!

Ye Guan smiled and said, "That's true. Master Pagoda is indeed very powerful!"

The Universe Beholdment Skill had really surprised Ye Guan. He had to admit that Master Pagoda was a true elite; the only issue was that he was anything but a true elite when it came to fooling people.

Nanling Yiyi suddenly looked up at the starry sky. She smiled and said, "Junior Disciple Ye, it was great meeting you."

"I feel the same," said Ye Guan.

Nanling Yiyi turned to look at him. She brushed a strand of hair behind her ear while quietly staring at him.

Ye Guan felt slightly awkward and asked, "Senior?"

Nanling Yiyi grinned and said, "Nothing, I just wanted to take a good look at you."

Ye Guan shook his head and smiled in astonishment.

After a while, Nanling Yiyi got up and said, "Junior Disciple, I'll get going now. I'll be there to cheer for you tomorrow!"

Ye Guan nodded and said, "Okay."

Nanling Yiyi turned around and walked away.

Ye Guan silently stared at Nanling Yiyi's departing figure.

Nanling Yiyi soon stopped in her tracks. A white-robed lady had appeared in front of her.

The lady asked, "You like him?"

Nanling Yiyi nodded and replied, "Yes."

The white-robed lady stared quietly at Ye Guan.

Nanling Yiyi muttered, "Master, let's go."

The white-robed lady looked at Nanling Yiyi and asked, "Why don't you tell him?"

Nanling Yiyi replied, "I don't think there is a need to tell him just because I like him. I think things are pretty good the way they are now. If I stay at his side as his Senior Disciple Yiyi, he'll never push me away nor reject me."

The white-robed lady sighed and pulled Nanling Yiyi away from the Sword Sect.

Nanling Yiyi suddenly asked, "Master, will Lu Tian's supporters do anything dirty during the battle tomorrow?"

"If they do something like that..." the white-robed lady trailed off. A cold light flitted across her eyes as she continued. "They'll die!"

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was just about to leave when a woman arrived.

Ye Guan was surprised. The woman was Ao Qianqian, the Young Clan Leader of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan!

Ye Guan looked at her, slightly bewildered. He stammered, "L-Lady Qianqian..."

Ao Qianqian went up to Ye Guan and whispered a few words to him.

Ye Guan went silent.

Ao Qianqian stared intently at Ye Guan before saying, "You can avoid using it, but it's great insurance nonetheless."

"I will have to express my gratitude to you, then," said Ye Guan with a smile.

Ao Qianqian smiled back and said, "You don't have to be so polite to me."

Ye Guan nodded and said, "Let's go!"

Then, both of them left.

...

The next day, a woman visited the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion was filled with people, and everyone had come here to place bets. They were betting on who would win between Lu Tian and Ye Guan.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion wouldn't miss such a great opportunity to make a lot of money.

The difference in the betting odds between Ye Guan and Lu Tian was drastic. The ratio of bet to profit for Ye Guan's victory was 1:100, while Lu Tian's was 1:1

Even a blind man could tell that the Immortal Treasures Pavilion was supporting Lu Tian.

A woman walked up to one of the managers of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. She took out a storage ring and placed it in front of the old manager before saying, "I'll bet fifty million gold spiritual crystals on Ye Guan!"

Fifty million gold spiritual crystals on Ye Guan?!

The crowd was shocked. They simultaneously turned to look at the woman.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion manager was astonished as well. He hesitated for a while before asking, "Miss, are you sure you're betting on the right person?"

The woman calmly responded, "Yes, I'm sure."

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion manager took one glance at her. He wanted to say something else, but the woman urged, "It's not make a mistake. Hurry up!"

The manager said no more. He took out a token and wrote the words—fifty million gold spirituals—on it before handing it over to the woman.

The woman left with the token in hand, and the woman was none other than Fei Banqing!

The onlookers shook their heads and lamented.

“That was a good example of how a fool and their money are easily parted!”

“It’s funny how she thinks that Ye Guan can even defeat the Chosen One.”

“Does she not know what the word—Chosen One—means?”

Fei Banqing ignored everyone and left in a hurry.

Trial Peak.

The pillars around the Life or Death Stage were already full, and daybreak hadn’t even arrived just yet. The Life or Death Stage was filled with a cacophony of noises as people whispered and talked to each other.

It was the day of the long-awaited battle!

For the sake of a good seat, many people had set up camp three days before the battle.

Rumble!

The space at one corner of the Life or Death Stage was torn open, and a young man walked out of it.

Lu Tian was here! He was wearing a green and white robe. His long hair fell past his shoulders, and his hands were behind him as he stood upright. He looked like a god who had just descended from the heavens with unmatched grace and elegance.

“The Chosen One!”

Everyone roared and cheered.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion had done a good job in publicity. Lu Tian’s popularity was sky-high, and one could even say that he had become more popular than Sword Sovereign Ye Yu.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion made sure to let everyone know about Lu Tian and Ye Guan’s fight.

Lu Tian closed his eyes and remained silent at where he stood. The cheers were incessant, and the volume was so loud that it shook the heavens.

Buzz!

The buzzing of swords echoed from the horizon.

A hundred sword lights made a beeline for the Life or Death Stage.

The Sword Sect!

Everyone's eyes focused on the sword lights.

Swoosh!

A young man appeared on top of the pillar in front of Lu Tian.

The young man was none other than Ye Guan, and a hundred swordsmen landed one by one behind him under Chen Guanzi's lead.

Ye Guan looked to his right, and he saw people from Time Paradise and the Lingxu Blessed Land standing on the pillar to his right. Nanli Yin and Zhang Yuntian stood at the helm of their respective organization.

Ye Guan cupped his fist and greeted them with a smile.

Nanli Yin smiled slightly and nodded at him as a greeting.

Zhang Yuntian pumped his fist into the air.

Ye Guan grinned at Zhang Yuntian before retracting his gaze. However, he seemed to have recalled something as he whipped around to the pillar to his left. A familiar figure was among the people there.

Siao Ge! Ye Guan was taken aback. Realizing that Ye Guan's gaze was on him, Siao Ge laughed and shouted, "Brother Ye, I'm here to cheer for you!"

Ye Guan smiled back and said, "Thank you, Brother Siao!"

Siao Ge grinned, but he didn't say anything.

Ye Guan looked around him and soon found Nanling Yiyi.

Nanling Yiyi's demeanor brightened up the moment she noticed Ye Guan staring at her. She smiled brightly at him as a greeting.

Ye Guan grinned and waved at her.

Then, he saw another familiar figure. She was the Student Representative of Qingzhou's Guanxuan Academy, Mu Youyou. Mu Youyou was both a Divine Mage and a swordsman.



Mu Youyou was surprised to see Ye Guan staring at her. She nodded gently at him as a form of greeting.

Ye Guan smiled lightly at her. He looked away but was astounded to find another familiar figure to his right.

The familiar figure belonged to a young woman wearing a white robe. She was as beautiful as a fairy, and she gave off an extraordinary aura that was capable of making just about anyone feel inferior about their looks just by standing near her.

The young woman was none other than the young woman who had given him a space ship when he was on his way to Qingzhou!

Ye Guan was truly surprised to see her here.

Meanwhile, the young woman noticed that Ye Guan was staring at her. She hesitated briefly before nodding slightly to him as a greeting.

The corners of Ye Guan's lips turned up slightly. He looked around once more, a disappointed light briefly flitted across his eyes when he didn't see a certain individual.

Lu Tian suddenly opened his eyes. He pointed at Ye Guan and boisterously laughed before shouting, "Ye Guan, are you not going to come down and accept your death?!"

Come down and accept your death! The onlookers roared in excitement.

Chapter 186: Divine Xuanwu

How domineering!

Lu Tian's supporters cried out frantically as if they were pigs being butchered.

The volume of their voices was so high that the whole world seemed to be trembling as they shouted!

However, their zeal didn't affect Ye Guan. He remained calm as he hopped onto his sword and descended to the Life or Death Stage.

An old man appeared on the stage.

The old man was none other than Old Zhang from the Guanxuan Committee!

He appeared between them. He glanced at two of them before taking out a piece of paper. "This is the death liability waiver. Please sign it if you have no objections to the terms."

Lu Tian stuck a finger out, and a drop of blood landed on the piece of paper.

A drop of blood to seal the deal!

Lu Tian turned to look at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan remained silent as he stuck a finger out and sent a drop of his blood on the piece of paper.

Old Zhang put away the death liability waiver document before turning around to leave.

The deal was sealed; the battle had begun!

The entire Trial Peak went silent, and all eyes were on both Ye Guan and Lu Tian.

Lu Tian stared at Ye Guan with both hands behind his back.

He chuckled lightly and said, “Actually, I must thank you. Really, you’ve—”

“Shut up!” Ye Guan cut him off. “We’re not close, and I don’t want to waste my breath on you.”

That was it...

Rumble!

The space in front of Lu Tian was torn open, and a sword flew out of the rift.

Instant Death Strike!

Ye Guan didn’t bother feeling his enemy out. He unleashed a killing move at the start of the battle!

Lu Tian narrowed his eyes and pointed a finger at the sword.

Crackle!

A thunderclap burst from the tip of Lu Tian’s finger and sent Ye Guan’s sword—Dragon’s Roar—flying away.

However, another sword flew toward Lu Tian in a resplendent ray of light!

Electricity crackled beneath Lu Tian’s feet.

Whoosh!

Lu Tian disappeared and reappeared thirty meters away.

Ye Guan's sword struck nothing but air.

Lu Tian's face changed instantly the moment he reappeared, as a sword was already waiting for him. To make matters worse, the sword was even faster than the previous swords combined.

There was nowhere to hide!

Lu Tian's eyes narrowed, and he balled his right hand into a fist.

Boom!

The surroundings shook violently as a terrifying aura gushed out of Lu Tian.

At the same time, a ray of light burst out from his forehead.

Rip!

The surrounding space was torn open.

Ye Guan's sword could no longer move even an inch upon colliding with the ray of light, but another resplendent sword light made a beeline for Lu Tian.

Boom!

The ray of light that had come from Lu Tian's forehead shattered, but Lu Tian was already thirty meters away from Ye Guan. Nonetheless, Ye Guan's sword was already waiting for him the moment he reappeared at his chosen location.

Ye Guan's swords were like maggots in a tarsal bone. They kept on chasing after Lu Tian, and wherever Lu Tian went, they would be waiting for Lu Tian at his destination. Moreover, each sword was faster than the previous one!

However, Lu Tian remained extremely calm.

He simply stared at the oncoming sword without even bothering to defend himself.

Shwik!

The sword pierced Lu Tian's forehead, stunning everyone.

Moments later, the onlookers' faces changed.

The Lu Tian who had just perished in front of their eyes was just an afterimage!

The onlookers turned to Ye Guan and found that a terrifying bolt of lightning was making a beeline for Ye Guan. The lightning bolt was about to reach Ye Guan as it directly split the space in a three-hundred-meter radius around Ye Guan.

The onlookers were stupefied.

They were aware of Ye Guan's speed, but they had no idea that Lu Tian was capable of moving at such speeds as well. In addition to dodging Ye Guan's terrifying sword attack, he even managed to counterattack!

Crackle!

Ye Guan was engulfed by the lightning bolt. This time, spacetime itself was shattered when the lightning bolt exploded like a firecracker.

The dust soon settled, and the onlookers were astonished.

Ye Guan was missing!

However, the faces of the stronger cultivators in the crowd abruptly changed.

They saw a sword light appear right behind Lu Tian.

Lu Tian frowned upon sensing the oncoming attack. He was surprised by the fact that Ye Guan had somehow dodged his attack. The oncoming sword move caught him by surprise, leaving him with no choice but to use one of his trump cards.

Lu Tian clenched his fists.

Crackle!

A lightning bolt struck Lu Tian, and a powerful shockwave infused with lightning spread in all directions from where he stood. The lightning bolt was so strong that Ye Guan was sent flying away.

“The Ultimate Realm!” someone exclaimed in shock.

The Ultimate Realm? The onlookers froze. Lu Tian is already an Ultimate Realm cultivator?

“No!” yelled someone else, “The lightning dancing about him is emitting a faint red glow... H-h-he’s in the legendary Ultimate Secret Tribulation Realm! My goodness!”

Ultimate Secret Tribulation Realm!

There were many disciples from aristocratic families and great clans among the crowd. They had never seen a cultivator at the Ultimate Secret Tribulation Realm, but they had heard of the realm before.

The onlookers went wild at the reveal. Lu Tian was already unparalleled among his peers based on the fact that he was already an Ultimate Realm cultivator despite his young age.

One could say that he was one of the most talented individuals whom the Guanyuan Academy had ever seen. However, Lu Tian wasn't just an Ultimate Realm cultivator—he was in the Ultimate Secret Tribulation Realm.

He was a certified cream of the crop talent!

Lu Tian's supporters laughed boisterously. They had made the right bet!

Chen Guanzi remained calm as he watched Ye Guan and Lu Tian fight on top of a pillar. However, worry could be discerned in the eyes of the Sword Sect disciples behind him.

The Ultimate Secret Tribulation Realm[1]! Lu Tian's cultivation base was a curveball that they had never expected to see.

Ye Guan calmly stared at the distant Lu Tian.

Lu Tian didn't even bother to say anything. He opened his palm, and a lightning bolt landed on his palm. The powerful lightning might his hand was exuding made the spacetime around him quiver violently. It was a terrifying sight to behold.

He was indeed an Ultimate Realm cultivator!

Ye Guan suddenly said, "You're actually an Ultimate Realm cultivator?! That's so impressive!"

Lu Tian was overjoyed to hear such a remark from Ye Guan. He was about to say something, but Ye Guan vanished from his sight!

Thunderclap!

Ye Guan's speed reached the absolute limits of what was possible for his current cultivation realm.

Shwik!

Under everyone's astonished gazes, Ye Guan's sword directly pierced Lu Tian's throat.

The onlookers fell silent.

Lu Tian's supporters stared with wide eyes, and their hearts rose up to their throats!

However, they were stupefied to see the outcome of the attack, and even Ye Guan was astounded. Lu Tian was fine. Ye Guan's sword had pierced Lu Tian's throat, but the latter was still alive.

Lu Tian stared at Ye Guan. He smiled crookedly before saying, "What? Surprised that I'm a Physique Cultivator as well, right?"

Lu Tian clenched his fists again, and innumerable lightning bolts burst out of him.

Ye Guan's figure flashed, and he retreated about three hundred meters away in the blink of an eye. The moment he stopped, the spacetime in front of him caved in, and a huge three-hundred-meter-long ravine in the spacetime appeared between him and Lu Tian.

The expressions of the Sword Sect disciples darkened.

They were truly surprised to find that Lu Tian was a Physique Cultivator as well.

Lu Tian possessed the rare Dual Dao Physique!

Ye Guan silently stared at Lu Tian. This was his first time meeting a Physique Cultivator. He was aware that Physique Cultivators were bigger thorns on one's side than Divine Mages.



The defenses of Physique Cultivators had to be shattered if one wanted to defeat them. Otherwise, the former would be basically invincible. Ye Guan was truly taken aback at the revelation that Lu Tian was a Physique Cultivator as well.

However, it made things more interesting!

Ye Guan revealed a smile that seemed a bit sinister.

Lu Tian was about to say something, but Ye Guan took one step forward and pointed at Lu Tian.

Buzz!

A buzzing noise echoed, and a sword flew toward Lu Tian. However, Lu Tian didn't do anything about the sword. He allowed the sword to hit his forehead.

Clang!

A crisp noise echoed the moment the sword made out of sword energy struck Lu Tian's forehead, but Lu Tian was unscathed. He had withstood Ye Guan's attack with his powerful physique alone.

Ye Guan stopped attacking. He simply stared at Lu Tian without saying anything.

Lu Tian chuckled and asked, "Was that all you got?"

Lu Tian put his hands together and levitated.

Rumble!

A thousand-meter-tall golden astral body appeared behind him, and at the same time, the spacetime within a thousand-meter radius quivered violently.

Waves of terrifying pressure flowed out from the golden astral body, and those near the Life or Death Stage felt like there were thousands of mountains pressing down on them, suffocating them.

However, Ye Guan was still calm as he stared at the massive astral body.

Lu Tian gestured with his hands, and the astral body moved.

He pointed at Ye Guan and yelled, “Endless Calamity!”

Rumble!

The spacetime in the Life or Death Stage was torn apart as innumerable ominous-looking light-red lightning bolts manifested and flittered across the stage, but Ye Guan wasn’t idle.

Ten swords emerged from him, and they all flew toward the thousand-meter-tall golden astral body behind Lu Tian.

The golden astral body raised its right hand pressed down, causing a terrifying might to descend upon the stage. Ye Guan’s ten swords were suppressed.

Crackle!

The innumerable lightning bolts formed a net-like structure before flying toward Guan, but Ye Guan abruptly vanished!

Boom!

Ye Guan sliced every lightning bolt that stood in his way as he moved at breakneck speed toward his target.

He quickly arrived in front of Lu Tian, but Lu Tian was smiling coldly at Ye Guan.

He had just discovered that Ye Guan wasn't a Great Sword Sovereign, and he was too weak to shatter his defenses. He would be invincible throughout this battle as long as Ye Guan failed to shatter his defenses!

The only thing he had to be wary about was Ye Guan's special sword. However, he had a trick under his sleeves that could deal with Ye Guan's special sword. It was the Sword Master's Dao Imprint, and he could use it anytime he wished.

If Ye Guan brought his special sword out, Lu Tian would use the Sword Master's Dao Imprint.

Every sword would surrender in the face of the Sword Master's Dao Imprint!

Ye Guan thrust his sword toward Lu Tian's forehead.

Lu Tian's expression changed rapidly. He wanted to retreat, but it was too late!

Boom!

Lu Tian flew at least three hundred meters away. The golden astral body behind him was nowhere to be found, and its destruction also caused the destruction of spacetime in a thousand-meter radius around them.

The entire Life or Death Stage turned pitch-black, obscuring the gazes of just about anyone! Fortunately, the spacetime recovered in no time, allowing the onlookers to see the battle once more.

Lu Tian's ominous-looking light-red lightning bolts had vanished with the astral body.

The Critical Method!

Ye Guan's sword move just now had truly astonished everyone.

However, Lu Tian was still alive!

Everyone's eyes fell on Lu Tian, and they were horrified to see the illusory figure of a demonic beast on his forehead. The demonic beast had crossed its arms to protect Lu Tian's forehead.

Cracks had appeared on its thick, scaly arms, but Lu Tian was unharmed.

"A Divine Xuanwu!"[2] someone yelled in astonishment, "The Divine Xuanwu is one of the four divine demonic[3] beasts, and the Divine Xuanwu Clan is famous for having the strongest defenses out of all demonic beasts.

"To think that a Divine Xuanwu would actually establish a contract with the Chosen One... it has even decided to share its defenses with him! Goodness! How is the Chosen One supposed to lose with a Divine Xuanwu by his side?"

1. Lu Tian is still in the Ultimate Realm; the Ultimate Secret Tribulation Realm is just a variation of the realm ㄟ

2. Xuanwu is a mythical creature that is a mix of a tortoise and a snake. ㄟ

3. it's a bit weird to see divine and demonic to describe the same thing at the same time, but it'll make sense if you think of the word demonic here as the word yao ㄟ

## Chapter 187: One Step to the Pinnacle

Divine Xuanwu!

There were four great clans in the Guanyuan Universe, just like how there were four divine demonic beast clans in the Demon Race. They were the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan, the Divine Xuanwu Clan, the Vermilion Bird Clan, and the Sky-Splitting Tiger Clan.

The Divine Xuanwu had the sturdiest defenses among the four divine demonic beasts.

Lu Tian and a Divine Xuanwu had established a contract, allowing Lu Tian to use the defensive prowess of a Divine Xuanwu.

Could Ye Guan still break through Lu Tian's defenses?

Lu Tian was basically invincible with a Divine Xuanwu's defensive prowess on top of the fact that he was a Physique Cultivator himself!

Lu Tian's supporters grinned at the sight. The battle is practically over!

On the Life or Death Stage, Ye Guan looked at Lu Tian. To be honest, he was a little surprised. He was truly surprised to know that Lu Tian had established a contract with a demonic beast and with an Immortal-rank demonic beast at that.

The onlookers believed that there was no way Ye Guan could shatter Lu Tian's defenses!

"Use the Path Sword!" said Little Pagoda.

Ye Guan shook his head. "No!"

Little Pagoda was confused. "Why?"

Ye Guan stared alternately between Lu Tian and the Divine Xuanwu on the latter's forehead.

"They're not worthy," he replied.

Little Pagoda was at a complete loss for words.

Hum!

A resonant hum echoed from Ye Guan as he pulled out the Path Sword and attacked.

Rumble!

The heavens shook, and the earth cracked. The swords in the distant Sword Tomb quivered violently in fear.

Little Pagoda hurriedly said, "Brother, please stop bootlicking the Path Sword! the entire Guanxuan Universe is going to get annihilated if it gets too excited!"

Ye Guan's expression stiffened, and he hurriedly tried to calm the Path Sword down. He was also afraid that the Path Sword might cause trouble. The sword was unique from other swords, as it could move on its own and slaughter people.

To make matters worse, it was even stronger while moving on its own compared to when Ye Guan was wielding it. Ye Guan truly felt that he was hindering the Path Sword whenever he was wielding it, which was an absurd thought; he was a powerful swordsman, after all.

However, it also meant that the Path Sword was a monstrous sword!

The Path Sword quickly went silent.

Ye Guan heaved a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, Lu Tian frowned. The resonant hum just now had come from the special sword inside Ye Guan. The noise that the sword had generated was powerful enough to shatter spacetime, so it had to be at least a Simplicity-grade sword.

It might even be a grade above Simplicity, which meant that it might be a True-grade sword. So what if that were true? Lu Tian scoffed. His Dao Imprint was unranked[1]!

The Divine Xuanwu above Lu Tian glared murderously at Ye Guan. The resonant hum that had come from Ye Guan just now actually managed to injure it. Ye Guan deserved to die for hurting it.

Lu Tian stepped forward and clenched his right fist.

The Divine Xuanwu raised its hand and clenched it as well.

Lu Tian stared at Ye Guan with a sinister smile. Moments later, he punched and roared, “Xuanwu, destroy him!”

The Divine Xuanwu punched as well—both human and demonic beast worked in tandem and combined their powers to create a cataclysmic might capable of tearing just about anything!

An extremely terrifying fist imprint was born from the teamwork of both human and demonic beast, and the fist imprint alone contained the power of a thousand fully concentrated punches.

The spacetime in a thousand-meter radius shook violently before shattering completely.

Ye Guan calmly stared at the oncoming fist imprint. He had to admit that the first imprint was powerful; it was strong enough to destroy an entire city.

The Divine Xuanwu in front of him was indeed an Immortal-rank demonic beast!

The fist imprint was just a few inches away from Ye Guan when a terrifying aura burst out of him. In the blink of an eye, a massive dragon emerged out of him.

Boom!

The fist imprint shattered upon colliding with the massive dragon, but the dragon's momentum was still going strong. It made a beeline for Lu Tian and the Divine Xuanwu.

It carried with it a terrifying amount of energy as the dragon annihilated every inch of space that stood in its way toward Lu Tian.

Lu Tian's eyes narrowed.

The Divine Xuanwu put its hands in front of it and yelled, "Immovable Mountain!"

An illusory Xuanwu shell enveloped Lu Tian and the Divine Xuanwu.

Rumble!

The massive dragon struck the Xuanwu shell, and the Xuanwu shell trembled violently as if it were a tiny boat in stormy waters. The Divine Xuanwu and Lu Tian flew more than thirty meters away.

The impact caused the collapse of the space around them, but they were unharmed.

The huge dragon stopped attacking.

It turned into a woman, and she stood next to Ye Guan.

Ao Qianqian! The Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan!

The faces of Lu Tian's supporters darkened at the sight.

They knew that the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan was supporting Ye Guan, but they didn't expect that their Young Clan Leader, Ao Qianqian, would decide to establish a contract with Ye Guan.



A member of an aristocratic family said sarcastically, "I've heard people say that Ao Qianqian has a good eye for people in addition to being a rare talent of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan. It seems those rumors were just rumors."

Someone else chimed in, "A rare talent? I think she's a fool. She actually decided to support the no-name Ye Guan rather than supporting the Chosen One. Indeed, those rumors were nothing but just rumors."

Another man suddenly said, "Since Ao Qianqian could become the Young Clan Leader of the Heavenly Dragon Clan, there is no way that she is foolish. Since she picked Ye Guan, she must have her reasons for it. Actually, I feel that Ye Guan is rather strong..."

Everyone turned to look at the man, and someone scolded him, "What do you mean? Are you looking down on Senior Lu Tian? Huh? Are you trying to jump ships?"

Everyone glared at the man, and the man was anxious. A different opinion was clearly not allowed in this clique.

Meanwhile, Lu Tian stared deeply at Ao Qianqian.

"I truly didn't expect that the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan would make such a decision."

Ao Qianqian chuckled and asked, "What makes you think that our Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan should have picked you?"

It was a response akin to a slap in the face!

"Good, very good!" Lu Tian glared malevolently.

He gestured with his hand, and the Divine Xuanwu above his head clasped its hands together as it chanted an inscrutable, ancient mantra.

Ye Guan calmly asked, "What is it doing?"

Ao Qianqian replied, "It's channeling a divine spell!"

Ye Guan was astonished. "Demonic beasts can cast divine spells?"

Ao Qianqian nodded and said, "Yes. Actually, their divine spells are more powerful than that of humans!"

Ye Guan nodded slightly and stared alternately between Lu Tian and the Divine Xuanwu. The Divine Xuanwu leaped to the sky, and when it was all the way up there, it returned to its original form!

Rumble!

A thousand-meter-tall Divine Xuanwu appeared above Trial Peak.

A terrifying demonic beast pressure enveloped everyone underneath.

Lu Tian appeared on the Divine Xuanwu's head.

He spread his right arm, and an imprint appeared on his palm. He stared at Ye Guan and Ao Qianqian beneath him, and a glint of anger flashed past his eyes. He flipped his right hand fiercely and brought it down with a roar, "Shatter the World!"

Shatter the World!

Rumble!

The Divine Xuanwu slapped downward.

A thousand-meter-wide beast imprint plummeted toward the Life or Death Stage.

Crack!

The entire Life or Death Stage cracked as the spacetime in the stage was annihilated. This beast imprint contained the combined power of Lu Tian and the Divine Xuanwu, so it was strong enough to shatter the world!

Everyone's faces turned grim at the horrifying sight.

The pressure was so strong that even the spacetime in the audience stands was being folded as if it were a mere sheet of paper. Everyone was taken aback. A few ancient creatures hiding in the dark were astounded as well.

Ao Qianqian turned to look at Ye Guan and said, "Let's see your performance."

She approached Ye Guan and pressed her forehead against Ye Guan's forehead.

Ye Guan froze and went silent. They weren't just close—they were literally stuck together. Ye Guan's lips were even touching Ao Qianqian's lips! The faint fragrance Ao Qianqian was emitting overwhelmed him slightly, confusing him.

At the same time, he thought. What is Lady Qianqian doing? Why did she press her face against mine?

Swoosh!

Ao Qianqian turned into a ray of light and entered his glabella, merging with him.

Rumble!

A terrifying aura abruptly seeped out of Ye Guan.

He reached the Pinnacle in just one step!

Ao Qianqian had shared with Ye Guan not just the prowess of an Ancient Heavenly Dragon but her own cultivation base as well. After reaching the Pinnacle, Ye Guan abruptly threw his head back and stomped powerfully with his right foot.

Buzz!

A buzzing noise echoed as a sword light rushed to the skies.

Ye Guan's stomp alone managed to shatter spacetime, which was proof of how Ao Qianqian had also shared with him her power as an Ancient Heavenly Dragon.

Everyone stared intently at Ye Guan as he made a beeline for the beast imprint.

Slash!

The beast imprint was torn to pieces, but Ye Guan didn't stop there. He turned into a ray of sword light and rushed toward both Lu Tian and the Divine Xuanwu beneath him.

Ye Guan's sword had become powerful enough to sunder the world!

Lu Tian and the Divine Xuanwu were stupefied to witness the might of Ye Guan's sword. The Divine Xuanwu leaned over and used its tortoise shell to protect Lu Tian.

Ye Guan finally got close enough to the two and swung his sword—Ultimate Sword!

BOOM!

Cracks instantly formed on the tortoise shell. Lu Tian's supporters were nervous.

Ye Guan thrust his sword once again, shattering the spacetime around him.

The Divine Xuanwu shell shook violently before crumbling, and the Divine Xuanwu had no choice but to retreat at least a few hundred meters away.

The Divine Xuanwu eventually stopped retreating, and the onlookers finally got a good look at its injuries. It was missing quite a few scales, and its skin was split open; there was an incessant flow of blood from its wounds.

The onlookers were stupefied. Ye Guan actually shattered a Divine Xuanwu's defenses?

Shrieeek!

A sword shrieked as it came hurtling toward the Divine Xuanwu, and it was so fast that it was already a few inches away from the Divine Xuanwu just as the latter noticed it.

Crack!

The Divine Xuanwu's shell was reduced to fine dust, and blood haphazardly flowed out of its wound. Furious, the Divine Xuanwu roared, "Ancestors, protect me! Immovable Mountain!"

Rumble!

A terrifying energy burst out of the Divine Xuanwu, and a golden shell wrapped it securely.

However, Ye Guan remained undeterred as he sent a sword toward it!

Boom!

The golden tortoise shell quivered violently, but it withstood Ye Guan's attack and even reflected the blow to Ye Guan, sending him flying away by at least a few hundred meters. The space behind him collapsed the moment he stopped, but it recovered almost instantly.

An array inscribed with the Heavenly Dao laws was put in place to fix the spacetime within the Life or Death Stage.

Rip!

The space in front of Ye Guan was split open, and a demonic beast pounced out of the rift.

"Watch out!" Ao Qianqian's voice echoed in Ye Guan's mind. A golden dragon protective armor abruptly covered him.

Crack!

The protective armor shattered, and Ye Guan was sent flying once again.

When the dust settled, the onlookers were stupefied upon discovering the identity of the ambusher.

"A Sky-Splitting Tiger!" someone exclaimed, "Sky-Splitting Tigers are the most ferocious demonic beast of the four divine demonic beasts! A Sky-Splitting Tiger actually established a contract with Lu Tian! My goodness!"

Boom!

The onlookers' shock had yet to abate when a horrifying aura seeped out of Lu Tian.

A massive pillar of flame surged toward the skies, scorching the clouds up above.

The Vermilion Bird!

The onlookers' jaws fell to the ground.

Lu Tian had actually established a contract with three divine demonic beasts!

1. Items are categorized into grades but with the same name. So Simplicity-rank and Simplicity-grade are roughly the same tierwise, you get the gist ㄟ

Chapter 188: Unhappy?

Everyone was stupefied, and even the stoic disciples of the Sword Sect were no exception. They truly didn't expect that Lu Tian managed to establish contracts with three divine demonic beasts. It was a completely unprecedented outcome.

While the Sword Sect was still stewing in disbelief, Lu Tian's supporters went crazy in excitement.

They screamed at the top of their lungs and cheered. How could Lu Tian lose when he was under the protection of three divine demonic beasts? It was impossible for him to lose at this point.

They yelled incessantly to assuage the excitement in their hearts.

Ye Guan looked up and saw a divine demonic beast in front of him.

It was the Sky-Splitting Tiger! Its entire body was white, and it was covered in white scales. It had two horns and two pairs of wings. Its claws were long, and they were as sharp as knives. Its claws alone gave off an icy cold aura.

These were the claws that had shattered the Ancient Heavenly Dragon's protective armor. However, the outcome of the exchange earlier didn't come as a surprise to anyone when they saw that the ambusher was the Sky-Splitting Tiger.

After all, the Sky-Splitting Tiger's offensive prowess was the highest among the four divine demonic beasts. The Sky-Splitting Tiger glared at Ye Guan with ferocity and fury, seemingly wanting to devour him whole.

Meanwhile, a thousand-meter-long flaming Vermilion Bird hovered in the air.

It was covered in blood-red flames, and every flap of its wings was strong enough to destroy the space that the array around the Life or Death Stage had been repairing incessantly.

The Vermillion Bird's appearance also raised the ambient temperature by at least ten times. The intense heat made quite a few people feel suffocated, and the space inside the Life or Death Stage warped and distorted beneath the intense heat.

Ao Qianqian appeared next to Ye Guan. Her expression was grim as she stared at the three divine demonic beasts. She truly didn't expect that the remaining three great demonic beast clans had actually chosen to support Lu Tian!

Ao Qianqian stared at Lu Tian and frowned. Is he really the Sword Master's son? If that weren't the case, how come they decided to follow him?

"Lady Qianqian," Ye Guan called out.

Ao Qianqian turned to look at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled and pointed out. "It doesn't seem right to ask you to back out at this point, so... are you willing to fight them with me?"

"Of course!" The corners of Ao Qianqian's lips curled up. The Sword Master's son? So what if Lu Tian is indeed the Sword Master's son? Ao Qianqian's opinion of him wouldn't change. In addition, your parents' glory doesn't belong to you!



Ao Qianqian was a monstrous talent herself, and she had her own pride. I don't give a flying fuck even if you're the Sword Master's son; if I don't like you, then I don't like you, that's it!

Ye Guan grinned at Ao Qianqian's words before turning to look at Lu Tian.

Lu Tian was currently surrounded by three divine demonic beasts.

In everyone's opinion, Lu Tian's victory was sealed. He had the protection of three divine demonic beasts, and each of them was an Immortal-rank demonic beast as well, so how could he possibly lose?

Lu Tian stared at Ye Guan. He chuckled lightly and said, "Let's continue!"

Ye Guan glanced at Ao Qianqian.

Ao Qianqian smiled and walked up to face Ye Guan.

Ye Guan froze and went silent.

A mischievous light flashed in Ao Qianqian's eyes upon seeing Ye Guan's nervous expression. She leaned in closer to him and pressed her forehead against his forehead. This wasn't the first time it happened, but Ye Guan still felt slightly uneasy.

Ye Guan's uneasy and awkward expression made Ao Qianqian fall for him even harder. Ye Guan had no idea that the contract between them allowed Ao Qianqian to feel Ye Guan's feelings.

And Ao Qianqian had discovered that Ye Guan had no ill intentions toward her at all, and it was an undeniable fact that made her love him even more.

Swoosh!

Ao Qianqian turned into a beam of light that melted into Ye Guan's glabella.

Ye Guan looked up at the Sky-Splitting Tiger.

A look of disdain flashed past the Sky-Splitting Tiger's eyes as it taunted, "You tiny ant, what are you looking at?"

Ye Guan merely smiled before taking a step forward.

Schwing!

Spacetime was torn apart, and a sword flew toward the Sky-Splitting Tiger.

The Tiger roared with fury and sent its claw toward the oncoming sword. It had decided to confront Ye Guan's sword head-on!

It was one of the four divine demonic beasts, so how could it be afraid of a mere human?

However, Ye Guan followed up by sending nine blades toward the Sky-Splitting Tiger. It was a move that was supposed to be difficult, but Ye Guan had executed it as smoothly as flowing water, which took him by surprise.

The power of his attack had increased exponentially, and it was all thanks to Ao Qianqian allowing him to tap into her cultivation base.

The phrase about how work would become lighter if men and women worked together was indeed true.

The Sky-Splitting Tiger noticed something off. It squinted its eyes and tried to retreat, but it was too late for it to retreat! It could only do its best against the oncoming attack.

Ultimate Sword!

Rumble!

Ye Guan's sword collided with the Sky-Splitting Tiger's claws.

Ping!

The Sky-Splitting Tiger's claw shattered upon impact. However, Dragon's Roar also turned into fine powder.

Dragon's Roar failed to withstand Ye Guan's might, just like the Sky-Splitting Tiger's claws. However, the Sky-Splitting Tiger itself was injured from the collision as well. It was stupefied, and it wanted to retreat, but Ye Guan was already next to it.

Ye Guan lifted his leg and kicked the Sky-Splitting Tiger in the head.

Boom!

The Sky-Splitting Tiger's face was buried into the ground. Ye Guan appeared next to it and pointed his sword at the Sky-Splitting Tiger's head. He sneered at it and mocked, "Why are you so unhappy, kitten? I did nothing but look at you earlier."

The Sky-Splitting Tiger roared with fury.

Ye Guan thrust his sword and pierced the Sky-Splitting Tiger's throat.

The Sky-Splitting Tiger's eyes widened in disbelief.

"Impudent!" A furious roar echoed from the depths of the starry skies. A rift in space appeared above Trial Peak, and the illusory figure of a Sky-Splitting Tiger came out of it.

There was no doubting it; the illusory figure was a powerhouse of the Sky-Splitting Tiger Clan!

The onlookers were shocked.

What is this Sky-Splitting Tiger doing here? Is it trying to interfere with the battle?

Chen Guanzi stepped forward and appeared right in front of the Sky-Splitting Tiger. He looked at it and said, "I'll kill whoever dares to play dirty tricks against my junior brother!"

The group of swordsmen behind Chen Guanzi glared murderously at the Sky-Splitting Tiger.

The Sky-Splitting Tiger's face turned ugly. It looked at Ye Guan and said, "Ye Guan, my Sky-Splitting Tiger Clan wishes to pull out of the battle between you and the Chosen One. As for my grandson, please—"

Shwik!

Ye Guan thrust the sword in his right hand into the Sky-Splitting Tiger's neck before annihilating its soul. He then looked up at the Sky-Splitting Tiger in the skies and said, "You should produce another grandson."

The onlookers were dumbstruck. What?

The powerhouse Sky-Splitting Tiger stared wide-eyed at the scene of laughter. Moments later, a terrifying aura gushed out of it.

Chen Guanzi suddenly stepped out and slashed out with his sword.

Rumble!

Both heaven and earth were split open as the Sky-Splitting Tiger flew at least a thousand meters away upon taking the brunt of Chen Guanzi's sword move.

Chen Guanzi glared at the Sky-Splitting Tiger and said, "Take another step, and you'll die. I'll massacre your entire clan afterward."

The Sky-Splitting Tiger grimaced.

Was it still going to make a move? Of course it wouldn't make a move!

However, it wasn't exactly because the Sword Sect had threatened him. There were simply far too many eyes watching the battle, and the Sky-Splitting Clan was bound to attract everyone's ire if they were to interfere with the fight.

The Sky-Splitting Tiger glared coldly at Ye Guan.

It glanced at Chen Guanzi before saying, "Let me retrieve my grandson's corpse—"

Swoosh!

The Sky-Splitting Tiger's carcass vanished into Ye Guan's storage ring.

The onlookers were dumbstruck.

Ye Guan smirked at the Sky-Splitting Tiger and said, "Fat chance!"

"You impudent—" The Sky-Splitting Tiger couldn't complete its sentence. It went silent and glared murderously at Ye Guan. In the end, it turned around to leave.

Ye Guan turned to look at the Divine Xuanwu.

The Divine Xuanwu and the Vermilion Bird's eyes were tinged with fear!

Ye Guan's sword move just now was simply too terrifying!

However, Ye Guan didn't attack immediately. He walked to a certain spot and opened his palm. The fragments of Dragon's Roar flew into his hands. He looked down at it and muttered, "I will put you back together in the future!"

The fragments shook slightly in his hands, seemingly reacting to his words.

Ye Guan put the fragments away and turned to look at Lu Tian.

"Let's go!" he shouted and abruptly disappeared into a ray of sword light that raced across the stage toward Lu Tian.

He had truly become even stronger after establishing a contract with Ao Qianqian, but it wasn't just his strength that had increased exponentially; he had also gotten fast enough to shatter spacetime with his speed alone!

Lu Tian's eyes narrowed at the sight of the speeding Ye Guan.

The Divine Xuanwu roared, "Immovable Mountain!"

Boom!

A golden tortoise shell manifested and protected both Lu Tian and the Divine Xuanwu. Meanwhile, the Vermilion Bird swooped down to attack, causing chaos as the intense heat it radiated melted even space itself.

Ye Guan finally reached the golden tortoise shell, and a terrifying aura erupted from him as he released ten swords at the same time targeting only one spot.

It was the Critical Method!

BOOM! Cracks appeared all over the golden tortoise shell at the moment of collision.

However, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet. He thrust his sword once more, destroying the golden tortoise shell. Unfortunately, the golden tortoise shell bought enough time for the Vermillion Bird as it swooped down for the kill!

Ye Guan looked up and thrust his sword forward.

The Vermilion Bird was sent flying away from the exchange, and Ye Guan wasn't planning on letting such an opportunity go to waste. He mobilized all ten swords to use the Critical Method.

Shwik!

The unfortunate Vermilion Bird still hadn't recovered from the impact of the exchange when ten swords struck its head at the same time, causing its head to explode into a bloody mist.

The onlookers stared agape!

A divine demonic beast died... just like that?

The ten swords returned to Ye Guan, but they flew once more and targeted the Divine Xuanwu. The Divine Xuanwu's pupils constricted. It could instinctively feel that it wasn't sturdy enough to withstand Ye Guan's ten swords!

Lu Tian finally made a move. He raised his right hand, and a terrifying, inscrutable force abruptly engulfed his vicinity.

Boom!

Ye Guan's ten swords slowed down dramatically.

Tiny Great Dao runes could be seen orbiting Lu Tian.

It was a domain! A Dao Domain!

The onlookers had just picked their jaws off of the floor, but their jaws dropped to the floor once more. Lu Tian could also use a Dao Domain in addition to his extremely high cultivation base.

Ye Guan waved his sleeve, and his ten swords returned to him.

Ye Guan stared deeply at Lu Tian.

Lu Tian smiled and was about to say something, but Ye Guan beat him to the chase. “The Sky-Splitting Tiger and the Vermillion Bird wouldn’t have perished if you had just revealed your Dao Domain earlier.”

Lu Tian’s smile stiffened.

The onlookers and Lu Tian’s supporters glanced at each other upon realizing that something was wrong.

Chapter 189: As If I Would Fall For That

Ye Guan’s words pounded against the hearts of many people.

A Dao Domain! Lu Tian’s supporters were ecstatic to see him activate a Dao Domain. Lu Tian was an Ultimate Secret Tribulation Realm cultivator, but he also had a domain.

However, Ye Guan snapped them back to reality. Ye Guan was right. The Sky-Splitting Tiger and the Vermillion Bird wouldn’t have perished if Lu Tian hadn’t decided to hide his true prowess.

His Dao Domain could have suppressed Ye Guan’s swords.

The onlookers were furious upon realizing what Lu Tian had done.



Lu Tian glared at Ye Guan, but he had no idea what to say. He truly had no intentions of sacrificing the Sky-Splitting Tiger and the Vermillion Bird. He had simply underestimated Ye Guan's strength.

Ye Guan became extremely powerful after establishing a contract with Ao Qianqian, and the Critical Method increased his strength to truly terrifying levels. Lu Tian knew that he made a mistake.

Nonetheless, he remained silent.

He knew that any explanations were worthless at this point.

Lu Tian glared at Ye Guan and asked, "Ye Guan, are you going to use such petty methods in our fight?"

Ye Guan opened his palm, and the ten Zhuxie Flying Blades flew into his hands. Staring at Lu Tian, he laughed, "Didn't you say that there can only be one of us in this world? I'm standing here today, and I'm begging you to kill me.

Lu Tian smirked and roared, "As you wish!"

He stomped, and the Life or Death Stage shook violently as if a mountain had just crashed into the stage. He opened his palm, revealing a divine seal.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan's swords made a beeline for him once more. He was not foolish enough to let Lu Tian cast a spell.

The ten swords went in for the kill, harnessing the Critical Method's prowess!

The Divine Xuanwu above Lu Tian's head roared angrily. It pushed its palms forward and created a golden tortoise shell to protect Lu Tian.

Boom!

The ten flying swords struck the golden tortoise shell, creating a crack in it.

Swoosh!

However, another flying sword struck it afterward, cracking it open.

Lu Tians's voice boomed throughout the stage.

"Earth Lock!" he roared.

The ground beneath Ye Guan trembled violently, and an overwhelming Great Earth Force swept toward Ye Guan. However, that wasn't all. The spacetime around Ye Guan constricted, making him feel as if he were in a cage.

Ye Guan frowned and was about to make a move when Lu Tian roared, "Sky Prison!"

Boom!

Space above Ye Guan's head ripped apart, and a frightening aura descended from the heavens. At the same time, the looming Great Earth Force petrified the spacetime around Ye Guan.

However, Lu Tian wasn't done just yet. He took another step forward and flipped his right palm.

Kaboom!

Great Dao abruptly manifested around Ye Guan.

Dao Domain, Sky Prison, and Earth Lock! Lu Tian cast three spells at once to suppress Ye Guan, and he wasn't about to let go of such an opportunity.

“Come, Dao Blade!” he shouted.

Crackle!

A massive three-hundred-meter-long rift in space manifested in front of Ye Guan, and a massive blade emerged from it. It made a beeline for Ye Guan, and it destroyed every inch of spacetime in its path.

The blade carried with it an energy so powerful that even the distant spacetime was being distorted by its presence alone.

The onlookers were stunned.

“That’s a Grand Divine Spell!” Someone exclaimed, “It’s definitely a Simplicity-rank spell, at the very least. I even think that it’s a True-rank spell!”

True-rank spells were incredibly rare, and only a few top aristocratic families and great clans had them. Of course, the Guanxuan Academy had True-rank spells in its repository.

However, the crux of the matter here was that learning such a high-rank spell wasn’t that easy, as True-rank spells required a high enough comprehension to even begin to understand the complexities of such a spell.

The blade was like a fiery inferno that brought with it the end of the world. Everyone felt as if the world was about to collapse as the blade swung down.

Ye Guan stared calmly at the blade.

Ao Qianqian suddenly appeared next to him and said, “I’ll handle it!”

She decisively jumped to meet the Dao Blade in mid-air.

The Dao Blade was terrifying, but there was a high chance that she would survive taking the brunt of such an attack.

However, Ye Guan was different; they had established a contract, so Ye Guan had become even stronger, but he was still a human being in the end.

Meanwhile, Ao Qianqian was an Ancient Heavenly Dragon known for their superior defenses. If her defenses were shattered while she was inside of him, the impact would force her out. By then, Ye Guan would have to take the brunt of the attack.

And that was exactly why she decided to take it for Ye Guan.

However, Ye Guan yanked her back and said, "You have already done me a huge favor by helping me. How can I ask you to give up your life for me?"

Ao Qianqian quietly stared at the smiling Ye Guan. In the end, she smiled and went back inside of Ye Guan.

Ye Guan opened his palm, eliciting a loud, buzzing sword hum.

A Zhuxie Flying Blade appeared, and he unleashed the Critical Method by willing it to thrust toward the oncoming Dao Blade.

However, Ye Guan's Critical Method used not just ten but fifteen swords made out of sword energy. Ye Guan was now capable of wielding fifteen swords at once, but it would have been impossible at the moment if it hadn't been for Ao Qianqian.

Boom!

The spacetime ahead of Ye Guan crumbled, and his restraints vanished.

Lu Tian's Dao Domain cracked with just a sword thrust from Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was no longer restrained.

He opened his palm and summoned twelve flying swords to execute the Critical Method. He summoned not ten or fifteen but twelve. It was all because he only had twelve real swords.

Boom!

A loud explosion occurred as the twelve swords and the Dao Blade collided in mid-air. The shockwave from the blast radiated outward at breakneck speeds, and a dazzling sword light flashed. The Dao Blade trembled violently before exploding.

The shockwaves ripped through the air like a hurricane, destroying everything in a hundred-and-fifty radius around Ye Guan.

The Life and Death Stage even cracked.

Swoosh!

A sword flew out from the cloud of dust. It pierced every inch of spacetime that stood in its way.

The Divine Xuanwu's eyes narrowed. It was afraid of Ye Guan's sword, as Ye Guan was strong enough to shatter its defenses. Unfortunately, the Divine Xuanwu didn't really have any choice but to protect Lu Tian.

"I'll handle it!" roared Lu Tian.

He stepped forward and pointed. A blood-red rune flew out from the tip of his finger.

The rune collided with Ye Guan's sword, and the collision sent Lu Tian and the Divine Xuanwu flying at least fifty meters away.

The two had just stabilized themselves when the space in front of them was torn open. Ye Guan's figure emerged from the rift with multiple swords orbiting him. He was about to execute the Critical Method once more but with fifteen swords!

Lu Tian put his palms together and chanted in an inscrutable language.

A Great Dao mirror manifested beneath his feet quickly.

Boom!

Ye Guan's sword struck the Great Dao mirror, and the cataclysmic force left nothing but destruction in its wake. Spacetime was annihilated, leaving nothing but a greedy hole of darkness.

However, spacetime quickly recovered.

Ye Guan's eyes flashed sinisterly as he swung his sword lightly.

Kaboom!

A sword light flew out and struck the Great Dao mirror, shattering it to smithereens.

Meanwhile, Lu Tian was sent flying from the backlash. He clenched his right fist, and multiple rifts in space manifested overhead. Light-red lighting emerged from the rifts and converged in one place.

Soon, a massive light-red bolt of lightning was formed, and it shot out silently toward Ye Guan, leaving behind the sound that it had produced in its wake.

However, Ye Guan remained as calm as a placid lake in the face of such a devastating attack. He waved his sleeve, and a dazzling sword light shredded the oncoming lightning bolt.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan abruptly vanished. Lu Tian's pupils constricted. He activated his Dao Domain and frantically ran away.

Clang!

Ye Guan's sword struck Lu Tian's Dao Domain, causing it to tremble violently before crumbling into pieces moments later.

Lu Tian flew at least a hundred meters away.

Lu Tian's supporters were starting to get worried. It seemed that they were finally starting to realize that the invincible Chosen One was being overpowered by Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was simply too powerful.

A disciple of an aristocratic clan muttered, "Ye Guan is so strong..."

The others were silent, but a man glared at him and said, "Strong? He's just wielding Ao Qianqian's power. Do you really think that he can do what he's doing by himself?"

The disciple's voice deepened, and he pointed out. "But Lu Tian was under the protection of three divine demonic beasts..."

The man yelled, "What are you talking about?! Lu Tian is the Chosen One, and he has the Great Dao Destiny from Destiny herself. Why are you speaking up for Ye Guan? Are you trying to betray the Guanyuan Universe?"

The poor disciple could only stare incredulously at the man.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan didn't give Lu Tian any room to breathe.

He would constantly vanish and reappear. He had gotten so fast that most of the onlookers couldn't track him anymore; they could only hear the grotesque noise of spacetime being ripped apart as Ye Guan disappeared and reappeared.

Lu Tian urgently shouted, "Merge with me!"

The Divine Xuanwu turned into a beam of light that entered Lu Tian's glabella.

Shwing!

A golden tortoise armor enveloped Lu Tian.

Ye Guan's sword finally arrived in front of Lu Tian.

Shwik!

The sword struck Lu Tian's golden armor, and it cracked after just one attack.

However, Lu Tian was smiling at Ye Guan as he pointed out. "You fell for it!"

Rip!

A rift in space abruptly appeared behind Ye Guan, and a bloody hand reached out.

Cao Bai's expression darkened. "One of the three vicious demonic beasts, the Vicious Lion!"



The sword in Ye Guan's hand disappeared. He turned around and punched.

World Devastation Art!

He was currently one with Ao Qianqian, and her power allowed his World Devastation Art to become five times stronger than usual.

Kaboom!

A loud explosion echoed, and the vicious demonic beast was sent flying at least a hundred meters away.

Ye Guan opened his palm and created a sword made out of sword energy. He turned around and thrust his sword forward.

Critical Method!

Boom!

Lu Tian flew a few hundred meters away, and his golden armor was finally destroyed.

The onlookers were beyond stupefied.

Ye Guan stared at Lu Tian and sneered, "As if I would fall for that, dumbass!"

Meanwhile, someone's trembling voice echoed from the crowd. "W-w-was that a martial stance? Wait... is he a Martial God as well despite being such a powerful swordsman?"

A deafening silence enveloped the crowd.

Chapter 190: Come, My Swords

Everyone stared blankly at Ye Guan.

It seemed that Ye Guan was more talented than the Sword Master. The onlookers' hairs stood on end the moment they realized that Ye Guan was a Martial God as well.

The silence was palpable, and nothing could be heard aside from the faint breathing of the spectators.

The Head Military Official was overwhelmed by shock as he stared at Ye Guan. He truly didn't expect that Ye Guan was a Martial God as well. It was something that he couldn't even begin to imagine until now.

Ye Guan had surpassed the Sword Master's talent by being a Martial God, even though he was already a Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign.

How incredible... The Head Military Official stared quietly at Ye Guan as millions of thoughts ran through his mind.

Meanwhile, Lu Tian's supporters, as well as the Sword Sect and the representatives of the groups who had come here to support Ye Guan, went wild with their imaginations—Ye Guan's talent was beyond outstanding.

Cao Bai shook his head and smiled bitterly. "He truly hid it well!"

The others nodded, and they soon quivered in excitement.

Chen Guanzi was silent as he stared at Ye Guan on the Life or Death Stage, but there was a subtle smile on his lips. Ye Guan's revelation had greatly surprised him as well.

Meanwhile, the powerhouses of the Lingxu Blessed Land and Time Paradise looked like they were about to burst out into laughter. They had been holding in their anger while everyone called them stupid and foolish for supporting Ye Guan.

Who would dare to say that they were stupid at this point?

The Chosen One?

He paled in comparison to Ye Guan. Ye Guan obviously had the upper hand in this battle—no, he was completely thrashing the Chosen One.

So what if he was the Chosen One?

Meanwhile, the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan members finally heaved a sigh of relief. Clan Leader Ao Sheng also felt like a heavy weight had been lifted off of his chest.

He and Ao Qianqian had been facing intense pressure after choosing to support Ye Guan. In addition to the Guanxuan Academy and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, their clansmen were pressuring them as well.

If Ye Guan lost, the members of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan would rebel to kill both him and Ao Qianqian. After all, the majority of them wanted to support Lu Tian.

Ao Sheng sighed in relief after finding out that Ye Guan was a Martial God as well. It meant that even if Ye Guan lost, none of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan members could say that he and his daughter were foolish for choosing Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was both a Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign and a Martial God. He deserved the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan's support.

Furthermore, Ye Guan was thrashing the Chosen One in the battle so far. The Ancient Heavenly Dragon clan members grinned one by one. They had to admit that Ye Guan was indeed better than Lu Tian.

Ye Guan glared at Lu Tian, obviously annoyed. However, he didn't make a move.

He turned and glared at the demonic beast not too far away from him.

The demonic beast looked like a crimson lion, but it had two horns and a tail that was at least thirty inches long. The tip of the demonic tail was shaped like a spear, and it emitted a cold light capable of instilling fear in those daring enough to stare at it.

The demonic beast was none other than the Vicious Lion, one of the three vicious beasts of the Guanyuan Universe's Demon Domain. The vicious beasts were even stronger than the four divine demonic beasts.

The Vicious Lion's nose caved in upon taking the brunt of Ye Guan's punch, and it was fuming. It glared hatefully at Ye Guan, looking as if it wanted to devour the latter whole.

However, Ye Guan was more furious than the Vicious Lion. He didn't waste even a second as he vanished and reappeared in front of the Vicious Lion.

The Vicious Lion roared. It lowered its head and dashed toward Ye Guan with its horns pointing at the latter.

It was a vicious move befitting a vicious beast, but Ye Guan didn't slow down at all. He was going to face the Vicious Lion head-on.

Ye Guan thrust his sword toward the Vicious Lion and unleashed fifteen swords.

Crackle!

The attack was so fierce and terrifying that the spacetime in a three-hundred-meter radius around Ye Guan was shattered.

BOOM!

The collision was no less fierce as both Ye Guan and the Vicious Lion were sent flying by the impact.

Ye Guan recovered after flying at least fifty meters. He looked up and saw that the area where his sword collided with the Vicious Lion's horns was devastated. Blood dripped down the corner of his lips.

The Vicious Lion was extremely powerful. He barely managed to defend himself, even though he had become one with Ao Qianqian and was capable of displaying the same prowess as her.

Meanwhile, the Vicious Lion finally managed to stabilize itself.

The onlookers turned pale and were horrified to find that the Vicious Lion's skull had cracked; evidently, Ye Guan managed to shatter its defenses.

The Vicious Lion was definitely an Immortal-rank demonic beast, but it actually lost to Ye Guan in a head-on confrontation. It was true that Ye Guan had established a contract with Ao Qianqian, but Lu Tian had formed contracts with four powerful demonic beasts.

If Ye Guan were in Lu Tian's shoes... the thought alone frightened many people.

The impact stunned the Vicious Lion for quite a while, but it soon recovered and glared at Ye Guan. However, the hatefulness in its glare had gotten less intense, and it was no longer holding Ye Guan in contempt.

What a terrifying sword attack!

If it hadn't been for its special defenses, it would have died just now!

It no longer dared to take Ye Guan lightly.

Lu Tian suddenly yelled, "Vicious Lion, hold him back for me!"

Lu Tian floated in the air, and the space around him quivered violently. A massive array appeared above his head. The runes were intricate and inscrutable, and the waves of energy they were emitting made the Life or Death Stage quiver.

The onlookers stared with bated breaths. Lu Tian was about to unleash a powerful move.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed. The Zhuxie Flying Blades around him quivered as well.

The Vicious Lion roared, "Ancestors! Please help me!"

Boom!

A crimson light burst out of the Vicious Lion, and the light soon turned into crimson armor.

Ye Guan frowned. It actually has ancestors to call upon?

Ao Qianqian seemed to have seen through Ye Guan's thoughts as she explained, "The powerful demonic beasts of powerful clans among the demon race are capable of calling upon their ancestors for help.

"Their ancestors would help them by strengthening their defenses."

A stronger defense! Ye Guan frowned deeply. The defenses of demonic beasts were already much stronger than cultivators in the same cultivation realm as them. In other words, the Vicious Lion had just become a troublesome foe.

"I can also call upon my ancestors. Would you like me to?"

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "No need."

He stomped and vanished. His target wasn't the Vicious Lion but Lu Tian.

Lu Tian was channeling a powerful spell, and Ye Guan wanted to end Lu Tian's life while the latter was channeling.

Shwing!

A dazzling sword light came streaking across the skies toward Lu Tian.

Swoosh!

The Divine Xuanwu abruptly appeared in front of Lu Tian. It roared angrily as it pushed both of its palms forward.

A golden tortoise shell appeared just as Ye Guan's sword reached the Divine Xuanwu.

Boom!

The golden tortoise shell trembled violently, and it cracked.

Ye Guan's eyes shone sinisterly as he brought down his sword once more.

Boom!

The golden tortoise shell split open and shattered into innumerable fragments that fell to the ground like rain.

Ye Guan ignored the injured Divine Xuanwu and dashed toward Lu Tian.

The Divine Xuanwu roared and grabbed Ye Guan's foot, yanking the latter back.

Ye Guan was annoyed, and he thrust his sword toward the Divine Xuanwu.

Squelch!

The sword pierced the Divine Xuanwu's head, and blood spurted out of the wound.

Ye Guan saw that and ignored the Divine Xuanwu once more. He turned toward Lu Tian and was about to charge toward Lu Tian when the desperate Divine Xuanwu roared once more and pounced on Ye Guan.

The Divine Xuanwu wanted to stop Ye Guan no matter what, and it succeeded. The Divine Xuanwu and Ye Guan crashed to the ground, and the collision kicked up a cloud of dust that clouded everyone's vision.

However, Ye Guan's vision was clear as he turned to the Divine Xuanwu. He opened his palm and revealed ten swords that made a beeline for the Divine Xuanwu's head.

Squelch!

The Divine Xuanwu's eyes widened.

Soon, it was drenched in its own blood, but it desperately stuck to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan glared at the stubborn Divine Xuanwu.

The Divine Xuanwu looked at Lu Tian and said weakly, "Chosen One, you promised my clan... you promised to support us. You must keep your word."

The Divine Xuanwu went silent as a horrifying aura seeped out of it.

It was about to self-destruct.



Ye Guan's expression fell. He vanished and reappeared at least a hundred meters away, but the powerful explosion still struck him.

Boom!

Ye Guan was forced to retreat another hundred meters away. Soon, he finally stopped retreating and saw that the explosion just now had annihilated the spacetime in a hundred-and-fifty radius around the Divine Xuanwu.

The spacetime quickly recovered, but the onlookers were still reeling in shock. They truly didn't expect that the Divine Xuanwu would self-destruct for the sake of holding Ye Guan back.

Meanwhile, the Vicious Lion appeared in front of Ye Guan. It had to stop Ye Guan at all costs!

Ye Guan wiped the blood from the corner of his lips.

"Qianqian, are you alright?" he asked.

A few moments later, Ao Qianqian chuckled and replied, "I'm fine. What can happen to me?"

Ye Guan nodded before looking up at Lu Taan.

A terrifying aura had gathered above his head. Everyone on Trial Peak felt a powerful oppressive force boring down on him, and they all started thinking about just what kind of spell Lu Tian was about to unleash.

Nanling Yiyi suddenly cried out, "It is a forbidden spell!"

A forbidden spell! Chen Guanzi frowned and asked, "Is that so?"

Nanling Yiyi frantically nodded. Her voice was trembling as she said, “Yes! I’m sure that’s one of the ten forbidden spells—Devastation of Dao!”

Nanling Yiyi also had a copy of the Devastation of Dao’s divine spell book. It was indeed one of the ten forbidden spells.

Chen Guanzi’s expression turned ashen.

Cao Bai asked him, “Senior Brother, how strong is a forbidden spell?”

Chen Guanzi explained, “The divine spell books containing forbidden spells were put together by Great Daoist Brush Master. During the Xuzhen Great War, the Divine Mages from the Guanxuan Universe used such forbidden spells to kill over a hundred thousand Divine Spirits.”

Chen Guanzi turned to stare at Lu Tian in surprise.

“Back then, even Imperial Realm Divine Mages struggled to even comprehend such powerful spells, but he...” Chen Guanzi trailed off.

The expressions of the swordsmen around Chen Guanzi turned heavy, and they stared worriedly at Ye Guan. Nanling Yiyi clenched her fists until her nails dug into her palms. She was a Divine Mage, so she understood a forbidden spell’s might.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan stared quietly at Lu Tian.

Lu Tian was almost done channeling, and Ye Guan could no longer stop him.

Lu Tian raised his hands, and the space above him split open. Innumerable Great Dao runes emerged from the massive rift in space, and they orbited Lu Tian.

The entire Trial Peak quivered violently, and cracks appeared even in the distant mountains as the world itself seemed to be trembling beneath a forbidden spell’s might.

The onlookers were terrified and dumbstruck.

Meanwhile, the powerhouses of the Guanxuan Academy worked desperately to mend the surrounding spacetime, but the Trial Peak was still struggling to remain in one piece beneath the cataclysmic attack.

Lu Tian gazed down at Ye Guan and said, "I'll send you on your way."

Boom!

The mysterious, inscrutable runes turned into a beam of crimson light that shot toward Ye Guan.

Crack!

Cracks spread throughout Trial Peak, frightening many people.

The Head Military Official smiled in satisfaction. It's over. He has cast a forbidden spell!

It seemed Ye Guan had no choice but to surrender to Lu Tian.

However, Ye Guan confidently stepped forward.

Shwaaa!

An extremely powerful sword force gushed out of him, revealing his status as a true Great Sword Sovereign.

Ye Guan spread his arms and roared, "Come, my swords!"

Hum!

The resonant hum of a million swords abruptly pervaded the Guanxuan Academy as a million swords emerged from the Sword Tomb and flew toward Trial Peak.

In the blink of an eye, the sky was filled with a million swords, flabbergasting Lu Tian's supporters, Ye Guan's supporters, and those who had come here to enjoy the fight.