

A Sword 241

Chapter 241: Position, Last Long, Very Big

Lady Ba Wan?

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued, and he turned around to find a girl approaching him while riding on a cow. The cow was old, but its curved horns made it look domineering.

The young woman on the cow looked to be sixteen or seventeen years old. She was wearing a simple cloth outfit, and there were a number of patches on her shirt, which indicated that her shirt had gone through significant wear and tear.

A rope was hanging from her waist, and there was a bundle of grass attached to the rope. There was a large bowl on her back, and her hair was tied into a long braid, which swayed gently in the wind.

She must be Lady Ba Wan. Ye Guan was still staring at her curiously when she jumped down the cow. The space in front of Ye Guan vibrated slightly, and his pupils shrank. A sense of foreboding gripped his heart, and he went on high alert.

Ye Guan thrust twenty swords forward.

A large fist imprint appeared in front of him.

Boom!

Ye Guan flew a hundred meters away. When he finally managed to stop, he found that his right arm had been lacerated. The swords made out of sword energy that he had created in a hurry just now had shattered into innumerable light crystals.

Ye Guan's heart pounded madly against his chest. He was thrilled.

"Move the Mountains!" the young woman shouted and slapped her right palm on the ground.

A deafening explosion echoed as the space a hundred meters around Ye Guan shook violently. Ye Guan's eyes narrowed. He hurriedly wielded twenty-five swords at once, but before he could even make a move, another explosion rocketed across the village as the space on Ye Guan's right flung him away.

Ye Guan eventually came to a halt, but the space around him remained unstable.

Blood dripped down his lips; he had sustained an injury from the attack just now.

Unfortunately, the young woman wasn't quite done just yet as she swiveled and punched the ground.

"Break the Earth!" she shouted.

An overwhelming force bubbled in the earth beneath Ye Guan's feet.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan vanished, and a powerful pillar of energy burst out at least a hundred meters into the sky from where he initially stood. The pillar of energy was so powerful that everything it touched was reduced to ashes.

Shwing!

A dazzling sword light flashed in front of the young woman.

Ye Guan had just executed the Instant Death Strike using the Invisible Immortal Sword. The young woman moved her left foot slightly and leaned to the right, smoothly dodging Ye Guan's attack.

"Shaking the Heavens!" she roared.

Boom!!

A kilometer of space in a cone in front of the young woman was annihilated. Ye Guan flew a few hundred meters away, and he landed harshly into the nearby river. The impact was so strong that a hundred-meter-tall pillar of water rose into the air.

The young woman didn't make another move. She turned around and started walking toward the village. The villagers applauded and cheered, "Invincible Ba Wan!"

The young woman raised her right hand and pressed down lightly. She calmly said, "It was nothing... it was nothing much, but keep clapping, everyone. Anyway, Wang Erniu, did you eat anything at all? You're clapping so lightly; you better eat, or I'm going to your house to eat."

Wang Erniu's expression changed drastically. He jumped to his feet and clapped frantically to the extent that his hands turned red from the force he was using to clap his hands together.

The other villagers panicked upon hearing the young woman say that she would go to Wang Erniu's house to eat. They clapped as fast and as loudly as possible. Even an old man with only one arm slapped his thigh so hard that his leg started trembling from the pain.

The thunderous round of applause echoed throughout the village. Ba Wan walked back to her cow, and she gave the cow the bundle of grass by her waist. The cow opened its mouth wide and chewed on the grass.

Ba Wan stroked the cow's horns and said, "Old cow, I've fed you grass, so how about you give me some beef?"

Hearing that, the old cow spat the grass and refused to eat despite Ba Wan's efforts.

Ba Wan pouted and muttered, "Stingy old cow, I fed you so much grass, but you don't even want to feed me a little meat."

Ba Wan dragged the cow away, and the villagers heaved a sigh of relief upon seeing her leave.

The old man who had been slapping his thigh slumped to the ground. His leg was sore, but he had no choice but to keep clapping earlier! After all, Ba Wan was a scourge that would devour any food that she could get her hands on.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan slowly crawled out of the river just outside the village. He was in a terrible state. His fleshly body was torn apart, and his blood had stained his clothes.

The Invisible Immortal Sword had shattered in the earlier battle, and Ye Guan lay on the ground in a daze. He couldn't quite believe that a young woman had overwhelmed him. To make matters worse, his speed—of which he was quite proud of—had also seemed like it was nothing in front of the young woman.

Ye Guan asked inwardly, "Senior, she looks like she's just sixteen or seventeen years old. Am I right?"

The mysterious voice said, "Yes!"

Ye Guan was silent.

The mysterious voice asked, "What's wrong?"

Ye Guan chuckled and said, "It seems like there's always someone out there better than me."

Ye Guan retrieved a spiritual medicine from his storage ring and consumed it. A few moments later, he was roughly healed up, and he picked himself up before walking toward the village once again.

An old man was lying outside the village. His legs were weak, and he had to use a walking stick to walk. The old man looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you looking for Ba Wan?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

The old man examined Ye Guan from top to bottom and said, “Ba Wan doesn’t like fair-skinned men, she likes guys like Erniu, who are strong and burly. Erniu can plow ten acres of land in just a day, can you do that?”

Ye Guan stared quietly at the old man before walking away.

The old man took offense at Ye Guan’s silence. “Hey! Are you deaf?”

Ye Guan stared at the old man’s legs and asked, “Did someone beat your legs up?”

However, Ye Guan’s question seemed to have brought up some bad memories as the old man got furious and spat at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan tilted to one side and stumbled forward. “Ah, ouch! Ouch!”

The old man was so confused that his fury disappeared. In the end, he turned around and left, leaving Ye Guan all by himself to look around the village.

Ye Guan noticed it earlier, but he had just confirmed that the villagers here were truly not afraid of him. They were actually staring at him openly with curiosity in their eyes.

Some ladies even gossiped about him, but Ye Guan had no idea what they were talking about because he overheard them say skill, position, last long, and very big.

In the end, Ye Guan chalked it up to the ladies’ unique habits and the village’s culture.

Ye Guan soon found himself in front of a small hut. The old cow outside the hut was the same cow as earlier. The old cow glanced at Ye Guan and scoffed before looking away.

Ye Guan frowned. What?

There were some noises coming from the hut.

Ye Guan approached the hut and saw Ba Wan crouched in front of a stove.

Ba Wan whipped around and frowned upon seeing Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was stunned.

Ba Wan's face was dirty with the ashes from the stove.

Ba Wan clenched her fists.

"Wait!" Ye Guan hurriedly cried out.

Ba Wan glared at Ye Guan and snapped, "How dare you come back here!"

Ye Guan didn't know what to say to that. In the end, he asked hesitantly, "Can I come in?"

Ba Wan looked away and continued working on her fire. Ye Guan hesitated before walking into the hut. The small hut was indeed small, as it only had three stoves, three woks, and a large wooden chair.

Ye Guan stood next to Ba Wan and said, "Lady, I don't have any ill intentions."

Ba Wan glanced at Ye Guan and asked, "Do you have rice?"

Rice? Ye Guan froze and went silent.

Ba Wan frowned, "What's with that look? Did you not come here to eat?"

Ye Guan answered, "I don't have rice, but I have dragon meat. Does that work?"

Ba Wan asked, "Dragon meat? What's that?"

Ye Guan cast an incredulous gaze at her before asking, "Have you not seen a dragon before?"

Ba Wan shook her head and said, "No! Are they delicious?"

Ye Guan crouched next to her and asked, "Do you want to try?"

Ba Wan nodded enthusiastically and exclaimed, "Sure!"

Ye Guan retrieved two chunks of dragon meat from his storage ring, and Ba Wan's eyes brightened upon seeing them. Ye Guan chuckled, and he started cooking the meat while Ba Wan was crouched next to him.

Ba Wan drooled while staring intently at the dragon meat.

"How long has it been since your last meal?" asked Ye Guan.

Ba Wan pondered for a while before saying, "It's been a while, and it's because no one wants to give me rice."

"Have you ever walked out of here?" asked Ye Guan.

"Are you talking about going out to the outside world?" Ba Wan asked back.

Ye Guan nodded.

Ba Wan shook her head. "Nope!"

Ye Guan asked, "How do you cultivate, then?"

"Cultivate?" asked Ba Wan.

"Yes!" Ye Guan nodded.

Ba Wan directed a curious gaze on Ye Guan and asked, "Do you mean fighting?"

Ye Guan stared deeply at Ba Wan before nodding. "Yes!"

Ba Wan frowned, and her face was filled with confusion.

"Do you have to do something special to fight? Don't you just fight if you want to fight?" she asked.

Ye Guan was silent. It didn't feel like Ba Wan was lying to him.

However, Ye Guan was in absolute disbelief upon realizing that Ba Wan was so strong, even though she had never really cultivated.

Ba Wan suddenly asked, "Do you have more dragon meat?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes, I have more."

Ba Wan blinked and asked, "Can you give me some?"

Ye Guan smiled and said, "Sure."

With that, he gave her two chunks of dragon meat.

Ye Guan had no qualms about giving away chunks of dragon meat, as he had enough dragon meat to eat for a lifetime.

Ba Wan accepted the dragon meat and ran out of the hut, astonishing Ye Guan.

Not long later, Ba Wan returned with a wooden bucket.

Ye Guan looked into it and saw that it contained rice.

Ba Wan grinned and said, "How can we eat dragon meat without rice?"

She dumped the rice into the wok and started cooking it.

Fifteen minutes later, the dragon meat and rice were ready.

Ba Wan grabbed the large bowl hanging behind her and filled it up with rice. She seemed to have thought of something as she looked at Ye Guan cautiously and asked, "Are you not going to eat?"

Ye Guan seemed hesitant as he asked, "Can I?"

Ba Wan nodded and said, "If you aren't going to eat, I'll eat everything myself."

With that, Ba Wan took out a wooden spoon that was as large as her palm and wolfed the rice. After stuffing two spoonfuls of rice into her mouth, she picked up a piece of dragon meat and munched on it.

Ye Guan's confusion reached its peak, and he stared at Ba Wan in a daze until the latter consumed an entire wok of rice.

An entire wok of rice! Ye Guan was stupefied.

Ba Wan sat and leaned against the large wooden chair. She seemed relaxed as she burped loudly and looked at Ye Guan.

"I owe you a favor for the food. Tell me what you want."

Ye Guan stared at her carefully and said, "I would like to spar with you again."

"Sparring? Do you mean fighting?" Ba Wan asked.

"Yes, a fight!" Ye Guan said with a nod.

"All right!" Ba Wan nodded.

Ye Guan grinned and stood up. He started walking outside the hut when Ba Wan suddenly ignited a wooden rod next to the stove and hurled it at Ye Guan. The flaming wooden rod flew so fast that Ye Guan couldn't react in time, and it struck him in the head, sending him flying out of the small hut.

Chapter 242: Mysterious Girl

Ye Guan was sprawled out on the ground. His head felt extremely heavy as if it were filled with lead.

Meanwhile, Ba Wan was holding a flaming rod in her hands as she stared straight at Ye Guan. To be more accurate, she was staring at his head, looking like she wanted to hit him again.

However, she abandoned the thought of giving him another beating after recalling that she had just eaten his dragon meat. Ye Guan had fed her good food, so Ba Wan thought that she couldn't go too far.

Ye Guan slowly stood up, and he shook his head fiercely to dispel the dizziness. He then turned to look at Ba Wan and asked in bewilderment, "Lady Ba Wan, why did you do something so dirty?"

Ba Wan pretended that she didn't understand him and asked, "Dirty? How so?"

Ye Guan exclaimed, "That was a sneak attack!"

Ba Wan frowned and said, "You said you wanted to spar."

"Yes, I want a spar," Ye Guan nodded and said, "But shouldn't we leave this village and find an open space outside to fight? You weren't supposed to just attack me from behind without saying that you're going to attack me?"

"Do people from the outside world go through all this trouble just to fight?" asked Ba Wan.

Ye Guan was silent.

Ba Wan asked once again, "Want to have another go?"

"Sure." Ye Guan nodded, and he hurriedly added, "Let's get out of the village and find an open space to fight."

The villagers were ordinary people, so they wouldn't be able to withstand even the shockwaves of their battle.

Ba Wan nodded and said, "Okay."

Ye Guan turned around and hopped onto his sword. He found a wide grassy area a hundred and fifty kilometers away from the village. When he landed on the grassy plains, Ba Wan was already not too far away from him.

Ye Guan's expression fell. It seemed like her speed was on par with his speed. This was the first time Ye Guan had encountered someone of the younger generation who could keep up with his speed.

Ba Wan was holding a flaming rod in her hands.

“Fighting is really exhausting, so you have to be responsible for my meals, okay?” she said.

“Sure.” Ye Guan smiled and said, “You can just focus on eating!”

Ba Wan grinned, revealing some of her teeth.

“Let’s eat!” Ba Wan exclaimed, “Oh, I mean, let’s fight!”

Swoosh!

Ba Wan moved as fast as lightning as she made a beeline for Ye Guan. Her swift movements tore spacetime apart as she rushed toward Ye Guan, creating a terrifying sight.

She arrived in front of Ye Guan in the blink of an eye.

With a soft cry, she swung her flaming rod toward Ye Guan’s head.

Boom!

The space around Ye Guan caved in beneath the flaming rod’s power.

Ye Guan’s heart became filled with shock, but he didn’t even attempt to dodge. Ba Wan’s attack looked like an ordinary swing, but she had pre-emptively sealed all of Ye Guan’s escape routes.

Ye Guan could only face it head-on, and that was what he did.

He thrust his sword forward—thirty swords and the Invincible Sword Intent!

Ye Guan didn't dare to underestimate Ba Wan, and he decided to try and attempt to end the fight with just one sword move by going all-out.

Crackle!

The surrounding spacetime shattered.

Boom!

Ye Guan's sword struck Ba Wan's flaming rod, and the spacetime within a kilometer around the two spontaneously exploded as if a giant hammer had struck it. The powerful backlash sent Ye Guan flying hundreds of meters away.

Ba Wan was sent flying as well, and she froze when she finally came to a halt. She looked down at the flaming rod in her hands, and a gust of wind blew past her.

The gust of wind reduced the flaming rod to ashes.

In the distance, when Ye Guan stopped, fresh blood flowed out from the corner of his lips. He looked at his right hand, which was now completely busted and completely covered in blood.

Fresh blood seeped out of Ye Guan's lips. He looked down at his right hand and found that it was a bloody mess. Ye Guan's expression turned grim as he turned toward Ba Wan and asked, "Lady Ba Wan, what's your cultivation realm?"

Ba Wan frowned slightly and asked, "Cultivation realm?"

Ye Guan was silent—to think that Ba Wan didn't even know that concept!

Ba Wan revealed a crooked smile and said, "Let's go eat!"

Ye Guan's expression stiffened, but he quickly prepared multiple chunks of dragon meat for Ba Wan. Of course, he also prepared an entire pot of rice for her to eat along with the meat.

Afterward, Ye Guan leaned against a boulder and tended to his wound while Ba Wan stuffed herself with mouthfuls of meat and rice.

Moments later, Ye Guan's wound didn't look that grotesque anymore. He made a sidelong glance at Ba Wan and asked inwardly, "Senior, does she really not have a cultivation base?"

The mysterious voice replied, "Of course, she has a cultivation base."

Ye Guan asked, "Really?"

The mysterious voice said, "Yes, but she doesn't know it. She was once a cultivator, but it seems that she has forgotten that fact."

Ye Guan's confusion deepened.

Meanwhile, Little Pagoda spoke to the mysterious voice in the tiny pagoda.

"She's not simple. Do you know anything about her?" asked Little Pagoda.

"She's not someone you can afford to provoke," said the mysterious voice before adding, "So you should stop fishing for information from me!"

Little Pagoda had no idea what to say.

Ba Wan put down her bowl and lay on the ground.

She burped and revealed a look of satisfaction.

Ye Guan laughed and asked, “Lady Ba Wan, are you full?”

“Yes, I’m full.” Ba Wan nodded and said, “It’s been so long since I was this full!”

“If you don’t mind me asking, Lady Bawan,” said Ye Guan before asking, “How did you learn to fight?”

Ba Wan suddenly sat upright and asked, “Do you want to know that?”

Ye Guan nodded and said, “If you want to tell me, sure.”

Ba Wan chuckled and said, “I learned how to fight in a cave!”

A cave? Ye Guan was bewildered. “A cave?”

Ba Wan nodded and asked, “Do you want me to bring you there?”

Ye Guan examined Ba Wan’s expression. Upon realizing that she was serious, Ye Guan nodded and said, “Sure, why not?”

“Hahaha.” Ba Wan laughed and said, “Let’s go, then.”

With that, Ba Wan got up and started walking away.

Ye Guan followed closely behind her.

Ba Wan and Ye Guan soon found themselves in front of a cave. The stalactites and the stalagmites started emitting light the moment they entered the cave, allowing the two to see clearly in the dark cave

Ba Wan brought Ye Guan to a certain wall, and Ye Guan saw a yellowed, ancient-looking book on the wall.

Ba Wan plucked the book and handed it over to Ye Guan.

“I learned it from this book,” she said.

Ye Guan flipped it open and saw there were three words written boldly on the first page—Unbeatable Fist Art!

Unbeatable Fist Art!

Ye Guan flipped a few more pages, and his expression turned heavy. He had no idea just what rank the book belonged to, but it described six seemingly powerful moves—Move the Mountains, Break the Earth, Shake the Heavens, Pluck the Stars, Seize the Moon, and Bury the Gods.

Ye Guan looked up at Ba Wan and asked, “You learned all these moves?”

Ba Wan nodded. “Yep.”

Ye Guan was silent. Evidently, Ba Wan had held back against him earlier.

Ye Guan shook his head and laughed. He had always thought that he was talented, and it wasn’t that strange of a thought considering his improvement speed. However, it seemed that he had grossly overestimated his self-worth.

The mysterious senior in the tiny pagoda was right. The vast expanse held many worlds and universes, each of them containing a myriad of talents. In other words, there would always be someone better than anyone out there.

Ye Guan chuckled and said, “Lady Ba Wan, this book is extremely precious, so why did you not take it with you?”

Ba Wan calmly replied, “What would I do with it? It’s not like I can eat it.”

Ye Guan didn’t know what to say. Ba Wan’s was just... unique.

“You should go ahead and read it if you want to learn the moves in it,” said Ba Wan.

“This book is precious in the outside world,” said Ye Guan.

Ba Wan shook her head slightly and said, “It doesn’t matter to me. The book was already here when I first came here, and it’s not mine, so I can’t just take it away with me. Of course, it would have been a different story if it were edible.”

Ye Guan chuckled to himself. Ba Wan’s words were so absurd that he truly had no idea how to respond to her. Eventually, Ye Guan flipped through the pages and memorized the moves within them before putting the book down.

“Are you not going to take it with you?” asked Ba Wan.

Ye Guan smiled and said, “The book was already here when I first came here, and it’s not mine, so I can’t just take it away with me.”

Ba Wan froze and stared at him. She asked softly, “Why did you repeat what I said?”

“Pfft!” Ye Guan boisterously laughed.

Ba Wan suddenly pulled him away. “Let’s go!”

Ye Guan asked, “What’s with the rush?”

Ba Wan sounded serious as she said, "It's time to eat!"

Ye Guan's expression froze. Didn't you just eat?

Ba Wan rolled her eyes at him and said, "You really have to change that attitude. You have to be more enthusiastic when it comes to eating. Otherwise, you won't be able to find a wife in this village."

Ye Guan's face darkened at that.

Right when they were about to leave the cave, Ye Guan looked back to take one final glance at the cave when he noticed a fiery red rune on the cave wall. The fiery red rune trembled ever so slightly before disappearing.

Ye Guan was astonished.

Ba Wan abruptly yanked Ye Guan away and started running out of the cave.

Once they were out of the cave, Ba Wan stopped in her tracks and took a deep breath before turning to look at the cave.

"It appeared again!" she exclaimed.

Confused, Ye Guan asked, "What was that?"

Ba Wan looked a bit scared as she replied, "I don't know, but it felt dangerous."

Dangerous? Ye Guan frowned. His curiosity was piqued, but Ba Wan suddenly removed the large bowl hanging on her back and said, "Let's eat!"

Ye Guan was rendered speechless. Regardless, he proceeded to cook for Ba Wan, but he made two pots of dragon meat and two pots of rice for her to eat this time. He believed that Ba Wan would definitely be satisfied for a while with that much food.

Afterward, he started studying the Unbeatable Fist Art. He was a Martial God, and the Unbeatable Fist Art was a technique he couldn't possibly resist learning, so Ye Guan didn't waste any time learning it.

At first, his progress was pretty smooth and fast. He learned Move the Mountains and Break the Earth in just three days, but he started having issues with Shake the Heavens.

Ye Guan decided to approach Ba Wan and asked, "Lady Ba Wan, I have a question about Shake the Heavens. The book said that the heart and the mind must be united when the move is executed, but the energy drain is insane whenever I attempt to execute the move, and it's not as strong as I thought it would be. Why is that?"

Ba Wan swallowed a chunk of meat and replied, "I don't know!"

Ye Guan froze and went quiet.

Ba Wan looked at him and asked, "Is it that hard to learn?"

Ye Guan hesitated for a while before he asked, "How long did it take you to learn the Unbeatable Fist Art?"

Ba Wan annihilated a spoonful of rice and said, "I mastered every move by the time I'm done eating a meal!"

Ye Guan was rendered speechless. Her words had truly disturbed him. She learned every move in the Unbeatable Fist Art in just the time it took for her to finish a meal?

Ye Guan suddenly felt like he was completely useless. It took him three days to learn just three moves, after all. In the end, Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled bitterly before walking over to the side and sitting down cross-legged to cultivate.

The mysterious voice suddenly said, "Enter the Unity Between Heart and Sword Man and Sword Unification state. Empty your mind and focus on the task at hand."

Ye Guan nodded and closed his eyes.

After a long while, he finally fell into a trance, and he felt as if he was an old man in the middle of meditation. His mind was empty, and he was completely focused on the task at hand.

He started circulating his profound energy according to the Unbeatable Fist Art's instructions, and his profound energy soon pooled in his arms. Ye Guan's eyes shot wide open, and he waved with both of his arms.

Boom!

A kilometer of spacetime in front of him was obliterated in an instant.

Ye Guan took a deep breath and grinned. He finally got it!

He looked down at his arms and realized that he had to have been too eager to succeed earlier, which meant that his mind couldn't unite with his heart, causing him to fail his previous attempts.

With that thought in mind, Ye Guan unconsciously turned to look at Ba Wan, who was still in the middle of eating. Ba Wan's power was beyond astonishing, and Ye Guan was convinced that there was another reason aside from her talent.

Her mind was simple, and she had zero distracting thoughts aside from thinking of when she would have her next meal.

Ye Guan wanted to learn the other moves, but he soon discovered that he couldn't even afford to learn them. His cultivation base was too low, and his profound energy reservoir was too small to accommodate the other moves.

The more powerful moves demanded more profound energy to execute. Pluck the Stars was the next move after Shake the Heavens, and it allowed a cultivator to pluck a star with their bare hands. Needless to say, it was incredibly powerful, but Ye Guan was confident that he could definitely not afford to learn such a move for now.

His low cultivation base was his greatest weakness. He did not feel that this was something that was holding him back in the past. After all, against someone as insignificant as Lu Tian, Ye Guan was completely unable to display his full power.

Ye Guan hadn't really been paying that much attention to his physical realm, as his tiny profound energy reservoir hadn't been bothering him against the insignificant Lu Tian.

However, the vast expanse beyond the Guanxuan Universe made Ye Guan understand that his low cultivation base was truly his greatest weakness.

For example, Ye Guan had zero chance of defeating Ba Wan at the moment because his cultivation base was too low. However, if he were an Immortal Realm cultivator, Ye Guan was confident that he would have at least a fifty percent chance of defeating Ba Wan.

How come Ye Guan was so certain about that? Well, the mysterious voice had told him that Ba Wan was an Immortal Realm cultivator, and she simply had no idea that she had a cultivation base.

Ye Guan set aside his thoughts. He had to stop cultivating the Unbeatable Fist Art and focus on making a breakthrough into the Major Tribulation Realm.

Ye Guan had been suppressing his cultivation base because he only wanted to advance to the next cultivation realm once he had a complete grasp of his current cultivation realm. This way, his foundation would have a stable foundation once he made a breakthrough into the next cultivation realm.

Ye Guan took out a few spiritual cores and started absorbing the pure spiritual energy within them. He only took out a few spiritual cores, but the combined spiritual energy they contained was on par with the spiritual energy of this entire world.

Ye Guan cultivated for a few days before he dared to spar with Ba Wan once again.

As usual, Ba Wan seized victory and suppressed him, but Ye Guan didn't mind it because he was improving by leaps and bounds.

Ye Guan's combat sense was also improving at an astonishing speed, as he had to be extremely sensitive when it came to Ba Wan's every single movement.

One mistake was enough for him to lose and receive a violent beatdown from Ba Wan, so he had to make sure that he was taking full advantage of his speed to avoid getting caught too early.

Ten days passed just like that, and Ye Guan finally reached the Major Tribulation Realm. His overall prowess had increased so much that he could feel it. In fact, Ba Wan could no longer suppress him completely.

Twenty days later, Ye Guan made another breakthrough, reaching the Law Tribulation Realm. His overall prowess improved massively, and he could now exchange a few moves with Ba Wan.

Of course, Ye Guan still couldn't defeat Ba Wan. To make matters worse, Ba Wan still hadn't used the final three moves of the Unbeatable Fist Art against him.

However, it wasn't like Ba Wan was unaware of it. She simply didn't want to lose Ye Guan, which was why she had been holding back. Ye Guan was a long-term food coupon in her eyes, and she didn't want to kill him inadvertently.

Yes, a long-term food coupon. She just had to spar with Ye Guan once a day, and the latter would cook five meals a day for her—five! It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in her eyes, and she wasn't going to let go of it.

Just like that, Ye Guan's routine remained the same for an entire month. Ye Guan was still a Great Sword Sovereign, but his prowess had increased drastically, as he had already become a Dao Tribulation Realm cultivator.

He broke through four cultivation realms in just over a month!

Unfortunately, Ye Guan's breakthrough speed wasn't really that fast. His cultivation method was the Universe Beholdment Skill, and he was absorbing spiritual cores along with the mysterious voice's guidance. He was supposed to be faster than this.

Of course, Ye Guan had slowed down his breakthrough speed on purpose.

Otherwise, his cultivation realm would have been higher than the Dao Tribulation Realm. However, Ye Guan realized that his foundation was starting to get shaky, so he decided to suppress his cultivation base in the meantime.

Ye Guan's recent breakthroughs had happened during his sparring sessions with Ba Wan. The first three moves of the Unbeatable Fist Art were no longer a threat to Ye Guan. In fact, he was starting to push Ba Wan back whenever they sparred.

His sword attacks had gotten incredibly quick, and Ba Wan was starting to have difficulties dodging Ye Guan's sword moves. Aside from his progress with his cultivation base and sparring sessions with Ba Wan, Ye Guan was also starting to comprehend the fourth move of the Unbeatable Fist Art—Plucking the Stars.

Moreover, Ye Guan was also making progress in his quest to imbue the moves of the Unbeatable Fist Art with his Invincible Sword Intent. The resulting effect was awesome, and it made the moves incredibly powerful.

Unfortunately, it consumed too much profound energy.

However, Ye Guan was thrilled. He felt like he had just pioneered a new cultivation path—merging martial arts and the sword dao!

It was also worth mentioning that Ye Guan could now wield forty swords and execute the Critical Method with each and every one of them at the same time!

An increase of ten swords didn't seem that much, but it was starting to get difficult for Ye Guan to wield more swords. In fact, if he wanted to wield forty-one swords, he would need to make another breakthrough.

The profound energy cost had gotten too expensive for him to bear.

Ye Guan decided to call it a day. He prepared two pots of meat and two pots of rice for Ba Wan. Ba Wan's appetite had never failed to shock him since the day Ye Guan discovered her shocking appetite.

Ba Wan annihilated the food that Ye Guan had cooked for her.

She washed the large bowl that she had been using and slung it over her shoulder.

Ye Guan glanced at Ba Wan's stomach and wondered. It's really weird that she's not getting fat even though she's eating so much food every day.

The mysterious voice suddenly exclaimed, "There's danger!"

Danger? Ye Guan's expression changed, and he whipped out the tiny pagoda.

Little Pagoda was beyond speechless at what he had done.

Chapter 243: Whoever Utters My Name Shall Die!

Little Pagoda really had no idea what to say. You bastard! Stop taking me out whenever you're in danger! I'm just a tiny pagoda, you dumbass!

Ye Guan hugged Little Pagoda while looking around warily. He seemed to have sensed something as he whipped around. A powerful explosion made the cave in the distance explode—no, the entire mountain exploded, sending debris all over the place.

Ye Guan's expression changed. He could feel a terrifying aura from the cave.

“Hurry up and run!” the mysterious voice exclaimed, “A Great Sovereign was actually sealed here, and he’s about to break out of his seal!”

A Great Sovereign! Ye Guan was shocked. This place has been sealing a Great Sovereign?

Ba Wan turned and ran furiously toward the village.

Ye Guan saw innumerable pieces of debris falling like rain toward the village.

Ye Guan pulled Ba Wan away and said, “It’s dangerous! We have to go!”

Ba Wan didn’t even spare him a glance as she said, “I have to protect the village! My cows are there!”

Ba Wan shook Ye Guan off and appeared above the village.

She raised her hand and roared, “Plucking the Stars!”

Boom!

A giant hand, stretching a kilometer, manifested above the village and protected it from the debris. However, the enormous power of a Great Sovereign was too much for this tiny world to endure, and the world itself fractured along with Ba Wan’s giant hand.

Ye Guan was stunned. He transformed into a beam of sword light and appeared above the village. He waved his right hand, and the tiny pagoda hovered next to him. “Master Pagoda, I know that you’re fine. Hurry up and absorb the village.”

Little Pagoda didn’t say anything in response, but a golden light enveloped the village as he sucked the entire village into the world inside the pagoda.

Ye Guan turned to Ba Wan and said, "He's too strong for us to handle. We have to run!"

With that, Ye Guan dragged Ba Wan away with him.

Tens of thousands of golden light rays blossomed from the fractures in the world. An entire world was currently disintegrating beneath the full extent of a Great Sovereign's wrath, creating a terrifying sight.

Ye Guan's expression was solemn as he dragged Ba Wan away, but his expression changed upon realizing that thousands of golden rays of light had surrounded them.

Ye Guan pulled Ba Wan behind him out of instinct, and he let out a low grunt as he unleashed the full extent of his energy. Unfortunately, his sword energy was too weak to contend against the golden rays of light.

Ye Guan and Ba Wan had no choice but to keep on retreating. Ye Guan's fleshly body was starting to crumble from the intense pressure and the exertion.

Ba Wan froze and stopped running upon seeing Ye Guan's body disintegrate into nothingness whenever a golden ray of light struck him. Ba Wan abruptly dragged Ye Guan behind her before she pushed both of her palms outward with all her might.

Rumble!

A powerful energy burst out of her palms. The world itself quivered, but Ba Wan's power was too weak compared to the golden rays of light.

Bam!

Ba Wan and Ye Guan were sent flying away, and the two of them crashed harshly to the ground. Ye Guan frowned in pain. He felt like all his bones had fractured from the impact just now.

Ba Wan was in his arms, but shockingly, she was unscathed. Actually, not even her clothes sustained any damage.

What was going on?

Ba Wan struggled out of Ye Guan's arms and looked at the latter.

"Are... you okay?" she asked.

Ye Guan chuckled bitterly and said, "I won't die from this."

Ba Wan went quiet.

Ye Guan took out a spiritual pill and swallowed it.

He looked around and saw that the debris was gone, but there was a middle-aged man not too far away from them.

The middle-aged man was really tall. He seemed to be about 2.4 meters tall and was wearing a huge long robe. His long hair draped over his shoulders. Talismans were all over him, and they slowly fell off of him.

The middle-aged man was someone who had been bestowed the Great Sovereign title.

Ye Guan's expression was grim as he stared at the middle-aged man. Those with a Great Sovereign title weren't necessarily as strong as Divine Sovereigns, but they were still elite cultivators in their own right. In fact, any Great Sovereign out there would be a top cultivator in the True Universe, not to mention in the All Worlds.

Ye Guan was curious. Who sealed him here? Was it the True God?

The Great Sovereign's gaze seemed nonchalant as he stared at both Ye Guan and Ba Wan, but his gaze seemed capable of seeing through anything. His gaze also seemed like it contained the might of a world as the spacetime around Ye Guan and Ba Wan shattered at once.

Ba Wan quickly pulled Ye Guan behind her and punched out with her right fist.

Unfortunately, her opponent was a Great Sovereign.

Bam!

Ye Guan and Ba Wan were sent flying. When they landed, blood spurted like an arrow out of Ba Wan's mouth. Ye Guan also felt as if every bone in his body had been crushed. He was in excruciating pain.

Ba Wan abruptly jumped up. She dragged Ye Guan away somewhere.

Ye Guan was shocked.

"Ba Wan, what are you doing?" he asked.

Ba Wan dragged Ye Guan behind a giant boulder, and she peeked out of the boulder to stare at the Great Sovereign. She clenched her fists and was about to make a move when Ye Guan grabbed her and said, "We can't defeat him."

Ba Wan was extremely powerful, but there was no way she could defeat a Great Sovereign.

Ba Wan looked at Ye Guan and said, "I'm not afraid."

Ye Guan was stunned. "Let's be reasonable here."

With that, he stood up and pulled Ba Wan behind him. Ba Wan was really fierce, and he was afraid that she would make things worse for them.

Ba Wan quietly allowed Ye Guan to pull her behind him.

Ye Guan looked up at the middle-aged man in the sky.

The middle-aged man met Ye Guan's gaze and reappeared in front of the both of them.

Ye Guan sounded neither arrogant nor subservient as he said, "Senior, we were just passing by. We have no ill intent toward you."

The middle-aged man looked at him with a hint of surprise.

"Peak Great Sword Sovereign and a Martial God..." he muttered.

Ye Guan nodded. He wasn't surprised that the middle-aged man saw through him.

His Master Pagoda wasn't hiding his aura at the moment, after all.

The middle-aged man suddenly asked, "Was that a pagoda?"

Ye Guan nodded and said, "It was a pagoda, and it was my Master Pagoda."

The middle-aged man looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Can I take a look?"

The middle-aged man didn't even wait for Ye Guan's response. An immense power enveloped Ye Guan and Ba Wan. Afterward, the tiny pagoda was forcefully ripped out of Ye Guan.

Ye Guan quietly stared at the middle-aged man.

The middle-aged man looked at the pagoda and nodded with bright eyes. "This is amazing. There's a huge time difference between the time in this pagoda and the time in the outside world."

The middle-aged man stared at Ye Guan and said, "I want this pagoda. What do you say?"

So he wants to steal my pagoda? Ye Guan froze. He didn't expect that such a powerful supreme elite would snatch his tiny pagoda. He was truly astonished.

"I'll take your silence as yes," said the middle-aged man.

Ye Guan smiled. "If you wish to take it, sir, then feel free to take it away."

His Master Pagoda hadn't protested, so he wouldn't protest as well.

The middle-aged man nodded slightly and turned around to leave.

However, he seemed to have thought of something as he stopped and turned around.

"I'm still worried." He stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, "You're a peak Great Sword Sovereign and a Martial God at the same time. You're seriously talented. I don't want to bring trouble to my clan, so I've decided to kill you."

Ye Guan looked at the middle-aged man and said, "You're more than ten realms higher than me."

The middle-aged man smiled and replied, "So what."

Ye Guan explained, "My mother said that I'd have to fight opponents within ten realms above my current cultivation realm myself, but she said that my aunt would help me against opponents more than ten realms higher than me."

Little Pagoda was shocked. Your aunt? Wasn't it your parents? When did it change?

“Pfft!” The middle-aged man chuckled and said, “I was already peerless and invincible when I was thirty. I defeated every talent from everywhere aside from the talents of the True Universe, so do you really think that your aunt can beat me, young man?”

Ye Guan stared deeply at the middle-aged man and calmly said, “You’ve been bestowed upon the Great Sovereign title, so don’t you think you’re going overboard by bullying someone like me with neither family background nor backup?”

The middle-aged man smiled and asked back, “So what if I want to bully you?”

The middle-aged man had already reached the peak, so he rarely bothered with mere ants. However, he found it pretty fun to bully ants occasionally. It felt nice to see the helplessness and despair of those weaker than him

Ye Guan stared at the middle-aged man and said, “My aunt is very good at fighting.”

The middle-aged man’s curiosity was piqued.

He chuckled before asking, “She’s very good at fighting?”

“That’s right.” Ye Guan nodded and said seriously, “My aunt is invincible, and she has never used more than one sword move to kill her opponents.”

The middle-aged man smiled in amusement and asked, “What’s her name?”

Ye Guan looked straight at him and replied, “Plain-Skirt Destiny.”

“Plain-Skirt Destiny?” The middle-aged man frowned. He pondered over the name briefly before smiling. “I’ve never heard of that name before. She’s probably just a bigger ant somewhere—”

Buzz!

The world quivered as a spacetime rift manifested above the middle-aged man.

A powerful sword energy exited the rift.

The middle-aged man's expression changed as he looked up. He clenched his fist and sent a punch against the oncoming sword energy. He had moved in a hurry just now, but his fist still contained enough power to destabilize the world.

Boom!

The middle-aged man's fist exploded into a bloody mist, and the sword energy bored a hole in his fist and struck his head, pinning him to the ground.

Ye Guan's eyelids twitched. He felt overwhelmed. Just how powerful is my aunt? I feel like it's impossible to deduce her true strength!

He was a bit doubtful earlier, but now, he was thoroughly convinced. His aunt had just killed someone who had been bestowed the Great Sovereign title. In other words, Plain-Skirt Destiny had just killed someone on the same level as the Unyielding Sovereign.

Ye Guan couldn't help but feel that Great Sovereigns were too weak, and they truly weren't at the apex. However, he also found the turn of events a bit too surreal. How come that the opponents his aunt had to face so far were like mere ants before her?

Ye Guan was stupefied when his train of thought reached that point.

Meanwhile, the middle-aged man's pupils had shrunk to the size of needles out of fear and disbelief.

"How can this be... this is impossible..." he muttered.

Ye Guan sounded serious as he said, "I also think that it's a bit absurd."

The Great Sovereign's expression froze, and he went silent.

Ba Wan tugged on Ye Guan's sleeve and asked seriously, "Is he stuck right now?"

Ye Guan nodded.

Suddenly, Ba Wan dashed out and punched at the Great Sovereign.

Boom!

Ba Wan was sent flying away.

Ye Guan's expression stiffened as he rushed to help her up.

Ba Wan looked down at her hand and exclaimed, sounding aggrieved, "It hurts!"

Ye Guan's face darkened as he stared at Ba Wan. He gave her a spiritual pill to consume before looking at the Great Sovereign. At this moment, the Great Sovereign was like a lost ghost as he kept on muttering, "Impossible... this is impossible..."

The middle-aged man felt like the world was collapsing around him.

He was a Great Sovereign! Aside from the supreme elites of the True Universe, no one was worthy of becoming his opponent. However, someone a vast distance away had actually killed his fleshly body and even pinned his soul down using just a wave of sword energy.

The middle-aged man couldn't quite accept it, and he hollered, "Who are you?!"

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Senior, what's the name of your clan?"

Little Pagoda shook his head with a smile. It seemed Ye Guan wanted to uproot the trouble from its roots and make sure that he wouldn't have any issues later down the road.

The Great Sovereign looked extremely wary of Ye Guan.

"What are you going to do with that information?" he asked.

Ye Guan hesitated before saying, "I'm going to ask them to come here and collect your corpse."

The Great Sovereign glared at him.

Ye Guan hurriedly said, "Really, that's it. I'm not going to annihilate your entire clan..."

The Great Sovereign sounded solemn as he said, "Young man, I failed to recognize just how powerful you are. It is my fault, and I admit it, so can we just leave things here and let bygones be bygones?"

It turned out that there was a reason the middle-aged man earned his title.

He knew when to advance and retreat.

However, Ye Guan shook his head. "No, I can't."

Boom!

The sword energy within the Great Sovereign spurred into action, and the Great Sovereign's soul was annihilated.

Ye Guan was silent. His aunt had just killed a supreme elite right in front of his eyes.

The Great Sovereign looked absolutely stupefied, and he perished without being able to resolve his unfinished business. Ye Guan's aunt had killed him as if he were an insect.

Just how powerful was his aunt?

Ye Guan stared at the starry skies in a daze.

A woman wearing a blood-red skirt was somewhere in the vast expanse, and there wasn't a single hint of emotion in her eyes.

Whoever utters my name shall die unless they're my relatives!

Chapter 244: Please Head Back Immediately

After a long while, Ye Guan looked away. He shook his head and smiled. It was only after he left the Guanxuan Universe that he realized his insignificance. He truly had to work even harder for him to amount to anything!

His father was powerful, but his father's strength didn't belong to Ye Guan but to his father.

The same was true for his aunt and grandfather.

Ye Guan could only call himself powerful once he actually became powerful in his own right.

He was the weakest member of his family, and he couldn't quite accept it.

He had to work even harder to become even stronger.

Ba Wan suddenly tugged on his sleeve and muttered, "The village..."

Ye Guan hurriedly looked at the hovering tiny pagoda.

“Master Pagoda,” he said.

The tiny pagoda trembled, and a golden ray shot out of him.

Moments later, the village appeared.

Ba Wan rushed to the village. Ye Guan followed her, and he soon heard Ba Wan’s sorrowful cry.

Ye Guan was stunned, and he saw Ba Wan sobbing on an old cow.

The old cow’s dead?

Ye Guan saw a bloody patch on the cow’s head. Ye Guan was silent.

The old cow was unlucky enough to get hit by debris before they could get to the village.

Ba Wan’s cries were heartbreaking as she sobbed on the old cow.

Ye Guan hesitated at the sight.

In the end, he walked up next to her and said, “Don’t be too sad.”

Ba Wan wiped her tears away and asked, “Does beef taste better when boiled or grilled?”

Ye Guan’s eyes widened in shock.

The old cow: “...”

Ye Guan was convinced that Ba Wan truly loved the old cow, so he was caught off guard when it turned out that Ba Wan had been wanting to eat the old cow all this while.

Ye Guan proceeded to butcher the old cow, and Ba Wan kept on crying as she chewed on the old cow's meat. "My cow... it was already so old, but it died in such a painful way—Mmhmm. It tastes great."

Ye Guan picked up another slice of beef and nodded. "Brother cow, have a safe journey to the afterlife."

The old cow: "..."

Soon, the two finished their meal, and Ba Wan buried the old cow's bones.

Ye Guan looked at her and asked, "Do you want to go with me?"

Ba Wan turned to look at Ye Guan. She seemed to be in a daze as she asked, "Go?"

Ye Guan nodded and explained, "I mean, the outside world."

Ba Wan hesitated before saying, "I've never left this place."

Ye Guan smiled and asked, "Are you not curious about the outside world?"

"What will happen to my meals?" asked Ba Wan.

"You can eat all you can outside!" Ye Guan proudly declared.

Ba Wan hurriedly slung her large bowl on her shoulder.

"Let's go!" she said.

Ye Guan chuckled and exclaimed, "All right, let's go!"

With that, Ye Guan led Ba Wan, and the two eventually made it out of the small world where the village was located.

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Ba Wan, where are your parents?"

Ba Wan chewed on a piece of dragon meat as she asked, "I don't have any parents."

Ye Guan frowned. "You don't have any parents?"

Ba Wan nodded. "I grew up in the village, and none of them knew the identity of my parents. All they know is that I suddenly appeared at the entrance of the village one day, and every household in the village worked hard to feed me.

"However, they suddenly didn't want to feed me anymore."

Ye Guan stared deeply at Ba Wan and was convinced that her background was extraordinary.

Ba Wan suddenly said, "You weren't the first cultivator to have arrived at the village. There were others before you, and they coveted that fist art."

Ye Guan looked at Ba Wan and asked, "Why did you not bring them to that cave?"

Ba Wan remained calm as she replied, "Aren't outsiders supposed to treat their hosts to a meal if they want to receive any help? How can I help them when they didn't offer me anything to eat?"

Ye Guan had nothing to say to that.

“Why did you save my village?” asked Ba Wan.

Ye Guan smiled and said, “It’s because we’re friends....”

Friends. Ba Wan stared deeply at Ye Guan for quite a while before asking, “How much dragon meat do you have? Is there enough for me to eat?”

Ye Guan laughed and said, “Yep. You’ll definitely have enough dragon meat to eat!”

Ba Wan sounded serious as she admitted, “I drove several families into bankruptcy through eating.”

“Don’t worry.” Ye Guan chuckled and said, “You can’t bankrupt me through meals alone.”

Ba Wan was confused. “Why not?”

Ye Guan smiled and explained, “My mother has a lot of money.”

Ba Wan blinked and replied, “Okay. From now on, your mother is my mother.”

Ye Guan almost fell to the ground, and his smile faded as he was rendered speechless.

Ye Guan soon brought Ba Wan to the All World City. Ba Wan looked around curiously. It was her first time seeing so many people, and everything was interesting to her.

Ye Guan bought her a lot of things, and Ba Wan was all smiles throughout their shopping trip. Soon, Ye Guan brought Ba Wan to a clothing store. He looked around and found a dark blue dress. “I want this.”

The lady boss looked at Ye Guan. She could tell from Ye Guan's demeanor that he was someone of noble blood. Realizing that a valuable guest had arrived, she quickly took the dark blue dress and presented it to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan handed the dark blue skirt over to Ba Wan and smiled. "Wear this."

Ba Wan's plain clothes were beyond saving after their brief battle against a Great Sovereign.

Ba Wan looked at the dress in surprise and asked, "Is this for me?"

Ye Guan smiled and nodded. "Yes."

Ba Wan hesitated before saying softly, "I don't have any money."

A village elder had told her that money was necessary to get anything outside.

"I have money," said Ye Guan, "Don't worry; just hurry up and change."

Ba Wan hesitated, but she eventually nodded and said, "Okay."

With that, she took the dress with her into one of the changing rooms.

Meanwhile, the lady boss hesitated before saying, "Young Lord, that was what we call the Flowing Fairy Skirt, and a powerful defensive array was embroidered on it to defend the wearer from attacks. It does come at a steep price."

Ye Guan asked, "How much?"

The lady said somberly, "Three hundred thousand immortal spiritual crystals."

Three hundred thousand! Ye Guan was a bit shocked, but he still opened his palm. A storage ring floated over to the lady boss, and the storage ring contained exactly three hundred thousand immortal spiritual crystals.

“Go help her change,” said Ye Guan to the lady boss.

The lady boss nodded frantically with a smile. “Yes, yes, yes! Leave it to me!”

The lady boss then stored the storage ring away and ran over to the changing room.

Moments later, Ba Wan walked out of the changing room.

Ye Guan’s eyes lit up because Ba Wan seemed to have undergone a complete change.

Her looks alone weren’t particularly stunning or eye-catching at first impression, but she was easy on the eyes. Her clear, big eyes also made everyone feel as though they were staring into a pristine lake.

Ba Wan looked more demure upon changing into a dress.

Ye Guan walked up to Ba Wan and smiled before asking, “What’s wrong?”

Ba Wan blinked and asked, “Can we eat now?”

Ye Guan was startled, but he grinned and said, “Sure!”

He proceeded to buy a few more dresses for Ba Wan before bringing her out of the store. The two approached a noodle shop. Ye Guan believed that Ba Wan had to eat a variety of dishes rather than just meat every day, and he also felt obligated to make her taste dishes that she had never tried before.

Ba Wan annihilated eight bowls of rice in the blink of an eye, and not even a single drop of soup remained in her bowls, stunning everyone.

Rumble!

The spacetime rift abruptly appeared overhead, and a golden ray of light shot out of the rift, surprising the entire city. The golden ray of light meant that the newcomer was most likely a Divine Spirit from the True Universe.

Ye Guan looked up and saw a young man in white looking down at the city.

"I'm here to fight!" he shouted. His voice echoed throughout the entire All World City.

Ye Guan placed a storage ring on the counter and said, "Boss, please keep cooking noodles for this lady. Keep doing it until she's full."

With that, Ye Guan stood up.

Ba Wan grabbed his arm and looked at him.

"Are you going to fight?" she asked.

Ye Guan nodded and smiled. "Yes."

Ba Wan stared deeply at Ye Guan before saying, "Let me help you."

Ye Guan grinned. "Just leave it to me!"

Ye Guan's motive for bringing Ba Wan out of that tiny world wasn't to turn her into his fighter. He truly wanted to show her the outside world. Perhaps she would have a brighter future here.

Ye Guan turned around and hopped onto his sword.

Ba Wan continued to annihilate bowls of noodles while staring intently at the young man in white in annoyance.

Ye Guan appeared in front of the young man in white.

The young man in white stared at Ye Guan and said, "The True Universe has declared that it's going to fight using its younger generation against the members of the Guanxuan Universe's younger generation.

"Don't worry, we won't bully you, and we won't gang up on you as well."

Ye Guan nodded and asked, "Are we going to fight now?"

"Sure," said the young man in white. He stepped out, and an overwhelming energy enveloped Ye Guan. It turned out that the young man in white was an Earth Immortal Realm cultivator.

The young man in white's domain was both massive and powerful. He was just in his twenties, but he could already control such a powerful domain. In other words, he had to be a prodigy even in the True Universe.

However, he shouldn't have come here. The True God Hall had already announced Ye Guan's true prowess, and everyone in the True Universe was definitely aware that only the top twenty on the True Martial List were qualified to fight Ye Guan.

The young man in white wasn't in the top twenty, but he was on the list!

Of course, the young man in white was aware of Ye Guan's true prowess, but the bounty was simply too alluring for him to ignore. A billion spiritual cores meant a million true core crystals! It was an offer that the young man in white couldn't quite resist.

Naturally, the young man in white man had another motive in mind.

He wanted clout.

Killing Ye Guan meant he wiping away the humiliation that the True Universe had suffered under the hands of the Sword Master many years ago. It had been millions of years since then, but the True Universe and its denizens were still resentful.

The main reason the True Universe had been fighting the Guanxuan Universe over the past thirty million years was in an effort to annihilate the Guanxuan Universe and wash away the humiliation that it had suffered on that fateful day.

Unfortunately, the Sword Master was so strong that only the True God could fight him.

However, what about his son? The young man in white grinned at the thought.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan abruptly vanished.

Boom!

He unleashed thirty swords at once, and they were all empowered by his Invincible Sword Intent.

The thirty swords combined forces and shattered the young man in white's domain.

The young man in white's eyes narrowed, and he was about to make another move, but he was sent flying under everyone's pensive gazes. The young man in white's fleshly body disintegrated as he streaked across the skies.

Shockingly, even his soul was starting to disintegrate into nothingness.

The young man in white perished in just one sword move from Ye Guan, rendering everyone speechless in disbelief.

However, the young man's disintegrating soul was reformed under the effects of dimensional suppression. A Divine Spirit from a higher dimension couldn't die in a low-dimensional world, and it was primarily because Divine Spirits would often descend on a low-dimensional world without their true bodies.

Ye Guan's brows furrowed. He was aware of just how difficult it was to kill Divine Spirits, and Divine Spirits could only truly die at the Xuzhen Battlefield, and it was all thanks to the effects of the Sky-Connecting Pagoda.

The young man in white's soul soon recovered.

He looked down at Ye Guan and sneered, "You can't kill me."

"Do you want me to try?" asked Ye Guan.

The young man guffawed and shouted, "Bring it on!"

Ye Guan nodded and vanished.

The young man in white was confident that he wouldn't die, so he didn't even defend himself. Divine Spirits could only die in the Xuzhen Battlefield or against supreme elites like a Great Sovereign or cultivators with peculiar innate abilities.

Ye Guan reappeared in front of the young man in white with another sword in hand—the Path Sword.

The young man in white's heart was gripped by an intense sense of foreboding upon seeing the sword, but it was too late for him to dodge.

Shwik!

The Path Sword pierced the young man in white's glabella.

Boom!

The young man in white's soul quivered violently. His expression distorted in fury, and he stammered, "Y-y-you... you killed my true body!"

"That's right," Ye Guan said coldly, "Dumbass!"

"..."

The young man in white vanished and perished through and through.

Ye Guan looked down at his Path Sword with a grim look.

The Path Sword was seriously overpowered.

All of a sudden, Ye Guan seemed to have recalled something as he turned to look at Ba Wan. Thirty large empty bowls had piled up in front of Ba Wan, but it seemed that she still had room for some more noodles.

She's still eating?! Ye Guan was astonished.

Ba Wan was still eating while staring at Ye Guan up above.

Ye Guan could only shake his head and smile.

Rumble!

A deep rumbling echoed as the spacetime in front of Ye Guan was torn open. An old man walked out of the rift in space and bowed deeply to Ye Guan before saying, "Young Master, something happened at the Xuzhen Battlefield. Please head back immediately!"

Ye Guan's face immediately fell at the old man's words.

Chapter 245: His True Body

Xuzhen Battlefield.

Ever since the True Universe's announcement, a golden teleportation array appeared on the Xuzhen Battlefield. Talents from the True Universe would come out of the golden teleportation array every day.

Hardly anyone could resist the bounty on Ye Guan's head.

Cultivation was free in the True Universe, and everyone would receive a fixed amount of spiritual cores every month. However, the monthly stipend wasn't enough, especially once one's cultivation base was high enough.

And that was exactly why the True God Hall's offer was irresistible.

In addition, the True Universe had already declared war on the Guanxuan Universe's younger generation.

It was also a war they couldn't afford to lose. They had to make sure that the Guanxuan Universe would lose all talented members of their younger generation. Otherwise, the All Worlds and the other universes would eventually revolt.

They couldn't allow that to happen, so the younger generation of the True Universe had been visiting the Guanxuan Universe in droves. In fact, even those who weren't from the True Universe had been visiting the Guanxuan Universe for the sake of fighting the Guanxuan Universe's young talents.

A young man in black hovered above the Xuzhen Battlefield. His hands were hidden in his wide robe, and lightning flashed around him. Lightning bolts incessantly bombarded different areas of the battlefield.

The young man was none other than Ye Qing.

Ye Qing had been standing at the helm of the Guanxuan Universe's younger generation since Ye Guan's departure. Ye Qing had gotten even stronger over the past few months, and he was now an Immortal Realm cultivator.

In addition, he had gotten a hold of nine Laws from the initial five, and it was all thanks to the Guanxuan Academy's help.

As Ye Guan's brother, the Guanxuan Academy didn't neglect Ye Qing and provided him with everything. Ye Qing's power grew tremendously upon getting a hold of nine Laws. He had also been fighting nonstop over the past few months.

Cao Bai, Ye Guanzhi, and the other members of the Guanxuan Universe's younger generation also received ample support from the Guanxuan Academy and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

The True Universe had lured talents to fight in the Xuzhen Battlefield, and the Guanxuan Universe had done the same. The young talents of the Guanxuan Universe were all headed to the Xuzhen Battlefield.

The Guanxuan Universe was doing its best to groom and grow the next generation of talents. Actually, they had been doing it all along. Mu Tiandao and the rest sought out cultivators to teach. The only difference between what they had been doing long ago and what they were doing now was just the scale.

They had gone all out this time. Fortunately, they had the support of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. Otherwise, there was no way they could do all this using the resources of the Guanxuan Academy alone.

Behind Ye Qing stood Cao Bai and the others. The most powerful members of the Guanxuan Universe's younger generation were here.

Ye Qing stared calmly at the spacetime tunnel exuding a golden light.

Hundreds of Divine Spirits stood in front of the tunnel, and they were looking at Ye Qing and the others with serious expressions. They had exchanged blows, and the Divine Spirits knew that the Guanyuan Universe's younger generation was strong.

A man slowly walked out of the spacetime tunnel.

Everyone's eyes landed on the man. He was wearing a tight purple gown, and his long hair was tied up in a bun. His sharp eyebrows and overall demeanor made him seem like a hero.

A long sword was hanging by his waist.

The sword was about a meter long, and silver thread was wrapped around the sword's sheath.

The man walked forward, and his aura alone made the surrounding spacetime tremble.

"Rong Ruo!" exclaimed one of the young men in front of the spacetime tunnel. "Ranked twelfth on the True Martial List!"

The crowd exploded into a cacophony of noises. The True Martial List was similar to the Guanyuan Academy's Divine Martial List, and every individual on the list was one of the most powerful individuals among the younger generation of the True Universe.

The True Universe was massive, containing myriad worlds, so one had to be a heaven-defying monstrous talent to become a part of the True Martial List.

Rong Ruo was only nineteen years old, but he was already an Earth Immortal Realm cultivator. Amazingly, Rong Ruo managed to defeat a cultivator three realms above him, which was the Peak Immortal Realm. The Peak Immortal Realm cultivator he had defeated wasn't simple, as he was previously ranked twenty on the True Martial List.

He was an incredible talent who reached the Peak Immortal Realm despite his young age of twenty. In other words, he was a monstrous talent capable of defeating cultivators multiple realms above him, yet he suffered defeat at the hands of Rong Ruo.

How scary was that?

The Divine Spirits were surprised to see Rong Ruo here.

It seemed that the True Universe had truly mobilized the talents on the True Martial List.

The war between the Guanxuan Universe and the True Universe was previously between the members of the older generation. Therefore, the True Universe refrained from sending any of their younger generation talents to the Guanxuan Universe.

The members of the Guanxuan Universe's older generation were strong enough to charge into the True Universe, and they even almost made it into the True God Hall, which meant that the younger generation of the True Universe was bound to lose against them.

However, the war was now between the younger generation of both universes.

The older generation wasn't going to interfere, so the younger generation would have to step up and fight.

"He's here in his true body!" someone exclaimed in disbelief. Rong Ruo had actually come here with his true body?

It had to be known that the Divine Spirits here had come with their avatars rather than their true bodies. This way, they would be able to escape certain death despite the Sky-Connecting Pagoda's presence. It was like having a lifeline.

In other words, they could fight the members of the Guanxuan Universe's younger generation for as long as they wanted because they could escape at the slightest hint that the situation was going sour.

However, Rong Ruo had come here with his true body. In other words, he would actually die if he lost here. The Divine Spirits were stupefied by the revelation.

Cao Bai and the others were equally surprised, and their expressions grew somber.

Rong Ruo's decision to come here with his true body meant that he was confident in his chances of winning.

Ye Qing cast a calm gaze at Rong Ruo.

Rong Ruo slowly walked over to Ye Qing without removing his eyes from the latter.

Soon, he stood about a hundred meters away from Ye Qing. He didn't bother speaking nonsense as he dashed at Ye Qing and unsheathed his sword.

Shwing!

A kilometer of spacetime cracked open, and a sword appeared in front of Ye Qing.

Boom!

A deafening sound echoed as the ground trembled.

Bam!

A lightning bolt burst open in front of Ye Qing, and the collision forced him to retreat several hundred meters away. However, a sword appeared in front of him before he could even recover.

Woosh!

The sword contained a powerful energy that made it seem capable of splitting the world into two with just one slash.

Ye Qing's eyes narrowed, and his expression turned grim upon seeing the oncoming sword. Rong Ruo was the most powerful swordsman he had faced so far, so Ye Qing didn't dare to be negligent.

He clenched his fists, and lightning burst from his palm.

Crackle!

The lightning struck Rong Ruo's sword and deflected it.

Both Ye Qing and Rong Ruo were powerful cultivators, and the shockwaves created from their collisions shattered the surrounding spacetime.

Fortunately, the Heavenly Dao of the Xuzhen World didn't dare to slack as it hurriedly repaired every spacetime fracture. The Heavenly Dao was aware that Mu Tiandao was still here along with the other powerful ancestors.

The Heavenly Dao thought that it was time for it to show off, so it instantly healed every spacetime fracture that appeared around Rong Ruo and Ye Qing.

Rong Ruo suddenly rushed at Ye Qing and pressed his palm on his sword.

Boom!

Ye Qing's lightning shield abruptly scattered, sending him flying away.

Rong Ruo stepped forward and blinked in front of Ye Qing.

He raised his sword up high and brought it down toward Ye Qing's head. The sword seemed capable of slicing anything as easily as if they were bamboo.

Ye Qing's eyes flashed sinisterly. He growled and placed his hands together.

Crackle!

Lightning and flames burst out of him, creating a terrifying combination that made Rong Ruo retreat.

Ye Qing stomped with his right foot and roared, "Come!"

A golden imprint appeared between Ye Qing's brows.

Rumble!

The ground rumbled as the Great Earth Force in the Xuzhen World's mantle burst out of the earth and shattered spacetime to appear in front of Rong Ruo.

However, Ye Qing wasn't quite done just yet. He snapped his fingers, and wind blades abruptly manifested. The wind blades spun like tops, and they all made a beeline for Rong Ruo. Each wind blade contained enough power to tear space into pieces.

Rong Ruo frowned, but he remained undeterred as he swung his sword.

Woosh!

A thousand sword lights dazzled everyone as Rong Ruo's sword collided against the wind blades and the beam of Great Earth Force. Rong Ruo's sword was deflected, but he quickly took on another stance to unleash another sword move.

Unfortunately for him, Ye Qing wasn't going to let him do what he wished.

A star imprint appeared on Ye Qing's glabella as star energy from the depths of the vast expanse converged on Ye Qing.

Star Law!

Starlight from the vast expanse flew at incredible speeds to the Xuzhen World and struck Ye Qing. Ye Qing's aura surged as the starlight entered him, and the surroundings seemed to throb as he got even stronger as time went on.

Rong Ruo's eyes narrowed at the sight. He closed his eyes and gripped his sword tightly. He stood still—extremely still.

All of a sudden, Ye Qing rushed toward Rong Ruo and sent a punch containing the power of multiple stars, creating a hundred-meter star fist imprint.

Boom!

The spacetime around Ye Qing crumbled away into nothingness.

Rong Ruo's eyes shot open, and he vanished into thin air like a ghost, leaving behind only the dazzling light of his sword.

The onlookers stared with bated breaths as the sword collided with the star fist imprint.

Boom!

The star fist imprint shattered, and a powerful shockwave spread throughout the Xuzhen Battlefield. Rong Ruo slashed down once to break the oncoming shockwave before rushing toward Ye Qing with a sword in hand.

Ye Qing's face turned fierce as he rushed toward Rong Ruo.

Ye Qing would meet him halfway!

Boom!

A deafening explosion echoed between the heavens and the earth, and someone cut a sorry figure as they were sent flying by the collision.

Chapter 246: Can Die But Cannot Lose!

The figure belonged to none other than Ye Qing. He was sent flying several hundred meters away, and he left a trail of lightning and flames as he flew, which created a frightening sight.

Cao Bai and the others turned solemn as they turned to look at the sword-wielding young man clad in purple. The young man was horrifyingly powerful.

Meanwhile, Ye Qing was still in mid-air when Rong Ruo slashed out with his sword.

“Die!” roared Rong Ruo.

Boom!

The sword seemed to have split the world into two as it made a beeline for Ye Qing. A lightning imprint appeared between Ye Qing’s glabella, and he kicked off of the empty air.

Crackle!

A lightning bolt exploded beneath his feet, sending him flying toward Rong Ruo.

Once again, he remained steadfast and didn’t retreat. He was going to meet Rong Ruo’s attack midway.

Rong Ruo was extremely powerful, but Ye Qing knew that if he were to retreat at this critical juncture, the other Divine Spirits would deem him weak. Moreover, Rong Ruo would become extremely powerful in the eyes of the Guanyuan Universe's talents.

To make matters worse, Rong Ruo would easily destroy him if he were to retreat.

Hence, he chose to fight.

Everyone watched as the lightning clashed with the sword.

Kaboom!

Lightning crackled and pervaded the battlefield. The collision produced a powerful shockwave that swept across the battlefield, and it forced both Ye Qing and Rong Ruo away.

When they finally found their footing, they discovered that they were over a kilometer away from each other.

Rong Ruo was still holding his sword tightly in his right hand as his figure exuded a powerful sword energy and a dazzling sword light. The collision earlier made the space around them tremble violently as if it had become liquid.

Ye Qing was like a lightning god as lightning danced about him. His aura wasn't as fierce as Rong Ruo's aura, but it was like a boundless ocean, making the spacetime around him swell similar to the waves in the ocean.

The Divine Spirits wore pensive looks as they stared at Ye Qing. They didn't expect that Ye Qing would be strong enough to actually match up to Rong Ruo.

The Guanyuan Universe had always been resisting the True Universe, but the younger generation of the True Universe had always looked down on the younger generation of the Guanyuan Universe.

The True Universe's younger generation had always remained victorious whenever the younger generation talents from both sides fought each other, so the young Divine Spirits were truly surprised to learn that the Guanxuan Universe's younger generation was much stronger than they thought.

Meanwhile, Rong Ruo stared deeply at Ye Qing. His eyes shone with delight and a desire to fight. It would have been too boring if the younger generation of the Guanxuan Universe were too weak. Fortunately, it didn't seem to be the case.

"Die!" Rong Ruo roared and made a beeline for Ye Qing.

Crack!

The echoes of his voice could still be heard, but the spacetime in front of Ye Qing had already split open, spitting out a sword.

This sword was extremely fast, and it reached Ye Qing in the blink of an eye.

However, Ye Qing was prepared. He clenched his fists, and the lightning imprint from his glabella flew out and struck the sword.

Boom!

The resulting explosion was so powerful that both Ye Qing and Rong Ruo were sent flying several kilometers away. Everything between them had cracked, looking like they would crumble anytime soon.

Blood trickled down the corner of Ye Qing's mouth, and his arms were a mangled mess.

Blood also dripped down Rong Ruo's lips. Clearly, their exchange just now left the two of them with injuries. Rong Ruo wiped the corner of his mouth and smiled at Ye Qing before disappearing once more.

Swoosh!

Rong Ruo left only afterimages as he rushed toward Ye Qing from afar.

Ye Qing's eyes narrowed. He put his palms together, and the projection of a giant lightning god appeared above his head. The projection seemed to be about a kilometer tall, and it roared furiously before sending a punch toward Rong Ruo.

Boom!

Lightning converged on the lightning god as its fist streaked across the skies. The surrounding spacetime throbbed powerfully before shattering into innumerable light crystals.

Rong Ruo's sword light shattered, and he was sent flying at least several hundred meters away.

The expressions of the Divine Spirits turned solemn at the sight.

Ye Qing suddenly hollered, "Die!"

Boom!

The lightning god roared as it swung both of its arms at Rong Ruo.

Kaboom!

Lightning shot out from the lightning god projection. The battlefield was instantly transformed into a sea of lightning that threatened to drown Rong Ruo beneath its tumultuous waves.

The Divine Spirits felt their organs shift, and their hearts were stuck in their throats.

They glared defiantly at the sea of lightning.

Swoosh!

A dazzling sword light emerged from the sea of lightning.

Rong Ruo flew behind the dazzling sword light. Upon emerging from the sea of lightning, he turned and slashed out a few times with his sword. His powerful sword energy lacerated the sea of lightning and tore it apart.

Ye Qing's eyes narrowed. He spread his arms, and a star imprint appeared on his right hand. A flame imprint appeared on his left hand, while six different imprints appeared simultaneously on his forehead.

The onlookers' grew solemn at the sight.

Law imprints! The law imprints Ye Qing had been carrying weren't the imprints of ordinary Laws. They were the Nine Dao Laws that the Great Daoist Brush Master had created himself, and they all represented the world's nine order of forces.

Rong Ruo closed his eyes slowly and gripped his sword tightly.

His figure blurred, seemingly turning ephemeral.

"That's his famous move—A Thousand Dreams!" exclaimed a Divine Spirit.

Rong Ruo vanished when the Divine Spirit's voice fell.

Boom!

The spacetime in the four cardinal directions around Rong Ruo simultaneously exploded as a four-kilometer-tall sword manifested and inundated everything around Rong Ruo.

Ye Qing's pupils constricted, and he clenched his fists. The giant lightning god projection roared and clenched its fists as well before sending a flurry of punches toward the oncoming four-kilometer-tall sword.

Hundreds of thousands of lightning bolts cascaded toward the four-kilometer-tall sword.

Rumble!

A deluge of sword energy burst out of Rong Ruo and headed for Ye Qing.

The skies above the Xuzhen Battlefield were filled with nothing but deafening explosions. A beam of sword light would crumble into innumerable light particles with every explosion, creating an awe-inspiring but terrifying sight.

The explosions lasted for an hour, and the lightning god projection above Ye Qing became more and more blurry as time went on.

The expressions of the Guanxuan Universe youngsters turned solemn.

"Die!" Rong Ruo roared fiercely. A ray of sword light plummeted toward the giant lightning god projection, shattering it into pieces.

Boom!

Following a cataclysmic explosion, a figure could be seen retreating in a hurry.

The figure belonged to Ye Qing. Unfortunately, Rong Ruo seemed like he had no plans of letting Ye Qing go as he dashed toward the latter.

Ye Qing's expression stiffened, and he kicked off the ground with his right leg.

A spacetime law imprint appeared on his glabella, and the spacetime in front of him shattered. A thought was all it took for him to destroy spacetime, and it was all thanks to the spacetime law imprint.

Kaboom!

The battlefield trembled as the two retreated from each other.

The spacetime above the Xuzhen Battlefield was crumbling, and the entire battlefield was in chaos as fragments of spacetime and sword energy rained down on the spectators.

When Ye Qing and Rong Ruo finally found their footing, blood flowed down the corners of their mouths at the same time. Their faces were as white as a sheet of paper, and a lot more blood poured out of their mouths this time.

Rong Ruo threw away the sword sheath that he was holding in his left hand.

He raised his left hand and sliced his palm.

Blood flowed out of the wound, and his blood disappeared into his sword.

He had fed blood to his sword!

Cao Bai and the spectating swordsmen stared with solemn looks.

Rong Ruo's sword turned crimson as his sword devoured his blood. He looked up at Ye Qing and exclaimed, "Again!"

Ye Qing boisterously laughed and exclaimed, "Sure!"

Rong Ruo nodded and stepped out. A horrifying sword force surged out of him and enveloped the skies before turning into a dome that stretched out for more than a kilometer.

A Sword Domain!

Rong Ruo stepped out once more, and a monstrous sword energy descended on Ye Qing.

Ye Qing's pupils constricted, and he clenched his fists tightly.

Rong Ruo stepped out and muttered, "Return to silence..."

A crimson light flashed in front of Ye Qing. It was Rong Ruo's sword.

Ye Qing roared, "Door of Laws!"

Boom!

The Nine Dao Laws burst out of Ye Guan and shot to the skies, creating a door above his head. Moments later, Nine Dao Laws flooded out of the Door of Laws.

A battle of epic proportions was about to begin.

Crack!

The surrounding one kilometer of spacetime fractured, and Rong Ruo's sword lights exploded into a myriad of light crystals. Astonishingly, however, the Nine Dao Laws had burst open as well!

Boom!

The two were sent flying backward from the collision, and their fleshly bodies disintegrated in mid-air. Their souls even started to fade at a rate visible to the naked eye.

The Divine Spirits were stunned. A divine spirit wanted to step out and save Rong Ruo, but Rong Ruo raised a hand to stop the former.

Ye Qing also stopped those who wanted to save him from his side.

Rong Ruo landed and held his sword tightly.

He closed his eyes. His fleshly body had perished, so he was in his soul form. His soul was still fading away, but it had slowed down considerably.

Ye Qing closed his eyes, and his soul's deterioration rate slowed down significantly as well.

The two were like candles in the middle of a storm.

Rong Ruo stared intently at Ye Qing and roared, "Burn!"

Shwaaa!

Rong Ruo's figure shone fiercely as he burned. He still wanted to fight!

The onlookers were stupefied.

Rong Ruo's aura surged crazily.

He wanted to win so badly that he had decided to burn his soul! He could die, but he couldn't afford to lose against the Guanyuan Universe.

Ye Qing's eyes shot wide open. He glared sinisterly at Rong Ruo and roared, "Burn!"

Shwaaa!

Ye Qing's figure shone brightly in the same manner.

Ye Qing had the same sentiment as Rong Ruo.

He was willing to die, but he wasn't willing to lose.

The two had chosen to greet Death themselves!

Translator notes: I am loving this Ye Qing screen time.

Chapter 247: Too Cowardly to Accept Death or Defeat

The cultivators from the True Universe and the Guanxuan Universe were shocked.

They never thought that the two of them would choose to continue fighting, not to mention burning their souls for the sake of it. The fight was beyond the point of no return. They wouldn't rest until either of them was dead!

Ye Qing and Rong Ruo's aura grew fiercely as their souls burned brightly.

Boom!

Spacetime shattered as a horrifying shockwave spread between heaven and earth.

Rong Ruo glared sinisterly at Ye Qing while holding his sword tightly. Moments later, he vanished and turned into a beam of sword light.

Rumble!

A low rumbling echoed as Rong Ruo burned even fiercer than ever. His soul form had become blurry, but his sword energy had become stronger than it had ever been. The next sword move was akin to seeking death, as it would decide his fate.

However, Rong Ruo remained steadfast as he swung his sword, tearing apart spacetime as the cataclysmic sword energy made a beeline for Ye Qing.

Ye Qing saw that and muttered, “Teacher, I will repay your benevolence in my next life!”

Ye Qing roared and rushed with the Nine Dao Laws orbiting him.

Rumble!

Ye Qing’s power had also reached its peak, and he threw all caution to the wind—life or death be damned!

Fight!

The onlookers stared with still breaths as both Ye Qing and Rong Ruo’s moves collided with each other.

BOOM!

The sound generated by their collision shattered everything in the vicinity as a horrifying shockwave burst out, annihilating every inch of spacetime that dared to stand in its way as it spread throughout the Xuzhen Battlefield.

Ye Qing and Rong Ruo flew several kilometers along with the shockwave.

They soon managed to stop themselves in mid-air, but their condition was so severe it wouldn’t be an understatement to say that they could die anytime.

Swoosh!

A figure dashed out of the golden spacetime tunnel and appeared in front of Rong Ruo.

The figure belonged to a young man in white, and he opened his palm, revealing a black soul wood. The black soul wood emitted a dark light that enveloped Rong Ruo's dissipating soul.

At the same time, a rift in the world itself opened up, and a mysterious soul power emerged from the rift, flooding toward the young man in white.

The onlookers could see that the soul power belonged to Rong Ruo. It was what remained of his soul after he had decisively burned it up.

The onlookers were stunned upon realizing that the young man in white was capable of reserving life and death by basically reforming the puzzle pieces of Rong Ruo's soul and returning it back to the latter.

Cao Bai and the others stared at the young man in white with narrowed eyes.

Rong Ruo's soul soon stabilized.

Meanwhile, an illusory figure appeared next to Ye Qing.

The illusory figure belonged to Ye Qing's teacher. Ye Qing's teacher waved his right hand, and a powerful stream of energy flooded Ye Qing. Ye Qing's soul soon stabilized, and he started to recover from his injuries.

The sight made the cultivators from the Guanyuan Universe heave a sigh of relief.

The expression on Ye Qing's teacher was complex as he stared at his student.

He truly didn't expect that he would have such an unyielding disciple.

He was actually willing to face death for the sake of something he believed in. Aside from heartache, Ye Qing's teacher felt proud of Ye Qing. Clearly, his disciple placed great importance on morals and relationships.

Ye Qing's teacher seemed to have sensed something as he turned to look in the distance. His expression turned heavy upon seeing the young man in white.

The young man in white would be a difficult opponent.

All eyes were on the young man in white, as everyone couldn't quite believe what he had done to help Rong Ruo. A few Divine Spirits soon recognized the young man in white and one of them exclaimed, "Zhuge Haoyue!"

The remaining Divine Spirits were stupefied. Zhuge Haoyue was ranked fifteenth on the True Martial List, and he was the youngest Ancient Divine Sorcerer of the True Universe.

Divine Sorcerers were equal to Divine Mages in the Guanxuan Universe. Those with the Divine Dao Bloodline running through their veins were the previous hegemony of the vast expanse, and the Great Daoist Brush Master used the Divine Dao Bloodline as the foundation for creating Ancient Divine Sorcerers.

Ancient Divine Sorcerers were individuals walking on the path to the summit of cultivation using spells and other forms of sorcery.

When the Great Daoist Brush Master left the True Universe, he shared his knowledge with the Guanxuan Universe, which led to the creation of canons for the sake of embarking on the Divine Mage path.

The realms into which Divine Mages were categorized were strikingly similar to the physical realms. At first, Divine Mages would have to start from the ground up to the peak of the Nine Realms.

Afterward, the following realms were—the Sky Realm, the Immortal Realm, the Saint Realm, the Imperial Realm, and finally, the Great Imperial Realm.

Meanwhile, the Ancient Divine Sorcerers of the True Universe were split into ten levels first before they could truly become Ancient Divine Sorcerers.

Afterward, bonafide Ancient Divine Sorcerers were categorized into the following realms—Ancient Sky Sorcerers, Ancient Law Sorcerers, Ancient Immortal Sorcerers, Ancient Saint Sorcerers, Ancient Holy Sorcerers, Ancient Imperial Sorcerers, and Ancient Great Imperial Sorcerers.

There wasn't that much difference when it came to overall prowess if one were to compare the Divine Mages of the Guanxuan Universe to the Ancient Divine Sorcerers of the True Universe.

However, there was a vast difference between their cultivation methods.

What the True Universe was practicing now was the Divine Spell Bloodline that the Great Daoist Brush Master had left behind. Using that as the foundation, they created a cultivation method that was suitable for divine spirits.

The True Universe had created a cultivation method suitable for Divine Spirits using the Great Daoist Brush Master's Divine Law Bloodline as the foundation, while the Guanxuan Universe's version was the unadulterated version of what the Great Daoist Brush Master had left behind.

It was unclear which of the two was stronger than the other, but there was only one way to find out for sure—fight!

Rong Ruo slowly opened his eyes.

His eyes widened upon seeing the young man in white.

"Brother Haoyue!" he exclaimed.

Zhuge Haoyue nodded and said, "Go ahead and rest. Let us fight the rest."

Rong Ruo went silent with a gloomy look.

Zhuge Haoyue smiled softly and said, “You didn’t lose, and you didn’t make us lose face.”

Zhuge Haoyue gestured with his palm, enveloping Rong Ruo’s soul with a gentle energy and pushing him aside.

Rong Ruo stared deeply at Zhuge Haoyue before sitting down cross-legged.

Zhuge Haoyue looked at Ye Qing. Ye Qing’s soul was still blurry.

Zhuge Haoyue turned to look at Cao Bai.

“I want someone to fight me.”

Cao Bai stepped up. A sword light flashed, and he appeared in front of Zhuge Haoyue.

“I’ll fight you,” said Cao Bai.

Zhuge Haoyue nodded. “Great.”

Cao Bai stuck his finger out.

Hum!

Three resonant sword hums echoed, and three swords flew out of Cao Bai’s sword case. They moved extremely fast, and they appeared in front of Zhuge Haoyue in the blink of an eye.

Cao Bai didn’t dare to underestimate Zhuge Haoyue. He decisively used three swords.

He had decided to give it his all!

The three swords flew, and Zhuge Haoyue responded by sending a beam of divine light toward Cao Bai.

Cao Bai's eyes flashed sinisterly as he rushed toward Zhuge Haoyue and swung his sword.

Boom!

Cao Bai's sword light was shattered, and he flew backward.

The moment he recovered and stood on his two feet, the space above his head abruptly split open, revealing a beam of divine light.

Cao Bai's pupils constricted. He opened his palms, and his sword intent transformed into a sword that flew shot to the skies.

Boom!

Cao Bai's sword intent shattered upon colliding with the beam of divine light.

However, Zhuge Haoyue clearly had no intention of giving Cao Bai enough time to even breathe as three beams of divine light manifested in front of the latter. Each divine light contained a horrifying energy seemingly capable of destroying a small world.

Cao Bai was shocked.

He clenched his fists, and quite a few sword lights flooded out of him.

Boom!

The sword light shattered into innumerable light fragments as Cao Bai was sent flying at least a hundred meters away. As soon as he stopped, a beam of divine light shot toward him once again.

Cao Bai swung his sword.

Clang!

The sword light shattered, and he succeeded in defending himself, but Cao Bai had no choice but to retreat.

The cultivators of the Guanyuan Universe looked somber at the sight.

Zhuge Haoyue was completely dominating Cao Bai, and Cao Bai's sword seemed to be unable to stand up to Zhuge Haoyue's beams of divine light.

Boom!

Cao Bai was sent flying once more, and a beam of divine light chased after him.

Cao Bai glared sinisterly at his enemy. He decided to throw all caution to the wind and abandon all defenses for the sake of attacking. He kicked off of the ground with his right leg and turned into a beam of sword light that made a beeline for Zhuge Haoyue.

Rumble!

Cao Bai's aura reached its peak as he unleashed the full extent of his power as a Great Sword Sovereign.

Clang!

Cao Bai's sword struck the oncoming beam of divine light, and the divine light quivered before exploding. Cao Bai then resumed his journey toward Zhuge Haoyue.

Meanwhile, Zhuge Haoyue remained calm.

He extended his hand and gently pressed down.

Boom!

A deafening explosion echoed, and Cao Bai cut a sorry figure as he went flying. He flew at least a few hundred meters before being able to stop himself. Blood dripped down the corner of his lips, and his clothes were dyed crimson from the blood pouring out of the wound in his chest.

Zhuge Haoyue stayed his hand.

He stared at Cao Bai and said, "Admit defeat, and I won't kill you."

Admit defeat. Cao Bai chuckled. He would have no qualms admitting defeat fighting his fellow cultivators of the Guanyuan Universe, but he couldn't afford to lose against a cultivator of the True Universe.

There was only one outcome—either he would win or perish. Defeat wasn't in his dictionary, especially against the denizens of the True Universe.

Cao Bai smiled sinisterly as he balled his hand into a fist.

Shwaaa!

Flames abruptly burst out of him, and his fleshly body melted at a visible rate.

However, Cao Bai wasn't done just yet.

Boom!

A horrifying energy burst out of him, creating a tempest of profound energy.

Cao Bai had chosen to burn his soul!

The expressions of the Guanxuan Universe's denizens changed drastically.

Zhuge Haoyue's eyes narrowed. He waved his hand, and a beam of divine light shot out toward Cao Bai.

"Hahaha!" Cao Bai boisterously laughed before slashing out with his sword.

Clang!

The beam of divine light shattered, and a sword light appeared before Zhuge Haoyue.

Zhuge Haoyue remained calm. He opened his palm and closed it abruptly.

Rumble!

A spacetime wall appeared in front of him.

Boom!

The spacetime wall trembled as Cao Bai's attack landed on it.

It seemed impossible to shatter the spacetime wall, but Cao Bai remained undeterred. He growled and unleashed a flurry of attacks.

Crunch!

A crisp noise echoed as the spacetime wall burst into pieces.

Zhuge Haoyue took advantage of that explosion to move forward.

He pointed at Cao Bai, and a concentrated ray of divine light struck Cao Bai's sword.

Clang!

A shrill noise reverberated, and Cao Bai's figure trembled upon being struck by the powerful vibrations that his sword had transmitted to him. The immense force that his sword had to take also sent him flying away.

Swoosh!

Zhuge Haoyue vanished into thin air, and a beam of divine light struck Cao Bai, sending him flying at least several kilometers away.

It took Cao Bai quite a while to recover from the blow, and when he finally landed on the ground, his fleshly body was no more. He was in his soul form, and even his soul was unstable, looking as though it were a candle in the middle of a tempest.

The disciples of the Sword Sect unsheathed their swords to interfere in the fight.

"Stop!" a furious roar echoed somewhere.

Everyone turned and found Senior Chen Guanzi standing in the distance with his fists clenched so tightly that his nails dug into his palms. He stared deeply at the severely injured Cao Bai and said, "We can afford to lose in these solo battles. Do not interfere!"

The Sword Sect disciples went silent. They turned to look at Cao Bai and found that Cao Bai's soul was still burning brightly despite his predicament.

Rip!

A spacetime rift manifested, and a sword light emerged from it.

A figure soon appeared when the sword light dimmed, and the figure belonged to none other than Ye Guan.

Ye Guan rushed over to Cao Bai's side.

Ye Guan was shocked to find that Cao Bai had decided to burn his soul. His voice was trembling as he muttered, "Senior Cao..."

Cao Bai broke out into a smile.

"Junior Ye... my apologies. I couldn't win..." he muttered.

Ye Guan shook his head. He hurriedly retrieved the Path Sword to absorb Cao Bai's soul into it, but Cao Bai interrupted him. "There's no need."

Ye Guan looked at Cao Bai.

Cao Bai smiled softly and explained, "Don't let the True Universe think that we're too cowardly to accept death or defeat. Junior Ye. I'm sorry... I'm sorry that I can't follow you to the True Universe. It truly is a pity... what a pity..."

Cao Bai clenched his fist.

Boom!

His soul abruptly crumbled into nothingness.

Great Sword Sovereign Cao Bai was no more!

Chapter 248: Unafraid of Death!

Ye Guan froze as if his soul had left his body. His mind went completely blank.

Three swords were on the ground in front of him, and they were Magma, Heavenly Thunder, and Divine Cloud. Ye Guan quivered slightly as he lay eyes on the three swords. The disciples of the Sword Sect clenched their fists as tears fell down their eyes.

Chen Guanzi stared at the three swords in a daze. His right fist trembled as he recalled the memories he shared with Cao Bai.

“First Senior Brother, how did you break your arm?”

“First Senior Brother, why don’t you like to talk?”

“First Senior Brother, are the Divine Spirits really that strong?”

“First Senior Brother, when can I go to the Xuzhen Battlefield?”

“First Senior Brother, did the senior brothers in the Sword Tomb die during a war?”

“First Senior Brother, if I die in the Xuzhen Battlefield, I hope you won’t tell my parents... I’m their only son, after all...”

Tears dripped down Chen Guanzi's cheeks. The rookie disciples of the Sword Sect were crying harder than the rest. The Sword Sect had been protecting them, and the sect had prohibited them from visiting the Xuzhen Battlefield until now.

As such, it was their first time encountering such a tragedy. Now, they finally understood that war was much crueler than they thought.

The elites of the Guanxuan Universe went silent as well. Just then, they realized that their ancestors had sacrificed their lives in exchange for the peace that the Guanxuan Universe had enjoyed over the past thirty million years.

Zhuge Haoyue and the rest went silent as well. They were caught off guard by the fact that Cao Bai had chosen to die rather than admit defeat.

Zhuge Haoyue looked at the group of swordsmen in the distance and suddenly understood why the Guanxuan Universe managed to remain standing against the True Universe all these years.

The Guanxuan Universe didn't lack courageous people like Cao Bai.

It seemed that they were even more courageous and stubborn than the Heaven Seizing Clan back then.

A woman was observing the situation down below her from the vast expanse up above the Xuzhen Battlefield. The woman was none other than An Nanjing!

Ruler An stood opposite her, and three black-robed old men stood behind her.

Ruler An glanced at An Nanjing before she looked silently at Ye Guan in the distance. It had been quite a while since their previous meeting, so Ruler An was curious about just how much Ye Guan had grown in the meantime.

An Nanjing frowned upon seeing Ba Wan standing behind Ye Guan.

Ruler An frowned as well upon seeing Ba Wan.

Ba Wan was chewing on a piece of meat, and her gaze was transfixed on Ye Guan.

Ye Guan stored the three swords away and turned around to face Zhuge Haoyue.

Zhuge Haoyue stared at Ye Guan for a while before exclaiming, “You’re Ye Guan!”

The other Divine Spirits turned to look at Ye Guan. There was no way they would fail to recognize Ye Guan—the Sword Master’s son and the rightful ruler of the Guanxuan Universe.

The Sword Master!

A tinge of respect enveloped the hearts of the Divine Spirits upon recalling the Sword Master’s name, and it made sense; the strong would always receive respect whenever they went, regardless of their affiliation.

Of course, respect was all they felt for the Sword Master. They would still unhesitantly destroy the Guanxuan Universe.

Respect was respect—an opponent was an opponent.

Ye Guan slowly approached Zhuge Haoyue.

Zhuge Haoyue remained calm as Ye Guan approached him.

And that was when Ye Guan suddenly disappeared...

Schwing!

Spacetime was torn apart, and a sword light rushed toward Zhuge Haoyue.

Zhuge Haoyue's eyes narrowed. He opened his palms, revealing three rays of divine light.

Boom!

The sword light collided with the rays of divine light, and Zhuge Haoyue was blasted hundreds of meters away. However, it seemed Ye Guan wasn't done just yet as a fiery red sword chased after Zhuge Haoyue.

The sword was none other than the Magma Flying Sword!

Zhuge Haoyue's eyes narrowed into slits.

He didn't dare to underestimate Ye Guan anymore. He took a step forward and opened his right hand, revealing five rays of divine light. They converged to a point and turned into a beam that shot toward Magma.

However, Ye Guan had become strong enough to wield thirty swords to their absolute limits.

Rumble!

The five rays of divine light shattered under everyone's shocked gazes. A powerful rebound sent Zhuge Haoyue flying hundreds of meters away, and the surrounding kilometer of spacetime caved in at the moment of collision, creating a terrifying sight.

Zhuge Haoyue eventually stopped himself in mid-air, but the shrill cry of a sword pierced his ears. He looked up and saw a flying sword rushing toward him.

The sword was none other than Heavenly Thunder, and it flew toward Zhuge Haoyue along with thirty other swords.

Zhuge Haoyue brought his hands down, and the spacetime in front of him trembled violently before forming a spacetime wall. Spacetime seemed to have converged on the spacetime wall in front of Zhuge Haoyue, creating a fortified wall.

Boom!

The spacetime wall shattered upon impact, and Zhuge Haoyue was sent flying by a hundred meters at the very least. At the same time, an even stronger attack caused the collapse of the spacetime around Zhuge Haoyue.

A shrill cry reverberated across the battlefield as a sword made a beeline for Zhuge Haoyue.

The sword was none other than Cao Bai's Divine Cloud!

Zhuge Haoyue started chanting in an ancient, inscrutable language. Rays of divine light surged out of him, tearing apart the spacetime in the vicinity. Powerful dimensional energy twisted into blades of light that rushed toward Ye Guan.

Zhuge Haoyue knew that he couldn't just keep on defending. He had to retaliate, as offense was the best defense against such an agile and swift swordsman. Ye Guan would continue to corner him until he made a move himself.

Cao Bai's Divine Cloud finally made contact with Zhuge Haoyue's attack. The rays of divine light burst into innumerable light fragments. Zhuge Haoyue was sent flying, but Ye Guan wasn't done just yet.

Ye Guan pointed at Zhuge Haoyue, and sharp swords made out of sword energy rushed out of him.

Slash!

The dimensional energy protecting Zhuge Haoyue was shredded into pieces. He saw that, and he was about to unleash another move when he saw three swords rushing toward him at the same time from multiple angles.

He was being suppressed and dominated, just like what he did to Cao Bai!

Zhuge Haoyue's pupils constricted. He didn't dare to hold back anymore. He clenched his fists as he threw all caution to the wind.

A powerful ray of divine light gushed out of him. The ray of divine light transformed into a thousand-meter-tall astral body. The astral body clasped its palms together, and a divine light enveloped Zhuge Haoyue.

The three swords struck the divine light protecting Zhuge Haoyue.

Boom!

The veil of light trembled violently before it shattered into pieces.

The astral body above Zhuge Haoyue exploded as well, and the backlash sent Zhuge Haoyue flying away.

The expressions of the Divine Spirit darkened.

Ye Guan's sword attacks were too terrifying!

Ruler An frowned deeply as she observed Ye Guan. Ye Guan had grown by leaps and bounds over the past few months. He was truly a heaven-defying monstrous talent, and it was indeed terrifying to have such a talented enemy.

Ruler An's face was dark. Ye Guan was improving too quickly!

Meanwhile, Ye Guan didn't stop attacking. He took one step forward, and three flying swords flew across the battlefield. Strangely, the energy contained within the three swords was much weaker than Ye Guan's previous attacks.

Zhuge Haoyue narrowed his eyes in suspicion, and he soon realized that Ye Guan was truly holding back against him. But why? It didn't take Zhuge Haoyue that long to realize what was going on.

Ye Guan was trying to force him into igniting his fleshly body and soul!

Zhuge Haoyue's expression turned fierce. Is that it? Is he really trying to make me ignite my fleshly body and soul?

Zhuge Haoyue abruptly roared and opened his palm. A ray of divine light burst out of him and toward the sky.

"Four Phases of Annihilation!" he roared.

Boom!

Four astral projections abruptly manifested above Zhuge Haoyue. Every astral projection was a thousand meters tall, and the entire world seemed to have become illusory when they manifested. Holy-sounding yet inscrutable, ancient chants seemed to obfuscate the world as they echoed between both heaven and earth.

The chanting seemed capable of snatching away the souls of those who could hear it. The surroundings seemed to crumble beneath the power of the chanting, creating an extremely horrifying scene.

Four Phases of Annihilation: Sacrificing One's Life to Cross the Mortal World!

Zhu Haoyue roared once more and brought his hand down fiercely.

The four astral projections abruptly opened their eyes. They raised their enormous hands to the sky before bringing them down at the same time.

Rumble!

A kilometer of spacetime vanished into nothingness as a terrifying energy suppressed Ye Guan's three swords. However, Ye Guan wasn't there. He had inexplicably vanished, but he soon reappeared along with a monstrous sword intent.

The Invincible Sword Intent!

Ruler An's face changed drastically at the sight.

Hum!

A resonant sword hum reverberated as a dazzling sword light tore across the battlefield.

Boom!

The astral projections shattered, and the chanting came to a halt.

Zhuge Haoyue's eyes narrowed. He was about to make a move, but the terrifying Invincible Sword Intent struck him. He flew at least a hundred meters away, and when he finally stopped, the crowd saw that he was badly mangled.

His blood formed a pool of blood beneath him, and the surrounding spacetime had been destroyed as well.

Ye Guan stepped forward, and a sword went straight for Zhuge Haoyue once again.

Zhuge Haoyue glared fiercely at Ye Guan before roaring, "Well, it's just death! You people are unafraid of death, and the people of my True Universe aren't afraid of death as well!"

Shwaaa!

Zhuge Haoyue spontaneously combusted—he had decided to ignite his fleshly body!

Moments later, a white flame gushed out of him and took to the skies.

He had decided to ignite his soul!

The Divine Spirits were horrified. It turned out that Ye Guan's goal all this while was to force Zhuge Haoyue into igniting his fleshly body and soul. Ye Guan wanted to give Zhuge Haoyue a taste of his own medicine!

Chapter 249: Declare War on the Guanxuan Universe

Upon igniting his fleshly body and soul, Zhuge Haoyue's aura surged wildly. He roared and got ready to unleash his divine spells.

However, Ye Guan had disappeared.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan moved even quicker than ever.

Zhuge Haoyue narrowed his eyes, and he clenched his fists as he chanted an ancient spell. A dark blue flame gushed out of his glabella.

Ye Guan's sword appeared in front of Zhuge Haoyue.

Schwing!

The sword split the dark blue flame and made a beeline for Zhuge Haoyue's glabella.

Bang!

The surrounding space trembled violently as Ye Guan's sword froze in mid-air.

Swoosh!

However, two swords came from Zhuge Haoyue's flank, and they buried themselves into Zhuge Haoyue's chest and right arm.

Zhuge Haoyue was immobilized.

The nearby Divine Spirits frowned at the sight.

Zhuge Haoyue had lost!

Just then, a powerful aura burst out of the golden spacetime tunnel, and a mysterious energy wrapped around the immobilized Zhuge Haoyue.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed, and a cold glint fleeted across his eyes.

Someone was trying to save Zhuge Haoyue!

Chen Guanzi and the rest stared coldly at the scene.

An Nanjing remained calm, but a spear appeared in her hand.

Ruler An was silent, and she didn't make a move.

An old man stood beside Zhuge Haoyue. The old man was wearing a long robe, and he had a whole head of gray hair. A green wooden staff was in his hand, and a strange-looking orb was floating behind him.

The old man was about to forcefully suppress the violent undulations coming from Zhuge Haoyue's soul, but Zhuge Haoyue suddenly raised his right hand and said, "Master, it's okay."

The old man wanted to say something, but Zhuge Haoyue smiled wryly and said, "They are unafraid of death, so shouldn't we be as courageous as them? Master, please take good care of my younger sister..."

Zhuce Haoyue's wry smile turned determined as he clenched his fists and forced as much divine light out of his body. A powerful energy sent Ye Guan's swords flying away, and Zhuge Haoyue turned into a ray of divine light that flew toward Ye Guan.

Zhuce Haoyue's aura surged drastically. He was about to perform his final attack!

During critical junctures or whenever someone had resolved to die fighting would often become drastically stronger as if their souls and fleshly body were about to go beyond their limits, culminating in a glorious afterglow.

Zhuce Haoyue's aura became more and more terrifying. Eventually, his aura went through a qualitative change and reached a new peak.

Zhuce Haoyue broke through, becoming an Ancient Holy Sorcerer!

The expression of the gray-haired old man changed drastically. A ferocious light flashed past his eyes. He was prepared to save Zhuge Haoyue. An Ancient Holy Sorcerer! How could he let such a young Ancient Holy Sorcerer die here?

It would be a major loss for the True Universe!

Right when he was about to take action, a voice suddenly echoed in his head.

"I'll kill you if you dare to try anything," said the mysterious voice. However, the gray-haired old man recognized that voice. It was none other than Ruler An's voice!

The gray-haired old man was shocked. He abruptly lifted his head.

He saw Ruler An glaring at him coldly from above.

The Guanyuan Universe's denizens were courageous even in the face of death, so how come the denizens of the True Universe couldn't do the same?

Meanwhile, Ye Guan thrust his sword to meet Zhuge Haoyue's attack. He unleashed thirty swords and his Invincible Sword Intent at the same time.

Boom!

The collision was so powerful that the surrounding spacetime was obliterated. Ye Guan was sent flying at least a hundred meters away.

Zhuguo Haoyue's self-destruction resulted in the annihilation within a kilometer of ground zero, and it also created a shockwave that fractured the spacetime more than a kilometer away.

From above, the Xuzhen Battlefield was like a cracked mirror.

It was a terrifying sight!

Ye Guan eventually managed to recover in mid-air, and he discovered cracks on his skin. Fortunately, he only suffered superficial injuries.

"No!" a miserable wail echoed.

Everyone turned and saw that the gray-haired old man was furious. The spacetime around him quivered incessantly as a testament to his fury as he stood there while staring at where Zhuguo Haoyue had been with constricted pupils.

Meanwhile, the Divine Spirits were silent.

Zhuge Haoyue was dead.

The monstrous talent who had just become an Ancient Holy Sorcerer had fallen just like that. If he were still alive, he could have reached the top ten of the True Martial List or perhaps even five.

What did reaching the top five of the True Martial List mean? It meant that one was a cream of the crop among heavenly-defying monstrous talents!

What a pity...

The gray-haired old man turned to look at Ye Guan. He didn't even bother concealing the powerful killing intent in his eyes.

"Scram!" someone shouted from up above.

The gray-haired old man looked up at Ruler An.

Ruler An glared coldly at him and said, "Divine Sorcerer Zhu Mo, do not embarrass your disciple in front of everyone here."

The gray-haired man wanted to say something, but the gazes of the two old men behind Ruler An landed on him, and their auras instantly immobilized the gray-haired old man.

Zhu Mo immediately shut his mouth. He didn't dare to speak anymore.

He glared coldly at Ye Guan one last time before turning around to leave.

Ruler An fell silent. She also wanted to save Zhuge Haoyue, but she couldn't do it. It was a battle between the younger generation of two universes, so how could a member of the older generation interfere?

Furthermore, Martial Goddess An was keeping her in check!

Ye Guan walked up to Chen Guanzi and muttered, "First Senior Brother..."

Chen Guanzi nodded slightly and said, "It's great to see you back."

Ye Guan lowered his head in silence.

"Follow me," said Chen Guanzi before turning around to leave.

...

Chen Guanzi brought Ye Guan and the rest of the Sword Sect disciples to the Sword Tomb.

Chen Guanzi looked at Ye Guan and opened his palm.

After a short moment of silence, Ye Guan handed Cao Bai's three flying swords to Chen Guanzi.

Chen Guanzi accepted the swords and walked away. He found a boulder, and he inserted the three swords into it before carving the words—Here rests Cao Bai, who died in battle on the thirteenth of September of the Guanxuan Year.

The swordsmen behind Chen Guanzi could no longer hold back their tears, and they started sobbing. Cao Bai got along pretty well with his junior and senior disciples, and it was all thanks to his outgoing, friendly, and sunny disposition.

Unfortunately, Cao Bai was no more.

Ye Guan glanced at the three flying swords before lowering his head in silence.

Chen Guanzhi glanced at the three flying swords and muttered, "Rest in peace."

With that, he turned around to leave.

However, Ye Guan didn't move an inch.

Chen Guanzi suddenly said, "Let's go meet his parents."

Ye Guan shuddered slightly. He felt slightly afraid, but he knew that he still had to go.

...

A middle-aged man and a beautiful woman were sitting quietly in the great hall of the Cao Family.

Ye Guan followed Chen Guanzi into the great hall.

The middle-aged man's expression remained unchanging upon seeing them, but he grabbed the corner of the table tightly. The beautiful woman next to him clutched the hem of her skirt tightly as she quivered ever so slightly.

Chen Guanzi took out a box and walked slowly toward them.

"A strand of junior disciple's hair is in here..." he muttered.

The tears that the beautiful woman was holding back immediately fell. The middle-aged man tried his best not to cry, but he trembled uncontrollably.

Chen Guanzi put the box down and bowed deeply before dragging Ye Guan away with him.

The beautiful woman picked up the box with trembling hands and muttered, “The pride... of our Cao Family...”

The beautiful woman looked at the middle-aged man; her tears flowed down incessantly from her bloodshot eyes as she roared, “Why did my son have to defend this universe?! Why did he have to carry such a heavy burden?! He was just eighteen years old! Why?!”

The middle-aged man made a sidelong glance at the box. His eyes were filled with tears as he responded, “Well... someone had to do it...”

...

Chen Guanzi and Ye Guan stood quietly outside the great hall.

Chen Guanzi looked up at the sky, which was a bit blurry in his vision despite the clear skies. It was a surreal sight; there seemed to be a layer of mist obscuring his vision.

“The sacrifice of our seniors is the reason the Guanyuan Universe has been able to enjoy such peace. However, our seniors failed to end the war once and for all. It’s our turn to attempt to end the war. If we fail, the next generation will have to fight and try again,” said Chen Guanzi.

Ye Guan was in a daze as he stared at the starry skies. Every sword in the Sword Tomb represented a swordsman. There were more than a million swords in the Sword Tomb, so more than a million swordsmen had perished for the sake of ending the long-standing war.

However, the Sword Sect was just a part of the vast Guanyuan Universe.

Ye Guan couldn’t quite grasp the number of lives that were sacrificed for the goal of ending the war between universes once and for all. However, one thing was for sure—many people had given up their lives for the Guanyuan Universe.

Ye Guan seemed to have thought of something, so he asked softly, "Master Pagoda, my aunt is very strong, right?"

Little Pagoda's reply was a bit late as he said, "She's extremely strong, but she doesn't really care about anything else apart from her relationship with your father, so do you really think that she'll save a universe?"

"Her kindness had always been exclusive to your father, and everything else is insignificant in her eyes. In her eyes, there wasn't any difference between the Guanxuan Universe and the True Universe.

"Your father didn't allow your Aunt to intervene, and she was so unhappy about his decision that she almost inadvertently annihilated the Guanxuan Universe.

"Anyway, your aunt has never really cared about anyone else aside from your father."

Ye Guan went silent.

Little Pagoda sighed to himself.

"Is my cousin dead?" said someone from the side.

Ye Guan retracted his thoughts. Chen Guanzi and Ye Guan turned and found a boy who looked to be only seven or eight years old. There was a wooden sword in his hand.

The boy stared alternately between Chen Guanzi and Ye Guan before asking once more, "Is my cousin dead?"

Chen Guanzi and Ye Guan remained silent.

The boy walked up to them. He looked them in the eyes and declared, "I want to join the Sword Sect!"

Chen Guanzi asked softly, "Why do you want to join the Sword Sect?"

The boy raised his wooden sword and exclaimed with determination, "I want to be just like my cousin and fight the Divine Spirits! I also want to protect the Guanyuan Universe!"

Ye Guan smiled. He ruffled the young boy's hair and said, "Leave it to us."

The boy still wanted to say something, but Ye Guan suddenly took out a storage ring and handed it over to the boy, saying, "Train well at home and take good care of your parents."

He didn't stop the boy from realizing his dreams of becoming a sword cultivator. The world was harsh, after all, and those who couldn't cultivate would only become prey.

Of course, Ye Guan didn't want the boy to join the Sword Sect.

Chen Guanzi and Ye Guan went silent and left.

The boy stared intently at the two rays of sword light streaking across the skies and yelled, "I'll join the Sword Sect in the future! Remember my name! My name is Cao Xiu!"

...

True Universe, True God Hall.

The True God Hall was thousands of meters tall, piercing the clouds. Eight tall stone pillars stood before the hall, and eight ferocious-looking monsters were perched on top of the pillars.

Ten guards dressed in pristine white armor stood next to the pillars. The helmets of the guards were adorned with feathers, and they each had a longsword hanging by their waist.

Further down from the pillars in front of the great hall was a huge square that was about a hundred thousand meters wide. Every inch of it was paved with crystal stones, making it look extremely luxurious and a sight to behold.

Millions of Divine Spirits had gathered on the huge square, and they were all young talents of the True Universe. The gazes of the young talents were transfixed in one direction.

Soon, a young woman walked out of the great hall. The young woman appeared to be sixteen or seventeen years of age, and she was dressed in a pristine white robe. Her gaze was icy cold, and a white jade staff was in her hands.

There were four large words engraved on the white jade staff: Zhuge Haoyue.

Zhuge Haoyue's death had already spread throughout every corner of the True Universe, and everyone was here to send him off on his final journey.

The Divine Spirits' eyes turned cold and gloomy upon seeing Zhuge Haoyue's white jade staff.

How did Zhuge Haoyue die? The Sword Master's son had murdered him!

The white-robed young woman turned to face the True God Hall and looked up at it before saying, "Zhuge Haoyue died in battle against the Guanxuan Universe on October third of the Zhenxuan Year. I hereby request that his final resting be the Heroic Spirits Hall."

Heroic Spirits Hall!

The True Universe had created the Heroic Spirits Hall in honor of the Divine Spirits who had perished in battle. The dream of every Divine Spirit out there was to rest in peace at the Heroic Spirits Hall.

The two biggest achievements that a Divine Spirit could ever achieve were the following: entering the True God Hall while they were still alive and entering the Heroic Spirits Hall once they perished.

The Divine Spirits turned to look at the True God Hall.

Moments later, a powerful booming voice declared, "Permission granted."

A middle-aged man walked out of the True God Hall. He was wearing a crimson robe that resembled the color of blood, and his long hair fell past his shoulders. Both his hands were behind his back, and his gaze was domineering.

He was none other than the Martial Chancellor of the True God Hall—Wu Qi!

The Divine Spirits' gaze turned respectful as they lay their eyes on him.

Wu Qi slowly walked toward the white-robed young woman.

He took the white jade staff from her as he said, "I really liked what Zhuge Haoyue said about how we should also be courageous even in the face of death... We should indeed be like what he said! I'll escort him to the Heroic Spirits Hall!"

With that, he turned around to leave with the white jade staff in hand.

The white-robed young woman turned around to leave as well.

"To the Guanyuan Universe!" someone yelled.

The crowd erupted into chaos, and everyone hurriedly followed the white-robed young woman.

The Martial World was a special world in the True Universe. Ordinary cultivators couldn't access the Martial World, as it was a world made for the challengers of the True Martial List.

In other words, only the monstrous talents of the True Universe could access the Martial World.

Today, a voice boomed out across the Martial World.

“We declare war on the Guanxuan Universe!”

The powerful figures throughout the Martial World took to the skies and headed straight for the Guanxuan Universe.

Chapter 250: Go Home!

The previous clan leader of the Sky Department World’s Han Clan was dead, and Han Zong replaced him to become the clan leader. Han Zong had the Unyielding Bones, so no one was worthy to become the clan leader aside from him.

The elite clan members of the Han Clan were gathered in a hall. They all wore ashen looks because they could tell what Han Zong was thinking.

A woman with similar features to Han Zong stood next to Han Zong. She was very pretty and demure, which was a stark contrast to Han Zong. She was Han Zong’s sister, Han An.

Han Zong glanced at the crowd and said, “I received news that the younger generation of the True Universe has declared war on the Guanxuan Universe.”

All eyes were fixed on Han Zong, but everyone was silent. No one was in a good mood, as they knew what Han Zong would say next.

As expected, Han Zong said, “I want... I want to support the Guanxuan Universe.”

Support the Guanxuan Universe! Everyone’s expression turned solemn.

Just then, one of the elders of the clan stepped forward and cried out, “Clan Leader, we can’t do that!”

The rest of the elders nodded in agreement.

Han Zong gazed calmly at them and asked, "Why not?"

The elder's voice deepened as he explained, "Clan Leader, the Guanxuan Universe's enemy is the True Universe, and the younger generation of the Guanxuan Universe is no match for the True Universe's younger generation.

"Our clan's help is like a bucket of water into a prairie fire. Our standing has always been neutral as well, and I don't think we should offend the True Universe by supporting the Guanxuan Universe."

The rest of the elders nodded in agreement again.

Han Zong retorted, "We have to send tributes to the True Universe every year!"

The elder hesitated slightly before saying, "We can still handle the tributes, but I don't think we can handle the fury of the True Universe if we were to support the Guanxuan Universe. Next time, they'll demand not just spiritual cores but our lives as tributes."

The rest of the elders nodded furiously.

The Han Clan was not in the Guanxuan Universe, and they did not have an outstanding elite like the Sword Master, so how could they possibly fight the True Universe?

The True Universe would beat them to death, and stubborn people would always bleed first, so they couldn't afford to remain stubborn.

Han Zong was silent before saying, "The Young Master of the Guanxuan Universe is Ye Guan, and I've acknowledged him as my big brother."

The rest of the elders were hesitant, and they looked at the Second Elder sheepishly. The Second Elder had already become the Grand Elder. Grass was already growing on the grave of the previous Grand Elder.

The Grand Elder pondered briefly. He was just about to persuade Han Zong again when a thought appeared in his mind. He looked at Han Zong and saw that Han Zong was also looking at him.

The Grand Elder's heart beat wildly against his chest. He was suddenly reminded of the previous Grand Elder.

"Since Clan Leader has acknowledged Ye Guan as his big brother, it is only natural for us to help," said the Grand Elder.

The elders in the hall were stunned. What is he doing?

Han Zong was also confused, but the Grand Elder wasn't done just yet as he added, "The All Worlds know that Ye Guan is the big brother of our Clan Leader, so how could we ignore Ye Guan when he's in trouble?"

"How would the rest of the clans in Sky Department World see our clan? What would the denizens of the All Worlds think of us? They'll laugh at us for our cowardice. We'll become a laughingstock for not supporting our brother!"

His voice boomed throughout the hall, but the elders were glaring at him. You traitor!

Han Zong smiled in glee. He was overjoyed to find that the new Grand Elder knew how to look at the bigger picture.

Seeing Han Zong's smile, the Grand Elder heaved a sigh of relief. Thank goodness for his quick thinking. The previous Grand Elder had perished because he was foolish enough not to walk on the same path as Han Zong.

One had to play ball with the higher-ups to survive in a big clan. The Grand Elder was no exception to that rule, and he had to play ball with the clan leader.

The elders went silent upon learning of the Grand Elder's attitude toward the matter.

None of them dared to speak. They had risen to their current positions on their own, and they were also aware of what Han Zong wanted. In the end, they could only sigh to themselves. Their clan leader was too loyal for his own good.

The clan leader of a big clan couldn't be too loyal to anyone.

Han Zong suddenly said, "Elders, I know what you're thinking, and your concerns are both valid and reasonable. However, the Grand Elder is right. Everyone already knows that I've acknowledged Ye Guan as my big brother.

"How would the All Worlds think of me if I do not offer my help when he is in need of help? What would the people think of our clan?"

Han Zong slowly stood up before continuing. "Of course, I still have to think of our clan's future. With that in mind, I've decided that I'm going to be the only one who's going to head over to the Guanyuan Universe."

"No!" the Grand Elder exclaimed, "Clan Leader, it's too dangerous for you to go alone—"

Han Zong shook his head and stated, "I've already made up my mind."

Han An suddenly added, "If we're going to help, the whole clan has to do it."

Everyone turned toward Han An.

Han Zong also looked at his sister in surprise

Han An stood up and looked at Han Zong before calmly saying, "You're already the Clan Leader of the Han Clan. You represent the entire clan, so the True Universe will definitely punish the entire Han Clan if you end up being defeated.

"In other words, our clan will still have to take responsibility regardless of whether you go there by yourself or if we go there with you. With that in mind, why don't we just go all out and help them with all our might?"

Han Zong was silent.

Han An continued. "Pass down my orders: the members of our Han Clan's younger generation who are courageous enough and willing to help the Guanyuan Universe against the True Universe should follow us."

The elders exchanged looks of surprise.

Han An scanned the crowd coldly and said, "The True Universe is a leader because of their strength, but they've been treating the All Worlds like their slaves rather than their subordinate worlds.

"However, the Guanyuan Universe is the only one daring enough to oppose the True Universe. It is truly a shame that the All Worlds are filled with nothing but cowards. They bow down and beg the True Universe for their lives, and they don't even dare to breathe too loudly before the True Universe. What a shame."

Han An made a sidelong glance at Han Zong before saying, "Let's go."

After the orders had been given, the siblings stood up and left.

Their orders quickly spread throughout the entire clan. Soon, about a hundred talents from the Han Clan flew together with them to the Guanyuan Universe. The elders of the Han Clan joined them as well.

If the Guanyuan Universe won and the siblings returned safely, they would face punishment for their mutiny. Moreover, the elders were aware that the clan had to be united during moments like this.

It was normal for opinions to clash, but they couldn't afford to have internal strife. Their weapons had to be aimed at their enemies rather than themselves. Soon, the elites of the Han Clan headed for the Guanxuan Universe.

In the spacetime tunnel, Han Zong looked at Han An and muttered, "Sister..."

Han An had an idea about what Han Zong was about to say, and she hurriedly interrupted. "Would you have agreed if I had asked you to stay?"

Han Zong shook his head.

Han An said, "Since that's the case, I choose to support you with all my might."

Han Zong grinned. "All right!"

Han An stared deeply at him and asked, "Do you understand the consequences?"

"Yes." Han Zong nodded.

"Good." Han An smiled. She was quiet for quite a while before stammering, "I-If we lose..."

Han Zong burst out laughing and said, "It's just death."

"Is your big brother truly worthy of such a sacrifice?" Han An asked.

"He protected me back then." Han Zong smiled and said, "Now, it's my turn to protect him. If we lose, I'm just going to die, that's all."

Han An went silent at that.

...

A middle-aged man glared at Lian Shuang and shouted, “No way!”

The middle-aged man was the Clan Leader of the Lian Clan—Lian Cheng.

Lian Shuang clenched his fists tightly until his palm went white.

“Father, you told me that we must be loyal. My friend is in trouble, so isn’t it natural for me to help him?” asked Lian Shuang.

“Do you even know their enemy? It’s the True Universe—the True Universe!”

Lian Shuang argued with a straight face, “So what? Brother Ye has been fighting the True Universe for a long time!”

“Your Brother Ye’s father is outstanding!” Lian Cheng shouted, “Do you really think that you have an outstanding father?”

Lian Shuang calmly replied, “I think you’re pretty outstanding, Father.”

Lian Cheng snorted and looked away. “I appreciate it.”

“Father, you told me that we have to be loyal. My friend is in trouble, and if I don’t do anything to help him, are we really friends? Don’t worry, I don’t want to drag down the entire clan with me, so I’m going to go there on my own.”

Lian Cheng stared deeply at Lian Shuang in silence.

Lian Shuang hesitated slightly before asking, "Father, do you agree?"

A complicated expression fled across Lian Cheng's face, but he sounded serious as he explained, "We have to be loyal to our friends, but sometimes, you have to be powerful enough to remain loyal."

"You can't even make it to the All Worlds List with your talent, so what can you even do there? You have to understand that the talents on the All Worlds List are nothing in front of the True Universe's younger generation."

Lang Shuang was silent. His father was right; he was no match for the talents of the True Universe. In fact, the All Worlds and the other universes were too weak against the True Universe.

Lian Cheng's voice softened, and he said, "I understand what you're thinking, but as I said, the battle there is between elites. You won't be able to do anything even if you go there, aside from cheering them on from the sidelines, of course."

"I know." Lian Shuang nodded. He cast a determined gaze on Lian Cheng and said, "Can I just do that, then, Father? I won't fight! Don't worry, I know my own strength, and I won't seek my own death."

Lian Cheng was silent.

Lian Shuang added, "We're friends, and even though I can't fight for Brother Ye, I can still give him moral support from the sidelines. He's in trouble, and if I don't do anything to help him, how am I supposed to face him in the future?"

Lian Cheng remained silent. After a while, he nodded and said, "I will go with you."

He obviously didn't trust Lian Shuang enough. He had no faith that Lian Shuang wouldn't go ahead and seek his own death. The realization made Lian Shuang smile bitterly before saying, "Okay."

Lian Cheng nodded and said, "Pass down my orders: the elites of the Lian Clan who are at the Immortal Realm and above are to gather here as soon as possible."

“Father!” Lian Shuang exclaimed, “What did you do?”

Lian Cheng chuckled and explained, “Won’t it be embarrassing if only the two of us went there to show our support?”

The True Universe was strong, but the Guanxuan Universe wasn’t weak.

In other words, it was worthy of a gamble of a lifetime. Lian Cheng had decided to take a look at the matter with the bigger picture in mind. Lian Shuang was friends with Ye Guan, but they weren’t close enough to give up their lives for each other.

However, Lian Cheng reckoned that everything would change once the Lian Clan went over to the Guanxuan Universe to support them.

Bootlickers were a dime a dozen while one was at the peak, but once one was at the bottom of the abyss, perhaps not even a handful of people would offer a helping hand.

The Lian Clan had decided to help the Guanxuan Universe while it was at the bottom of the abyss. The Guanxuan Universe didn’t have as many talents as the True Universe, but the Lian Clan would still profit from such a relationship.

If the Guanxuan Universe won, the Lian Clan would no longer have to pay any tributes to the True Universe anymore. The Lian Clan would also reach greater heights with the help of the Guanxuan Universe!

Let’s go for it!

Soon, a thousand elites of the Lian Clan made a beeline for the Guanxuan Universe.

...

In Zong World.

An old man was staring at Zong Shou in a hall somewhere in the Zong World.

“Are you sure you want to go?” asked the old man.

Zong Shou nodded. “Yes!”

The old man said, “The True Universe is too strong.”

Zong Shou stared into the old man’s eyes and said, “It’s fine if I can’t fight, but I have to be there.”

The old man was silent.

Zong Shou bowed deeply and said, “Grandfather, I’ll go there by myself. I won’t burden the clan with my own decision.”

With that, he turned around and started walking away.

“Wait!” exclaimed the old man.

Zong Shou turned around.

The old man stood up and shouted, “Men!”

Zong Shou’s expression changed. “Grandfather, you—”

“Pass down my orders!” the old man yelled, “Every elite above the Immortal Realm must come here as soon as possible!”

Zong Shou was stunned.

The old man explained, "If I could choose, I would choose the True Universe, but it is a shame that they look down on us. However, the Young Master of the Guanxuan Universe was willing to acknowledge you as his brother. Of course, our clan should support him. I can't let you embarrass us there, so we'll go with you. Let's go."

With that, the old man led Zong Shou and the rest of the Zong Clan's elites to the Guanxuan Universe.

...

The war between the True Universe and the Guanxuan Universe spread like wildfire throughout the All Worlds. The members of the Guanxuan Universe's younger generation traveling the distant reaches of the vast expanse were furious upon hearing the news.

"Goodness! How dare the True Universe! Let's go home!"

"A war? Do they really think that we're afraid of them?! Let's go home! Fuck them!"

"Obliterate the True Universe!"

"Let's go home!"