

## A Sword 41

### Chapter 41: Like

Die! Ye Guan dashed like a hurricane, and a dagger appeared in his hands. The two months that Ye Guan had spent in the trial tower had increased his speed dramatically, and even Sky-rank demons were no longer his match in the speed department.

Ye Guan dashed and decapitated one of the barbarians, sending the latter's head rolling on the ground. However, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet. He charged at another barbarian, and another head was soon rolling on the ground.

Ye Guan seemed like he was possessed, and the barbarians could hardly track him with their eyes. Miserable cries continued to echo, and the bearded man on the ground stared blankly at the sight.

Damn it! The bearded man realized that he had been fooled. The information he had received about Ye Guan wasn't accurate at all. He's not an ordinary Spacetime Realm cultivator!

The bearded man's heart started to ache.

Meanwhile, another barbarian collapsed to the ground.

The bearded man hurriedly shouted, "Stop! This is a misunderstanding—"

"Shut up!" Nalan Jia stepped on his mouth and said, "Don't interrupt him. Let him enjoy his killing spree. I like seeing him kill!"

The bearded man was rendered speechless.

More barbarians had fallen while Nalan Jia and the bearded man were talking. In the blink of an eye, there were already over a hundred corpses. The barbarians were terrified at the realization that so many of their clansmen had perished.

The fact that they hadn't caught even a glimpse of the culprit made the scene even more terrifying. The members of the Barbarian Clan were powerful, and their attacks were impactful. Unfortunately, speed had never been their forte!

"The king is dead! Run! We have to live!" a barbarian roared upon seeing the bearded man on the ground. With that, the barbarian turned around and fled the scene.

"What?! Damn it, I'm still alive!" the bearded man roared with wide eyes. However, the barbarians ignored him and fled.

Ye Guan finally came to a halt. He felt hot, and he finally noticed that the dagger in his hand was emitting a faint red glow.

Ye Guan was nervous.

"Master Pagoda, why does it feel like my blood is boiling?" asked Ye Guan.

Little Pagoda said, "I think you're just intoxicated from the slaughter."

Ye Guan's expression froze.

Little Pagoda continued. "Your blood isn't boiling, but it's normal to be agitated the first time you conduct a slaughter like this. You'll be fine after some rest."

Ye Guan hesitated, but he still nodded in the end.

Little Pagoda breathed a sigh of relief. Its voice echoed throughout the tiny pagoda as it said, "It's a good thing that his bloodline didn't awaken here. Things would have gotten dangerous. I don't think that even the two of us can suppress him."

"Guide him. Make sure that he becomes a good person," said the mysterious voice.

“Good person, your head!” Little Pagoda retorted. “If he hadn’t made a move, I would have given up on him. We’re not here to guide a softie. However, if his grandfather were here rather than him, the demons in this mountain range would have been annihilated.”

“What if his father were here?” asked the mysterious voice.

Little Pagoda seemed like it was hesitating as it said, “It depends on the situation. At the very least, he would act like Ye Guan and kill those demons before stopping at some point. However, he could also wipe out all life on the Upper Realm...”

The mysterious voice was dumbfounded by the revelation.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan walked over to the bearded man.

The bearded man was terrified of Ye Guan. He was about to speak, but Ye Guan beat him to the chase.

“Was it the Profound Sky Clan? Did they send you to kill me and Little Jia?” he asked.

The bearded man stared with wide eyes at Ye Guan and asked, “How did you know?”

Ye Guan remained calm as he explained, “The Profound Sky Clan is our only enemy on the Upper Realm, so who else could it be other than them?”

The bearded man’s voice turned solemn as he said, “I have spiritual treasures. Spare me, and I will give—”

Ye Guan abruptly slit the bearded man’s throat.

Splash!

The bearded man's blood spurted and stained the ground crimson. He stared at Ye Guan with eyes dyed in despair.

Ye Guan took the bearded man's storage ring and said, "I can just kill you, and your treasures will belong to me."

The bearded man couldn't speak anymore.

Ye Guan examined the storage ring and was stunned by the sight. The bearded man's storage ring contained two Sky-grade demonic beast internal pills, sixty thousand gold spiritual crystals, and a few lower-grade demonic beast internal pills.

Ye Guan was delighted. The two Sky-grade demonic beast internal pills could be sold for over two hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals.

In other words, the combined market value of the items in the storage ring was a whopping three hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals.

Three hundred thousand... What a great profit! Ye Guan hurriedly spoke, "Master Pagoda, can you teach me the Entrapment Technique?"

Little Pagoda was speechless.

Meanwhile, Nalan Jia walked over to Ye Guan and took out a handkerchief before gently wiping the blood off Ye Guan's face.

Ye Guan froze right there and then. The two of them were standing so close to each other that Ye Guan was basking in Nalan Jia's fragrance.

Ye Guan fell into a daze while staring at the beautiful Nalan Jia.

Nalan Jia muttered, "You don't have to get angry the next time someone says something like that. I don't really care about what they say."

Ye Guan shook his head and explained, "They can insult me, but I will not let them go if they insult you!"

Nalan Jia smiled. "What if someone stronger than you insulted me? What will you do?"

Ye Guan went silent. However, it didn't take him long to answer, "If I can't beat them, so be it. It doesn't matter even if they beat me to a pulp; I'll fight those who will insult you."

"Can you just take a step back? Endure it, and things will soon return to normal," said Nalan Jia.

However, Ye Guan shook his head and said, "If I have to put up with someone who has insulted the person I like, then why am I even cultivating? I didn't become a swordsman to be like a tortoise."

Nalan Jia stared deeply at Ye Guan.

"Someone you like? Do you like me?" she asked, seemingly startled.

Ye Guan saw Nalan Jia's astonishment, and he hesitated before asking, "Is it not okay?"

Nalan Jia froze. She shook her head and explained, "I was just surprised."

She then held Ye Guan's hand before continuing to wipe the blood off Ye Guan's face.

"Is this your first time doing this to a man?" asked Ye Guan.

"This is the second time," replied Nalan Jia.

Ye Guan froze over.

Nalan Jia noticed that and explained, “My father was beaten to a pulp, and I helped him wipe the blood off of his face. Why? Is there something wrong with that?”

Ye Guan grinned. “No, of course not! You did the right thing!”

Nalan Jia shook her head and smiled. “You dumbo...”

Ye Guan smiled. He took out half of the items he had obtained from the bearded man’s storage ring and handed them to Nalan Jia.

“You should keep them for yourself,” said Nalan Jia. Ye Guan was a cultivation maniac, and he needed a ton of resources to support his cultivation.

Ye Guan shook his head and explained, “Your physique is unique. I’m sure you need a lot of cultivation resources.”

“It’s not—” Nalan Jia started.

However, Ye Guan interrupted her by shoving the items into her arms.

“We’ll take half. That’s it,” said Ye Guan.

“Okay.” Nalan Jia smiled.

She could only accept the items and store them in her storage ring.

Rumble!

The ground suddenly trembled, stopping Ye Guan and Nalan Jia in their tracks.

The pair turned and saw a thirty-meter-tall demonic beast running in their direction. The demonic beast was a few kilometers away from them, but the pair could already feel the demon's powerful aura.

Nalan Jia sounded solemn as she said, "I think that's a half-step Imperial-rank demonic beast!"

Ye Guan's expression fell, and he shouted.

Nalan Jia nodded.

The pair were about to run away, but Nalan Jia noticed something and pointed. "Look!"

Ye Guan turned and saw a man running in front of the demonic beast.

The man was none other than Siao Ge.

Siao Ge was ecstatic to see them, and he started shouting like crazy, "Brother Ye, help me! Help meee! Damn it! Come here and save me!"

However, Ye Guan grabbed Nalan Jia's arm and turned around to run.

Siao Ge was stunned. His voice was trembling as he shouted, "Brother Ye... my beloved brother! It's me, brother! It's me, your brother Siao Ge!"

Chapter 42: Qingzhou's Glory

Run! They had no choice but to run. Who could stop a Half-step Imperial-rank demonic beast with a demonic beast horde behind it?

Ye Guan, Nalan Jia, and Siao Ge ran as fast as they could. Fortunately, the demonic beast and the demonic beast horde weren't as fast as the three.

They were also getting closer to the endpoint. However, it seemed that the demonic beast horde had no intentions of slowing down.

Ye Guan's face fell. What did Siao Ge do? Why is a Half-step Imperial-rank demonic beast chasing him down along with a demonic beast horde?

Soon, the three reached the stone platform where the flagpole of the Guanxuan Academy was located. There were already five people on the stone platform—The three representatives of Qingzhou, Zuo Fu, and a gray-robed man with a straw in his mouth.

The five people looked up and saw Ye Guan, Nalan Jia, and Siao Ge. They frowned upon seeing the demonic beast horde chasing after the three.

Ye Guan glanced at the demonic beast horde. His expression turned grim upon realizing that the demonic beast horde had no intention of stopping. He made a sidelong glance at the pallid Siao Ge and asked, "What did you do?"

Siao Ge's voice was trembling as he said, "Come on, man. What can I do? Even I have no idea what I did! They suddenly started chasing me!"

Ye Guan wasn't convinced. He sounded somber as he asked once more, "You must have done something. Otherwise, they wouldn't have chosen to chase you this far, and look! They look like they're not going to stop until they catch you!"

Siao Ge hesitated, but he eventually took out an egg and said, "I picked this up."

"Does this egg belong to that demon?" asked Siao Ge.

Ye Guan was dumbstruck as he asked, "What do you think?"



Ye Guan decided to take the egg away from Siao Ge. Then, he raised it up high and made sure that the Half-step Imperial-rank demonic beast would see it.

“Take another step, and I’ll smash your egg!” shouted Ye Guan.

Everyone’s faces turned strange. They were obviously thinking about a different egg.

The Half-step Imperial-rank demonic beast came to a halt and glared at Ye Guan.

The demonic beast horde stopped as well.

Ye Guan stared at the demon and shouted, “There’s a misunderstanding here!”

The demonic beast sneered and said, “You took my egg away from me, and now, you’re using it to threaten me. How can there be a misunderstanding here?”

Ye Guan thought about it for a moment before saying, “How about we settle this with a fight?”

The demonic beast stared at Ye Guan. “What if you lose the fight?”

Ye Guan smiled. “I’m dead if I lose.”

“I’m one of the kings of this domain, so I have to accept your challenge. Human, I will let the matter rest if you win, but if you lose, you will die along with your friends,” said the demonic beast.

“All right,” said Ye Guan with a nod.

The demonic beast told the demonic beast horde to stand back.

“Brother Ye, how about you let me fight him? I’ve made the bed, so I should lie in it,” said Siao Ge.

Ye Guan smiled at Siao Ge. "I believe in your abilities, but I have been looking for an opportunity to fight a powerful opponent. I just made a breakthrough, you see? I hope you'll let me take this opportunity."

Siao Ge hesitated, but he eventually nodded and said, "Okay."

With that, Ye Guan started walking toward the demonic beast.

Siao Ge's expression was complicated as he stared at Ye Guan. Siao Ge was well aware that Ye Guan's words earlier were to save his face. After all, Siao Ge wasn't really confident that he could face the demonic beast, not to mention defeat it.

Ye Guan was about to face a Half-step Imperial-rank demonic beast.

A Half-step Imperial-rank demonic beast was as strong as a Spacetime Realm cultivator. Even worse, demonic beasts were innately stronger than humans. Their defense was not to be underestimated as well.

Everyone watched as Ye Guan walked in front of the demonic beast.

"Your Honor, you are extremely powerful, so please pardon me if I resort to unscrupulous means," said Ye Guan.

The demonic beast remained calm as it said, "Do what you want."

Swoosh!

Ye Guan abruptly disappeared. He reappeared like a ghost in front of the demonic beast, and he sent a kick toward the demonic beast's family jewels.

Everyone was stupefied by the sight.

Ye Guan's kick landed before the demonic beast could even react.

Boom!

The demonic beast's eyes shot wide open, and it rapidly widened the distance between it and Ye Guan. However, it threw a punch at Ye Guan while retreating.

Boom!

The demonic beast's punch made a deep crater in the ground, but it missed Ye Guan, who had already reappeared behind the demonic beast.

Ye Guan sent another kick toward the demonic beast's family jewels.

Boom!

The demon beast's pupils constricted. It groaned and covered its crotch.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan vanished and reappeared above the demonic beast. He placed his dagger next to the demonic beast's throat, effectively ending the fight.

Everyone's expression was solemn.

Ye Guan's speed had taken them by surprise. The gray-robed man stared meaningfully at Ye Guan.

Zuo Fu closed his eyes and scolded Ye Guan under his breath. "How devious!"

Mu Yunhan exclaimed, "What a scoundrel!"

Ao Han shook his head and said, "He chose the most effective method when dealing with a demonic beast that possesses such an incredible defense."

"His speed is intriguing," added Ao Han. He turned to look at Mu Yunhan and asked, "Is your saber faster than him?"

Mu Yunhan was silent for quite a while before she replied, "I have to kill him in one strike. Otherwise, I will lose."

Ao Han's expression turned grave as he confessed. "He's too fast. I'll find it hard to defeat him if he uses the same fighting style he used against that demonic beast against me."

"I didn't expect that Nanzhou would produce a genius like him," added Ao Han.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan decided not to kill the demonic beast. He landed next to the demonic beast and placed the egg on the ground.

"Your Honor, here's your egg," said Ye Guan.

The demonic beast stared at Ye Guan and said, "Your speed is abnormal."

Ye Guan smiled and remained silent.

The demonic beast didn't say anything for a long time. Eventually, it picked up the egg and said, "It's your win. The score between us has been settled."

With that, it turned around to leave with the demonic beast horde.

Ye Guan remained silent as he pondered over the battle. It seems that one can truly become impossible to beat as long as one is fast enough. It's a pity that the demonic beast wasn't strong enough for me to test my limits.

Ye Guan had yet to meet an opponent that made him feel threatened since he fought that phantom on the ninth floor of the Guanxuan Academy's trial tower.

Ye Guan seemed to have thought of something, and he turned to look at An Mu from Qingzhou.

Ao Han smiled. He turned to the gray-robed An Mu next to him and said, "He's looking at you. I think that brat wants to challenge you. Haha..."

An Mu glanced at Ye Guan before closing his eyes. "This isn't my battlefield."

Ao Han smiled knowingly and said, "I know that the Zhongtu Divine Continent is your battlefield. That brat is strong, but he's far from worthy of challenging you."

An Mu shook his head slightly at the remark and said, "Zuo Fu is targeting me as well, which means that they're confident. I will not underestimate them—only a fool will underestimate their opponent."

"If you were in the demonic beast's shoes, Ye Guan would have crushed you before you even realized it. The reason the Half-step Imperial-rank demonic beast lost so quickly was that it underestimated Ye Guan."

Ao Han nodded. "I understand."

"I will protect Qingzhou's thousand-year-old glory. Those who will stand in my way will die!" An Mu declared with his eyes shut.

Chapter 43: I'll Be With You

Ye Guan, Nalan Jia, and Siao Ge sat next to each other and stared into the distance. They were waiting for Sun Xiong.

However, their expressions turned grave because Sun Xiong was still nowhere to be seen two hours later.

“Don’t worry. If he forfeits, the academy will escort him back. He should be fine,” said Siao Ge.

Ye Guan nodded. He looked at the fields that stretched into the distance. He hadn’t really interacted with Sun Xiong, but he still wished that Sun Xiong would pass this round. They were all from Nanzhou, after all.

Dusk soon descended, and Sun Xiong was still nowhere to be found. There were already more than twenty people on the stone platform, and there was only an hour left before the round ended.

Siao Ge glanced at the gray-robed An Mu and said, “Have you heard of him? He’s An Mu from Qingzhou.”

Ye Guan glanced at An Mu as well. The latter had reached the stone platform before them.

An Mu seemed to have sensed Ye Guan’s gaze. He turned to look at Ye Guan and grinned.

Ye Guan smiled slightly as well.

Siao Ge continued. “There are about nineteen people representing their own states here, and they’re definitely going to be in the rankings.”

Ye Guan nodded slightly. He looked into the distance and saw no one.

Meanwhile, Luo Zhaoqi appeared in the midst of the participants. Her arrival meant the end of the second round.

All of a sudden, Xiao Ge pointed somewhere. "Look!"

Ye Guan turned and saw a man running frantically toward them.

The man seemed to be struggling. His face was pale, and his right hand was pressing on his stomach. Blood was dripping from between his fingertips.

The participants wordlessly watched as the man hopped onto the stone platform. Luo Zhaoqi didn't say anything as well.

Amidst everyone's gazes, the man ran up to Luo Zhaoqi. He smiled weakly and asked, "I... I'm not late, right?"

Luo Zhaoqi calmly replied, "You're late."

The man froze and smiled bitterly.

However, Luo Zhaoqi said, "But I can make an exception..."

An exception!

Everyone froze over to process her words. It seemed that Luo Zhaoqi had the authority to decide whether a participant was late or not, and it seemed that she had decided to give the man a chance.

The man bowed deeply. "Thank you, Chief Student Representative Luo."

Luo Zhaoqi smiled before turning around to look at everyone else.

"The third round is different from the past two rounds. The third round will be a fight against each other. I'll give you a friendly hint: please choose your flag carefully. There will be no second chances if you end up choosing a powerful opponent."

Luo Zhaoqi lifted a finger and continued. "One night. Everyone here will have one night to recuperate. Tomorrow morning, you will be transported to a wasteland. The battles will be broadcasted live throughout the three hundred and sixty states.

"Aside from the elders of the academy and the Grand Elder of the Shenge Clan, a representative of the six great clans will be present as well," concluded Luo Zhaoqi with a charming smile.

The six great clans? Those who knew the six great clans were shocked.

Luo Zhaoqi smiled and explained, "It's not strange that most of you haven't heard of them. All I can say is that the six great clans are ancient clans that have existed for millions of years.

"Their foundations are extremely deep, and they're second only to the Guanxuan Universe when it comes to the number of powerhouses. Being chosen by the six great clans would be an amazing opportunity."

Luo Zhaoqi couldn't help but glance at Nalan Jia.

The Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy would only choose the champion of the martial contest. In other words, the participants could only settle for the great six clans. It wasn't really an issue because being chosen by the great six clans was still a one-in-a-lifetime fortuitous opportunity.

The resources from above were incomparable to the resources that those below could enjoy below. The participants were aware of that, so they were thrilled by the news.

Luo Zhaoqi smiled before turning around to leave.

The participants sat on the ground with excited faces because the fact that they had managed to pass the second round was finally starting to sink in. Those who managed to qualify for the third round were impressive cultivators in their own right.



The martial contest had over a thousand participants, but now, there were only about thirty people remaining. It was remarkable that they made it to the third round.

Ye Guan and the two others sat together around a campfire. Ye Guan decided to roast a chicken, even though they weren't really hungry.

Ye Guan tore a chicken leg and handed it to Nalan Jia.

Nalan Jia looked stunning beneath the red hue of the campfire.

Nalan Jia accepted the chicken leg and asked, "What place were you aiming for again?"

Siao Ge turned to look at Ye Guan. Honestly, aiming for first place meant that one would have to shoulder immense pressure. After all, they would have to fight Qingzhou to secure first place.

Zuo Fu would try for first place as well.

Ye Guan smiled and replied, "First place, of course."

First place! Nalan Jia stared deeply at Ye Guan. However, her face soon broke out into a grin as she said, "I'll be with you!"

Siao Ge cheered and exclaimed, "You can do it!"

The group eventually finished their meal and dispersed to rest.

Ye Guan lay on a boulder with his hands behind his head, and he was looking up at the moon, seemingly in deep thought.

A fragrance wafted over to him. He turned and saw that Nalan Jia was lying next to him.

Ye Guan smiled.

Nalan Jia smiled as well and asked, "Why are you smiling?"

"Nothing. I'm just happy!" said Ye Guan.

Nalan Jia muttered, "Me, too!"

The pair lay silently on the boulder, but they eventually started talking about mundane topics such as their families, lives, and what they wanted to do in the future.

The hours went by, and the stone platform became enveloped in silence. The moon was still hanging overhead, and the sky was filled with stars as usual.

Ye Guan glanced at Nalan Jia and saw that she had fallen asleep next to him.

Ye Guan took off his robe and placed it on her. Then, he lay down next to her. Nalan Jia leaned closer to him and used his arm as a pillow.

Ye Guan was startled, but he soon composed himself and gently placed his right hand on Nalan Jia's cheek. Ye Guan smiled gently at her sleeping visage, and his heart became filled with nothing else but warmth.

Ye Guan closed his eyes and spoke to Little Pagoda, "Master Pagoda, are you asleep?"

Little Pagoda's reply came a few moments later.

"No," said Little Pagoda. There was a moment of silence before it added, "I don't need to sleep."

Ye Guan was perplexed. “Why not?”

Little Pagoda said, “Just tell me what you want.”

Ye Guan seemed to be hesitating as he asked, “Master Pagoda, is the Ye Clan[1] one of the six great clans?”

Little Pagoda replied, “No.”

Ye Guan was surprised. “Really?”

Little Pagoda explained, “They’re even stronger than the six great clans.”

Ye Guan asked, “Is that so?”

Little Pagoda said, “It’s not just the Ye Clan. Everyone in the Guanxuan Universe is strong as well, so you have to work hard. Do you understand?”

Ye Guan was silent for quite a while before saying, “If I become as powerful as that plain-skirt sister, do I still have to be afraid of them?”

It was Little Pagoda’s turn to go silent.

Little Pagoda was silent for quite a while before it replied, “I think the Ye Clan will give you some face by then.”

Ye Guan nodded and said, “She’s a Great Sword Immortal, right? Master Pagoda, I’ll work hard to become a Great Sword Immortal as soon as possible.”

Little Pagoda didn’t say anything in response.

1. Referring to his origin clan ٧٤٣

## Chapter 44: Dao Protector

A pale hue emerged on the horizon as sunlight vanquished the darkness of the night. It was daybreak, and it was time to wake up. Nalan Jia's eyes opened. She turned and saw Ye Guan's face inches away from her.

His well-crafted face and sharp features set a standard that only a few could match.

Nalan Jia smiled. She stood up and started stretching.

Ye Guan's eyes opened. He stared at the beauty in front of him and smiled brightly.

Luo Zhaoqi appeared once more, and she was sporting a wide-cut red skirt that captured everyone's attention.

"It's time!" she announced.

There was a burst of light as the teleportation array beneath everyone's feet shone and teleported everyone away.

The dazzling light temporarily blinded everyone, but they soon recovered and found themselves standing on a wasteland.

There wasn't anything else aside from ten flags that were peeking at them on the horizon. The flags were a few thousand meters apart, and bright gold words were emblazoned intricately on the flag in the middle—first place!

The participants were all staring at the flag, but the emotions within them were different from each other.

Just then, a Cloud Projection Orb appeared in the sky. It was clear that every state was watching them.

A stone platform emerged on the right-hand side of the participants.

The stone platform was hundreds of meters wide, and rows of chairs were on the stone platform. The stone platform was obviously for the live audience of the third ground, and the audience members were mostly composed of students from the Upper Realm's Guanxuan Academy, along with a few tutors.

There were also elders from many different clans. Their origins were different, but they all had one thing in common—they were privileged enough to spectate the martial contest live.

"Academy Chief, please," a voice reverberated throughout the wasteland.

A woman appeared from out of nowhere in front of the chairs on the stone platform.

The woman's deep purple skirt swayed gently in the wind, and she felt like a flickering flame in a sea of monotony. Her outfit made her stick out, and she commanded both attention and respect.

A slight smile graced her lips, and she radiated both strength and confidence.

She was the Academy Chief of the Upper Realm's Guanxuan Academy—Zhao Su.

Ye Guan froze over upon seeing her. He had stumbled upon her while he was escaping after assassinating an elder of the Profound Sky Clan. She's actually the Academy Chief of the Upper Realm's Guanxuan Academy?

Just then, the woman stared right into Ye Guan's eyes and winked coquettishly.

Ye Guan was at a loss for words. He couldn't have imagined that she held such a lofty position, but it explained why she didn't reveal her identity back then.

An old man and a woman appeared next to Zhao Su.

There was a golden badge on the old man's left chest, and Guan was carved on the badge. The old man's name was Yuan Gu, and he was a high-ranking elder of the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy.

He was an elder of the academy, so he was obviously influential.

It seemed that Yuan Gu was interested in An Mu because he was only staring at the latter since he showed himself to the participants. The woman beside him was an elder of the Shenge Clan, and her eyes were fixed on Nalan Jia.

Of course, it wasn't like she wasn't interested in An Mu. However, she was well aware that she would never be able to compete with the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy.

The audience members took their seats.

Zhao Su smiled and said, "Elder Yuan, the champion of this martial contest will have to enter my academy to cultivate for a certain period of time before they go to the Zhongtu Divine Continent. However, you seem to be in a hurry to bring them away."

Yuan Gu nodded and said, "Academy Chief Zhao, I am truly in a hurry."

Zhao Su frowned briefly before asking, "Why are you in a hurry?"

Yuan Gu sounded solemn as he answered, "The Destiny Contest."

Zhao Su's eyes narrowed. "It has begun?"

Yuan Gu nodded with a grim look. "Yes."

Zhao Su asked, "And you're under a lot of pressure?"

Yuan Gu chuckled bitterly and said, "Indeed. Otherwise, I wouldn't be in such a hurry to bring An Mu away."

Yuan Gu made a sidelong glance at An Mu and continued. "He's the only one who can compete with those people."

"Tell me about them," urged Zhao Su.

There was a moment of silence before Yuan Gu explained, "A talented individual appeared not too long ago, and it seemed like he was born to cultivate.

"I also heard that he will inherit Mu Tiandao's legacy. In other words, Mu Tiandao is his Dao Protector!"

Mu Tiandao! Zhao Su's eyes narrowed before asking, "Mu Tiandao... are you talking about the fourth strongest person?"

Yuan Gu nodded. "Indeed!"

Zhao Su's expression turned heavy. Just how talented was that man that Mu Tiandao was willing to become his Dao Protector?

"A talent with the Undying Bloodline also emerged, and it is rumored that they had completely awakened the Undying Bloodline. However, they also awakened the Sword Master's Mad Demon Bloodline.

"They're second only to the Sword Master when it comes to talent throughout the long history of the Undying Clan," said Yuan Gu.

The Undying Clan! Zhao Su's expression turned gloomy.

The Undying Clan was ranked first among the six great clans. Aside from the extraordinary clans from Guanxuan Universe, the Undying Clan was the number one clan.

The great clans from Guanxuan Universe respected them a lot because the Sword Master's mother was from the Undying Clan.

Zhao Su asked, "Who is their Dao Protector?"

Yuan Gu's voice sounded grim as he answered, "I heard it's Boundless Master. I'm sure you've heard of him because he once went with the Sword Master to the Void World."

Boundless Master! Zhao Su was shocked speechless.

Boundless Master was another master on the same level as the Sword Master.

However, Yuan Gu wasn't done just yet as he said, "A talent has also appeared in the Demon Realm. His birth startled the demon clan because he was born with the Ancient Desolate Physique with a pair of Holy Eyes."

"This is unconfirmed, but I heard that Department Head Erya went to the Demon Realm to become that talent's Dao Protector." Yuan Gu paused for a while before adding, "They are exceptional talents with incredibly powerful Dao Protectors. There was also that individual from Milky Way..."

Zhao Su frowned and asked, "Milky Way?"

Yuan Gu nodded, and his chin trembled as he said, "I heard that they're the chosen one of this generation..."



The chosen one? The previous generation's chosen one was the Sword Master! Zhao Su was stunned. The chosen one's talent was definitely beyond comprehension, and they were surely capable of suppressing the other talents of their generation. So the chosen one has appeared...

Yuan Gu smiled bitterly and said, "I'm sure you finally understand why I'm in such a hurry."

Zhao Su made a sidelong glance at An Mu and asked, "Who is his Dao Protector?"

Yuan Gu replied, "We think it's Martial Goddess An..."

Martial Goddess An! A solemn veil was cast over Zhao Su's face. She suddenly recalled something, which made her glance at Ye Guan in the distance.

She found Ye Guan pitiful because he had no Dao Protector. The current generation had more talents than the previous generation, and without a Dao Protector, there was no way a young cultivator could go far, even if they were extremely talented.

The road of cultivation was endless, and one would inevitably face countless hardships to comprehend destiny and karma. How far could someone go without a Dao Protector?

Zhao Su's eyes became dyed with a tinge of sorrow. She initially had a lot of expectations for Ye Guan, but even she felt hopeless upon hearing that Ye Guan's peers had incredibly strong Dao Protectors.

Chapter 45: A Penchant for Kicking Balls

Ye Guan's eyes were tightly shut. He was planning on fighting others for first place.

He was oblivious to the fact that the entire Nanzhou was rooting for him. It had been ages since someone managed to qualify for the third round in the decennial martial contest, so Ye Guan was already a hero in the eyes of Nanzhou.

Zuo Fu was also eyeing the first-place flag. He also wanted first place in this contest. Yunzhou had been second for many years, and at this point, second place was no longer an honor but shameful for Yunzhou!

The sobriquet—second forever—was terrible. For many years, the cultivators from Yunzhou only had one goal—to be the number one state! However, they had all failed to become the number one state for many years now.

Zuo Fu clenched his right fist.

The participants took only one glance at the first-place flag before shifting their gaze away. Not everyone could fight for that flag—Yunzhou and Qingzhou were simply too powerful to contend against.

Meanwhile, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion created a temporary betting house dedicated to the martial contest in Shang City.

The betting odds for Qingzhou were one percent. In other words, if Qingzhou won the martial contest, a gambler would earn one gold spiritual crystal for every hundred gold spiritual crystals they had decided to gamble in favor of Qingzhou.

However, one could bet more than a thousand gold spiritual crystals on Qingzhou.

Yunzhou's betting odds were one to ten. One would earn ten gold spiritual crystals for each gold spiritual crystal.

The odds for the rest of the states were even higher—one to a thousand! In other words, one would earn a thousand gold spiritual crystals for every gold spiritual crystal one had decided to gamble in favor of every other state.

The most important part was that there wasn't any limit on the amount that one could bet on the other states.

In a way, everyone was looking down on the other states, but one had to understand that Qingzhou had been dominating the martial contest for a long time.

Just then, Fei Banqing walked into the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. She weaved through the crowd and placed her bet.

“Fifty thousand gold spiritual crystals on Nanzhou!” she shouted.

A deafening silence descended upon the betting house as all eyes turned to Fei Banqing. However, she ignored everyone’s baffled looks and turned around to leave.

Fifty thousand gold spiritual crystals—the amount was her life savings. In addition, she had even borrowed a sizable amount from Song Ci, but why? It was entirely because Ye Guan had told her that he was aiming for first place.

Meanwhile, Luo Zhaoqi was standing in front of the participants in the wasteland. She smiled and cheerfully announced. “I hereby declare the start of the third and final round of the martial contest!”

With that, she walked away to become a part of the audience members.

The representatives of Qingzhou immediately made their move. They ignored the participants and headed for the first-place flag with confidence and arrogance.

Zuo Fu made his move as well. His goal was the first-place flag as well, but no one was really surprised about his decision. After all, Yunzhou had always been the one and only state qualified to fight against Qingzhou.

However, the participants and the audience members were startled by a shocking scene that unfolded in front of them.

What was Nanzhou doing? Are they going for first place as well?

The spectators from all three hundred and sixty states also tensed up. However, the spectators burst out into boisterous laughter once they recovered from the initial shock.

How ridiculous! How absurd! They were definitely caught off guard.

There was a deafening silence In Nanzhou's Guanxuan Academy as soon as Ye Guan and the others started making their way toward the first-place flag.

Time seemed to have stopped as the tension bore down on them like a heavy mountain. In their opinion, it would already be incredible if their Guanxuan Academy could be in the top ten.

Why are they fighting for first place?

"Fuck!" someone cursed loudly, and it started a cacophony of shouts and cries.

Zhao Su smiled upon seeing Ye Guan walking toward the first-place flag. She knew that Ye Guan's aim was first place. Yuan Gu next to her remained silent, while Luo Zhaoqi's surprise turned into interest.

Just then, the three representatives of Qingzhou came to a halt.

Mu Yunhan turned toward Nalan Jia and asked, "Is it true that you have the legendary Holy Spirit Physique?"

Nalan Jia nodded. "Indeed."

Mu Yunhan stared deeply at Nalan Jia and remarked, "You're beautiful. It would be a shame for you to die."

Nalan Jia scoffed and taunted. "I dare you to kill me, then."

Swoosh!

Mu Yunhan abruptly thrust her saber at lightning speed toward Nalan Jia. The majority of the spectators only saw a flash of light. They didn't manage to catch even a glimpse of Mu Yunhan's saber.

A shrill noise echoed as the saber tore the air apart. However, the saber struck nothing but air because Nalan Jia had already teleported away.

Yuan Gu's voice had a hint of curiosity in it as he remarked, "Her spacetime comprehension is incredible."

Zhao Su was equally surprised.

"Interesting..." Mu Yunhan muttered. Moments later, she abruptly vanished and reappeared in front of Nalan Jia to unleash a flurry of strikes.

Saber lights pervaded Nalan Jia's surroundings, but Nalan Jia vanished as well and counterattacked. Sparks and space itself distorted as the ladies exchanged blows.

Meanwhile, Ao Han glanced at Ye Guan and Zuo Fu before asking, "Which one of you will fight me?"

Ye Guan and Zuo Fu shook their heads and gestured at An Mu with their chins.

"You guys aren't giving me any face at all." Ao Han's face darkened. He pointed at Zuo Fu and said, "You will be my opponent."

Zuo Fu frowned and asked, "Why?"

Ao Han looked at Ye Guan and remarked, "He has a penchant for kicking balls."

Ye Guan's expression froze.

Zuo Fu spoke, "Is that so? You're not looking down on me, right? Anyway, don't worry, I'm not as despicable as him."

Ye Guan was gloomy. Zuo Fu's words were like rubbing salt in his wounds.

However, Ao Han remained calm as he explained, "I want to fight you rather than that scoundrel from Nanzhou. I want to see if Yunzhou has improved."

Ao Han didn't wait for Zuo Fu's reply. He dashed and threw a punch at Zuo Fu.

Boom!

An explosion tore through the air as Ao Han's punch flew toward Zuo Fu. It turned out that Ao Han was a physique cultivator!

Zuo Fu placed his palms together and chanted.

Boom!

A cosmic light descended and sent Ao Han flying a few meters away.

A large crater was made in the ground where Ao Han had been standing earlier.

The spectators were stunned.

Ao Han looked down to check his condition and saw that he was covered in ashes from the heat of the beam that struck him. He looked at Zuo Fu and cried out, "You're a sorcerer!"

A sorcerer!

Sorcerers were mysterious people with ancient origins, and it was rumored that sorcerers could easily manipulate the natural energies of the world. The strongest of them could manipulate even the laws of the world. The spectators were surprised by the revelation, as no one had expected a sorcerer to appear in Yunzhou.

Ye Guan stared at Zuo Fu in bewilderment, and he seemed to have thought of something as his eyes landed on Zuo Fu's crotch.

"I'm not going to fight you," Zuo Fu hurriedly said. However, he froze for a few seconds and urgently added, "It's not because you're strong or I'm scared of you. I just don't want to get—anyway, I don't want to fight you for now."

Ye Guan didn't know what to say.

Chapter 46: Eternal Powerhouse Qingzhou

Ye Guan's signature move of kicking someone's balls was a huge source of headache. He could fail countless times, but succeeding even once meant that Ye Guan's target would be incapacitated. Even demonic beasts wouldn't be able to withstand a kick in the family jewels, not to mention humans.

An Mu suddenly said, "Both of you stop fighting. You'd best attack me all at once."

There was an uproar among the spectators. One versus two! The viewers from Qingzhou also broke out into a huge commotion upon hearing An Mu's words. How domineering! Qingzhou was indeed the eternal powerhouse!

Yuan Gu stroked his beard and said, "Great, great... this is great!"

A cultivator had to be domineering!

Zhao Su smirked while looking at An Mu and said, "He's domineering!"

Ye Guan glanced at An Mu and then at Zuo Fu.

"I'll give you fifty thousand gold spiritual crystals, let me fight him first!" he offered.

Zuo Fu shook his head and replied, "I'll give you a hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals if you let me fight him first!"

Ye Guan nodded. "Okay!"

Wait, what? Zuo Fu looked at Ye Guan, stunned.

Ye Guan stretched his right hand toward Zuo Fu and said, "Give me the gold spiritual crystals to me, and I'll let you fight him first!"

After a few moments of silence, Zuo Fu retrieved a storage ring and passed it to Ye Guan. The storage ring truly contained a hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals!

Ye Guan put the storage ring away.

He looked at Zuo Fu and said, "Thanks, I didn't expect that you'd be this rich!"

At the sight, Zuo Fu hesitated. Eventually, he asked, "Young Lord Ye, do you really have fifty thousand gold spiritual crystals?"

Ye Guan shook his head and replied, "Nope!"

He truly didn't have fifty thousand gold spiritual crystals, but Ye Guan was confident that he could easily get that many gold spiritual crystals if he decided to sell that internal pill.

However, he was still considered poor because cultivation at his current realm required a ton of resources that fifty thousand gold spiritual crystals were just a drop in the bucket.

Zuo Fu made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan and remarked, "Young Lord Ye, you're really crafty..."



Ye Guan smiled sheepishly. "Brother Zuo, all the best!"

With that, he walked away and stood in one corner to observe the upcoming battle.

If An Mu fought them at once and won, it wouldn't be as entertaining as fighting them one by one. In addition, Ye Guan didn't really need to do something like that.

An Mu glanced at Ye Guan before turning to look at Zuo Fu.

"Make your move!" he said.

Zuo Fu put his palms and started chanting. A whirlwind manifested, and it quickly turned into thousands of wind blades that flew toward An Mu.

Shrieeeeek!

A shrill noise echoed throughout the wasteland, and it was generated by the whirlwind churning out wind blades toward An Mu.

An Mu took a stance with his left arm behind him, and he clenched his right fist before sending a punch.

Boom!

A burst of light was seen as the punch flew and collided with the wind blades. It looked like the wind blades were made out of pieces of paper as they instantly collapsed after being struck by An Mu's fist.

Fist Intent!

The spectators' expressions grew heavy at the sight.

An Mu looked at Zuo Fu and said, "I'll let you attack me once more. Use your most powerful move; don't waste my time!"

Zuo Fu nodded. "All right!"

He put his palms together and recited an ancient incantation.

Crackle!

A rift in space opened overhead, and one could see an endless starry sky from beyond the rift. A terrifying and majestic aura descended upon the wasteland. Time and space started trembling, and the ground started to split apart.

Yuan Gu unknowingly stood up and glared at Zuo Fu in disbelief.

"God-rank Divine Magic!"

God-rank?! Everyone's expression abruptly changed. Divine Magic had always been powerful, and a God-rank Divine Magic meant that the spell would be undoubtedly terrifying. No one had ever been able to use God-rank Divine Magic until now.

Since the martial dao's collapse, Divine Magic became an exceedingly rare sight. It had to be known that God-rank Divine Magic was rare even throughout the entirety of Zhongtu Divine Continent, but they were witnessing it for themselves right now!

Time and space continued to tremble, and the ground was sundered beneath the inexplicable power of a God-rank Divine Magic. An Mu looked up at the rift in space, but not even a hint of nervousness could be seen in his expression.

Zuo Fu shouted, "Starfall!"

Boom!

Beams of starlight shot out from the depths of the endless starry sky to form a meteor shower that emerged from the rift in space. The meteor shower descended upon An Mu like a cataclysmic event.

Crackle!

Multiple rifts in space manifested throughout the wasteland; it was an extremely terrifying sight!

Yuan Gu lifted his right hand to interfere.

Zhao Su called out, "Elder Yuan!"

Yuan Gu returned to his senses. He realized that he couldn't interfere because this was a fair battle between the young generation. He retracted his right hand and stared intently at An Mu.

Ye Guan's expression was heavy as he stared at the meteor shower. He had to admit that Zuo Fu's Divine Magic was extremely powerful, and he possessed enough prowess to raze an entire city to the ground.

Meanwhile, the meteor shower finally descended.

Boom!

A massive explosion occurred, and a huge mushroom cloud bloomed in the wasteland and surged at least thousands of meters into the air to reach the clouds.

The earth was sundered as the shockwave of the explosion swept past the wasteland, causing those who were fighting for the other flags to retreat and take shelter temporarily.

The dust settled a minute later, and An Mu's previous location had been decimated, leaving nothing but a huge crater that seemed to be at least thirty meters deep.

It was a sight that stunned the spectators. However, the spectators went from stunned to stupefied upon seeing someone standing up in the crater. It was none other than An Mu, and he seemed completely fine.

The spectators couldn't believe their eyes. Did he just withstand a God-rank Divine Magic without suffering any injuries? Is he really human?

Yuan Gu heaved a sigh of relief.

He sat down with a smile and exclaimed, "Great... this is great!"

Zhao Su stared at An Mu for a long time. The shock was palpable in her voice as she muttered, "What a monster..."

Zuo Fu smiled bitterly upon seeing the unscathed An Mu.

He clasped his hands together and said, "I admit defeat. It's your victory!"

Zuo Fu decided to surrender because if An Mu could withstand even his God-rank Divine Magic without suffering any injuries, he had zero chance of defeating the latter.

An Mu was indeed more talented than any other talents who were born in Qingzhou over the past thousand years. Zuo Fu had never seen anyone withstand his God-rank Divine Magic without suffering even the tiniest injury.

Qingzhou truly deserved its reputation.

Zuo Fu turned around and walked away. He was convinced that he would claim second place.

Meanwhile, An Mu started walking toward the first-place flag. He didn't look happy at all, but it wasn't really strange because An Mu had never considered anyone here to be his match. His eyes were set on Zhongtu Divine Continent.

However, he wasn't being arrogant. He was simply confident.

Everyone stared with complicated emotions at An Mu. It was clear that Qingzhou would be the champion of the martial contest once again.

"Wait!"

An Mu came to a halt upon being interrupted by a shout.

Everyone turned and saw that the voice had come from Ye Guan.

The spectators froze.

An Mu turned to look at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled and said, "It's my turn."

There was an uproar among the spectators. He still wants to fight him? What's wrong with this guy? Can he not see the difference between him and An Mu?

An Mu stared deeply at Ye Guan and asked, "Do we still have to fight?"

Ye Guan nodded and said, "Of course!"

An Mu's gaze remained fixed on Ye Guan as he said, "All right, I will let you attack me once. Once I make my move, that will be the end of it, so I'll let you attack me once."

## Chapter 47: True Dragon

I'll let you attack me once!

No one doubted An Mu's words or thought that he was bragging. After all, he had just withstood Zuo Fu's God-rank Divine Magic and emerged from it unscathed!

The spectators' eyes were all on Ye Guan, and they all thought that Ye Guan was just asking for trouble.

Zhao Su chuckled. "He truly is an interesting brat!"

Ye Guan's challenge caught Zhao Su off guard. She didn't expect that Ye Guan would still have the guts to challenge An Mu after seeing An Mu withstand Zuo Fu's God-rank Divine Magic.

An Mu hadn't really attacked Zuo Fu, but even a child could deduce An Mu's strength from how the former had used Fist Intent and withstood Zuo Fu's God-rank Divine Magic.

Was it confidence, or was it arrogance? The spectators would soon find out.

Amidst everyone's gaze, Ye Guan slowly walked toward An Mu. He smiled slightly and asked, "Can we start?"

An Mu nodded. "Sure."

Swoosh!

Ye Guan abruptly disappeared.

An Mu's eyes narrowed, and he hurriedly lifted his right arm in front of his throat.

Thump!

A dull noise echoed as An Mu blocked Ye Guan's attack toward his throat.

Ye Guan wasn't done just yet.

He swung his leg toward An Mu's crotch, but his kick struck nothing but air because An Mu had already retreated.

Meanwhile, An Mu had just retreated, but Ye Guan was already in front of him once more.

An Mu raised his hand and punched Ye Guan in front of him.

Boom!

An Mu's fist shattered space itself, but it failed to hit Ye Guan.

An Mu's pupils constricted.

Ye Guan was already on his flank, and the latter's punch was already flying toward his temple.

Boom!

An Mu was sent flying, but Ye Guan caught up to the flying An Mu and punched the former's throat.

Boom!

An Mu continued flying, and Ye Guan caught up to him once more before sending another punch.

A strange scene unfolded on the wasteland. An Mu was surrounded by Ye Guan's afterimages, and he looked like he was stuck in mid-air as Ye Guan kept on sending him flying with punches.

It was a strange but terrifying scene.

The spectators were stunned upon realizing that An Mu had already flown more than thirty meters, but he still hadn't landed on the ground.

Ye Guan was keeping him stuck in mid-air using nothing but speed!

The scene was so unreal that the spectators had to pick their jaws up from the floor.

Wasn't he from Nanzhou? Why was he so strong?

Yuan Gu stared at Ye Guan in disbelief. "What a terrifying speed!"

Zhao Su nodded slightly. She was taken aback as well. Ye Guan's speed had increased by many times compared to the first time she met him. It seemed that the little brat had trained as hard as he could for the martial contest.

Boom!

A terrifying power erupted from An Mu.

Ye Guan had already retreated somewhere far away before An Mu could even do anything. His evasive prowess dumbfounded everyone. However, the spectators were more surprised to see that An Mu was still alive despite Ye Guan's relentless attacks.

In fact, he was unscathed! Was he a physique cultivator?



The spectators stared at An Mu in shock. An Mu stretched his neck and cracked his bones. He stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, "You have surprised me. I have to admit that you are superior to me in terms of speed!"

Ye Guan was silent. He had unleashed many powerful attacks, but he didn't manage to deal any substantial damage to An Mu at all.

Is he really a Physique Cultivator? Ye Guan was slightly puzzled.

"You're quick, but it's a pity that you're not strong enough to break my defenses," An Mu remarked. He opened his right palm and slammed it on the ground.

Boom!

In an instant, the earth trembled violently, and the power in the depths of the earth flowed into An Mu's palm.

"Great Earth Force!" exclaimed someone from the audience stand.

Ye Guan abruptly vanished.

An Mu's eyes flashed with cold light. He swung his right arm fiercely and roared, "Earth Rupture!"

Boom!

The surrounding earth shattered and flew into the air. At the same time, a domineering wave of energy resembling what An Mu had absorbed from the depths of the earth made a beeline for Ye Guan.

An Mu was trying to suppress Ye Guan's speed forcefully.

An Mu's attack seemed to be as powerful as Zuo Fu's God-rank Divine Magic.

Zhao Su and a few audience members stood up. They were the only ones who could track Ye Guan's movement, so they were on the edge of their seats.

Ye Guan sent a few punches.

At first glance, his punches seemed random, but they were actually aiming at the weakness of An Mu's attack. It only took Ye Guan three punches to shatter An Mu's attack, and he reappeared in front of An Mu like a ghost.

An Mu's pupils constricted in disbelief as he stared at Ye Guan in front of him.

Boom!

An Mu was sent flying once more, and the same strange scene happened once again. Most of the spectators could only see Ye Guan's afterimages as he suspended An Mu in the air by sending him flying away and catching up to him to send him flying once more.

Ye Guan's attacks were so fast that An Mu seemed like he couldn't even retaliate.

The spectators' jaws dropped to the floor.

Yuan Gu's expression turned ugly, and he couldn't help but ask, "He's a Spacetime Realm cultivator, right? Why is he so fast?"

Zhao Su was puzzled as well. Ye Guan's speed was abnormal.

Luo Zhaoqi chimed in, "I saw him train in our trial tower. He was training in a tower that specializes in spacetime gravity!"

Zhao Su looked at her and asked, "Did he say which floor he managed to reach?"

Luo Zhaoqi muttered, "He said he reached the ninth floor..."

The ninth floor?! Zhao Su and Yuan Gu froze, and they looked at each other in shock.

Zhao Su muttered, "That explains his speed, and I think he even conquered the ninth floor."

Luo Zhaoqi's expression was complicated. She chuckled hollowly while staring at Ye Guan's afterimages. She could still remember how she had mocked Ye Guan, not knowing that he had simply answered honestly.

She had truly made a fool of herself!

Luo Zhaoqi was both ashamed and angry. Why did he not even bother to correct me?

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was still attacking An Mu. He even took out his dagger to attack An Mu, but it was no use. An Mu's physique was so strong that he couldn't inflict substantial damage on the latter.

A terrifying aura suddenly erupted from An Mu.

Rumble!

Ye Guan's pupils constricted. He moved away, but he was a beat too late.

Boom!

Ye Guan was sent flying.

The spectators were dumbfounded to see the illusory figure of a golden dragon hovering above An Mu.

A dragon? The spectators couldn't make heads or tails of what they were seeing.

"A True Dragon!" Yuan Gu abruptly stood up. He was giddy with excitement as he stared at An Mu and said, "A True Dragon. It's definitely a True Dragon from the True Dragon Clan on Zhongtu Divine Continent. He has actually been acknowledged by the True Dragon Clan! Hahaha!"

Yuan Gu laughed without any reservation.

A deafening silence descended on the wasteland, and it was so silent that one could hear a pin drop. They were talking about dragons here, and An Mu had actually been acknowledged by the most powerful dragons in existence—the True Dragons!

The spectators finally understood why An Mu's physique was so sturdy, and it was all because a True Dragon was protecting him!

Ye Guan was stunned as he stared at the illusory golden dragon hovering above An Mu. He was truly caught off guard. He had never expected that An Mu was under the protection of a True Dragon.

A True Dragon! The books I've read in Nanzhou stated that a dragon is a creature that only exists in myths! Therefore, Ye Guan had never expected that he would see a dragon one day.

Ye Guan inwardly exclaimed, "Master Pagoda! It's a dragon!"

Little Pagoda was speechless.

Meanwhile, An Mu glared at Ye Guan with a hideous expression.

"I have to admit. I did not expect that I would end up using one of my trump cards here," he said. He had been trying his best to hide his trump cards, but he discovered that Ye Guan's speed was simply too terrifying.

He felt that he had no choice but to use one of his trump cards. Otherwise, he could only take a beating. Ye Guan wasn't strong enough to beat him to death, but he still had a reputation to uphold as Qingzhou's representative.

Ye Guan's eyes were fixed on the illusory True Dragon above An Mu. The True Dragon was a mere illusory figure because its true body existed within An Mu.

Ye Guan had to admit that he was slightly afraid of a dragon, but he wasn't afraid of an illusory figure. So what if there was a True Dragon? Its main body was missing, so Ye Guan was prepared to give it a shot!

Ye Guan clenched his right fist. He would finally go all-out.

An Mu started walking toward Ye Guan. He glared at the latter and said fiercely, "Feel the power of the True Dragon Bloodline!"

Roaaaar!

An Mu roared, and the illusory True Dragon roared as well.

Boom!

The domineering aura of a True Dragon swept across the wasteland.

The spectators and the participants collapsed to the ground while trembling.

Bloodline suppression! How could the bloodline of ordinary humans withstand the domineering aura of the True Dragon Bloodline?

Some of the elders of the Upper Realm's Guanxuan Academy even leaned forward, and they were trembling as they tried their best to avoid falling to the ground.

Zhao Su and Yuan Gu turned pale. They were powerful, but the bloodline suppression of the True Dragon's Bloodline was simply too strong for them to endure without any suffering.

They were just humans, so it wasn't strange that they found it difficult to resist the bloodline suppression of the True Dragon's Bloodline despite their high cultivation bases.

However, the spectators were shocked to discover that Ye Guan was still standing straight despite taking the brunt of the bloodline suppression.

He looked unperturbed and completely unaffected.

Chapter 48: Next Life!

Why is he unaffected? The spectators were frozen, and their eyes were filled with disbelief. Zhao Su's eyes were also filled with astonishment as she stared at Ye Guan.

How could he remain fine in front of a dragon's wrath?

However, An Mu was more shocked than anyone else.

"You... How can this be..." he stammered.

Ye Guan didn't know what to say. He truly had no idea why he was unaffected, but he could see that the True Dragon's Bloodline couldn't suppress him.

"Master Pagoda, what's going on? Why am I unaffected?" he asked Master Pagoda.

Little Pagoda's reply came a bit late, "Perhaps it's a fake dragon."

Ye Guan's expression froze. A fake dragon?

He looked up at the illusory golden dragon. Its domineering aura was suppressing everyone.

The participants couldn't move under its presence, so it didn't seem fake. However, it was an undeniable fact that the True Dragon's domineering aura couldn't suppress him, which could only mean one thing.

Master Pagoda must be hiding something from me...

Roaaar!

Just then, An Mu roared, and the illusory golden dragon roared as well.

There was a burst of energy as the terrifying aura of a True Dragon swept across the wasteland. The weaker spectators felt awful as they suffered internal injuries, and some of them even started bleeding from their noses. The others saw that, and they started running away as far as they could from where An Mu was located.

No one dared to remain close to the one with a True Dragon Bloodline.

Ye Guan was sure that An Mu had let out a stronger roar than earlier, so why was it that he was still completely fine? He remained standing as the nearby participants ran away from them.

Ye Guan realized that there was something wrong. How am I completely fine?

An Mu glared at Ye Guan, and he knew that he was in trouble. It was absurd that Ye Guan was immune to the True Dragon's aura. A thousand thoughts flashed through his mind, but he still couldn't find any explanation.

Ye Guan glanced at An Mu, and he abruptly vanished.

An Mu's expression stiffened. He was about to step back, but Ye Guan's dagger had already slashed his neck.

Clang!

Sparks flew from the friction, but An Mu was uninjured.

However, Ye Guan wasn't done yet.

An ear-splitting noise pierced An Mu's ears as Ye Guan repeatedly slashed and stabbed An Mu in a masterful display of swordsmanship.

An Mu could still counterattack, but he couldn't hit Ye Guan at all. An Mu felt like he was suffocating in the face of Ye Guan's relentless assault.

The spectators were dumbfounded. Ye Guan's speed was divine, but An Mu's defense was even more frightening than Ye Guan's speed.

Moments later, Ye Guan stopped attacking to look down at the dagger in his hand.

The dagger had shattered, but An Mu was still unscathed. The latter's defense was truly abnormal.

An Mu widened the distance between them and said, "A True Dragon is protecting me. You will not be able to kill me even if you are two cultivation realms above me."

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at An Mu.

Just then, An Mu raised his right hand and clenched it tightly. The illusory golden dragon illusion raised its claws high into the sky and slammed them down on the ground.

The attack was powerful and destructive, causing the earth to tremble violently.



Ye Guan's eyes narrowed, and he trembled before retreating.

Boom!

The ground was sundered, and a massive crater was formed in the ground where he was standing earlier.

A powerful shockwave also swept across the wasteland.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan reappeared in front of An Mu, and he abruptly thrust his dagger at An Mu's eyes. Sparks flew as a result of the attack, but An Mu remained unscathed.

Ye Guan immediately decided to retreat, but An Mu's eyes shot wide open.

A dazzling golden beam of light shot from his eyes and made a beeline for Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's retreat was swift, but he was a beat too late.

Ye Guan took the brunt of the attack and was sent flying a few meters away. Once he recovered, he looked down at his right hand and saw that An Mu's attack had charred it black.

Nalan Jia's eyebrows knitted in worry at the sight.

Ye Guan examined An Mu and saw that there was a golden sheen on the latter's skin. A True Dragon was indeed protecting him, and it was an unprecedented sight for everyone, including Ye Guan.

An Mu seemed invincible under the protection of a True Dragon.

Yuan Gu stared at Ye Guan and remarked, "He's strong, but the battle is over."

A True Dragon's protection was absolute. Not to mention Ye Guan, even Yuan Gu wasn't confident that he could kill An Mu despite his powerful cultivation base.

An Mu was indeed worthy of being chosen by Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy.

An Mu stared into Ye Guan's eyes and said, "You managed to force me to use my trump card. I hate to admit this, but you are indeed—"

Shrieeek!

The shrill cry of a sword echoed throughout the wasteland, and the spectators were startled to find a sword sticking out of An Mu's neck.

An Mu was sent flying by the attack.

All eyes landed on Ye Guan, and the spectators were stunned upon realizing that the sword had come from Ye Guan.

A swordsman! Yuan Gu stood up. He was about to make a move just now, but Zhao Su stopped him in time.

Zhao Su had to stop Yuan Gu from interfering because the reputation of the Guanxuan Academy would plummet if an outsider were to intervene in the ongoing battle. All three hundred and sixty states were watching the battle, after all.

Yuan Gu came back to his senses and relaxed his clenched fists. He stared intently at the ongoing battle.

Ye Guan strolled toward An Mu, and a flying sword would cut An Mu with every step he took toward the latter.

The majority of the spectators could only see flashes of light. They couldn't actually track Ye Guan's flying swords because they were too fast for their eyes.

An Mu staggered backward from the relentless attack, but the golden hue on his skin suddenly erupted into flames.

Boom!

Ye Guan's flying swords were incinerated, and the illusory golden dragon above An Mu started to become tangible.

The True Dragon's true body was about to manifest.

An Mu survived Ye Guan's relentless attacks because of the illusory golden dragon's protection. The spectators stared in awe as An Mu's True Dragon started to manifest, while a few spectators stared solemnly at the True Dragon.

A True Dragon was a fearsome creature even in Zhongtu Divine Continent. The True Dragon stared contemptuously at Ye Guan, and it seemed to be looking at Ye Guan as if he were an ant.

Ye Guan suddenly turned toward the audience stand. He pointed at the True Dragon and asked, "Am I fighting that or An Mu?"

The spectators were silenced by his words.

It was indeed absurd to face the true body of a True Dragon.

However, An Mu's thoughts were different as he explained, "I have signed a contract with it, and our lives are shared. It can be considered my companion. If you have a companion, you can summon it as well."

Zhao Su's expression was complicated, but she had no choice but to speak up for An Mu. "He's right! The third round is a no-holds-barred round. You may use whatever means necessary to secure your victory."

Zhao Su sounded like she was hesitating as she added, "The battle will end once you admit defeat."

She honestly treasured Ye Guan as a talent.

An Mu would definitely be taken away by Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy, but the Upper Realm's Guanxuan Academy wouldn't definitely lose out if Ye Guan stayed with them.

However, Ye Guan remained silent, and his reaction troubled Zhao Su. She could see that Ye Guan wasn't willing to give up—she could see it in his eyes.

What a shame... Zhao Su sighed to herself.

Roaaar!

The True Dragon roared at Ye Guan.

Boom!

The space trembled under the sheer force of the roar, and the earth was ravaged once more. Ye Guan looked up at the True Dragon and clenched his right fist.

Just then, a hand wrapped around him from behind. Nalan Jia smiled sweetly at him and said, "I'm with you."

She could tell that Ye Guan didn't want to admit defeat, so she decided to fight with him. She was also willing to live and die together with him

Ye Guan smiled as well before turning to look at the True Dragon with a grim expression. The dragon swooped toward him, and its domineering aura swept across the wasteland.

It felt as if even the earth itself was shivering in fright.

The True Dragon's attack was strong enough to kill Ye Guan and Nalan Jia.

However, Nalan Jia remained steadfast, and she even glared at it. She was not the least afraid of it.

Ye Guan stomped, and a dazzling sword light illuminated the skies.

Ye Guan had pulled out the Path Sword, and he was about to execute the Instant Death Strike with it.

Buzz!

The Path Sword let out a resonant hum as it flew toward the True Dragon. The spectators watched in horror as the sword light pierced the True Dragon's head.

Ye Guan abruptly vanished and reappeared above the True Dragon. He lifted his sword well above his head and slashed down.

"Ah!" The shrill cry of the True Dragon contained a mixture of pain and fury. A large gash appeared on its head and blood rained down like a downpour.

The spectators and An Mu were in disbelief.

How is it possible that he managed to injure a True Dragon? He pierced the true body of a True Dragon! An Mu reeled in disbelief, and he stared blankly at the plummeting True Dragon.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet. He raised his sword once more and slashed down. He didn't dare to hold back against a True Dragon. He had to beat it up until it lost the will to fight.

The spectators' eyes popped out of their sockets, and their jaws fell to the floor because they immediately realized what Ye Guan wanted to do—he wanted to kill the True Dragon!

Just then, the True Dragon let out a pitiful wail as if it was summoning something.

Crackle!

A rift in space opened behind Ye Guan, and a middle-aged man emerged from it.

“Look out!” Nalan Jia shouted anxiously.

Ye Guan's heart jumped in fright.

He turned around to face the ambush, but Nalan Jia was standing in front of him with her arms wide open.

Boom!

A destructive wave of energy sent both Ye Guan and Nalan Jia flying.

The pair crashed to the ground.

Ye Guan hurriedly looked up and saw that Nalan Jia was burning. She was turning into ashes in front of him.

Nalan Jia gazed longingly at Ye Guan.

The color drained from Ye Guan's face as a tidal wave of emotions inundated him.

Nalan Jia desperately stretched her arm toward him, but her arm was also disintegrating into ashes.

“It seems that I can only marry you in my next life,” she muttered weakly.

## Chapter 49: Die Together

The plot twist stupefied everyone.

Zhao Su’s face grew ashen. Someone actually dared to interfere with the Guanxuan Academy’s martial contest!

She was about to take action, but Yuan Gu stopped her.

Yuan Gu shook his head slightly and explained, “He’s the Grand Elder of the True Dragon Clan, Ao Xiao. The Guanxuan Academy will be fine, but you’ll most likely die if you stop him.”

The True Dragon Clan! The True Dragon Clan was located within the Zhongtu Divine Continent’s Demon Realm along with the Ancient Monkey Clan. They were the two rulers of the Zhongtu Divine Continent’s Demon Realm.

Even the Zhongtu Divine Continent’s Guanxuan Academy had to be wary of them because the mother clan of the True Dragon Clan—the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan, had important positions in the Main Academy of the Guanxuan Academy.

If backers were to be compared, then the Zhongtu Divine Continent’s Guanxuan Academy could only hope to compare to them.

Zhao Su was aware that she couldn’t resist the True Dragon Clan. If she took action, there was a high chance that her outcome would be what Yuan Gu had said. The True Dragon Clan wouldn’t dare to go all-out against the Guanxuan Academy, but they could still kill her.

They could even do it without anyone noticing it.

Zhao Su was silent for quite a while before asking, “Am I supposed to just ignore it?”

Yuan Gu nodded. “Bear with it, or you will die!”

Zhao Su wordlessly clenched her fists. She eventually closed her eyes. She felt helpless—helpless because she knew that she couldn’t possibly beat such a powerful being from Zhongtu Divine Continent. She could try and contact the Main Academy, but transmissions could easily be intercepted.

Zhao Su sighed internally and loosened her fists. She could only give up. She was furious, but the cold reality was that she could only bow in front of a stronger being.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was on the ground with Nalan Jia. Nalan Jia’s body and soul were turning into ashes at horrifying speeds. Soon, she would cease to exist.

Ye Guan could only stare blankly at Nalan Jia.

Ao Xiao glared at Ye Guan. “How can the likes of you be worthy of killing a dragon of my True Dragon Clan?”

He had come here to save An Mu’s dragon. An Mu was a young master of the True Dragon Clan, so he couldn’t allow him to die.

If he died here and at the hands of Ye Guan, the True Dragon Clan would surely become Zhongtu Divine Continent’s laughingstock.

Ao Xiao wouldn’t have dared to do something like this if he were on Zhongtu Divine Continent, but he was on the Upper Realm. He couldn’t care less about the rules.

Who would dare to go against me? Who?! Ao Xiao glared murderously at Ye Guan.



Ye Guan's sword was sharp enough to shatter the defenses of a True Dragon, and he was a swordsman as well. He would definitely be a huge threat to the True Dragon Clan in the future, so Ao Xiao was determined to kill him.

He clenched his right fist, and a horrifying energy gathered in his palm. Ao Xiao's killing intent was palpable.

The spectators from the three hundred and sixty states watched the scene unfold in shock. How did things end up like this? Wasn't this supposed to be a fair fight? This is clearly just bullying. What's up with the Guanxuan Academy? Why are they not doing anything? Just why?

The spectators were confused

Siao Ge suddenly shouted, "Wasn't this supposed to be a fair fight? How is this a fair fight?!"

The spectators on the audience stand were silent. Zhao Su was silent as well.

They were aware that all this was unfair, but they didn't do anything other than watch.

Siao Ge was stupefied by their silence.

"How is this fair? Where is the justice?" he cried out.

Zhao Su and the other spectators remained silent. What was fairness and justice in the face of absolute power?

No one was daring enough to go against the True Dragon Clan.

Meanwhile, Ao Xiao was about to attack Ye Guan when a mysterious power suddenly wrapped around Nalan Jia's waning soul.

An irritated voice echoed. “Damn it, damn it, damn it all!”

Hum!

A golden beam of light shot out of Ye Guan and soared into the sky. The illusory figure of a tiny pagoda appeared before coalescing into a golden illusory figure. There was no mistaking it. The illusory figure was none other than Master Pagoda!

Ao Xiao’s eyes narrowed. “Who the hell are you?”

Master Pagoda roared, “I am your bloody ancestor! You rotten lizard!”

Master Pagoda abruptly disappeared.

Ao Xiao’s pupils constricted, and he punched out with his right hand.

Swoosh!

Ao Xiao’s punch collided with a golden beam of light.

Boom!

The golden beam of light shattered, and Ao Xiao was sent flying.

The spectators were dumbstruck.

However, Master Pagoda wasn’t done just yet as he[1] grabbed Ao Xiao by the head and slammed him to the ground.

Boom!

The ground shattered on impact, and the sight made the spectators reel in shock. They had never imagined, even in their wildest dreams, that they would one day witness a True Dragon being beaten up to a pulp.

Ao Xiao growled and transformed into his true form—a kilometer-long giant dragon. He took to the sky to widen the distance between him and Master Pagoda.

Master Pagoda's illusory figure appeared above Ao Xiao, and he stomped on the latter.

Thump!

Ao Xiao plummeted like a meteor, and everyone could barely hear his miserable shriek as blood poured out of his mouth. It was a one-sided beatdown.

Ao Xiao crashed to the ground, and Master Pagoda reappeared on his stomach.

Rip!

Master Pagoda tore a hole in Ao Xiao's stomach, and he started gouging Ao Xiao's innards and tendons.

The spectators were horrified.

Master Pagoda's action of gouging out Ao Xiao's tendons was trampling on the dignity of the True Dragon Clan.

The intense pain made Ao Xiao wail, but Master Pagoda wasn't done just yet as he gouged out every single tendon in Ao Xiao's body.

The wasteland was soon drenched with dragon blood.

Ao Xiao was barely alive.

“Master Pagoda!” shouted Ye Guan.

Master Pagoda stopped and turned to look at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan’s voice was trembling as he asked, “Little Jia... can you save her?”

Master Pagoda walked toward Ye Guan.

He briefly examined Nalan Jia before saying, “Yes!”

“Please save her!” Ye Guan begged.

Master Pagoda’s voice was solemn as he said, “I can’t save her for now. I can only protect her soul. Her soul is severely injured. We need a sword. You need to find a sword that will help her recover. If I save her with an injured soul, she will never be the same.”

Ye Guan hurriedly asked, “What sword is it?”

Master Pagoda responded, “Qingxuan Sword.”

Qingxuan Sword! Ye Guan’s pupils constricted. “The Sword Master’s sword?”

Master Pagoda nodded. “Yes.”

Ye Guan asked, “Where is it?”

Master Pagoda replied, “Zhongtu Divine Continent. It is in the hands of the Undying Clan.”

The Undying Clan... Ye Guan clenched his fists.

Master Pagoda added, "For now, I'll store her soul in your sword."

Ye Guan felt like he was suffocating as he stared at Nalan Jia's soul, which looked exactly like Nalan Jia. He reached out to touch her face gently before whispering, "Little Jia, wait for me."

With that, he sucked Nalan Jia's soul into his Path Sword.

He wiped the blood off of his lips and stood up before walking toward Ao Xiao.

Ao Xiao was on the brink of death.

The spectators watched as Ye Guan walked over to Ao Xiao's dragon head.

Lee Wan's voice echoed from the audience stand. "You'll become an enemy of the True Dragon Clan for eternity if you kill him! You'll definitely die once the True Dragon Clan places a bounty on your head. You should think twice—"

Ye Guan lifted his sword and swung it downward.

Thud!

There was a dull thud as Ao Xiao's head fell to the ground, and blood spurted out like a fountain from the bloody stump.

The spectators went silent.

Ye Guan turned around and started walking toward An Mu.

Yuan Gu saw that, and he hurriedly shouted, “No!”

Ye Guan stopped and glanced at Yuan Gu.

Yuan Gu stared at Ye Guan and explained, “The An Clan has two martial goddesses, and his dao protector is one of those two martial goddesses. He belongs to the An Clan. If you kill him, you’ll be an enemy of those two martial goddesses as well as the Guanxuan Academy, so you should—”

Ye Guan abruptly vanished.

Shunk!

Ye Guan’s Path Sword pierced An Mu’s forehead, immobilizing him.

Rumble!

A horrifying power descended, and it seemed to have come from a distant galaxy. Rumbling noises echoed throughout the entire Upper Realm as it trembled beneath the terrifying power. The entire Upper Realm was trembling!

Yuan Gu’s voice trembled as he cried out, “This horrifying power must be from an ancestor of the An Clan!”

The An Clan’s history spanned millions of years, and they had produced many powerful cultivators aside from their two martial goddesses. It seemed that an incredibly powerful ancestor of the An Clan spurred into action.

Ye Guan looked up. The power was terrifying, and the True Dragon’s bloodline suppression couldn’t be compared to the horrifying pressure that was currently boring down on him.

Ye Guan snickered and closed his eyes. He wasn't born at the same time as Little Jia, but he could die at the same time as her.

Buzz!

The Path Sword in Ye Guan's hands vibrated.

1. We weren't really sure about the pronouns until now, but Master Pagoda's pronouns are now he/him/his ٢٤

Chapter 50: Waiting For You

Everyone looked up and waited for the An Clan's ancestor.

"Get lost!" an indifferent voice said from the depths of the galaxy where none could be heard nor seen.

"How impudent!" A roar echoed throughout the galaxy, "How dare you look down on me. You—"

A miserable and pitiful voice echoed from another part of the endless galaxy, and a head was cut off somewhere in the depths of the galaxy.

Silence returned to the galaxy, and everything was peaceful again.

Everyone looked up and was waiting for the An Clan's ancestor, but the horrifying power suddenly receded like a wave.

The spectators were stupefied. Are they not going to come here?

Yuan Gu was in disbelief. "What...?"

Zhao Su was shocked as well. What's going on? Where are they?

"It seems that even the heavens want you to live. You should live on," said Master Pagoda.

Ye Guan fell silent before nodding slightly. "Okay."

With that, he turned around to look at An Mu.

An Mu was dying, so Ye Guan decided to finish him off.

"Ugh..." An Mu groaned and died.

Today, two dragons had met their demise on the Upper Realm. Silence blanketed the wasteland, and the spectators were in disbelief.

Qingzhou's greatest talent, An Mu, is dead, so Nanzhou is the champion!

Ye Guan took An Mu's storage ring and stored the two dragon corpses in it.

Everyone watched as Ye Guan walked over to the first-place flag.

Ye Guan grabbed the flag and glanced at Zhao Su. "I'll be taking this," he said.

Nanzhou was the champion! The people of Nanzhou went crazy, and they started shouting Ye Guan's name as if they had gone mad.

"Ye Guan!" Ye Guan had become the most popular individual in Nanzhou.

Meanwhile, Zhao Su wordlessly stared at Ye Guan.



Ye Guan suddenly declared, "I will always be a student of Nanzhou's Guanxuan Academy. I will not become a student of the Upper Realm's Guanxuan Academy!"

Zhao Su's eyes widened, and she clenched her fists.

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at Zhao Su and explained, "I do not want to be a student of an academy who only knows how to bully the weak but is afraid of the strong. I do not want to be a student of an academy that cannot uphold justice for its students."

With that, he turned around and left. The students and elders of the Upper Realm's Guanxuan Academy felt like they had been slapped by a searing hot palm as they sat in their seats in a daze.

The three hundred and sixty states of the Upper Realm had seen everything, so the Upper Realm's Guanxuan Academy would never be able to recover its reputation. Zhao Su's face was beyond pallid as her nails dug into her palms.

She had betrayed her conscience by not making a move earlier, and Ye Guan's words were like thorns in her heart. She felt even worse because she knew that she had failed to uphold the Guanxuan Academy Rule as well.

It had been her first time facing absolute power, and she felt helpless as well as afraid to uphold the morals that a cultivator should uphold on the path of cultivation.

Courage! Courage is saying no to an absolute power while looking them in the eye.

Yuan Gu's face was beyond pallid as well. An Mu is dead! What should I do?

An Mu was dead, so Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy no longer had a participant to represent and help them win the Destiny Contest.

Yuan Gu was also aware that Ye Guan disliked him because of his earlier actions. In other words, it was impossible to convince Ye Guan to join Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy.

Lee Wan sighed in regret as well.

She had come here to recruit Nalan Jia, but she couldn't do that anymore.

Everyone was silent, and they all knew that this decade's martial contest would definitely go down in history as the strangest martial contest.

...

Ye Guan and Siao Ge wordlessly walked down the streets toward the Siao Residence. Siao Ge's expression was complicated as he looked at Ye Guan.

Soon, they arrived at the Siao Residence.

Ye Guan looked at Siao Ge and said, "Thank you."

Siao Ge was confused. "Why?"

Ye Guan replied, "Thank you for stepping out when everyone else remained silent."

Siao Ge shook his head and said, "We're friends. You don't have to thank me."

Ye Guan wordlessly nodded.

Siao Shan, Song Fu, and Fei Banqing walked out to meet them.

Ye Guan saw their complicated expressions. It couldn't be helped because they had also seen what had happened in the third round of the martial contest.

Fei Banqing walked over to Ye Guan and asked, "Is Little Jia... is she still alive?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes..."

Fei Banqing relaxed and exclaimed, "Good... that's good. Let's go, come here!"

She pulled Ye Guan into the Siao Residence.

Siao Shan walked over to Siao Ge with a smile. "I was proud of you when you stood up for him. You have done what a true man should do!"

Siao Ge shook his head slightly and said, "Father, I'm too weak. I'm going to go out and experience the world."

Siao Shan hesitated, but he eventually nodded and said firmly, "I understand."

Song Fu sighed at the sight. "This world is truly..."

...

Ye Guan locked himself in his room, and he only came out at midnight.

He sat in front of a flight of steps and looked up at the sky. He stared wordlessly at the moon while holding the scented sachet that Nalan Jia gave to him.

Fei Banqing walked and sat next to him.

"Luo Zhaoqi visited us earlier and brought Nanzhou's prizes with her. The prizes are ten Sky-grade spiritual veins, twenty Earth-grade spiritual veins, three Immortal-rank cultivation manuals, and ten Earth-rank cultivation manuals.

"She also gave us many different spiritual treasures, and we will also receive a hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals every year..."

Fei Banqing hesitantly added, "The prizes are a lot more bountiful compared to the previous martial contests."

Ye Guan remained silent.

Fei Banqing didn't mind his silence and continued. "As the champion, you will receive three hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals and the one and only special enrollment slot in Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy."

"In other words, you'll immediately become a student of Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy. If you join them, they'll report the True Dragon Clan to the Main Academy of the Guanxuan Academy. I'm sure they'll help you seek justice."

Fei Banqing breathed a sigh of relief after she was done speaking. It was clear that Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy had judged that Ye Guan was worthy of their care, and they were willing to go against the True Dragon Clan for his sake.

The world was a pragmatic place. People would take care of anyone they deemed valuable, but they would not give a rat's shit to someone they deemed useless.

"Teacher, please return those three hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals to them."

Fei Banqing made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you not going to Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy?"

"I'm going to Zhongtu Divine Continent tomorrow, but I will not join the academy," replied Ye Guan.

Fei Banqing went silent for quite a while before saying, "Without the Guanxuan Academy's deterrence, the True Dragon Clan will definitely chase after you the moment you appear on the Zhongtu Divine Continent. You should—"

Ye Guan interrupted with a mutter, "My life will be up to fate. If they can't kill me, then I will revive Little Jia and wipe the True Dragon Clan off the face of the earth one day. If I die, then it's fine. I'll be dying with Little Jia."

With that, Ye Guan stood up and walked away. However, he came to a halt after recalling something. He turned around and bowed slightly toward Fei Banqing. "I'm going to Zhongtu Divine Continent now. Teacher, please take care of yourself."

Ye Guan turned around and continued walking.

He was going to leave today rather than tomorrow.

"Little Guan!" Fei Banqing cried out.

Ye Guan turned around and looked at her.

Fei Banqing forced a smile, and her voice trembled as she asked, "Will you come back?"

Ye Guan was silent for quite a while before he responded, "I don't know."

With that, he finally walked away.

Fei Banqing watched as Ye Guan's figure dissolved into the night.

"You have to come back. I'll be waiting for you..." she muttered.

The moon was bright, but the night was cold.

Fei Banqing was left all alone in the coldness of the night.