

A Sword 581

Chapter 581: What Family Is This?

Everyone was dumbfounded. How did this end up getting physical?

Ye Guan was also shocked. He never thought that his sister would slap the spirit. Still, he was moved. He knew that she simply was protecting him.

Having been slapped away, the spirit of the Divine Imprint, who was now quite a distance from them, momentarily found herself unable to react. However, soon after, she burst out in anger. "How dare you hit me!"

She clenched her hands tightly. Terrifying flames then surged out from within her and shot straight toward Ye An.

As Ye Guan's face darkened, he and his sister simultaneously disappeared.

Boom!

The deafening explosion blasted the spirit of the Divine Imprint further away.

The siblings then chased after her and gave her a fierce beating.

The scene left Mu Yuan and the others dumbfounded. They were beating up the spirit of the Divine Imprint.

In the past, the spirit of the Divine Imprint had a very high status in the Temple of Gods. Apart from the First God, she basically ignored everyone else. Moreover, not even the strong members of the temple of that time didn't dare offend her. After all, she was created by the First God.

Now, however, the Ye siblings were abusing the spirit of the Divine Imprint.

Mu Yuan watched from the distance, his expression somewhat complicated. Right from the beginning, he already knew that the two didn't take the spirit of the Divine Imprint seriously.

What kind of family is this? I can't believe they're treating the spirit of the Divine Imprint so lightly...

Damn it. This is outrageous.

More than anything, though, he was relieved. This scene made him feel more and more confident that he had made the right choice.

When it came to choosing who to follow, one had to carefully observe them first. Follow those with prospects, and one would have prospects themselves.

On the side, the Lady of Sin, who was watching with a puzzled expression, felt quite shocked as well. These siblings not only didn't take the Divine Imprint seriously, but even during their encounter with the First God earlier, they remained calm and composed.

She couldn't help but be somewhat curious about the identities of Ye Guan and his sister now.

Just then, the siblings stopped. The spirit of the Divine Imprint had now been beaten to the point of becoming somewhat illusory.

The spirit of the Divine Imprint stared at Ye Guan and his sister fiercely. "If my strength hadn't been depleted, you two could not have..."

As she spoke, Ye An clenched her fist, causing her to quickly retreat thousands of meters.

Ye Guan glanced indifferently at her. "From now on, you are free."

He had already taken the treasures inside the Divine Imprint and stored them in the Little Pagoda anyway. The Divine Imprint was dispensable for him, especially since it was safer to keep the treasures with Master Pagoda. Of course, he still needed to be careful of Master Pagoda's greed.

Little Pagoda was speechless.

Ye Guan's words stunned the spirit of the Divine Imprint. What did he mean? Did this man not want her?

Ye Guan and Ye An turned and left. Seeing this, Mu Yuan and the two god-generals momentarily hesitated but soon hurriedly followed after him. The Lady of Sin glanced at the bewildered spirit of the Divine Imprint in the distance, lightly shook her head, and then turned to leave herself.

The spirit of the Divine Imprint really took herself too seriously. She hadn't even figured out yet that the Ye siblings couldn't really care less about her.

As Ye Guan and the others left, the expression on the spirit of the Divine Imprint turned extremely unpleasant.

She didn't really plan to leave Ye Guan. Since the First God, whom she trusted, had entrusted her to him, she figured that there had to be a meaning behind it. However, she didn't want to acknowledge Ye Guan as her master. More accurately, she hoped to take the lead in their interaction.

Hence, she didn't expect the young human to completely disregard her. It was infuriating!

On the other side, Ye Guan led everyone into the starry sky. They spent a long time searching but failed to find a way out. Even when they tried to break through the spacetime together, it just immediately repaired itself.

Ye Guan was starting to get a headache. "This Divine Painting is quite tricky."

"Hmph."

At this moment, a cold snort suddenly came from the side. Everyone turned toward it, finding the spirit of the Divine Imprint.

Ye Guan glanced at her. "Are you looking for a fight?"

The spirit glared at him. "If my cultivation had not been depleted, I could have taken on a hundred of you."

"Is that so?"

Ye Guan's indifference only made her even more furious. "If you don't believe me, then ask the old man next to you."

Mu Yuan glanced at the spirit of the Divine Imprint but remained silent.

Ye Guan turned to Mu Yuan. After hesitating for a moment, Mu Yuan said, "Well... since we are all trapped in here, it's best to prioritize getting along."

Ye Guan shook his head with a smile.

The spirit snorted coldly. "To be trapped by such a small Divine Painting.... You all are too useless."

Mu Yuan shook his head. The emotional intelligence of the Divine Imprint's spirit was too low. However, he couldn't really afford to offend her.

"Can you get us out of here?" the Lady of Sin asked the spirit.

"Of course," the spirit replied indifferently.

"How do we leave, then?"

The spirit glanced at Ye Guan. "He's quite capable, isn't he? Why don't you ask him?"

The Lady of Sin quieted down.

"If you want freedom, we respect your choice. We won't force you to follow me," Ye Guan said.
"However, if you choose to follow me, you must listen to me, understand?"

"It was my master who chose you, not me," The spirit of the Divine Imprint coldly replied.

"Your master is gone. You are free now."

When the spirit began looking as if she was at a loss for words, Ye Guan continued, "My sister and I have no grievances with you. We do not want to make enemies with you either. If you sincerely don't want to follow us, it's okay. You can just leave us behind."

The spirit of the Divine Imprint stared at Ye Guan. "Don't you know that those pseudo-gods fought fiercely and spilled a lot of blood just to get their hands on me?"

Ye Guan shook his head. "I don't believe that possessing the Divine Imprint means becoming the new Supreme God. I also don't believe that I cannot create a new order without the Divine Imprint."

Mu Yuan glanced at Ye Guan with a hint of surprise in his eyes. The Lady of Sin also looked deeply at Ye Guan.

After a moment of silence, the spirit of the Divine Imprint finally said, "I'll follow you."

Ye Guan was puzzled. "Why?"

Glancing at him, she answered, "I trust my master."

Right after, she suddenly transformed into a golden light and soared into the sky.

Boom!

A moment later, a golden vortex appeared in the starry sky above.

As Ye Guan grew curious, screams echoed from within the golden vortex.

"That's the Divine Painting!" Mu Yuan exclaimed. He then smiled faintly. "One thing begets another, after all."

A golden light then suddenly appeared above everyone. The voice of the Divine Imprint's spirit rang out from within it.

"Come in."

The crowd soared into the sky and entered the golden light.

Soon, they found themselves in the depths of the abyss.

They had finally made it out.

Ye Guan took a deep breath. The spirit of the Divine Imprint then appeared in front of him, holding a scroll in her hand.

"Is this the Divine Painting?" he asked.

The spirit of the Divine Imprint coldly snorted, unwilling to answer. However, she soon realized that it was better to lower her head while she was under someone else's roof. Hence, she nodded and then threw the Divine Painting to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan took the Divine Painting and examined it. Then he asked, "How do I subdue it?"

The spirit of the Divine Imprint said, "Since I'm following you, it will naturally listen to you."

Ye Guan smiled. "It's said that there were four supreme treasures in the era of the First God, and you're the leader among them."

The spirit of the Divine Imprint smirked proudly. "Naturally."

"I'll have to rely on you a lot in the future, then."

The spirit looked at him, now feeling a lot more favorable toward him.

Just then, Mu Yuan suddenly said, "Ye Guan, look."

Ye Guan turned to Mu Yuan. Just a thousand meters away from them knelt a middle-aged man in armor. His eyes were tightly closed, and blood kept flowing from them.

"He's God-General Zhentian," Mu Yuan said in a deep voice.

Ye Guan turned to Mu Yuan. "Who?"

"He's one of the top five god-generals."

"Why is he kneeling in this place, then?"

Mu Yuan shook his head, his expression somewhat grave. "He is extremely powerful. Ordinary people wouldn't be able to subdue him, let alone make him kneel... I'll go ask."

Mu Yuan shook out of view and reappeared before God-General Zhentian.

"Zhentian, what are you doing here?" he asked.

God-General Zhentian's brows furrowed. "Mu Yuan? Aren't you dead?"

"I managed to survive."

God-General Zhentian remained silent and expressionless.

"What are you doing here?" Mu Yuan repeated.

God-General Zhentian impatiently replied, "I like kneeling here. What's wrong with that?"

Mu Yuan blinked. "Did someone manage to beat you?"

Furious, Zhentian replied, "Who could possibly beat me?"

"Well, then, you can get up."

"Mind your own business, Mu Yuan."

At that moment, Mu Yuan's expression became strange. "So you really were beaten."

Zhentian didn't know what to say anymore.

Mu Yuan was puzzled. With Zhentian's strength, nobody except for the pseudo-gods could have stood a chance against him, let alone order him to kneel in this place. It was as if he had been mercilessly crushed.

With this in mind, Mu Yuan asked, "Who did this to you?"

Zhentian remained silent. He had no idea who the other party was. He just made a sarcastic remark, and the next thing he knew... he had been brutally beaten and forced to kneel here...

He didn't even know who attacked him...

"Zhentian, you should get up and talk. Kneeling like this isn't good," Mu Yuan urged.

"If I could get up, do you really think I would still be here?" Zhentian replied, irritation in his voice.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Chapter 582: Double Kill

Zhentian was truly in agony at this moment because the woman had left a sword aura in his body, which didn't threaten his life but firmly suppressed him. As long as he moved, he would die. Therefore, he dared not move at all.

Just then, Ye Guan suddenly walked up to Zhentian. He glanced at Zhentian, feeling a familiar aura within him, which puzzled him.

Seeing Ye Guan's perplexed look, Zhentian's brow furrowed suddenly. "What are you looking at?" he snapped.

Ye Guan's voice was deep as he asked, "Is there a sword aura inside you?"

Zhentian was slightly taken aback, then replied, "How did you know..."

Ye Guan stared at Zhentian. "What does the person who attacked you look like?"

Zhentian frowned slightly, a little displeased. "What's it to you?"

"Then keep kneeling."

With that, he turned and left with Ye An.

Mu Yuan glanced at Zhentian indifferently. "After so many years, you are still so stupid. You deserve to kneel."

Zhentian was speechless.

Seeing Ye Guan and the others about to leave, Zhentian hesitated for a moment before saying, "She wore a plain skirt."

Upon hearing what Zhentian said, Ye Guan trembled as he stood frozen on the spot. Aunt Plain Skirt!

Ye Guan turned to look at Zhentian, his gaze flickering. "Have you seen her?"

Zhentian furrowed his brow slightly and asked in return, "Do you know her?"

Ye Guan nodded.

This time, it was Zhentian who was stunned.

Ye Guan walked slowly to Zhentian's side. "My aunt is a good person with a good temper. She wouldn't attack without reason. Did you do something to upset her?"

Little Pagoda remained silent.

Hearing Ye Guan's words, Zhentian shook his head. "You say she has a good temper, but I can't agree with that."

Good temper? That woman didn't seem like someone with a good temper at all.

Ye Guan didn't say anything more and left with Ye An.

Seeing Ye Guan leaving, Zhentian hurriedly said, "Wait."

Ye Guan turned to look at Zhentian. After hesitating for a moment, Zhentian said, "Can you remove the sword aura for me?"

Ye Guan replied calmly, "I should be able to."

After a moment of silence, Zhentian said, "If you're willing to help, consider it as me owing you a favor."

Ye Guan shook his head. "It doesn't matter to me."

He then turned and left.

Upon hearing Ye Guan's words, Zhentian's expression became extremely ugly.

Mu Yuan glanced at Zhentian indifferently. "Can't you see what's going on?"

With that, he turned and left.

Zhentian's expression turned even uglier. He didn't plead with them again, but simply stared hard at Ye Guan and the others in the distance.

After Ye Guan and the others disappeared into the distance, he suddenly looked up at the depths of the starry sky. "Shenling."

At this moment, a voice from the ancient depths of the stars suddenly sounded. "Yes?"

"Save me."

"Why should I?"

Zhentian said calmly, "If you save me, I'll tell you a secret."

"Speak."

"Save me first."

The voice replied coldly, "Do you have any other choice?"

After a moment of silence, Zhentian said, "The young man has obtained the Divine Picture, and not only that, I also sensed the aura of the Divine Imprint on him. It seems that he has obtained the inheritance of the First God."

"What?"

From the distant starry sky came a sound of astonishment, followed by the rupture of space-time, and a middle-aged man dressed in divine attire slowly walked out.

Zhentian stared at Shenling intently, his eyes burning like fire. "Is it true?"

Zhentian nodded. "It can't possibly be wrong."

Shenling squinted his eyes, his gaze flickering, lost in thought.

Zhentian looked at Shenling. "Can we take action now?"

The reason he didn't ask for Ye Guan's help was because he had other methods.

Shenling suddenly stepped forward and came to Zhentian. He placed his right hand on Zhentian's shoulder. When he sensed the sword energy inside Zhentian, he didn't pay much heed. With a slight force from his right hand, a terrifying power entered Zhentian's body, intending to crush the sword energy. However, just at that moment...

——

Boom!

The sword energy burst out and pierced into Shenling's forehead.

In an instant, both of their bodies started to disintegrate at a visible rate. It was a double kill.

Shenling was stunned as he stared at the horrified Zhen Tian. "What the fuck."

Both of them vanished immediately after. Both their bodies and souls were destroyed.

...

On the other side.

In the starry sky, Ye Guan suddenly stopped, his brows furrowing.

Ye An turned to look at Ye Guan, asking, "What's wrong?"

Ye Guan calmly said, "Before we entered the Divine Picture, we felt a powerful aura. Now I think that aura must have been from Zhentian..."

Beside them, Mu Yuan's voice was low. "Are you worried about the possibility of your acquisition of the Divine Imprint being exposed?"

Ye Guan nodded.

The Divine Imprint had caused chaos in the Temple of the Gods back then. If it appeared in his hands now, would the gods let him off?

Definitely not.

Mu Yuan suddenly said, "I'll go deal with him."

With that, he turned and disappeared on the spot.

But not long after, Mu Yuan returned to Ye Guan's side, his expression somewhat grim. "He's gone."

Ye Guan furrowed his brow. "Gone?"

Mu Yuan nodded. "When I got there, he was already gone."

Ye Guan's brow furrowed even more. "That's impossible. He couldn't have escaped the sword aura left by the Aunt Plain Skirt..."

"What do we do next?"

The Sinful Lady suddenly said, "We go to Sin City."

Ye Guan looked at the Sinful Lady, and she continued solemnly, "We're going to see Lord Muqing."

Ye Guan asked, "The god from the Sin World?"

The Sinful Lady replied gravely, "Lord Muqing doesn't like others calling him a god."

Ye Guan glanced at the Sinful Lady, silent.

The Sinful Lady looked at Ye Guan. "Are you worried that he has intentions towards the Divine Imprint?"

Ye Guan nodded.

The Sinful Lady shook her head immediately. "That's impossible. Lord Muqing's devotion to the First God is beyond your imagination. You are the inheritor of the First God, and he will surely choose to serve you."

Mu Yuan suddenly said, "Miss, you're still too young."

The Sinful Lady looked at Mu Yuan, and Mu Yuan said in a deep voice, "I know about Muqing. He was the most low-key figure in the temple back then. He did not compete or participate in any factional struggles. And in the end, he survived the internal conflicts of the temple. Just based on this, he's not ordinary."

The Sinful Lady fell silent at his words.

"Being cautious does not hurt. Hence my suggestion is that we don't expose the existence of the Divine Imprint for now. If we do, it will drive those old guys crazy again. You see, the Divine Imprint is not just a symbol of identity, it contains countless treasures left behind by the First God. If it's exposed now, those old codgers will definitely go mad and try to snatch it..."

Pausing for a moment, he added, "What's even more terrifying is the possibility of them joining forces."

At his words, Ye Guan's eyelids twitched.

Mu Yuan looked at Ye Guan. "There are two most important things to do now. First, it is to tame the Yin Yang Twin Beasts left behind by the First God. They are truly loyal to the First God, and with the Divine Imprint, you have a great chance of taming them. Second, improve your strength as soon as possible. In short, our current goal is to quietly develop and grow as stealthily as possible."

Ye Guan suddenly laughed. "Elder Mu Yuan, what did you do in the temple before?"

Mu Yuan smiled faintly. "I was a literary attendant, mainly handling some literary matters in the temple, managing the vast expanse and such."

Ye Guan said, "I see."

"Ye Guan, with our current strength, we are still unable to contend with those pseudo-gods. If you want to gain the loyalty of the subordinates of the First God, you must improve your strength. Otherwise, they may not choose to follow you."

"I understand."

With that, he glanced at Mu Yuan and the Sinful Lady, then said, "I'll take you both to a place."

And with that, he directly brought the two of them into the Little Pagoda.

As they entered the Little Pagoda, both of them were stunned.

Soon, their expressions became more serious than ever before, especially Mu Yuan. He looked around and was overwhelmed. At this moment, he suddenly realized that he had underestimated Ye Guan.

After entering the Little Pagoda, Ye Guan arrived in front of a great hall. This hall was the main hall inside the Divine Imprint, which he had moved into the Little Pagoda. And all the treasures left by the First God were in this hall.

When he saw this hall, Mu Yuan's expression became complex. "First God Hall."

Ye Guan looked at Mu Yuan, and Mu Yuan whispered, "This is the hall where the First God specifically cultivated, outsiders are not allowed to enter..."

Ye Guan walked towards the hall, but Mu Yuan stayed behind.

Ye Guan looked at Mu Yuan, and after hesitating for a moment, Mu Yuan said, "I won't go in."

Ye Guan was puzzled, "Why?"

"The First God once said that outsiders are not allowed to enter..."

Ye Guan shook his head, "Come in. There are some things inside that I don't quite understand, and I need to ask you."

With that, he entered the hall.

Ye An naturally wouldn't care about what the First God said, she also walked in. To her, her brother's things were equivalent to her own. They were all family. Sharing blessings and hardships together.

The Sinful Lady didn't think too much either, and also walked into the hall.

After hesitating for a moment, Muyuan followed suit. He also wanted to see the treasures left by the First God.

The hall was not large, filled with various divine books, resembling a study.

Ye Guan walked to one of the bookshelves, picked up an ancient book and opened it. In an instant, countless golden characters poured directly into his sea of ??consciousness. In the blink of an eye, Ye Guan's eyes turned into a vast starry sky. Within the boundless galaxy, countless golden ancient characters drifted like rivers flowing in the starry river.

At this moment, Muyuan's voice suddenly appeared in Ye Guan's mind, "This is the legendary Galaxy Book, a divine treasure, second only to the Four Great Divine Treasures. You have the Divine Imprint, and it has already recognized you as its master. You can control it."

Ye Guan suddenly opened his palm, and in an instant, countless ancient characters converged into a sword and fell into his palm. Not only that, but the power of the boundless galaxy also condensed into starlight and poured into his sword.

A galaxy in the sword...

Feeling this, Ye Guan suddenly became excited...

Chapter 583: A Sword From The Heavens

There was a galaxy in the sword.

There was a galaxy inside the Galaxy Book, and the Galaxy Book allowed Ye Guan to harness the power of a star field through his sword.

Ye Guan closed his eyes with his sword in his hand. He could sense the boundless power of the galaxy coursing through him. It was an extremely domineering power that made even Ye Guan himself feel apprehensive.

After a while, Ye Guan opened his eyes slowly and looked down at the sword in his hand with a solemn expression. He had underestimated the treasures from the First God's era.

These treasures were more terrifying than he had expected. The Divine Imprint hadn't lied. If their opponent were at their peak, he and his older sister wouldn't have been worthy opponents. After all, the Galaxy Book was weaker compared to the Divine Imprint.

Ye Guan put away the sword in his hand and stared at the tiny bronze door next to the desk.

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued.

Mu Yuan noticed that and said in a deep voice, "It's the Door of Extermination."

Ye Guan looked at Mu Yuan and asked, "The Door of Extermination?"

Mu Yuan nodded with a solemn expression, "It's a powerful weapon and is known as the strongest of the Four Great Divine Treasures. There is an extremely terrifying array of extermination beyond that door, and the First God had laid it out personally."

Ye Guan nodded slightly, and then he reached out to pick up the Door of Extermination.

"Wait," Mu Yuan said, stopping Ye Guan.

Ye Guan looked at Mu Yuan.

Mu Yuan said in a deep voice, "The array beyond this door is an amalgamation of the vast expanse's killing intent. Those unqualified but daring enough to make contact with the door will have their minds eroded in an instant."

Ye Guan became even more interested.

"An amalgamation of the vast expanse's killing intent?" Ye Guan asked.

"Yes," Mu Yuan said, nodding. "At the time, the First God used his divine power to gather the vast expanse's killing intent, and then he shaped the killing intent into an array that he placed beyond the Door of Extermination."

"Ye Guan, you're staring at the vast expanse's most dangerous weapon. You must not come into contact with it."

Ye Guan smiled slightly and said, "I want to give it a try."

Killing intent? He wasn't afraid of killing intent at all.

He had the Mad Demon Bloodline, after all.

Mu Yuan hesitated briefly before saying, "All right. Be careful, then."

Ye Guan nodded. As soon as he picked up the Door of Extermination with his right hand, his eyes widened, and a terrifying killing intent rushed inside of him. Ye Guan's eyes became bloodshot.

Everyone's faces changed drastically, and they frantically retreated.

The killing intent that Ye Guan was emitting was just too terrifying.

Ye An looked at Ye Guan with worry in her eyes. She could feel that the Mad Demon Bloodline inside Ye Guan was gaining ground and would soon awaken completely.

No one would be able to suppress Ye Guan's Mad Demon Bloodline once he had fallen into madness.

Ye Guan clenched his fists; his Mortal Bloodline and his Phoenix Emperor Bloodline came to life and fought the Mad Demon Bloodline inside of him.

Mu Yuan was stupefied; he was shocked upon realizing that Ye Guan had three bloodlines. Possessing just one special bloodline was already considered extraordinary, but Ye Guan actually had three special bloodlines. It was simply unbelievable!

Ye Guan's Mortal Bloodline and Phoenix Emperor Bloodline worked together to suppress the Mad Demon Bloodline, allowing Ye Guan to awaken.

Ye Guan let go of the Door of Extermination. The Door of Extermination fell to the ground, and Ye Guan took several steps backward. Ye Guan clenched his fists, and the Mad Demon Bloodline within him gradually calmed down.

Eventually, Ye Guan returned to normal.

Ye An pulled Ye Guan's arm, asking, "Are you okay?"

Ye Guan glanced at Ye An and saw her worried look. He took a deep breath to compose himself before replying, "I'm fine."

Ye Guan cast a shaken look at the Door of Extermination before him. He had sensed a boundless killing intent from within the Door of Extermination, and it was an exceedingly powerful killing intent.

To make matters worse, Ye Guan also felt an inscrutable aura beyond the Door of Extermination. The aura was faint, but he managed to pick up on it.

Ye Guan looked at Mu Yuan and asked, "Mu Yuan, I sensed a presence inside this door. Do you have any idea what it could be?"

Mu Yuan frowned. "A presence?"

Ye Guan nodded.

After pondering for a while, Mu Yuan shook his head and said, "I'm not sure. The item was crafted by the First God himself, and then he gave it to God General Evil Ming. In other words, only God General Evil Ming and the First God knows everything about it."

What an extraordinary item, Ye Guan mused to himself as he stared quietly at the Door of Extermination. He dared not attempt to take control over the Door of Extermination, as it had the potential to make his Mad Demon Bloodline even more uncontrollable.

However, Ye Guan knew that he could use it during life-or-death situations, as it was a way to strengthen his Mad Demon Bloodline.

Ye Guan swept his gaze across the bookshelves. Some of the books were authored by the First God himself, while the rest had been collected by him.

Ye Guan's eyes fell on a black book. Ye Guan opened it and found ancient mysterious runes inscribed on its pages. Perplexed, he handed the book to Mu Yuan.

Mu Yuan stared at it with a puzzled look.

Ye Guan was surprised. "You don't recognize these characters?"

Mu Yuan shook his head. "Yeah, I don't."

Ye Guan was confused.

Mu Yuan sounded solemn as he explained, "These characters aren't from our era."

Ye Guan examined the black book with his divine sense. However, his divine sense vanished without a trace as soon as it made contact with the book. Ye Guan was taken aback.

My divine sense can't penetrate it? That's a bit Interesting.

Ye An placed a hand on the black book and frowned.

Ye Guan asked, "What's wrong?"

"This book feels strange," Ye An remarked, "You should be careful."

"Did you find out something, Big Sis?"

Ye An shook her head. "Just a gut feeling."

A gut feeling... Ye Guan was taken aback at first, but then he smiled.

Ye An saw Ye Guan's smile and shrugged. "If you don't believe it, it's fine."

"I do believe you," said Ye Guan with a shake of his head. His gut feeling was also telling him that the black book was dangerous. In the end, Ye Guan returned the black book to the shelf, and then his gaze fell on a ring not too far away from him.

The ring was made out of gold, and the character "One" was inscribed on its surface.

Ye Guan noticed that Mu Yuan had been stealing glances at the golden ring.

Ye Guan spread his palm, and the ring flew into his hand. His divine sense then entered the ring, and he was stunned by what he saw inside. The next moment, he revealed a light smile and put the ring away.

Mu Yuan glanced at Ye Guan but did not speak.

Ye An stared quietly at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan turned to Ye An and said, "Big Sis, stay here and take whatever you want. Don't stand on ceremony. What's mine is yours, after all."

Both the Lady of Sin and Mu Yuan were taken aback by Ye Guan's words. The temple still contained many divine treasures, but Ye Guan had actually allowed Ye An to take whatever she wanted to take. In addition...

What's mine is yours!

Clearly, the two siblings had an extraordinary bond.

Ye An nodded slightly. "Okay."

The Lady of Sin and Mu Yuan shook their heads with a wry smile.

Ye An was indeed not planning on standing on ceremony!

Mu Yuan had noticed something else as well. The divine treasures before them were precious, but these siblings didn't seem to value them that much. In other words, the siblings had seen many things and had a broader worldview.

After leaving the world inside the tiny pagoda, Mu Yuan appeared in front of Ye Guan and solemnly said, "Ye Guan, we should go and subdue the Yin-Yang Twin Beasts. Then, we have a few God Generals and Divine Servants to handle..."

Ye Guan asked, "How does my strength compare to the Yin-Yang Twin Beasts?"

Mu Yuan hesitated for a moment before replying, "There should be... a slight difference."

Ye Guan chuckled and asked, "Elder Mu Yuan, do you really think they'll follow someone weaker than them?"

Mu Yuan sounded solemn as he replied, "You have the Divine Imprint, so they will—"

Ye Guan interrupted with a shake of his head and said, "I'm weak, so I'm sure they are not going to follow me out of loyalty if they somehow decide to follow me despite my strength. I don't want to have such a following, as it would be completely meaningless in the end.

"In other words, my top priority is becoming even stronger myself rather than seeking external help. If I'm strong and outstanding enough, they're going to follow me willingly.

"Otherwise, it's meaningless even if they end up following me. Moreover, an information leak is going to be inevitable if I were to seek them out this early. Once everyone knows that I had obtained the First God's inheritance, I will surely be hunted down."

Divine artifacts and powerful helpers were not to be neglected, but one's own strength had to be the top priority.

Ye Guand ought to lie low and take it slow. Once he was powerful enough, the loyal subordinates of the First God would surely come to him by themselves. If not, then it wouldn't really matter, as Ye Guan himself was already strong enough.

Mu Yuan stared at Ye Guan with astonishment in his eyes. If someone else had obtained the inheritance of the First God, they would have drifted away to no man's land.

However, the young man managed to stay composed and judge himself fairly.

He was indeed a remarkable young man.

Mu Yuan agreed with Ye Guan's words; there was no guarantee that the god generals and Divine Servants would choose to follow Ye Guan, even if he managed to subdue them.

They could also have ulterior motives, and Ye Guan would be in trouble by then.

Mu Yuan set aside his thoughts and said, "Pardon me. I wasn't thinking clearly."

"Elder Mu Yuan, you should cultivate inside the pagoda for now."

Mu Yuan nodded and returned to the world inside the tiny pagoda. He had a special identity, and he had to stay hidden for the meantime.

Ye Guan's gaze landed on the Lady of Sin.

"Are you really not going back to the Sin Continent with me?" asked the Lady of Sin in a deep voice. She was hoping that Ye Guan would return to the Sin Continent with her. Once Ye Guan's identity was exposed, the Sin Continent would witness the birth of a ray of hope.

Ye Guan shook his head.

The Lady of Sin wanted to say something, but Ye Guan calmly said, "I understand your feelings. You want to change the Sin Continent's status quo. However, you have to understand that things aren't that simple, especially when I still don't understand the Sin Continent's God.

"In other words, we cannot do anything drastic for now."

"How long do I have to wait for you?"

"I will make a move at the right time."

The Lady of Sin fell into contemplation before nodding and saying, "I'll listen to you."

Ye Guan opened his palm, and five strands of Ancestral Origin floated over to the Lady of Sin. "First of all, I want you to become even stronger. I want you to move once I tell you to move."

The Lady of Sin didn't refuse the offer and accepted the strands of Ancestral Origin.

"If you need anything, just come find me," said the Lady of Sin before turning around and disappearing into the depths of the starry sky.

Left all alone, Ye Guan turned around to leave as well, but he sensed something and turned around. His gaze pierced through countless star fields, and he witnessed a sword falling straight down, annihilating a massive star field.

Chapter 584: Descendants of the Five Great Gods!

Ye Guan fell into a daze at the terrifying sight. When he came back to his senses and focused, the sword had already disappeared.

Did I just see a sword obliterate a massive star field?

Ye Guan's expression unconsciously became serious. A star field contained a myriad of stars, and there was no way Ye Guan could annihilate one, even if he were to go all out and reveal all of his cards.

Was there another invincible swordsman somewhere?

Ye Guan stared into the depths of the starry skies, pondering over something. Then, his figure trembled, and he transformed into a streak of sword light that disappeared into the depths of the starry sky.

Ye Guan had decided to take a look. Although it was somewhat risky, an encounter with such a powerful swordsman was rare. How could he pass up on the opportunity to see just what kind of swordsman they were?

Ye Guan traversed through the starry skies until he eventually reached the devastated starfield. Ye Guan saw nothing but a void—the star field had truly been annihilated.

Ye Guan's expression became extremely grim. Who exactly was behind that sword?

Rumble!

Ye Guan felt the approach of mysterious figures, and he hurriedly concealed his own aura before hiding in an independent pocket of space. Soon, mysterious supreme elites emerged from spacetime rifts all around Ye Guan.

The supreme elites were shocked to see the scene of annihilation before them.

What kind of cultivator could achieve such a feat?

It had to be known that what was annihilated wasn't a starry sky but an entire star field.

"Has a god descended here?" A voice echoed, shattering the silence.

The descent of a god? Ye Guan stared calmly into the distance. In his opinion, a god hadn't descended here, as the sword was a bit familiar to him. Unfortunately, he did not manage to get a clear view of the sword as it was just a bit too far away earlier.

Could it be Aunt?

After a moment of silence, Ye Guan shook his head slightly and turned around to leave.

He had the inheritance of the First God and countless divine treasures, so Ye Guan knew that he had to stay low-key and make sure that no one would know what he had on his person. Otherwise, the cultivators of the Old Era would hunt him down.

Nine Ancestral Veins!

Who could resist such a temptation?

Ye Guan was about to leave the scene when a voice echoed. "What is that?"

Ye Guan stopped in his tracks and looked up. Emerging from the void was a massive cloud ship spanning tens of thousands of meters long; it sailed slowly across the void as if it were a ghost ship.

A flagpole with a banner stood ramrod straight on the cloud ship's bow.

The character "Mo" was written in blood-red ink on the banner.

Ye Guan was confused.

Rumble!

Countless divine senses swept toward the cloud ship, but they disappeared without a trace the moment they got close enough to the cloud ship. The nearby supreme elites were astonished.

Just then, streams of spiritual energy rushed out of the cloud ship.

Everyone's faces changed drastically upon seeing the stream of spiritual energy.

The spiritual energy was incomparably pure; it had come from a strand of Ancestral Origin!

There had to be multiple strands of Ancestral Origin on the cloud ship, and they were extremely pure. No, everyone reckoned that there might be Ancestral Veins on the cloud ship, as the spiritual energy around it was so thick that it had become a mist.

Only Ancestral Veins could produce such a thick and concentrated spiritual energy. At the possibility that there might be a legendary Ancestral Vein on the cloud ship, the gazes of the nearby supreme elites became filled with green.

An Ancestral Vein!

It was the most precious natural resource throughout the vast expanse.

However, Ye Guan retreated instead of attacking the cloud ship. He had experienced enough to know that there was something wrong. The sudden appearance of the cloud ship and the spiritual energy coming from a strand of Ancestral Origin...

The coincidence was too much for it to be natural. Ye Guan noticed something off, so he picked up the pace and retreated.

Rumble!

Rumbling noises echoed as a mighty aura swept toward the distant cloud ship. The lurking supreme elites could no longer sit idly by and were forced to charge at the cloud ship. They also knew that something was amiss, but the presence of an Ancestral Vein was just too great of a temptation for them to refuse.

Moreover, they knew that great rewards always come with great risks.

In no time, at least hundreds of top-tier supreme elites flocked to the cloud ship. They flew desperately, seemingly afraid that they would be too late and someone else would snatch the Ancestral Vein away from them.

Ye Guan stared at the supreme elites and saw that the weakest among them was a Great Destiny Sovereign. Roughly eighty percent of them were Great Destiny Sovereigns, but there were Heavenly Sovereigns among them.

They all had one thing in common: they were all old monsters.

Just as the crowd approached the cloud ship, a book suddenly flew out from within the cloud ship. A burst of blood-red light erupted and engulfed the charging cultivators.

"Ah...!"

Screams echoed throughout the desolate star field.

Ye Guan watched solemnly as the cultivators exploded into bloody mists one after another beneath the blood-red light coming from the book, which looked like it was made out of blood.

Less than a dozen breaths later, the supreme elites had transformed into blood mists.

Ye Guan was stupefied. It had to be known that there were Heavenly Sovereigns among them, but they were completely powerless in the face of the blood-red light.

How terrifying! Ye Guan remarked inwardly.

Just then, a woman flew out of the cloud ship. She was dressed in a light red long dress, which was as thin as a veil. The woman stood on the flagpole on the bow of the cloud ship, and her black hair billowed out around her as she swept her crimson eyes across the gory scene. She had an extraordinary appearance—no, she had an "otherworldly" appearance.

The woman opened her palm, and the mysterious bloody book flew into her hands. The corners of her mouth lifted slightly as she revealed a captivating smile while staring at the book in her hands.

All of a sudden, she turned toward where Ye Guan was standing and said, "A fish actually got away?"

Swoosh!

The woman vanished and reappeared in front of Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's left thumb pressed against his sword hilt. He did not make a move, but his sword intent and bloodline power surged crazily within him. They were ready to be unleashed at any moment.

Ye Guan dared not to be careless before the strange woman.

If he had to make a move, he'd go all out and deliver a fatal blow.

The woman and Ye Guan met each other's gaze.

The woman revealed a captivating and soul-stirring smile.

Ye Guan steadied his mind and calmly said, "Things that are too good to be true are often scams."

"Oh?" The woman's curiosity was piqued. "You knew that it was a trap?"

Ye Guan nodded slightly. "I guessed it."

The woman sized up Ye Guan and chuckled. "I did not expect those old fogeys to be dumber than a young man."

"Well, the temptation was too great," Ye Guan remarked. A strong enough temptation would force people to take risks, including risking their lives.

"I feel like you're not afraid of me." The woman pointed out. She couldn't help but be surprised because she noticed that Ye Guan's eyes had never shown any fear before her, even though his hand had been on his sword hilt the moment she appeared.

Ye Guan calmly asked, "Are you going to attack me?"

The woman shook her head. "No."

"Why?" Ye Guan asked.

The woman's jade-like hand picked up a lock of her hair that had settled on her bosom before saying, "I killed them because they wanted to rob my Ancestral Veins. You weren't one of them, so why should I kill you?"

Ye Guan was silent. So she came here... to fish?

The woman glanced at the sword in Ye Guan's hand and smiled before turning around to leave. After walking for a while, the woman suddenly turned around and waved her sleeve, sending a strand of Ancestral Origin toward Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was bewildered. "Miss! You—"

"I'm in a good mood today!" the woman exclaimed, waving her hand from afar without even looking back. "Consider that your good fortune"

The woman reached the cloud ship in the blink of an eye. Then, her cloud ship disappeared into the end of the star field.

Left all alone, Ye Guan looked down at the strand of Ancestral Origin in front of him and shook his head with a wry smile. He then put away the strand of Ancestral Origin and turned around to leave.

...

The woman opened her palm, and the same bloody book from earlier appeared in her hand. She revealed a charming smile upon sensing the surging blood energy within the book.

Just then, a young man in a black robe appeared behind her. The black-robed young man's gaze was cold as he stared at the distant end of the starry sky. "The cultivation base of the young man earlier wasn't that high, but his spiritual energy, blood, and soul are stronger than the average Heavenly Sovereign.

"Why did you not assimilate him into that demon book?"

"Does that young man deserve to die?" asked the young woman.

The black-robed young man frowned.

The woman chuckled and said, "I killed those people because they tried to rob us of our Ancestral Veins. They deserved to die, but the young man earlier had no ill motives toward me, so why should I kill him?"

The black-robed young man glanced at Mo Yaoyao.

"You're such a traditionalist," the black-robed young man said with a hint of disdain in his voice.

Mo Yaoyao smiled and replied, "The path to the Great Dao is straightforward; everything follows the law of cause and effect. I am not invincible, so I still have to respect the law of cause and effect. He had no intentions, so I would have incurred bad karma if I had killed him..."

The black-robed young man snorted. "So what if you incurred some karma?"

Mo Yaoyao shook her head and remained silent.

However, the black-robed young man seemed unwilling to let the matter go. "I don't believe in the karma that you're talking about. I don't believe that there are going to be any negative consequences even if I kill him. If you don't believe me, we can make a bet."

Mo Yaoyao put away the book in her hand. "No need."

A pointless dispute was unnecessary. Moreover, Mo Yaoyao admired the young man for his fearless attitude, calm demeanor, and clear eyes. The young man definitely had a bright future ahead of him, which was the reason Mo Yaoyao decided to give him a strand of Ancestral Origin.

Of course, Mo Yaoyao wasn't really expecting much from the young man.

The black-robed young man glanced at Mo Yaoyao and said, "I will prove you wrong. Just give me some time."

The black-robed young man turned around to leave.

Mo Yaoyao saw that and said, "He has no grievances with you, so why kill him out of impulse?"

The black-robed young man remained expressionless. "I don't like him. Is that not good enough of a reason?"

Mo Yaoyao frowned slightly.

The black-robed young man chuckled and said, "I really want to see whether there are any consequences in this world that my Wang Clan cannot bear."

Wang Clan!

He was a descendant of the Five Great Gods!

Chapter 585: Snatching Away a Soul from the Cycle of Reincarnation

The Descendants of the Five Great Gods...

There were five distinct great old clans throughout the Old Era—the Mo Clan, the Wang Clan, the Chen Clan, the Qin Clan, and the Zhao Clan. These five great clans were descendants of the surviving five gods, which had great influence during the Old Era.

Mo Yaoyao frowned at the black-robed young man's remark.

Truthfully speaking, she was slightly repulsed by his words. Mo Yaoyao was from the Mo Clan, but she was an illegitimate child. She was once subject to bullies, and she had never really been a fan of the young man's arrogant attitude.

The young swordsman earlier was a nice young man, and there was no need to target him. However, Mo Yaoyao didn't bother trying to convince the young man otherwise, knowing that her words would never convince him.

The black-robed young man did not bother waiting for Mo Yaoyao's reply and transformed into a streak of light that shot toward the distant starry skies.

Mo Yaoyao stood silent for a while before chasing after the black-robed young man.

...

Ye Guan was busy flying on his sword. Just then, he sensed the fluctuations of spacetime on his side, prompting him to turn toward where it was coming from.

Rumble! A spacetime rift manifested, and a black-robed young man walked out slowly from the rift.

Ye Guan was confused upon sensing the young man's cold gaze toward him.

The black-robed young man stared at Ye Guan and said, "Make your move."

Ye Guan furrowed his brows. "Who are you?"

The black-robed young man calmly replied, "You have just one chance to make a move because you are going to die once I make my move."

Ye Guan pondered briefly before asking, "Are there any grievances between us?"

The black-robed young man replied, "None."

Ye Guan was puzzled. "Then why?"

The black-robed young man stared into Ye Guan's eyes. "I just don't like you. Is that not good enough of a reason?"

Ye Guan was silent.

"Haha..." the black-robed young man chuckled. "Do you find it hard to understand?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

The black-robed young man walked slowly toward Ye Guan. "Ants are everywhere in this world, you know. If we're in a good mood upon encountering one, we might go around and spare its life. Otherwise, we'll just crush it and continue on our way."

The black-robed young man stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, "Crushing an ant is just a matter of whether our mood is bad or not. There are no other reasons aside from that. Do you understand?"

"I understand."

The strong could be willful, while the weak often had to resign themselves to their fate.

"Make your move. Remember, you only have one chance."

Ye Guan said no more and vanished. He unsheathed his sword, and a streak of radiant sword light erupted. Shockingly, the radiant sword light contained a field of stars.

Starfield Sword!

The black-robed young man's pupils constricted. He had just realized that he had underestimated Ye Guan.

He was about to make a move when Ye Guan's sword moved at breakneck speeds, piercing the black-robed young man's glabella.

Boom!

The black-robed young man froze with eyes widened in disbelief.

Ye Guan stared at the black-robed young man with a frown. "You really are good at pretending. I thought you were strong, so I didn't expect you to be so weak... how come you're so arrogant when you're so weak?"

The black-robed young man's expression became ugly. He glared at Ye Guan and said amidst gritted teeth, "I'm a descendent of a god."

Ye Guan was confused. "Descendent of a god? What nonsense are you talking about?"

The black-robed young man was furious. "How dare you blaspheme the gods, you..."

Ye Guan swung his sword, and the black-robed young man's head flew away.

Ye Guan shook his head. "What an idiot."

Ye Guan swung his sword once again to erase the young man's soul. However, the spacetime in the distance abruptly split open, and a thunderous roar reverberated throughout the starry skies.

"How dare you!"

Ye Guan picked up the pace and slashed at the black-robed young man's soul, dispersing it into nothingness. Then, Ye Guan turned around and fled, disappearing into the distant end of the starry skies.

Kill and run!

Boom!

Just as Ye Guan disappeared into the end of the starry skies, an old man walked out of the spacetime rift. The old man had a prominent square face and was dressed in a loose black robe. The old man's eyes burned with fury, and he was emitting an aura that made the starry skies quiver.

The old man didn't chase after Ye Guan. Instead, he spread out his palm and clenched it. "Gather!"

Boom!

The starry skies became illusory, and streams of what looked like black gas gathered in front of the old man from all directions. The black gas strands looked faint and almost transparent, but they eventually coalesced into a soul.

The soul of the black-robed young man!

An aged voice pervaded every nook and cranny of the starry skies, saying, "Snatching souls from the cycle of reincarnation and forcibly reversing life and death... Wang Clan, in consideration of your ancestors, I will have to remind you that your grandson has courted death, which is the reason for his demise.

"Give up now, and the damage you'll incur will be mitigated. If you insist on resurrecting him, you and your Wang Clan will incur immense karma. Your Wang Clan will have to—"

The old man waved his sleeve and said fiercely, "My Wang Clan will bear any karma."

The aged voice went silent.

The black-robed young man soon appeared in his soul form. The black-robed young man's eyes were filled with confusion, but his eyes eventually cleared up. Upon seeing the old man, the black-robed young man called out softly, "Grandfather."

The old man stared at the black-robed young man and said, "Draw the appearance of your murderer."

The black-robed young man was silent.

The old man frowned. "What's wrong?"

"Grandfather, he's really strong," the black-robed young man said softly.

The old man's face turned cold. "What? Are you afraid?"

The black-robed young man dared not speak.

"I sacrificed some of my lifespan to save you." The old man was furious. "I didn't bring you back to act like a coward. You have to avenge yourself, or your path to the summit of cultivation be fraught with difficulties."

The black-robed young man clenched his fists slowly, and his gaze became cold.

The old man's gaze turned icy as well as he said, "He knew that you're a descendant of a god, but he still chose to attack you. In addition to killing you, he has insulted our Wang Clan as well."

The black-robed young man realized something just then, and he sounded helpless as he said, "But... I'm much weaker than him..."

The old man sneered and said, "Fool. Your own individual strength and the strength of your family are both yours. So what if you're weaker than him as an individual? Can his family be stronger than our clan?"

The black-robed young man obtained boundless confidence at the old man's remark. The old man was right. The strength of his family was his strength as well!

The black-robed young man hesitated no longer. He opened his palm, and a strand of soul power drifted out. Soon, the strand of soul power depicted the appearance of Ye Guan.

The old man looked at the portrait of Ye Guan before him, and his eyes became filled with a killing intent so thick that it was palpable. "Someone!"

A black-clothed figure suddenly appeared behind the old man.

"Find him," the old man said, presenting the portrait to the black-clothed figure.

The black-clothed figure saluted respectfully and left quietly.

...

Meanwhile, Mo Yaoyao had witnessed everything. She shook her head upon witnessing the old man's revenge plot, but she also understood the old man's logic behind his decision.

The descendants of the Five Great Gods had always been exceedingly arrogant, and their identity was a great honor in their eyes. They believed that they were born to be superior to everyone else, which was why they would never let anyone insult them.

Mo Yaoyao shook her head once more and left.

...

Ye Guan soon found himself in the Divine Academy. He entered the world inside the tiny pagoda and opened his palm. The Xuanyuan Sword appeared in his hand, and he smiled lightly as he looked down at it.

Starfield Sword!

The Starfield Sword was far more powerful than he initially thought. It was worth noting that the black-robed young man wasn't inferior to him in terms of cultivation base, but the Starfield Sword had killed the black-robed young man instantly.

Moreover, Ye Guan hadn't even used his bloodline. He reckoned that under the enhancement of his bloodlines, the Starfield Sword's attack power would reach a whole new level.

Ye Guan recalled something just then and opened his palm, revealing the Divine Imprint.

Ye Guan knew that the Divine Imprint was extraordinary, and it was far superior to the Galaxy Book in terms of value. Of course, the Galaxy Book itself was terrifying, but the Divine Imprint had to be more terrifying than it.

Ye Guan wasn't really in a hurry to explore the Divine Imprint's power.

Right now, his top priority was stabilizing himself.

Heavenrend Quickdraw!

Space Overlap!

Starfield Sword!

These were the three sword moves in Ye Guan's arsenal, and he had three unique bloodlines as well. The core of his power was still his bloodlines, as his sword moves couldn't reach their peak power without his bloodlines.

Just then, Ye Guan realized that none of them truly belonged to him. The three sword moves had all come from someone else's teachings, while his three bloodlines were inherited.

Do I not have anything that is actually my own?

Ye Guan frowned. When he had just started his journey to the summit of cultivation, Ye Guan was still too weak to formulate his own sword moves. However, he had come a long way since then, and he had learned many things as well.

Perhaps it was time he made his own sword move.

However, Ye Guan decided to calm down for now. The journey through the Milky Way had bestowed upon him some peaceful time while allowing him to profit greatly as well.

Unfortunately, the pace of his life had started picking up pace once again the moment he left the Milky Way.

Battle!

The nonstop battles had greatly enhanced Ye Guan's strength, but it was making his mental state unstable. The battles were making him restless and panicky.

After a moment of silence, Ye Guan decided to make an extreme decision. He'd set aside his three sword moves, three bloodlines, and even Xuanyuan. He decided to abandon all external tools, moves, and techniques that weren't his own.

He decided to do something similar to his ordeal in the Milky Way...

He decided to cultivate himself to witness his true self!

Having made up his mind, Ye Guan was suddenly flooded with relief. Cultivation was like sharpening a sword; the sword would become sharp, but there was a limit to its durability before it had to be sharpened again...

Boom!

The Mortal Bloodline within Ye Guan abruptly awakened, and Ye Guan's Mortal Physique reached a ninety-nine percent completion rate.

Chapter 586: Divine Academy

Ye Guan was taken aback by the changes happening to his body. The Mortal Bloodline had awakened by itself, and the completion rate of his Mortal Physique had reached ninety-nine percent.

Ye Guan reflected on the changes to his body.

What does it mean to be an ordinary mortal?

It meant being the most ordinary of individuals. However, how could he be considered ordinary when he had once been adorned in divine attire with divine artifacts in hand?

The realization shed light on why his Mortal Physique had reached a standstill at ninety percent. The essence of being a mortal was in embracing mortality at its core. To embody mortality, one needed a mortal's heart.

Ye Guan looked down at himself. A seemingly boundless mortal power was flowing within him; it shone brightly and was akin to an endless starry sky; it was so terrifying that it was awe-inspiring.

Ye Guan's mortal power had undergone a qualitative change. He deduced that only a fully awakened Mad Demon Bloodline could rival its strength.

Gently subduing the tumultuous surge of the Mortal Bloodline within him, Ye Guan left the world inside the tiny pagoda and proceeded toward a towering divine tower.

The tower served as the cultivation ground of the academy's students—a sanctuary accessible only to Divine Courtyard's students. Ye Guan could use the tower for free.

Stepping into the divine tower, Ye Guan was met with a myriad of illuminated screens. Each screen offered a distinct training method that would allow the students to train in that particular discipline.

After contemplating for a while, Ye Guan's gaze settled on the second-to-last screen to the right, which said, "The greatest adversary lies within oneself."

The greatest adversary lies within oneself! Ye Guan transformed into a streak of light and entered the light screen. He was instantly transported into an expansive starry sky, and he found himself facing a solitary stone pillar.

Approaching the pillar, Ye Guan extended his hand, causing the structure to tremble lightly. Soon afterward, a divine light enveloped him, and he closed his eyes in introspection.

Moments later, Ye Guan saw a phantom standing not too far away from him.

And that was when the phantom suddenly disappeared...

Swoosh!

A sharp sword light made a beeline for Ye Guan, and the phantom then slashed out with its sword, performing ten Heavenrends containing a thousand stacks each, which was condensed into just one sword move.

Ye Guan decided not to use any intricate swordplay and opted for a straightforward thrust as he decided to meet the attack head-on.

The collision sent him hurtling thousands of meters away, but the phantom wasn't done just yet. It rushed toward Ye Guan and performed another Heavenrend.

This time, Ye Guan deflected it with a horizontal block of his sword.

Bang!

Ye Guan staggered back. In the blink of an eye, he had retreated thousands of meters away from his original spot; he was being overpowered by himself. The phantom before him was his own reflection, albeit with only eighty percent of his strength.

He could easily defeat the phantom using his sword moves and bloodline, but he deliberately refrained from doing so. He wanted to gauge his "true" strength, which was his strength without any sword moves, divine artifacts, and bloodline power.

A series of explosions echoed throughout the starry expanse, and Ye Guan soon found himself on the defensive. He did not use the Xuanyuan Sword but a plain sword made out of sword energy.

Once Ye Guan was a hundred thousand meters away from the stone pillar, the phantom ceased its attacks and returned to the stone pillar.

Observing from a distance, Ye Guan wiped away the blood from his lips and revealed a self-deprecating smile. He was surprisingly weak without his bloodline power and sword moves.

This was the true him—the "true" Ye Guan. A swordsman's true strength lay not in his fleshly body, sword moves, and external tools but in his sword intent and heart.

Ye Guan closed his eyes and set aside his sword moves, bloodline power, and external tools. He emptied his mind and inspected himself. Weakness was not necessarily a flaw; rather, it signified boundless growth potential.

Glancing at the distant phantom, Ye Guan's figure blurred, and he transformed into a streak of sword light that charged at the phantom.

The phantom responded by disappearing into thin air.

Bang!

A burst of sword light shattered the air as Ye Guan was once again sent flying away. However, he charged at the phantom immediately afterward. His training objective was to seek out his weaknesses through combat.

For instance, his Heavenrend had improved, all thanks to his spacetime layering technique. He hadn't been able to find any flaws to it, but it was understandable, as it was often difficult for one to recognize their own shortcomings.

Just like that, half a month passed by...

Ye Guan became increasingly more adept at combat, but he was still being suppressed by his own phantom. Fortunately, he could now avoid the phantom's Heavenrend and was no longer forced to block it.

Ye Guan made significant improvement, and he had never resorted to using any sword moves. Of course, he had never used his bloodline power or any external tools as well. He relied purely on his Sword Dao.

As Ye Guan fought himself, he became more and more aware of his own weaknesses, which facilitated his rapid growth. And just like that, another half a month ticked by.

Ye Guan was now evenly matched with the phantom. His swordsmanship was exceedingly simple, but each stroke was precise and effective. The philosophy of minimalism and simplicity had been applied to his Sword Dao.

Bang!

Ye Guan swung his sword, sending the phantom flying away. The phantom managed to force itself to come to a halt, but its balance remained unsteady. Stepping forward, Ye Guan thrust his sword once more—a simple, straightforward thrust. The phantom responded with Heavenrend.

Bang!

When the two swords met, a kaleidoscope of sword lights erupted. The phantom was forced to retreat once more. While it was retreating, it failed to notice a sword flying toward it from the side, and the sword managed to pierce its glabella.

Boom!

The phantom shattered into pieces.

Ye Guan stood quietly with his sword in hand. He had won!

Just a month ago, he had been utterly powerless against the phantom. Now, he had effortlessly defeated it.

What did that mean? It meant that he had always been capable of greater feats, but his reliance on his sword moves, bloodline power, and divine artifacts had been hindering him from realizing his true potential.

He had just witnessed his true self!

The current him was the "true" him!

Taking a deep breath, Ye Guan felt liberated, and his sword intent surged crazily.

Ye Guan waved his sleeve, and his sword intent vanished.

Just then, a hoarse voice echoed from the starry sky, "Divine Academy's Intra-academy competition is about to begin. All students are to leave the trial grounds immediately."

Intra-academy competition? Ye Guan was momentarily taken aback. Then, he recalled that the Divine Academy did have intra-academy competitions, which allowed the students from the different courtyards to fight against each other.

He and Ye An were both Divine Courtyard students, so they were considered top-tier geniuses within the academy. However, there were many students within the academy who were considered as powerful as them.

Ye Guan couldn't help but feel a bit excited.

Were there even more exceptional individuals within the Divine Academy?

If Ye Guan's assumption was right... why would he be afraid of them?

Bring it on! With a hearty laugh, Ye Guan left the divine tower.

...

Upon returning to the Divine Academy, Ye Guan took note of the unusual buzz of activity. Every single student outside had made sure to return to the academy today.

It couldn't be helped, as the intra-academy competition was important to every single student. It offered substantial rewards and opportunities for advancement. Outer Courtyard students could become Inner Courtyard students, while Inner Courtyard students could become Divine Courtyard students.

Thus, the intra-academy competition was a highly anticipated event in the Divine Academy. The Inner Courtyard students were particularly excited, as they had always been proud and competitive.

The competition was a chance for them to challenge the Divine Courtyard students and was a chance for them to become Divine Courtyard students. Of course, they had to defeat Divine Courtyard students to become one themselves.

Just as Ye Guan stepped out of the divine tower, an elder clad in divine robes appeared before him. He was none other than Elder Su Yuan, the only elder in the Divine Courtyard.

Above Elder Su Yuan were two elders—the Left Bishop and the Right Bishop. Of course, the Academy Chief of the Divine Academy was above everyone. Ye Guan had never met any of those three figures, especially the Academy Chief.

Apparently, the Academy Chief was from the same generation as the First God.

Ye Guan had encountered Su Yuan once when he had just entered the academy.

Su Yuan saw Ye Guan and asked, "Where's your sister?"

"She's cultivating," Ye Guan replied.

Su Yuan nodded slightly and said, "During today's intra-academy competition, you will represent the Divine Courtyard to compete against the Inner Courtyard's students."

Perplexed, Ye Guan asked, "Why me?"

Su Yuan pondered for a moment before responding, "Do you want to hear the truth or a lie?"

"Of course, I want to hear the truth," Ye Guan replied.

"Because you're the weakest," Su Yuan said.

Ye Guan's expression darkened. "Really?"

Su Yuan nodded.

Ye Guan remained calm. "I beg to disagree."

"Then prove yourself by defeating the students of the Inner Courtyard. Once you've defeated them, you can rise up the ranks among the Divine Courtyard students by defeating your fellow Divine Courtyard students," Su Yuan explained.

Curious, Ye Guan asked, "How many Divine Courtyard students are there?"

"There aren't many of you. Just five, including your sister," Su Yuan replied.

Five? Ye Guan frowned. "There are just five of us?"

Su Yuan nodded and explained, "The Divine Courtyard accepts only those who are qualified. If there are no qualified students, the Divine Courtyard will not accept any students. In fact, it's been a very long time since the Divine Courtyard had students."

"Really?" Intrigued, Ye Guan inquired, "How many students have been admitted to the Divine Courtyard so far throughout the Divine Academy's history?"

Su Yuan pondered for a moment before responding, "There were only a few. I'm not sure of the exact numbers, but... it's been a thousand years since I entered the academy, but I've seen only nine qualified individuals so far."

Only nine qualified individuals in the past one thousand years? Ye Guan thought, falling silent. Su Yuan was indeed not lying when he said that there were only a few Divine Courtyard students throughout the history of the Divine Academy.

Just then, Su Yuan looked up and said, "Two of your fellow students have just returned."

Chapter 587: White Robe, Plain Skirt

Curious, Ye Guan gazed at the sky. "Who?"

Su Yuan withdrew his gaze and replied, "The other two Divine Courtyard's students."

Ye Guan's interest was piqued. "Can I meet them?"

Su Yuan shook his head. "Compete with the Inner Courtyard's students first."

Although somewhat disappointed, Ye Guan agreed anyway.

"Alright," he said.

Soon, they arrived above a sea of clouds. On the horizon were two towering mountains separated by a vast distance. They looked like two swords standing proudly. Between their peaks was a huge circular

stone platform thousands of meters wide. Thick iron chains were attached to two sides of it, while the other ends were anchored to the two mountain peaks.

Countless students from the Divine Academy had already gathered on the two peaks. Su Yuan directed Ye Guan's attention toward the distant stone platform.

"The top Inner Courtyard student of this batch will soon appear. Later, they will challenge you."

Ye Guan nodded in understanding.

As he looked into the distance, a man broke through the sea of clouds and landed steadily on the stone platform. He wore a white robe and had a long spear in hand. Even from afar, Ye Guan could feel a sharp aura emanating from him.

He was a spear cultivator. Moreover, he had reached the realm of Imperial Sovereign.

During his stay in the Old Era, Ye Guan realized that its elites were not much stronger than those in the Time River. Granted, he had not met this era's top elites yet, but he still knew that the Imperial Sovereigns of the Time River would be regarded as exceptional talents here.

His mother, Qin Guan, would soon lead an army into this place to concur with it. Hoping to understand the overall strength of this era before that, he found himself curious about this era's elites.

A sword hum suddenly echoed from afar, followed by a burst of sword light breaking through the clouds and landing steadily not far from the white-robed man. As the sword light dissipated, a lady with a cold and austere demeanor appeared before everyone. She was wearing a tight-fitting skirt.

Ye Guan was surprised. He recognized her—she was the female swordsman that he had encountered in the Past Clan! When he attempted to kill her, the Past Clan's Clan Leader, Si Fanjing, appeared and rescued her.

He didn't expect to see her here, much less learn that she had joined the Divine Academy's Inner Courtyard.

Su Yuan turned to Ye Guan. "Do you know that swordsman?"

Ye Guan nodded a little. "We've met before."

Su Yuan then turned away, ending the conversation.

He knew that these genius individuals had complicated backgrounds, which the Divine Academy had never investigated. That was especially true for the Divine Courtyard's students. After all, although they did try to look into their origins, their efforts ended in vain.

Of the five geniuses currently in the Divine Courtyard, the Divine Academy had secretly investigated all but one of them. However, they only managed to find surface-level information. For example, all they knew about Ye Guan was that he came from the Time River, which was like a completely different world from the Old Era.

Just then, a thunderous explosion echoed from the distant stone platform, signaling the beginning of the battle. Ye Guan's eyes remained fixed on the intense clash between the two figures, who were engulfed in sword light and spear light respectively. While observing them, he noticed that the lady in the tight-fitting skirt was showing significant improvements in her swordsmanship.

Turning to Su Yuan, Ye Guan asked, "Elder, who do you think will win?"

Su Yuan glanced at the combatants and replied, "What's your take?"

Ye Guan chuckled. "We'll find out soon. I'm curious, though. These two possess exceptional strength and talent. Why couldn't they join the Divine Courtyard?"

Su Yuan explained, "They didn't meet the criteria."

"And I did?"

"You possess three distinct bloodlines and a unique physique."

Although unsurprised that the Divine Academy knew about his bloodlines and physique, Ye Guan still felt silent.

Su Yuan added, "We're also intrigued by your combat strength."

"You mean you are doubting it?"

"A little."

Ye Guan chuckled heartily.

Boom!

A surge of sword light erupted from the distant stone platform, followed by the appearance of a thousand-meter-long sword energy. The strike sent the white-robed man flying, and the powerful impact caused the surrounding sea of clouds to churn.

Had it not been for the protective array on the stone platform, their clash could have shattered the heavens and the earth.

As the white-robed man steadied himself, another wave of thunderous sword energy descended upon him.

With narrowed eyes, he deftly thrust his long spear forward like an enraged dragon fiercely resisting the sword force.

Bang!

The collision shook the entire arena, causing the sea of clouds to surge like waves and disperse.

For a moment, sunlight shone down on the world.

Witnessing the battle between the two, the spectators held their breaths in awe.

The lady in the tight-fitting skirt relentlessly clashed against the white-robed man. Huge streaks of powerful Sword Intent rushed out from her, but she failed to gain the upper hand.

Remaining composed, the white-robed man continued to execute powerful spear strikes as the spear force around him became as chaotic as stormy seas.

The two had entered a deadlock.

Suddenly, the lady roared. She retracted her sword and spun, launching another attack.

Countless sword lights cascaded down. The white-robed man narrowed his eyes and thrust his long spear upward, resulting in another clash.

They had no choice but to confront each other head-on now.

Bang!

As soon as their weapons made contact, countless spear and sword lights burst forth, forcing both combatants to retreat repeatedly.

Right after, like a ghost, the white-robed man vanished. His long spear then appeared before the lady in the tight-fitting skirt. Just as she was about to strike back, a terrifying roar emanated from the spear.

Boom!

In the blink of an eye, a powerful blow hit the lady. Blood streamed from her seven orifices as she was sent flying thousands of meters away. Moments later, the tip of the long spear pressed against her throat.

She had been defeated.

Silence engulfed the area.

"Muyun!"

Cheers erupted from the crowd.

On the stone platform, Muyun glanced at the lady before retracting his long spear. Turning toward the direction where Ye Guan was, he declared, "I, Muyun of the Inner Courtyard, challenge the Divine Courtyard's students."

His words thundered and echoed through the skies.

All eyes turned to Ye Guan.

Upon gazing at him, the brows of the lady in the tight-fitting skirt furrowed in surprise.

She clearly didn't expect him to be here, let alone become a Divine Courtyard student.

Both Outer and Inner Courtyard students in the arena fixed their gazes on Ye Guan. They looked curious about the enigmatic Divine Courtyard students, who were both mysterious and rumored to be exceptionally powerful.

Curiosity and jealousy swirled among the top students of the Inner Courtyard. They had never considered themselves inferior, but they lacked the qualifications to enter the Divine Courtyard. Therefore, they had always harbored a sense of resentment against those who could.

As soon as they caught sight of Ye Guan, countless Inner Courtyard students began unabashedly taunting him.

"Go," Su Yuan instructed.

Ye Guan looked at Su Yuan. "If I defeat him, can I challenge the other Divine Courtyard students?"

"Yes."

Ye Guan grinned. His figure then shook as he transformed into a streak of sword light and appeared before Muyun.

Muyun observed Ye Guan silently. Although he had doubts about the students from the Divine Courtyard, he was not going to underestimate Ye Guan. After all, the Divine Academy had not sent students into the Divine Courtyard for many years. Moreover, the world was full of surprises and uncertainties.

Facing Ye Guan's formidable strength, Muyun decided to give it his all.

Ye Guan glanced at the lady in the distance, who was also watching him intently.

"We're about to begin. Shouldn't you step down?" Ye Guan calmly asked.

The crowd fell silent.

The lady shot Ye Guan a cold glance before transforming into a streak of sword light and disappearing.

Once she was gone, Ye Guan turned to Muyun. "Come."

Muyun took a step forward. In an instant, a chilling light surged toward Ye Guan.

He thrust his spear as fast as lightning, catching many of those in the crowd off guard.

However, just inches away from Ye Guan, a sword suddenly appeared out of nowhere and sent sword energy toward Muyun's forehead even faster than his spear.

The sudden appearance of the flying sword caught Muyun off guard. Deciding not to hold back anymore, he roared in anger. A demonic beast materialized before him, its claws blocking the sword aiming for him.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan had already retreated ten meters away. Muyun's spear had missed its mark.

Ye Guan glanced at the demonic beast. Resembling an ape, it had muscular arms and a fierce countenance.

"Heaven-Shaking Ape!" someone in the crowd exclaimed.

In the Old Era, demonic beasts were divided into nine ranks. Above the nine ranks were the Pre-Saint, Saint, and, finally, the legendary God Realms.

The Heaven-Shaking Ape was in the God Realm.

With man and beast now merged into one, Muyun roared furiously and charged forward. As the spear in his hand surged toward Ye Guan, the Heaven-Shaking Ape gripped its handle tightly.

The thrust caused cracks to slither on the stone platform. It seemed not even the array maintaining it could withstand the force behind the attack.

On the other side, two figures—a man in white and a lady in a plain skirt—observed everything from the clouds.

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Chapter 588: She's Arrived

While watching the young swordsman from a distance, the brows of the man in white furrowed. There was something oddly familiar about the swordsman. The sense of connection left him puzzled.

Meanwhile, the lady in the plain skirt glanced at the swordsman, a faint smile playing on her lips.

"Qing'er, who do you think will win?" the man in white inquired.

"What do you think?" the lady in the plain skirt replied.

Smiling, the man in white continued intently watching the young swordsman. The plain-skirt lady glanced up toward the sky before turning her attention back to observe the young swordsman.

...

As the scene unfolded on the stone platform, two Divine Academy bishops, one clad in white robes and the other in black, monitored the fight with keen interest. Their attention was fixed squarely on Ye Guan. His possession of three unique bloodlines made them very curious about him.

"Who do you believe will win?" the Left Bishop asked.

In a soft yet firm tone, the Right Bishop responded, "Isn't it obvious?"

A knowing smile graced the lips of the Left Bishop.

On the platform below, Muyun had fused with the demonic beast. The spear thrust he had unleashed caused the surrounding arrays to tremble.

Nevertheless, despite the power the spear carried, Ye Guan remained composed. With a slow, deliberate motion, he closed his eyes, enveloping himself in a tranquil calmness.

To onlookers, the spear thrust was so fast that it almost seemed invisible. Yet for Ye Guan, each moment stretched out infinitely. Having trained against himself, he was now used to such speed.

Buzz!

A resounding hum echoed through the air as the tip of his sword met the spear head-on.

Bam!

Spear light shattered and the force of the impact sent Muyun hurtling backward. His weapon fell to the ground in pieces.

Silence descended upon the arena, disbelief etched on the faces of the spectators.

He overwhelmed Muyun?

Even the lady in the tight-fitting skirt couldn't tear her gaze away from Ye Guan. His swordsmanship had advanced by leaps and bounds.

Above the clouds, the Left Bishop softly murmured, "Precision against the flaw in his spear thrust."

The Right Bishop shook his head. "That's not the crux of the matter."

His voice carried a note of certainty.

The Left Bishop turned to the Right Bishop, who was eyeing Ye Guan in the distance.

"From the outset until now, that man has exuded an air of tranquility. His swordsmanship is akin to still waters. Moreover, his mastery of the sword is... serene," the Right bishop continued. "The essence of it

lies in simplicity, and his swordsmanship embodies just that. That young man's skill has transcended mere complexity. Achieving such mastery at his age is no small feat."

"We've looked into him but found nothing," the Left Bishop somberly remarked.

The Right Bishop shook his head. "There's no need to investigate him. A talent of this caliber is beyond our reach, let alone our control. Our best course is to build rapport with him. Beyond that, we should refrain from interfering."

The Left Bishop remained silent, choosing not to voice his skepticism. Could a genius truly surpass the might of the Divine Academy?

The Divine Academy's dean was like a god, and its resources were endless. How could a young genius even hope to contend with it?

However, he did not speak his doubts. In the Academy Chief's absence, the Right Bishop held the highest authority within the academy.

Meanwhile, on the stone platform, after being repelled by Ye Guan's sword, Muyun's expression grew unusually grave. He realized that he had underestimated the Divine Courtyard.

With just one casual stroke, Ye Guan had shattered his full-powered thrust. I should admit defeat now... No, I still have my trump card.

Muyun took a step forward. He then summoned the demonic beast within him. Along with a loud explosion, the Heaven-Shaking Ape surged into the air and hovered above him.

The demonic beast was now as tall as a mountain. Its muscular arms bulged with enough strength to destroy the world. Waves of terrifying aura emanated from its form, causing the skies to tremble.

Muyun's figure, who stood beneath the Heaven-Shaking Ape with his spear in hand, seemed minuscule in comparison, yet his aura matched that of the ape.

The spectators held their breath as they witnessed the spectacle.

Ye Guan, however, remained calm. He simply observed Muyun and the Heaven-Shaking Ape. Neither his expression nor his heart showed any hint of disturbance.

Suddenly, the voice of Ao Qianqian rang out. "I wish to fight alongside you."

Ye Guan laughed heartily. "Very well."

Although he could handle the situation alone, he welcomed the chance to fight alongside Ao Qianqian.

In the distance, Muyun bellowed in fury, "Let us fight!"

Boom!

The Heaven-Shaking Ape clenched its right hand, conjuring a phantom golden spear. With lightning speed, Muyun lunged forward and thrust his spear at Ye Guan.

The Heaven-Shaking Ape mirrored the motion, unleashing a spear thrust toward Ye Guan from afar.

Crack!

As the spear pierced through, the previously restored arrays on the stone platform shattered, causing the surrounding skies to fracture like a spider's web.

Everyone was shocked.

Fortunately, the elites of the academy swiftly began repairing the arrays. If they hadn't, the divine mountains could have been reduced to rubble.

Despite their efforts, the pressure emanating from the clash still felt suffocating for everyone in the area. It felt as though the heavens were collapsing, leaving one with a sense of despair and helplessness.

On the stone platform, Ye Guan faced the incoming spear thrust by taking a step forward. At the same time, a terrifying aura erupted from within him—an aura that was not human.

Boom!

Amid the astonished gazes of the spectators, a massive creature surged upward from within Ye Guan.

This unexpected sight left everyone momentarily speechless.

He has a dragon in him?

In the skies above, the Left Bishop's eyes narrowed. "This aura... it surpasses the God Realm."

The Right Bishop simply continued observing Ye Guan, his brows furrowing in contemplation.

On the stone platform, Ye Guan jumped up and launched a decisive sword strike toward the incoming spear. At the same time, he harnessed the defensive traits and strength of Ao Qianqian's body.

His sword strike shattered the arrays on the stone platform. The two mountains also cracked and were reduced to rubble.

A collective gasp swept through the audience.

Kaboom!

Before the spectators' eyes, the overwhelming force disintegrated the spear and sent Muyun and the Heaven-Shaking Ape flying thousands of meters back.

The Heaven-Shaking Ape's flesh was torn inch by inch as it stopped, causing blood to spray out like a fountain. Muyun had turned pale as well, blood staining the corners of his mouth.

A heavy silence descended upon the arena.

The Inner Courtyard's top talent had been defeated.

The expressions of the Inner Courtyard disciples turned complex. Resenting the superiority of the Divine Courtyard students, they had been hoping that Muyun would emerge victorious. Now, however, they faced the undeniable truth: the Divine Academy's talents were unmatched.

On the stone platform, Ye Guan sheathed his sword. "You fought well."

He made no effort to chase after his opponent. This was a contest, not a battle to the death. He wouldn't unnecessarily escalate matters.

In the distance, Muyun wiped away his blood, glanced at Ao Qianqian, and finally conceded. "I acknowledge defeat."

He then turned and departed.

However, even though the battle was over, no one left the arena.

After all, the most exhilarating match was yet to come.

Two Divine Courtyard students were about to fight.

What could possibly rival the spectacle of students of such caliber fighting against each other?

Witnessing Ye Guan's prowess only made their anticipation soar.

If Ye Guan was already this powerful, could the other Divine Courtyard's prodigies be any less?

Ye Guan looked at Su Yuan. It wasn't just the others. He was eager to see the other Divine Courtyard students too.

It wasn't about showing off. Ye Guan simply wanted to fight. After all, his Sword Dao had just transformed. Hence, he longed for a satisfying challenge—for an opponent who could match him. Muyun's strength couldn't push him to his limits.

Su Yuan understood the meaning behind Ye Guan's gaze.

Meanwhile, all eyes had turned to him.

Suddenly appearing before Ye Guan, Su Yuan insisted, "Heal your injuries first."

Ye Guan was about to object since the previous battle did not deplete any of his energy. However, Su Yuan insisted, "Heal first."

Hence, Ye Guan settled down to regain his strength.

Meanwhile, Ao Qianqian retreated to the little pagoda.

Curious, Ye Guan asked, "Qianqian, what's your current realm?"

"Imperial Sovereign," Ao Qianqian replied.

Ye Guan chuckled. "You are so strong."

Just moments ago, when he merged with Ao Qianqian, he felt the raw power she possessed. It was undeniably terrifying. Fused, even Imperial Sovereigns seemed minuscule in front of them. If he were to activate his bloodlines and use sword techniques...

Ye Guan smiled and shook his head, pushing those thoughts aside. He wanted to confront his true self and refine his swordsmanship in its purest form. Of course, having a few tricks up his sleeve was essential. However, he would not resort to using them unless absolutely necessary.

Refocusing his mind, Ye Guan continued recovering. Time slipped by swiftly, and after a while, he finally stood up. By then, everyone around was already on edge, anticipating the arrival of the next Divine Courtyard genius.

Ye Guan glanced at Su Yuan. "Elder, has the opponent arrived yet?"

Su Yuan chuckled softly. "Are you in a rush?"

"Yes."

Su Yuan regarded Ye Guan thoughtfully. "You're quite confident, aren't you?"

After a brief pause, Ye Guan replied with conviction, "I don't mean to boast, but within my age group, I've never tasted defeat, so... whoever shows up today, I'll beat them up until their parents can no longer recognize them."

Su Yuan observed Ye Guan intently. "Here she comes."

Boom!

Spacetime rippled before Ye Guan, and then a lady slowly emerged.

"What the...?"

Ye Guan was utterly stunned

Chapter 589: Unexpected Encounter

The lady, clad in a long, flowing red dress, had unmatched beauty. He instantly recognized her as Mo Yaoyao of the Mo Clan, the lady who had used the fishing method before.

Seeing Ye Guan also momentarily stunned Mo Yaoyao.

"It's you," she said.

"Are you a Divine Courtyard student?" Ye Guan asked, his voice carrying a hint of gravity.

A charming smile graced Mo Yaoyao's lips. "You too?"

Ye Guan nodded.

"I never would have expected you to be in the Divine Courtyard. Fate has truly brought us together."

Ye Guan chuckled softly, genuinely surprised by the revelation that this lady was part of the Divine Courtyard.

"Have you two met before?" Su Yuan interjected.

Ye Guan nodded. "Once."

Su Yuan's laughter was light. "Great. You don't need introductions, then."

He vanished into thin air.

All eyes focused on Ye Guan and Mo Yaoyao.

Ye Guan turned to Mo Yaoyao. "May I ask your name, miss?"

"I'm Mo Yaoyao," she answered. Before Ye Guan could introduce himself, she added, "I know who you are. You're Ye Guan, a swordsman."

Ye Guan chuckled in response. "Yes."

With a delicate gesture, Mo Yaoyao tucked a strand of hair behind her ear, her smile retaining its charm. "I won't hold back."

"I won't—"

Before he could finish, Mo Yaoyao disappeared, and a streak of crimson light flew toward him. He swiftly raised his sword to block the attack.

Bam!

A resounding clash echoed as Ye Guan was hurtled backward. In a flash, Mo Yaoyao closed the distance again. A streak of crimson light drew across his face before he could react.

Ye Guan swiftly countered with a thrust of his sword.

The force of the impact caused his weapon to shatter into pieces and sent him hurtling away again.

However, this time, Mo Yaoyao did not pursue him. Instead, she halted, her gaze fixed on Ye Guan, who had also come to a stop just a bit of distance away.

With a smile, she remarked, "I can tell you're not giving it your all. Remember, you must give your utmost effort if you want to stand a chance against me."

Meeting her gaze, Ye Guan nodded resolutely. "Understood."

Ye Guan took a step forward, and his form instantly turned ethereal.

Space Overlap!

In the blink of an eye, a myriad of swords surged toward Mo Yaoyao's direction. At the same time, the over ten thousand swords swiftly converged into one swift, precise, and ruthless sword.

Mo Yaoyao's eyes were briefly enveloped with surprise. She extended her palm, and a blood-red demonic beast emerged, promptly devouring Ye Guan's sword.

The scene left everyone dumbfounded.

Ye Guan deeply furrowed his brows.

Swallowed whole, just like that?

His gaze remained fixed on the blood-red demonic beast. It had a feline appearance and emitted an eerie aura. It let out a loud burp, as though it had a full meal.

High above, the Left and Right Bishops frowned. Even they did not know what kind of demonic beast it was.

Meanwhile, the blood-red demonic beast before Mo Yaoyao leaped forward, hurtling straight at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan repeatedly drew his sword, unleashing the Heavenrend Quickdraw.

Buzz!

A resonant vibration filled the air.

Countless overlapping sword lights cascaded toward the blood-red demonic beast, yet it remained undeterred. Opening its jaws wide, it devoured all of Ye Guan's sword energy. Right after, it lunged toward him.

Ye Guan countered with a horizontal sword strike.

Clang!

As their clash echoed, Ye Guan was sent flying thousands of meters away.

The blood-red demonic beast licked its lips, a look of satisfaction on its face.

Ye Guan's brows furrowed even deeper as he observed it. After devouring his sword energy, the blood-red demonic beast had grown even stronger.

Turning to Mo Yaoyao, Ye Guan asked, "What kind of demonic beast is that?"

Mo Yaoyao smiled gently. "A Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast. It's from the First God's ear."

The Left Bishop was taken aback by the answer. "The legendary Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast... According to rumors, that beast can consume anything. After the internal war between the gods back then, it vanished without a trace. I never imagined it still existed."

Gazing at Mo Yaoyao, the Right Bishop softly murmured, "To think she can command the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast..."

The Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast, originally from the Daoist Temple, was one of the six divine beasts. It disregarded all other gods and only respected the First God. Now, however, here it was, obediently following Mo Yaoyao. This was highly unusual.

From a distance, Ye Guan glanced at the blood-red beast. "Can this creature consume anything?"

Mo Yaoyao nodded. "For now, yes."

Ye Guan smiled faintly, then vanished. A streak of sword light shot toward the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast. However, upon reaching the demonic beast, the sword light abruptly turned blood-red because of his Mad Demon Bloodline!

The Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast swallowed the sword light whole. At the same time, Ye Guan retreated thousands of meters away and silently watched it.

After consuming the sword energy infused with the Mad Demon Bloodline, the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast's expression tightened. Suddenly, its eyes turned blood-red. It then began to tremble violently, roaring madly as boundless murderous intent surged from within its body.

Ye Guan now had a strange expression on his face. The creature was clearly being influenced by the Mad Demon Bloodline. Even he, as a swordsman, couldn't fully control it, so this was only natural.

Taking advantage of the situation, Ye Guan pressed on, striking with his sword in quick succession. Each strike was infused with the power of the Mad Demon Bloodline. However, the beast, becoming increasingly enraged, indiscriminately devoured Ye Guan's sword energy.

Slowly, the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast's aura grew even stronger but also more abnormal. Eventually, it began to roar in fury. Becoming aggressive, it clenched down on its own fangs. Killing intent and hostility continued to pour out from it.

Meanwhile, the man in white frowned. "Qing'er, why does this bloodline aura feel so familiar?"

Plain Skirt Destiny calmly asked, "Does it?"

"Yes." As if to confirm his suspicions, he added, "Stop deceiving me and just tell me the truth."

"I won't," she replied.

The man was at a loss for words.

...

In the distance, Mo Yaoyao watched the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast become increasingly crazy with furrowed brows, realizing that she couldn't communicate with it anymore. Worse, when she attempted to, the beast even showed signs of hostility toward her.

Was it rebelling?

Mo Yaoyao turned to Ye Guan. "What did you do?"

"I fed it sword energy," Ye Guan replied.

"There's something wrong with your bloodline power."

She had sensed Ye Guan's bloodline power earlier, but she hadn't given it much thought at the time. She didn't expect that it could affect the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast, which was becoming more and more abnormal. Its murderous intent was growing stronger as time passed.

Observing the nearly out-of-control beast, Ye Guan quietly stepped back. He knew how terrifying the Mad Demon Bloodline could be. It could erode one's sanity, and this creature wasn't benevolent to begin with. Under the influence of the Mad Demon Bloodline, its evil side would come out.

An eerie atmosphere enveloped the arena.

All eyes remained fixed on the raging Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast.

In a sudden frenzy, the beast charged straight toward Mo Yaoyao, who stood closest to it.

What in the world?

Everyone in the arena was stunned. What was happening? Had the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast truly gone rogue?

Mo Yaoyao's expression darkened as she watched the beast rush toward her. She hadn't expected that it would turn against her.

What kind of bloodline was this? Even the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast couldn't subdue it.

Before she could ponder further, the creature reached her, prompting her to swiftly flip her right hand. A terrifying aura surged from her palm, forcefully suppressing the beast in its tracks.

The demonic beast roared angrily as it resisted.

Mo Yaoyao's brows furrowed again. Suddenly, Ye Guan sent hundreds of sword energies toward the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast.

Facing Ye Guan's onslaught of sword energy, the demonic beast indiscriminately devoured them all, further exacerbating its madness and strengthening its aura.

Glaring at Mo Yaoyao as if she were its mortal enemy, the now thoroughly mad beast relentlessly rammed into her.

Mo Yaoyao shot a glare at Ye Guan, who kept adding fuel to the fire.

Now that the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast had completely lost its rationality, Mo Yaoyao remained silent for a moment. She then opened her palm and summoned a blood-red book. In the next instant, a beam of blood light shot out, directly sucking the beast into the book.

Instead of continuing the fight, Mo Yaoyao just shot Ye Guan a fierce glare before turning into a beam of light and disappearing into the horizon.

She had to find a way to return the Devouring Spirit Ancestor Beast to normal. It was far too precious to her for her to let anything happen to it.

As Mo Yaoyao departed, everyone in the arena exchanged puzzled looks. What was going on?

Ye Guan shook his head with a smile. He hadn't anticipated things would turn out like this.

He turned to Su Yuan.

"Continue fighting," Su Yuan calmly instructed.

Perplexed, Ye Guan questioned, "Continue fighting?"

Su Yuan nodded. "The Inner Courtyard has found its champion. The Divine Courtyard should, too."

"Alright, then. Please proceed," Ye Guan said with a nod.

Su Yuan turned and glanced in a certain direction. After receiving some messages, he turned and disappeared.

Ye Guan felt puzzled. Just then, a man in white suddenly appeared before him.

Ye Guan and Little Pagoda were rendered speechless.

Chapter 590: No Sword Can Harm Me

Another one had come.

The disappointed students of the Divine Academy suddenly became interested again. They had to admit that the battle between Ye Guan and Mo Yaoyao was lackluster. They were expecting a world-shaking battle, but the two instead ended the battle after wasting a lot of time dilly-dallying around a demonic beast.

It was a bit like taking off one's pants and getting something lackluster in return.

However, another extraordinary figure from the Divine Academy had now appeared, reigniting everyone's excitement.

Ye Guan looked at the man in the white shirt, feeling incredibly puzzled. He felt a great sense of familiarity toward him.

It was a weird and unique feeling. He was certain that he had never met this man before, so he couldn't help but wonder why he felt this way. The more time passed, the more confused he became.

As if coming to a realization, he internally said, "Master Pagoda?"

Little Pagoda remained silent.

"Master Pagoda, don't you feel that too?" he asked.

"Feel what?"

"A sense of familiarity."

"No."

Ye Guan was speechless.

At that moment, the man in the white shirt smiled. "Draw your sword."

Ye Guan retracted his thoughts and nodded. With a light tap of his toe, he shot up into the air. In an instant, a sword attack surged toward the man in the white shirt. It was incredibly fast. Although it contained no fancy moves, it was also direct and decisive.

Smiling faintly, the man extended two fingers toward Ye Guan's Sword Intent.

Bam!

Ye Guan's sword attack froze. However, another sword light—one even faster and stronger—came surging toward the man.

Calmly, the man in the white shirt flicked his fingers, shattering and sweeping the sword attack away effortlessly.

Bam!

At the same time, Ye Guan was sent flying thousands of meters backward!

Silence fell on the arena.

When Ye Guan stopped, he raised his head to look at the man in the white shirt, his face filled with disbelief.

What the fuck?

He had to admit that he was rather shocked. He had unleashed those two powerful sword attacks without holding back, yet the man had blocked them with ease. It was ridiculous!

He stared at the man in the white shirt, who now looked serious. Intuition told him that this seemingly harmless man was more terrifying than Mo Xiaoyao.

"Come on, let's continue," the man said.

Ye Guan retracted his thoughts and smiled crookedly. "Bring it on."

By the time he had finished his sentence, he had already transformed into a ray of sword light. He rushed toward his opponent and unleashed ten consecutive stacks of Heavenrends!

Everyone felt the terrifying power of his sword attack, which pressed down on them, made them feel suffocated, and shattered heaven and earth. However, the man just calmly extended two fingers toward Ye Guan's sword attack again.

Boom!

The attack stopped in place again with all the power within it suppressed.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed.

Above the void, the Left Bishop's and the Right Bishop's expressions became heavy. The power Ye Guan's offensive contained was not to be underestimated. However, the man in the white shirt had easily suppressed it.

He was terrifying!

In the distance, while suppressing the attack, the man flicked his hand again, sending the strike flying outward. However, his target was the void above them, not Ye Guan.

Boom!

As a result, the void shattered, leaving behind nothing but terrifying pitch-black darkness.

Everyone's expressions turned solemn upon witnessing the destructive capability of Ye Guan's attack. If they had been its target, they would have been instantly reduced to ashes.

The man in the white shirt turned to Ye Guan. Softly, he said, "Again."

His voice had not even a hint of disdain or mockery.

After a few moments of silence, Ye Guan opened his palm and summoned the Xuanyuan Sword, realizing that he needed something more powerful to deal with this man.

At the same time, he could feel himself starting to become excited. Apart from his older sister, Ye An, every opponent that he had faced so far had been easy. Now, however, he had finally met a strong opponent.

Taking a step forward, he instantly sent a ray of sword light filled with countless stars toward the man in the white shirt. The attack looked like a sword imbued with universes.

The sword strike immediately caught the attention of both the Left and Right Bishops. Although his two previous attacks had already surprised them, this one impressed them even more.

He must have a remarkable teacher!

Left Bishop frowned as he watched Ye Guan's sword, which had already reached the man in the white shirt. The sword strike bore some resemblance to a divine artifact that was recorded in the Divine Book...

Meanwhile, much like before, the man in the white shirt calmly stretched two fingers out.

Bam!

The Xuanyuan Sword was forcefully suppressed once again! However, at that moment, another ray of sword light reached the man in the white shirt.

Ye Guan had sent a Heavenrend Quickdraw condensed within two Space Overlaps!

The man in the white shirt suddenly pointed his sword forward, unleashing a sword light.

Boom!

As more sword light erupted, a powerful sword energy shockwave sent Ye Guan flying backward. Meanwhile, the man in the white shirt remained as unmoving as a mountain.

Everyone present fell into silence. The strength of this man was truly terrifying. He suppressed Ye Guan like it was nothing!

When Ye Guan finally stopped, he raised his head and looked at his opponent. He felt overwhelmed with shock. "You're also a swordsman."

The man in the white shirt smiled faintly. "That's right."

"Why don't you draw your sword?" Ye Guan asked in a low voice.

The man only smiled again in response.

"Qianqian," Ye Guan called.

Boom!

The dragon's terrifying aura suddenly surged from Ye Guan's body. They had fused once more!

His opponent's attack made Ye Guan realize that he had to exert all his strength if he wanted to stand a chance against him.

He slowly closed his eyes as he felt an endless surge of power coming from Ao Qianqian.

The man in the white shirt watched as Ye Guan's aura surged, his lips still curved into a faint smile. In fact, he could have ended the battle when Ye Guan unleashed his first sword attack. However, due to the inexplicable fondness that he felt for the young swordsman, he chose not to.

Ye Guan stepped forward. As he did, a beam of sword light instantly shot toward his opponent. Compared to the previous sword attacks, this one had undergone a qualitative change. Their fusion did not simply add their powers together. After all, Ao Qianqian was now an Imperial Sovereign, and as a member of the Dragon Clan, her strength far surpassed an ordinary Imperial Sovereign's.

When fused with Ao Qianqian, Ye Guan's power increased by more than tenfold. Moreover, his sword techniques, which emphasized explosive force, now rendered the surrounding spacetime illusory and gripped everyone's heart with a sense of impending doom.

The spectators' expressions drastically changed.

This was Ye Guan's trump card!

However, the man in the white shirt remained unfazed. It was as if there was no difference between this sword attack and the previous ones. When Ye Guan's sword was mere inches away from him, he once again extended two fingers and lightly pinched them together.

Boom!

Ye Guan's terrifying sword strike got caught between his fingers, and the frightening power contained within it was forcefully suppressed.

The scene petrified everyone.

Ye Guan tightened his grip on the hilt of his sword as his eyes narrowed. He could neither move his sword by an inch nor unleash any power from it.

He had been completely suppressed!

Staring at the man in the white shirt, he asked, "Are you pretending to be weak to catch me off guard?"

He was starting to feel that he was missing something—no, something was very wrong!

The man in the white shirt smiled. "One's Sword Dao shouldn't be so complicated."

He gently exerted force with his two fingers, causing Ye Guan's hand to tremble violently.

When Ye Guan returned to his senses, the Xuanyuan Sword was already in the hands of his opponent. The man caressed the blade of the sword gently, and the powerful force within it immediately dissipated.

Ye Guan's expression instantly turned solemn. He also felt a tinge of helplessness in his heart. He knew that even if he activated his bloodline powers, he would not be able to beat this man. He was far inferior to him.

Now, he truly understood the meaning of the phrase, "There will always be someone better than you out there."

He had underestimated others.

"The first sword attack that you unleashed was interesting," the man in the white shirt commented.

"The first sword attack?" Ye Guan asked.

The man in the white shirt nodded. "That sword attack held no external force, only the pure power of your Sword Dao. That's the real you. Moreover, it showcased your core. It's good to see that you're starting to explore who you truly are. Keep it up."

Ye Guan remarked, "Thank you for your guidance, Senior."

He did not feel bitter about losing to the man in front of him. On the contrary, he was rather glad that he did. Having witnessed how inferior he was to him, he willingly accepted defeat.

The man in the white shirt grinned before passing the Xuanyuan Sword back to Ye Guan. "Your sword is very sharp and quite special, but it's best to use it sparingly. No matter how sharp a sword is, it's useless in the hands of a swordsman who can't unleash its potential."

Hearing those words made the Xuanyuan Sword feel bad. It trembled slightly and charged toward the man in the white shirt, but it was quickly restrained.

The man in the white shirt laughed heartily. "Your sword has quite the temper! However, in this world, no sword can harm me."

Ye Guan blinked. "No sword that can harm you?"

"That's right."

"I do not believe that."

"Would you like to try it for yourself?"

"Yes, I would like to try it. If my sword manages to hurt you, can you grant me a favor?"

"Sure!"

The corners of Ye Guan's lips curled up. He opened his palm and slowly closed his eyes as he internally said, "Qingxuan, let me use you one more time!"