

A Sword 71

Chapter 71: No Longer Handsome

Ye Guan was dumbstruck because the Shenge Clan's ancestor seemed to be easygoing and a tad bit too nice, which made him feel awkward. It sounded ridiculous, but he truly felt awkward.

Little Pagoda shook his head. He knew that Ye Guan was too kind to defeat such a shrewd woman. Now that he thought about it, his previous Young Master was also pretty kind, but his previous Young Master wouldn't fall for Lee Ge's scheme.

However, if Little Pagoda had to choose between Ye Guan and his previous Young Master, he would still choose to follow Ye Guan.

"I'm off, then," said Lee Ge.

Ye Guan nodded.

There was a reason he decided to make Lee Ge owe him a favor. Little Jia!

He would inevitably visit the Undying Clan to borrow the Sword Master's swords. It would be great if everything went smoothly, but if things went wrong, it wouldn't be bad to have something to fall back on. Ye Guan had learned a lesson from today's battle—it was better to have more allies than enemies.

Lee Ge smiled at Little Pagoda. "Master Pagoda, please forgive me for my transgressions."

Little Pagoda waved his hand and said, "Forget it!"

The soft approach had always been effective on the members of the Yang Family.

Lee Ge nodded and said, "See you later, Master Pagoda."

Moments later, she disappeared into a cloud of light green smoke. She left behind a scroll that flew toward the Shenge World. After Lee Ge's departure, Ye Guan asked, "Why do you think she killed the powerhouses of the Shenge Clan, Master Pagoda?"

Little Pagoda replied calmly, "It's for the sake of her dignity."

Ye Guan was confused. "Dignity?"

Little Pagoda nodded and explained, "Someone will step out to help uphold her dignity if she doesn't do it herself."

Ye Guan's gaze was deep as he stared at Little Pagoda.

What was he hiding from him?

Ye Guan eventually shook his head and erased such thoughts before turning to look at Ye Qing.

"Brother Ye Qing, let's split the valuables here three ways. A portion will go to the Ye Clan, while the other two portions will go to you and me. What do you think?" asked Ye Guan. It seemed that he found it important to divide the spoils first before anything else.

Ye Qing smiled. "Sounds good."

Ye Guan nodded and said, "All right, you should go ahead and rescue the others."

Master Pagoda had told Ye Guan that Ye Xiao and the members of the Ye Clan were still alive. Ao Tian had brought them here to lure Ye Guan, so Ye Xiao's life and the lives of the other members of the Ye Clan were important.

Ye Qing nodded before turning around and disappearing into a golden beam of light.

Ye Guan watched as Ye Qing disappeared into the horizon.

Ye Qing could no longer be seen, so Ye Guan finally relaxed and lay down on the ground. He could finally feel the intense pain coming from his exposed flesh after taking the brunt of an Ancient Heavenly Dragon's dragon flame.

Swoosh!

Two figures streaked across the skies of the True Dragon World.

The two figures were Monk Dao and Nanling Yiyi. They rushed to the True Dragon World upon hearing about Ye Guan's decision, but the True Dragon World was closed, so they had no choice but to stay outside and wait.

The True Dragon Clan was no more, so the seal on the True Dragon World had disappeared as well.

A sinister light flashed in Monk Dao's eyes upon seeing Ye Guan's miserable condition, but he suddenly came to a halt and stared wide-eyed at the scene in front of him.

Ye Guan was surrounded by multiple dragon carcasses. The True Dragon Clan... they were annihilated? Monk Dao looked as if he had been struck by lightning from out of the blue.

Little Pagoda had already entered Ye Guan's glabella. He was still injured, so he couldn't stay outside for an extended period of time.

Nanling Yiyi rushed over to Ye Guan. She went beyond pallid upon seeing Ye Guan's condition.

"Junior Disciple Ye, you..." she said while quivering.

Ye Guan grinned at her and said, "I'm not going to die."

However, Nanling Yiyi shook her head. "You're no longer handsome!"

Ye Guan's expression stiffened.

"Pfft!" Nanling Yiyi burst out laughing and said, "Don't worry, I won't feel disgusted with your current look."

Ye Guan could only shake his head and smile.

Monk Dao had many burning questions, but he couldn't bring himself to speak upon seeing Ye Guan's condition.

Swoosh!

Ye Qing finally returned with Ye Xiao and the other members of the Ye Clan.

Ye Xiao and the others rushed to Ye Guan's side. Ye Xiao's voice trembled as he asked, "Little Guan, are you okay?"

Ye Guan smiled and said, "I'm fine."

Ye Xiao sighed and muttered, "This is our fault... for implicating you."

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "All of this started because of me, so this is all my fault."

Ye Xiao shook his head and sighed once more.

"The True Dragon Clan is no more, and I'm sure the people outside already know about the True Dragon Clan's outcome. We should go; we can't stay here any longer." Ye Qing pointed out. He looked at Ye Xiao and said, "Clan Leader, I'll escort you to Nanzhou."

Ye Xiao and the others weren't strong enough to stay on the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

The Ye Clan also had zero foundation here, so they wouldn't prosper even if they were to stay here.

Ye Xiao hesitated, but he eventually nodded. "All right."

Ye Qing walked over to Ye Guan and extended a storage ring to him. "Brother Ye Guan, I have divided the spoils, and this is your portion. The storage rings of the Shenge Clan members are in that storage ring as well."

Ye Guan nodded and accepted the storage ring.

"Be careful on your way home," he said

Ye Qing nodded. However, he didn't turn around to leave. He looked like he was hesitating, but he eventually made up his mind and asked, "Brother Ye Guan, are you going to aim for the Great Dao Destiny Contest?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

Ye Qing smiled at that and said, "I'm aiming for it as well."

Ye Guan smiled and exclaimed, "Great! It seems that I'll have a partner when the time comes."

Ye Qing's smile deepened. "Brother Ye Guan, take care. I'll see you later."

With that, Ye Qing brought Ye Xiao and the others away.

Ye Guan's expression was complicated as he watched them leave.

It was such a short reunion. He wanted to spend more time with them, but he knew that this wasn't the right occasion.

Monk Dao next to him said, "We should hurry up and leave as well. I'm sure the True Dragon Clan's annihilation has alerted the major powers of the Zhongtu Divine Continent. I think many powerhouses are on their way here."

Ye Guan nodded and said, "Okay, let's go."

He still couldn't walk, so Monk Dao had to carry him away with Nanling Yiyi.

Just a few minutes after their departure, several powerful auras appeared in the skies of the True Dragon World. The powerhouses were stupefied to see that the True Dragon World had become nothing but a wasteland.

The True Dragon Clan was annihilated?

It was too shocking of a reality that they doubted their eyes.

The news about the True Dragon Clan's annihilation quickly spread throughout the entire Zhongtu Divine Continent. A Clan Annihilation!

The Guanxuan Law prohibited the annihilation of an entire clan, so the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy started investigating the incident.

However, they had to stop their investigation upon hearing that the Main Guanxuan Academy had decided to send someone.

Academy Chief Lu Chaowen stood at the helm of the many tutors and members of the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy. Their group stood at the entrance of the academy to wait for the Main Guanxuan Academy's representative.

Soon, a woman walked out of a carriage. The woman was wearing a pristine white robe, and there was a purple string wrapped around her slender waist. Her long hair was tied up in a ponytail that reached her waist.

Her features were delicate and vivid, but she carried with her a look of superiority as she walked toward Lu Chaowen with an ancient-looking scroll in her hand. The scroll was emblazoned with the words—
Guanxuan Law.

Lu Chaowen bowed respectfully.

His voice was trembling as he said, “Greetings, Representative Ye.”

The woman was none other than Representative Ye Guanzhi. She was the representative of the Main Guanxuan Academy’s Department of Arts, and she was a formidable cultivator in her own right.

The most important fact here was that she had the authority to mobilize the Guanxuan Guards. No one throughout the vast universe would dare to go against the Guanxuan Guards.

However, Ye Guanzhi’s authority wasn’t the only reason Lu Chaowen found her scary.

Lu Chaowen was fearful of her because she was the disciple of Academy Chief Shuxian, who had only accepted two disciples so far. Academy Chief Shuxian’s first disciple was Qingqiu, and Qingqiu was a legendary woman considered to be the strongest individual throughout the vast Guanxuan Universe.

Many people considered Ye Guanzhi to be Qingqiu’s peer in the talent department, which was a terrifying idea because Ye Guanzhi didn’t even look like she was above twenty years old.

Chapter 72: Stop Touching Me

Lu Chaowen and his group were extremely respectful. They felt slightly nervous as well because this was the first time the Main Guanxuan Academy sent such an important figure to the Zhongtu Divine Continent’s Guanxuan Academy.

Ye Guanzhi looked at Lu Chaowen and said, "Academy Chief Lu, we should talk inside."

She walked through the academy gates, and Lu Chaowen hurriedly chased after her.

...

Ye Guanzhi sat near the lake. She was looking at the fish swimming freely in the water.

Lu Chaowen stood next to her with his head slightly bowed.

"Academy Chief Lu, the True Dragon Clan has been annihilated," said Ye Guanzhi. "What do you know about it?"

"I've investigated and found that it has something to do with Ye Guan!" Lu Chaowen replied.

Ye Guanzhi nodded and said, "Go on."

Lu Chaowen hesitated before asking, "Should we arrest Ye Guan?"

Ye Guanzhi turned to look at Lu Chaowen and calmly said, "Let's put aside the grievances between Ye Guan and the True Dragon Clan for now. Let's talk about Ye Guan and the Academy."

"I've heard that Ye Guan was a student of the Guanxuan Academy. He won the martial contest of the Upper Realm, but the True Dragon Clan unjustly intervened. Have you heard about it?"

Lu Chaowen's face turned pale.

Ye Guanzhi continued. "The world of martial arts isn't just all about fighting, and I understand that relationships are important as well, Academy Chief Lu."

"I guess it makes more sense to stand on the side of the True Dragon Clan and the An Clan rather than on the side of a poor little bastard."

Lu Chaowen knelt and lowered his head.

"How do you think the Academy governs the universe? It is naturally using the Guanxuan Law. The Sword Master founded the Academy in hopes of making the world a lawful and fair place to live.

"The martial contest is the only way out for people without solid backgrounds. If even the integrity of the martial contest is compromised, how can those without backers and strong backgrounds rise up to the ranks?" Ye Guanzhi said.

Yu Guanzhi shook her head and continued. "Regardless of the era, those suffering the most are always those who belong at the bottom of society. People like them might never manage to make a name for themselves no matter how hard they try; the Academy is aware of that, which is why the Academy created the martial contest.

"The Academy wants the people to know that their destiny can change as long as they are willing to put in the effort, but..." Yu Guanzhi trailed off. Her gaze turned cold as she continued. "The True Dragon Clan was really bold; they actually dared to intervene in the Guanxuan Academy's martial contest, and what's even worse is that none of you stood up against them!"

Lu Chaowen went beyond pallid.

Ye Guanzhi's eyes were full of disdain as she said, "Academy Chief Lu, you cannot be blamed for the incident, but why did you intercept Academy Chief Zhao's letter of complaint? Who gave you the guts to do that?"

Lu Chaowen trembled, and he didn't dare to speak even a word.

"The integrity of the martial contest was compromised, but rather than reprimanding the True Dragon Clan, you actually allowed them to bully a student of our Academy? Academy Chief Lu, are you a dog of the True Dragon Clan?" asked Ye Guanzhi.

Lu Chaowen collapsed. His voice was trembling as he said, "Representative Ye, the An Clan is—"

"Impudent!" Ye Guanzhi roared, "Are you trying to use the An Clan against me?"

Lu Chaowen hurriedly said, "No!"

"Come!" Ye Guanzhi exclaimed.

An individual clad in white armor appeared next to her.

Lu Chaowen despaired upon seeing the armored individual. A Guanxuan Guard!

Ye Guanzhi's expression remained unchanging as she said, "An Fei chose to conspire with the True Dragon Clan against the Academy. I want you to drag her out of the An Clan and beat her to death in front of the An Clan's gates.

"It seems that the Clan Leader of the An Clan does not know how to discipline their members as well, so I want you to tell the An Clan to replace their current clan leader. From now on, the An Clan's special perks are removed!"

The Guanxuan Guard wordlessly turned around to leave.

Lu Chaowen was horrified. I'm doomed! She must be powerful enough to go against the An Clan... the An Clan is doomed!

Ye Guanzhi made a sidelong glance at Lu Chaowen.

"You took advantage of the power and authority that the Academy has bestowed upon you and used it for your personal gains. I'm sure you are familiar with the Guanxuan Law. What do you think is the punishment for your crimes?"

Lu Chaowen chuckled bitterly, but he didn't say anything.

"Take him away!" Ye Guanzhi ordered.

A Guanxuan Guard took Lu Chaowen away.

Ye Guanzhi closed her eyes and said, "These great clans are becoming increasingly bolder over time, and they have been challenging the Guanxuan Academy's bottom line. Many of them have already become tumors, and—"

"Watch what you say!" An old woman suddenly appeared next to Ye Guanzhi, and she lowered her voice as she said, "Please watch your words, Representative Ye!"

The great clans of the Zhongtu Divine Continent weren't that strong, but the families affiliated with the Main Guanxuan Academy were on a different level. They were extremely powerful and influential.

Ye Guanzhi was powerful and influential, but she would be like an egg trying to shatter a boulder if she were to go against those powerful clans. In other words, Ye Guanzhi had to be wary of them.

Ye Guanzhi said blandly, "They have infiltrated every corner of the Academy's Committee. They have become strong enough to influence the Academy, and it seems that they have already distorted our values and beliefs."

Ye Guanzhi shook her head as helplessness flashed past her eyes.

She didn't speak anymore because she knew that she had to protect herself first before she could protect the Academy. It would be tantamount to seeking her own death if she were to challenge those great clans without enough strength.

In other words, she had to be strong enough if she wanted to change the status quo.

The old woman sighed upon seeing Ye Guanzhi's silence.

"The Sword Master must have known that the great clans would eventually become problematic, so why is it that he didn't nip them in the bud? What was he thinking?" Ye Guanzhi muttered.

The old woman chuckled bitterly.

"Brat, you shouldn't criticize the Sword Master," she said.

Ye Guanzhi calmly retorted, "Compliments are meaningless if criticism is not allowed."

The old woman went silent.

Moments later, Ye Guanzhi said, "We should go and meet Young Lord Ye!"

"The Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan will not let this slide!" said the old woman.

Ye Guanzhi's eyes turned cold.

The old woman hesitated for a little while before asking, "Brat, Ye Guan had annihilated the True Dragon Clan. What are you going to do about him?"

Ye Guanzhi shook her head and said, "What can we do?"

"Clan annihilation violates the Guanxuan Law." the old woman pointed out.

Ye Guanzhi shook her head once more and retorted. "True, but the True Dragon Clan took the Ye Clan hostage against Ye Guan. Ye Guan's retaliation can be considered reasonable self-defense under the Guanxuan Law."

"Is that so?" asked the old woman, seemingly doubtful. "Isn't it too excessive?"

"If someone strong enough to annihilate your clan threatens to wipe your clan off the face of the earth, whatever you do in response cannot be considered excessive. I would have done the same if I were in his shoes," said Ye Guanzhi.

There was a momentary pause before she continued. "The Guanxuan Law advocates fairness and justice. If the True Dragon Clan can harm others without giving others a chance to retaliate, wouldn't the Guanxuan Law be unfair and evil?"

"Ye Guan's retaliation is reasonable self-defense. There's no need to pursue the matter any further."

The old woman nodded and asked, "So... why are you going to meet him?"

"The root cause is the academy's inaction. We wronged him, so it is only natural for us to apologize to him. It would be great if he chooses to join the Academy again, but we should try to compensate him at the bare minimum," Ye Guanzhi explained.

Ye Guanzhi started walking away, and the old woman followed her.

The old woman asked once more, "What are we going to do with Academy Chief Zhao?"

Ye Guanzhi pondered silently for a while before saying, "She will lose her job, but she can be forgiven. She was just the Academy Chief in the tiny Upper Realm, so it wasn't strange that she was afraid to offend the An Clan and the True Dragon Clan.

"She even repented after what happened and wrote a letter to us to speak up for Ye Guan. I think we should forgive her."

The old woman made a sidelong glance at Ye Guanzhi and said, "The Guanxuan Law states that she must be crippled for her transgression."

Ye Guanzhi shook her head and explained, “Zhao Su would have died where he stood if she had opposed the An Clan and the True Dragon Clan at the time. What do you think she could have done as the Academy Chief in the tiny Upper Realm?”

“Her letter also proved that her heart is righteous. Punishments are to reform those who have transgressed so that they’ll turn over a new leaf. We must not mete out punishment for the sake of punishing.”

The old woman nodded and went silent.

“Anyway, our Academy made a mistake. The Zhongtu Divine Continent’s Guanxuan Academy and the An Clan conspired and fueled the arrogance of the True Dragon Clan until they were daring enough to break the integrity of the martial contest.

“We must severely punish Lu Chaowen and the An Clan to warn the others, especially the great clans...” Ye Guanzhi’s eyes turned cold as she continued. “I can still remember those great clans being as restrained as mice in front of a cat while Senior Qingqiu was still around as Academy Chief, but when she—no, those great clans have become bolder in their pursuit of more power.”

The old woman sighed.

She didn’t dare to comment on matters related to the Academy.

Ye Guanzhi went silent as well. Soon, she disappeared into the horizon.

...

Meanwhile, a naked Ye Guan was on a bed. Nanling Yiyi loomed over his scorched body. Ninety percent of Ye Guan’s body had suffered burns after he took the brunt of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon’s dragon flame.

He very much wanted to apply medicine on his wounds by himself, but he was too exhausted to move, not to mention apply medicine on his wounds.

Nanling Yiyi stared at Ye Guan's naked body and blinked.

"Junior Disciple Ye, don't be nervous. I'm not going to do anything else, I'm just going to apply medicine on your wounds."

Ye Guan heard that and hesitated. His voice was trembling as he said, "Senior Disciple Yiyi, can you please stop touching me? Just apply the medicine, please..."

Chapter 73: Your Father Said It

Ye Guan was at a loss for words.

Nanling Yiyi touched him for quite a while.

I thought you were going to apply medicine to my wounds?

Ye Guan was still a young woman, so how could he possibly resist a young woman touching his naked body? Ye Guan was also worried about the kind of thoughts Nanling Yiyi would have if she were allowed to continue.

In other words, he had to stop her as soon as possible.

Nanling Yiyi blushed slightly at Ye Guan's remark. She hurriedly took out a jade bottle and said, "Junior Disciple Ye, this is a Sky-grade spiritual medicine called Rejuvenating Solution. It'll sting a bit once applied, but bear with it!"

Ye Guan nodded. "All right!"

Nanling Yiyi slowly poured the Rejuvenating Solution on Ye Guan.

Ah! Ye Guan exclaimed inwardly. His brows scrunched up. It felt as if a thousand knives pierced his flesh at once, but the pain was still bearable.

Nanling Yiyi asked carefully, "Are you okay?"

Ye Guan sucked in a breath of cold air and grinned.

"I'm fine!" he exclaimed.

Nanling Yiyi nodded slightly before rubbing the medicine on Ye Guan's scorched body. She was gentle and meticulous, and not a single spot on Ye Guan's figure was spared.

None of them said a word, and the air in the room soon became tense until it was palpable. Ye Guan shook his head and abandoned the weird thoughts that had been popping up in his mind.

He closed his eyes and started thinking about the huge battle in the True Dragon World. It was a battle that made him realize just how insignificant he truly was in the bigger picture.

Ye Guan reckoned that he had become at least ten times stronger after becoming a Sword Immortal, but it seemed that a Sword Immortal wasn't exactly strong enough to handle any issues.

The Ancient Heavenly Dragon was just a projection, but a mere projection was strong enough to deal such severe injuries to him with just its flames. Meanwhile, Lee Ge was definitely at least ten times stronger than that Ancient Heavenly Dragon.

A truly powerful cultivator was a weapon of mass destruction, and Ye Guan was just an insignificant Sword Immortal, so he couldn't afford to be complacent and arrogant.

Complacency and satisfaction would lead to limitations, and one ought to avoid settling for less on the path of cultivation. One had to keep scaling higher summits until they became invincible.

Master Pagoda, I want to become stronger! Ye Guan exclaimed inwardly.

"Take it slow," Little Pagoda replied.

"All right." Ye Guan nodded. After a momentary pause, he continued. "Master Pagoda, are you hiding something from me?"

"Nope," Little Pagoda said casually.

Ye Guan went silent.

A deafening silence enveloped the two.

Little Pagoda shattered it by saying, "A few... just a few secrets."

"Can you tell me the reason behind the Shenge Clan ancestor's actions?" Ye Guan asked. The question had been bothering him since he woke up, so he couldn't help but ask.

Little Pagoda's reply was a bit late.

"Are you sure you want to know?" he asked.

Ye Guan nodded.

"She's your father's confidante," Little Pagoda said.

Ye Guan froze, and he asked in disbelief, "Confidante?"

"Yes, that is the reason behind her actions."

“Does my father have many wives, Master Pagoda?”

“Yes, he has multiple wives.”

Ye Guan frowned and asked, “Why is he such a womanizer?”

“Your grandfather has many wives as well,” said Little Pagoda.

“My grandfather?” Ye Guan asked.

“Yup.”

“My father is just a son-in-law, but to think he would marry other women despite his status. He’s too much of a womanizer.”

“How about you? Wouldn’t you want a few wives as well?” Little Pagoda asked.

“I already have Little Jia!”

“I don’t think there are going to be any issues even if you take multiple wives.”

“I don’t think that’s a good thing...”

“Why not?” asked Little Pagoda.

“How can a person love two people at once?”

“Why not? Does it really matter if everyone is willing? If you have two girlfriends and you don’t want to marry two women, then just don’t marry them. What’s wrong with having multiple girlfriends? It’ll just be like multiple best friends!” Little Pagoda said.

Little Pagoda paused momentarily before he hurriedly said, “Your father said it, not me!”

“My father...” Ye Guan sighed and shook his head with contempt. Forget it! It’s not really appropriate for a son to judge his father.

“Anyway, you should focus on recovering. Once you’ve recovered, you should focus on cultivating. I’m sure it’ll take you a really long time to exhaust the True Dragon Clan’s treasury,” said Little Pagoda.

True Dragon Clan’s treasury! Ye Guan’s lips curled up. The True Dragon Clan’s treasury contained seven million gold spiritual crystals and a hundred thousand immortal spiritual crystals.

Immortal spiritual crystals were a tier higher than gold spiritual crystals. Naturally, they contained purer spiritual energy, and it was all because only Sky-grade spiritual veins could produce immortal spiritual crystals.

An immortal spiritual crystal was equivalent to a hundred gold spiritual crystals.

In other words, they were extremely precious.

Ye Guan also obtained almost a hundred True Dragon carcasses. He was already thinking about what would happen if he sold one of them.

Honestly, he had no idea how much they would go for, but one thing was for sure—a dragon carcass would fetch a pretty penny. Regardless, Ye Guan hit the jackpot. He sustained heavy injuries in the process, but it paled in comparison to his excitement.

“So it was a blessing in disguise!” he muttered to himself before closing his eyes. He decided to focus on recovering before anything else. In addition, he couldn’t really cultivate with such severe injuries.

“Is Young Lord Ye here?” someone shouted.

Nanling Yiyi flinched. She turned and saw a woman standing at the door. The woman was wearing a long robe, and her hair was tied up into a long ponytail. She was holding a folding fan in one hand, which made her look incomparably graceful.

The woman was none other than Ye Guanzhi.

Ye Guanzhi froze upon seeing Ye Guan's scorched figure and Nanling Yiyi looming over him with her hands on his torso. Moments later, Ye Guanzhi recovered. She chuckled before saying, "It seems that my visit is untimely."

She took a step backward before turning around to leave.

Nanling Yiyi stared doubtfully at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "I don't know her!"

Nanling Yiyi shook her head as well and said, "I don't know her, too!"

Ye Guanzhi stopped in her tracks and said, "It's nice to meet you, Young Lord Ye, I'm here as the Guanxuan Academy's representative."

The Guanxuan Academy? Ye Guan raised his guard up. Was she here because of the True Dragon Clan's demise?

"Young Lord Ye, could I have a word with you?" Ye Guanzhi added.

Ye Guan thought about it before saying, "Senior Disciple Yiyi, can you cover me?"

Nanling Yiyi nodded and covered Ye Guan with a blanket.

With that, Ye Guan said to Ye Guanzhi, "Come in."

Ye Guanzhi obliged. She glanced at Nanling Yiyi for a second time and smiled before walking toward Ye Guan. She took out a white jade bottle and extended it over to him. “I think you will find this useful, Young Lord Ye!”

Ye Guan wanted to turn her offer down, but Nanling Yiyi saw the emblazoned characters on the white jade bottle and cried out, “Holy Yuan Pill? Isn’t that a legendary Immortal-grade spiritual medicine!”

An Immortal-grade spiritual medicine?! Ye Guan was moved. The grade above Sky-grade items were Saint-grade items, and above Saint-grade items were Immortal-grade items. A bottle of Immortal-grade spiritual medicine was priceless.

An Immortal-grade spiritual pill alone was incredibly precious and expensive. The alchemist profession was a distinguished and lofty occupation, and there were only a few alchemists, even throughout the vast Zhongtu Divine Continent.

Nanling Yiyi was tempted, but she suppressed her greed and glanced at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan stared deeply at Ye Guanzhi and asked, “What’s the meaning of this?”

Ye Guanzhi explained, “Young Lord Ye, I have no ill intentions. I’m here to apologize to you on behalf of the Guanxuan Academy.”

“Apologize?” Ye Guan asked with a frown.

Ye Guanzhi nodded. “The Academy made a mistake that snowballed into the horrible ordeal you had to endure. We offer our sincere apology, and I hope you’ll forgive us for our mistake!”

Ye Guan was taken aback.

“Young Lord Ye, if you’re willing to return to the Academy, we will—”

“No, thank you,” said Ye Guan, interrupting her.

“The Academy is willing to make an exception for Young Lord Ye. We will allow you to return to the Academy!”

Nanling Yiyi’s expression stiffened. He’s allowed to return to the Academy? That’s a huge opportunity!

However, Ye Guan shook his head and repeated. “No, thank you.”

After a few moments of silence, Ye Guanzhi nodded and said, “I apologize once again on behalf of the Guanxuan Academy, and the Academy’s gates will always be open to you. I won’t take up any more of your time; get well soon!”

Ye Guanzhi turned around and was about to leave, but Nanling Yiyi stopped her in her tracks by asking, “Will the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan take revenge on my junior disciple? They’re affiliated with the Main Guanxuan Academy, right?”

“They won’t do anything on the surface,” Ye Guanzhi replied.

Nanling Yiyi’s expression darkened, and she asked, “What about beneath the surface?”

“They’ll definitely do something,” said Ye Guanzhi.

Nanling Yiyi stared at her and asked, “Are you from the Main Guanxuan Academy?”

“Yes,” Ye Guanzhi replied with a nod.

She’s from the Main Guanxuan Academy?! Ye Guan was stunned. It seemed that he truly hadn’t expected that someone from the Main Guanxuan Academy would come and visit him.

Nanling Yiyi hesitated before asking, “What about the An Clan?”

"I can restrain them on the surface, but I'm sure they'll do something beneath the surface," Ye Guanzhi answered.

"What should we do?" asked Nanling Yiyi.

She was obviously worried about her junior disciple.

Ye Guanzhi pondered for a long time before she sighed and said, "This matter all started because of their ego, but I'm sure they're still going to take revenge in secret.

"I don't think I can do anything to them if they hide their tracks and be smart about their revenge. After all, there is a difference between actually committing a crime and being suspected of committing a crime."

"If the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan and the An Clan decided to take revenge on me, what are you going to do?" asked Ye Guan.

"I will mobilize the Guanxuan Guards against them. I will kick start the impeachment procedures to impeach the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan and let the Guanxuan Academy Committee decide their punishment. Unfortunately, whatever happens afterward is out of my hands," Ye Guanzhi replied.

"What about the An Clan?"

"I will do everything I can to stop them. I will try to impeach them as well."

Ye Guan chuckled and asked her, "What do you think will be the outcome?"

"The outcome is your death, Young Lord Ye."

Ye Guan went silent. Eventually, he said, "Is that so? Where is the justice there?"

Ye Guanzhi sighed and explained, "Justice exists, Young Lord Ye, but it requires strength to wield. We live in a pragmatic world, after all."

Ye Guan shook his head and laughed sardonically.

Ye Guanzhi added, "Young Lord Ye, the Academy has done its best to uphold justice throughout the universe, but I have to admit—the Committee is filled with many rotten apples. However, I'm still confident that we are on an upward trend. It's only going to get better."

"Miss, I can tell that you're a wonderful person. It would be great if the Academy had more people like you," said Ye Guan.

Ye Guanzhi smiled and replied, "Thank you for the compliment, Young Lord Ye. Anyway, you have to be extremely careful from now on because you're the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan's target!

"I suggest you work even harder to become stronger. The solution to injustice and violence is sometimes a bigger fist. I've been studying the Guanxuan Law my entire life, and I have to admit that violence is sometimes a better solution than anything else."

Ye Guan chuckled at her remark and said, "I appreciate your advice!"

Ye Guanzhi nodded and said, "I'm off, then."

With that, she turned around and finally left.

Ye Guan's gaze was indecipherable as he stared at Ye Guanzhi's departing figure.

Chapter 74: My Backer Is Powerful

Ye Guanzhi left and found Monk Dao staring at her outside.

She smiled politely at Monk Dao before walking away.

Monk Dao asked, "Does he have a chance in the Destiny Contest?"

Ye Guanzhi stopped in her tracks.

She thought about it for a while before saying, "I don't think so."

Monk Dao's eyes narrowed. "He's a Sword Immortal!"

Ye Guanzhi nodded and said, "It is quite rare for someone this young to already be a Sword Immortal, even in the Main Guanxuan Academy! But..."

"A Sword Immortal at his age is rare even in the Main Guanxuan Academy, but..." Ye Guanzhi trailed off before continuing. "I don't think he has any chances of winning, especially after I saw the demon race and Milky Way's representative."

Monk Dao's expression turned heavy.

Ye Guanzhi smiled slightly and said, "Senior Dao, please don't be discouraged. Nothing is certain, and anyone can become a dark horse."

"Please don't call me Senior, miss. I'm not worthy of it," said Monk Dao. He was humble because he knew that even though the woman in front of him was young, she was already strong enough to crush him!

She was definitely a terrifying existence, even among the powerhouses of the Main Guanxuan Academy!

Ye Guanzhi turned and looked at the great hall.

“The Guanxuan Academy and the Daoist Sect’s relationship used to be great. It’s a pity that the Daoist Sect has fallen to such a state...” she muttered before finally departing the Daoist Sect.

Monk Dao silently watched her leave.

...

Nanling Yiyi peeked into the white jade bottle and gasped. “Ah! There are five Immortal-grade spiritual medicines here!”

Five?! Ye Guan was shocked by Ye Guanzhi’s generosity.

Nanling Yiyi hurriedly took out one pill and shoved it into Ye Guan’s mouth.

Ye Guan inadvertently swallowed it, and a green light immediately burst out of him.

His wounds healed at a speed visible to the naked eye, astonishing both him and Nanling Yiyi. His dead skin sloughed off him, and he recovered completely. What a wondrous pill! It seems that I still have a lot to learn about this world.

Nanling Yiyi exclaimed, “That was amazing!”

Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled hollowly. It seemed that Ye Guanzhi’s status was indeed extraordinary.

Ye Guan stretched, and he could already move freely after just a few minutes. He turned to look at Nanling Yiyi and said, “Senior Disciple Yiyi, I’m going to change clothes.”

“All right,” Nanling Yiyi said with a nod.

However, Nanling Yiyi didn’t really walk away or turn around, which baffled Ye Guan.

“Are you not going to look away?” he asked after much hesitation.

Nanling Yiyi blinked and casually said, “I’ve already seen everything. I don’t think it’s a big deal!”

Ye Guan’s expression stiffened.

“Pffft!” Nanling Yiyi covered her mouth with her hand and chuckled. “Just kidding!”

With that, Nanling Yiyi turned around and left.

Ye Guan got up and changed. He soon walked out and looked up. It was sunset, so the sky was covered in a red hue, creating a picturesque sight.

Ye Guan sat down on the stone steps and opened his palm. The Path Sword appeared in his hands, and he stroked it. “Little Jia, the True Dragon Clan has been annihilated, and I... I really miss you!”

The Undying Clan! A resolute light flashed in Ye Guan’s eyes upon thinking about borrowing the Qingxuan Sword. I need strength!

Ye Guan was convinced that the Undying Clan would allow him to borrow the Qingxuan Sword as long as he was strong enough.

With that thought in mind, Ye Guan got up and hopped onto his sword. Moments later, he disappeared into the horizon. He had just recovered, but he had already decided to go to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion and cultivate!

...

Yue City.

Manager Chen Diao sat wordlessly on his chair, seemingly in deep thought. All of a sudden, a man walked into Chen Diao's office. The man looked like he was in his twenties, and he was a plump man resembling a ball of meat.

Chen Diao asked calmly, "How am I going to be punished?"

"Oh? So you already know your fate?" the plump man asked mockingly.

Chen Diao nodded. He knew that his outcome was grim upon hearing of the True Dragon Clan's annihilation.

The plump man exclaimed, "Your outcome is death!"

Chen Diao's pupils constricted. He immediately stood up and said, "Yes, I committed a crime, but it's not a crime punishable by death! I—"

The plump man interrupted with a scoff. "I thought you weren't afraid of death?"

Chen Diao examined the plump man and asked, "May I know who you are?"

The plump man lifted his robe, revealing a small golden sachet hanging from his waist. Chen Diao's pupils constricted upon seeing the golden sachet and his voice trembled as he muttered, "A golden sachet..."

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion had many branches, so it had a multitude of managers managing its branches. However, managers were divided into different ranks, and a manager's rank could be distinguished by their sachets.

The sachets they carried had colors that ranged from copper for the lowest rank to silver, gold, and white for the highest rank.

A Pavilion Master and his trusted subordinates were the only ones authorized to carry white sachets. A white sachet holder had the same authority as a Pavilion Master. However, white sachets could only be carried around by those from the headquarters deep in the Guanyuan Universe.

Chen Diao didn't expect that the higher-ups would send a gold-sachet manager to take care of him, and he was also surprised to see such a young gold-sachet manager.

The plump man sat down on an empty chair and said, "I understand why you made such an investment in the True Dragon Clan. The True Dragon Clan's potential was greater than Ye Guan, after all.

"However, you shouldn't have used the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's power to help them. Using the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's resources for personal gain is frowned upon."

"I don't think this issue is big enough to attract the headquarters' attention. How come the headquarters learned of it?" asked Chen Diao as he quivered ever so slightly in his seat.

The plump man chuckled and said, "Guanyuan Academy's Representative Ye sent a letter to headquarters, and she told the higher-ups about your involvement in the matter."

Chen Diao's expression stiffened. He didn't know what to say.

The plump man shook his head slightly and added, "Representative Ye's report was just part of the reason. The headquarters was alarmed by how the True Dragon Clan was wiped out despite the advent of their ancestor.

"The powerhouses of the Shenge Clan had reportedly died as well. In other words, Young Lord Ye's backer is stronger than Lee Ge!"

Chen Diao went beyond pallid.

The plump man continued. "I agree that your crime, even though frowned upon, isn't that heavy. However, your true crime here was barking up the wrong tree!"

Chen Diao asked, "Will I really get executed?"

The plump man replied, "We have to kill you to make an example."

Chen Diao chuckled hollowly and said, "Do you really think that Ye Guan's backer is stronger than the An Clan?"

The plump man picked up the teacup in front of him and took a sip.

"I don't know about that," he said nonchalantly, "However, Young Lord Ye's backer is definitely stronger than you. Anyway, I really find you pitiful. You tried to get in the An Clan's good books through the True Dragon Clan, but the An Clan doesn't even know that you exist!"

The plump man shook his head and added, "Humans should be careful when it comes to licking someone's boots. Licking the wrong boots would only send disaster your way!"

Chen Diao's expression froze.

"Goodbye!" the plump man exclaimed.

Swoosh!

Chen Diao inexplicably burst into flames, and he was reduced to ashes in the blink of an eye.

The plump man put down the teacup and said, "Let her in."

A woman slowly walked into the office.

The woman was none other than Mo Ya from Yong City.

The plump man grinned and said, "You'll be the manager of Yue City's Immortal Treasures Pavilion from now on!"

Mo Ya was taken aback, and she stuttered, "T-this..."

"You don't want this role?" asked the plump man.

"No, I want it. It's just that... I can't quite believe it!" Mo Ya said in a hurry. Moments later, she asked hesitantly, "Is it because of Young Lord Ye?"

The plump man chuckled and replied, "Yes."

The stone weighing on Mo Ya's heart abruptly vanished. She was overjoyed to discover that she had made the right gamble at the time.

The plump man stared at her and said, "Why did you help Young Lord Ye?"

Mo Ya pondered over it before saying, "It was partly because he was a good person, but the main reason was that he was strong enough to defeat An Mu and the True Dragon Clan's Young Clan Leader. I also had nothing to lose at the time but everything to gain if my gamble paid off."

"Haha!" The plump man boisterously laughed, and his fat folds jiggled as he laughed.

Mo Ya wordlessly stared at the plump man.

"I can see that you have an eye for people," said the plump man.

Mo Ya hurriedly bowed. "It is my honor, Senior!"

The plump man nodded and got up. "You will manage this branch from now on. I will see you again."

“Senior!” Mo Ya hurriedly called out. She hesitated for a few moments before saying, “I just received news that Young Lord Ye is here. Do you not wish to meet him, Senior?”

The plump man smirked and asked, “Do you want me to meet him?”

Mo Ya bowed and answered, “I have my own selfish desires, but I know how to look at the bigger picture. I am already satisfied to have done a favor for an important figure like Young Lord Ye.

“If Senior feels that Young Lord Ye’s future is bright, you could get acquainted with him yourself to win over an important partner for Immortal Treasures Pavilion.”

Mo Ya knew that her fate with Ye Guan had ended.

The plump man in front of her could easily decide her future, and she could tell that the Immortal Treasures Pavilion valued Ye Guan greatly. Otherwise, they wouldn’t have sent someone of the plump man’s caliber here.

Mo Ya was also aware that the plump man would still go and visit Ye Guan himself even if she hadn’t said anything, so why not say something to get into the plump man’s good books? The plump man would take Ye Guan away from her anyway, so why not squeeze as much value as possible until it was exhausted?

The plump man stared deeply at Mo Ya. Eventually, he smiled in satisfaction and said, “It seems that I have underestimated you. Do your best here, and you might become one of the headquarters’ members!”

The plump man turned around to leave afterward, leaving Mo Ya jumping for joy.

...

Ye Guan was currently in the outer hall of Yue City's Immortal Treasures Pavilion. He^[1] was here to see Mo Ya and thank her. After all, Mo Ya had helped him greatly back when the True Dragon Clan had surrounded him.

A plump man from the inner hall of the building walked toward Ye Guan. The plump man was all smiles, prompting Ye Guan to look at the former.

"It's nice to meet you, Young Lord Ye. My name is Qin Feng, and you may refer to me as Old Qin!"

Ye Guan was slightly confused, and he asked, "Do I know you?"

Qin Feng politely replied, "I'm Lady Mo Ya's superior."

Ye Guan nodded slightly. "I see."

"Young Lord Ye, I apologize to you on behalf of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion!" Qin Feng said with a bow.

Ye Guan was puzzled. "Why?"

Qin Feng chuckled bitterly and explained, "The previous manager of this branch—Chen Diao—colluded with the True Dragon Clan and exposed your whereabouts. He mobilized the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's intelligence network to help the True Dragon Clan. Sigh..."

Ye Guan was silent. He had been wondering about the True Dragon Clan's quick response, and he finally had the answer.

"We have already executed Chen Diao, but we still don't think that it's enough," said Qin Feng. He took out a storage ring and passed it over to Ye Guan. "Young Lord Ye, please accept this small token of appreciation from our Immortal Treasures Pavilion!"

Ye Guan accepted the storage ring and was shocked at the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's generosity upon checking the storage ring's contents. The storage ring contained a million gold spiritual crystals. This is too much!

"I've heard that Lady Mo Ya and Young Lord Ye are friends, so we decided to promote her to this branch's manager. This branch has higher foot traffic, after all, so it is practically a promotion. If Young Lord Ye needs something, you can go ahead and look for her. I'm sure she'll accommodate your requests," said Qin Feng.

Ye Guan stared deeply at Qin Feng and asked, "Brother Qin, pardon me for asking this, but do I have a powerful backer?"

Ye Guan knew that there was a reason behind Qin Feng's kindness and politeness.

Is it because of my father, or is it because of Plain-Skirt Sister?

Qin Feng was silent. How am I supposed to answer that question? Aren't you supposed to know better than me? They're your backer, after all.

Ye Guan sounded serious as he added, "I would really love to know."

At that, Qin Feng knew that he couldn't delay anymore and said, "Brother Ye, I can see that you're a humble individual, so I'll answer you honestly. I don't know just how strong your backer is, and... shouldn't you know that yourself?"

Ye Guan thought about it and sighed before saying, "I guess I have an extremely powerful backer, then."

Qin Feng didn't know what to say.

1. Mo Ya is from Yong City not Yue City but it's written like this in the raws. ㄟ

Chapter 75: The Sword Master!

Ye Guan knew that Master Pagoda was hiding something from him, but he didn't really care about it anymore. He cared more about becoming stronger than prying into Master Pagoda's secrets.

He was born in a world where strength was everything, and he had to become stronger if he wanted to achieve greatness.

Qin Feng looked at Ye Guan and felt slightly bewildered.

Could it be that Ye Guan was unaware of his own origins?

He investigated Ye Guan's background and found that Ye Guan was the adopted son of the Ye Clan of Nanzhou, but that was about it. Qin Feng didn't discover anything else aside from that.

However, there was no way Ye Guan's identity would be so simple. He was an extraordinary young man, after all. He was a seventeen-year-old Sword Immortal.

He would be considered an extreme talent whether he was on the Zhongtu Divine Continent or in the Main Guanxuan Academy. A talent like him would become one of the strongest people in the world the moment he became a Sword Sovereign.

Even the Main Guanxuan Academy only had three Sword Sovereigns.

Qin Feng smiled politely and said, "Brother Ye, family background is really important in this world, but I think that one's own hard work is more important than anything else. It's not our fault that we were born into a poor household, but it would be our fault if we did not work hard to become even stronger!"

Ye Guan smiled and nodded in agreement. "I definitely agree, Brother Qin," he said.

Qin Feng boisterously laughed.

A resolute light flashed in Ye Guan's eyes. "Brother Qin, I'd like to cultivate in one of your cultivation rooms!" he said.

"I'll arrange it for you," Qin Feng replied.

Ye Guan smiled and said, "Thank you."

"Don't mention it! What aspect of cultivation would you like to focus on?"

"Spacetime gravity!" Ye Guan replied.

"I've heard that you've already gotten used to sixteen additional layers of spacetime gravity."

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "Do you have a room with more layers of gravity?"

"Yes," Qin Feng said, "Please follow me."

Qin Feng turned around and walked away. Ye Guan followed closely behind him.

Qin Feng soon brought Ye Guan to a great hall enveloped in darkness. Qin Feng stared at him and said, "We're inside Yue City's highest-ranking cultivation ground. It's no longer just a room, and it costs twenty thousand gold spiritual crystals to cultivate here for a day."

Ye Guan asked hesitantly, "Can I get a discount?"

His pockets were bulging, but Ye Guan still felt like he had to save as many gold spiritual crystals as he could if he could do so. Ye Guan knew that he had a turbulent future ahead of him, so he had to save up while he could still afford it.

Qin Feng chuckled and said, "I'll let you stay here for a month for free!"

Ye Guan shook his head and smiled, "I don't think that's appropriate, Brother Qin!"

"Just take it as a token of our friendship," Qin Feng said, "Of course, if you insist, then I can just retract my offer."

"Haha." Ye Guan chuckled and said, "Come on, don't say that, Brother Qin."

"Hahaha. Qin Feng boisterously laughed and urged. "All right, I understand. All right, go ahead, Brother Ye."

"All right." Ye Guan nodded.

"Do you want to start on the seventeenth level, or perhaps..." Qin Feng trailed off.

"Yes, I would like to start on the seventeenth level," said Ye Guan.

"Sure!" Qin Feng nodded and obliged.

Ye Guan walked into the cultivation grounds, and the terrifying gravity of the cultivation ground bore down on him upon entering. However, the gravity only elicited a frown from Ye Guan.

"Brother Qin, please give me eighteen additional layers of gravity!"

Qin Feng nodded and waved his sleeve to grant Ye Guan his wish.

Boom!

A loud noise echoed as the gravity in the cultivation grounds intensified.

Ye Guan closed his eyes. Moments later, he cried out, “Brother Qin! Give me nineteen, please!”

Nineteen! Qin Feng’s eyes narrowed, but he still waved his hand.

Nineteen layers of additional gravity pressed down on Ye Guan. Soon, Ye Guan shouted, “Brother Qin, increase it to twenty-one!”

Disbelief flashed past Qin Feng’s eyes. He wants twenty-one layers of additional gravity?

Ye Guan was just a Space Shattering Realm Cultivator.

Qin Feng knew zero cultivators capable of enduring twenty-one additional layers of gravity.

There were some talents among the demon race capable of withstanding such gravitational force, but those talents possessed exceedingly powerful physiques.

Nonetheless, Qin Feng waved his hand once again.

Boom!

Ye Guan felt his feet sinking into the ground.

However, Ye Guan smiled slightly rather than frown. It turned out that he had been looking for this feeling.

The pressure and weight are heavy enough. This is great! Ye Guan inwardly rejoiced. He soon raised his sword and started swinging. His movements were slow at first, but he was slowly getting faster.

Ye Guan wasn’t exclusively cultivating his sword here. His understanding of spacetime gravity’s constant rules was also deepening. Ye Guan soon found out that heavier spacetime gravity meant carrying the weight of heavier spatial matter.

It seemed that space itself was a substance.

Ye Guan's method of acclimatizing to the heavier spacetime gravity was comprehending the ever-changing spatial matter that accompanied that certain spacetime gravity weight. It was an unskippable process.

Ye Guan got faster and faster as he swung his sword. Qin Feng's expression was serious as he stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's terrifying talent as a swordsman made it seem like the twenty additional layers of gravity were nothing but air. Qin Feng reckoned that no one in the same realm as Ye Guan could contend against him when it came to speed.

No, Qin Feng was sure that Ye Guan was faster than those two or three realms above him.

He's a heaven-defying talent! Qin Feng shook his head and smiled wryly. If Ye Guan were a student of the Main Guanxuan Academy, he would definitely be on the Divine Martial List.

However, Qin Feng couldn't help but think that his presumption was a bit absurd because the talents on the Divine Martial List were all Major Tribulation Realm cultivators.

The Space Annihilation Realm was what was next after the Space Shattering Realm.

A Space Annihilation Realm cultivator would become an Earth Law Realm cultivator after a breakthrough, and the next realms afterward were the Heaven Law Realm, Minor Tribulation Realm, and finally, the Major Tribulation Realm.

Ye Guan was five realms away from the Major Tribulation Realm!

Qin Feng had to admit Ye Guan was the most remarkable Space Shattering Realm he had ever seen.

Ye Guan suddenly called out, “Brother Qin! Twenty-two!”

Qin Feng waved his hand to grant Ye Guan’s wish.

Rumble!

A loud rumbling echoed as the spacetime gravity of the cultivation ground increased once more.

Ye Guan only spent two hours acclimatizing to the twenty-two layers of additional gravity before he called out to Qin Feng and had it increased to twenty-three additional layers of gravity.

Qin Feng’s eyes were unwittingly transfixed on Ye Guan, and his shock deepened with each passing moment. Whenever he thought that Ye Guan had already reached his limits, the latter would immediately prove him wrong.

Two hours later, Ye Guan was now standing beneath twenty-four layers of additional gravity.

Twenty-four! Qin Feng reeled in disbelief. It would be an understatement to say that he was astonished.

By the following day at noon, Qin Feng’s stupefaction had reached greater heights.

Ye Guan was now standing beneath twenty-six layers of additional gravity.

Qin Feng stared at Ye Guan with a complicated look in his eyes.

He’s a lunatic! Ye Guan’s attitude toward cultivation was unbelievable. Qin Feng had seen Ye Guan looking all excited upon realizing that he was struggling to endure a certain amount of gravity. No, Ye Guan wasn’t just excited. He was ecstatic as well!

Qin Feng was aware that Ye Guan was continuously pushing himself beyond his limits, and he found the young man increasingly admirable as time went on.

Soon, it was already five days since Ye Guan entered the cultivation ground of Yue City's Immortal Treasures Pavilion. Ye Guan managed to acclimatize to twenty-nine additional layers of gravity in just five days.

Right now, Ye Guan was withstanding thirty additional layers of gravity. He stood as upright as a sword and brandished his sword slowly as if he were a struggling old man.

As usual, Ye Guan's movements slowly got faster.

Two hours later, Ye Guan's speed beneath thirty additional layers was now comparable to his speed in the outside world. In other words, he had completely acclimatized to thirty layers of additional gravity!

"Brother Qin! Thirty-one!" Ye Guan cried out.

However, the extreme weight and pressure disappeared.

Ye Guan was taken aback.

Qin Feng walked into the cultivation ground while shaking his head. He chuckled and said, "Brother Ye, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion branch of Yue City can only provide a maximum of thirty layers of additional gravity."

Really? This is it? Ye Guan frowned.

Qin Feng directed a strange gaze at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan had gained a tremendous amount of understanding about spacetime. He also created a three-step model over the past five days—familiarizing himself with the rules of spacetime gravity, assimilating his comprehension, and going beyond his limits.

Spacetime gravity had constant rules, and one could achieve twice the results with half the effort as long as one had enough knowledge of its unchanging rules.

Ye Guan was now capable of annihilating spacetime and gathering the remnant energy for the sake of profound energy efficiency.

A Space Annihilation Realm cultivator was capable of doing such things, but Ye Guan was just a Space Shattering Realm cultivator. He wasn't supposed to annihilate space.

However, Ye Guan didn't choose to make a breakthrough. He felt that he still hadn't reached the limits of the Space Shattering Realm.

Ye Guan decided to focus on using his wisdom in combat. With that in mind, Ye Guan turned to look at Qin Feng and asked, "Brother Qin, would you be interested in a friendly spar?"

What Ye Guan needed the most right now was practical experience through combat.

Qin Feng's eyes twitched. "Surely, you jest, Brother Ye! I'm just a fatty, do I look like someone who knows how to fight? I'm good at soliciting prostitutes from brothels, but fighting? Forget it!"

Ye Guan chuckled bitterly at the response.

Qin Feng noticed that and asked, "Is it because you want to test your actual strength in combat?"

"That is indeed the case," said Ye Guan with a nod.

"You should go to the Guanxuan Academy and get on the list," Qin Feng advised.

"What list?" Ye Guan asked, seemingly confused.

Qin Feng was confused as well.

“Have you not heard of the Guanyuan Academy’s Martial List?”

Ye Guan shook his head and replied, “No, I haven’t heard of it.”

As far as Ye Guan could remember, he became a disciple of the Daoist Sect upon arriving on the Zhongtu Divine Continent. However, the Daoist Sect—forget it! Ye Guan felt that it was a waste of time to even think about the Daoist Sect’s facilities.

Qin Feng explained, “The Guanyuan Academy has a martial list that comprises talents from many realms, including the Zhongtu Divine Continent. You can become a part of the list as long as you’re below twenty-five years of age.

“The talents on the martial list are the top geniuses throughout all realms, and they are role models of the younger generation.”

Ye Guan shook his head and said, “I’m not a student of the Guanyuan Academy.”

Qin Feng smiled and replied, “You don’t have to be.”

Ye Guan pondered over it in silence.

“You can win exciting prizes!” Qin Feng added.

Ye Guan abruptly looked up at Qin Feng and asked, “Prizes? What are the prizes?”

“The tenth placer would receive a monthly stipend of five hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals, the ninth placer would get seven hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals, the eighth placer would get a million, the seventh placer would get 1.3 million gold spiritual crystals...

"The third placer would get three million, the second placer would receive four million, while the first placer would get a whopping five million gold spiritual crystals and an additional one hundred thousand immortal spiritual crystals!"

Five million gold spiritual crystals and an additional one hundred thousand immortal spiritual crystals! Ye Guan was moved. He had a decent amount of gold spiritual crystals, but he was spending them at an alarming rate. He had already spent around four hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals over the past five days!

He would have spent more if he had to pay for the cultivation ground as well.

"The first placer would also receive the privilege of getting a glimpse of the will that the Sword Master had left behind," said Qin Feng.

"The Sword Master's will?" Ye Guan asked.

"Yes." Qin Feng nodded. "It would be like hitting the jackpot if the Sword Master decides to give you a small portion of his inheritance. Of course, it's highly likely that he won't appear, and he only appeared once throughout history, which was already a few thousand years ago.

The Sword Master's appearance! Ye Guan couldn't help but yearn for the opportunity. Of course, he didn't really care about the Sword Master's inheritance. He just wanted to meet the man himself.

Ye Guan thought that he might be able to receive the Sword Master's permission to borrow the Qingxuan Sword if he managed to meet the man himself. The chance was low, but it still existed.

"Master Pagoda," Ye Guan inwardly called out. "You told me that you're acquainted with the Sword Master, was that true?"

"Yes," Little Pagoda replied. Ye Guan thought about it for a few moments before asking, "Will I meet him if I use your relationship with him?"

"Yes. He's strong, but he'll definitely come out and talk to you for my sake," Master Pagoda bragged.

Chapter 76: It's the Thought That Counts

Time to get on the list! Ye Guan made up his mind and headed toward the Guanxuan Academy. He would get on the list first before anything else. He reckoned that he wouldn't really achieve anything if he were to go to the Undying Clan right now.

The Qingxuan Sword was the Sword Master's personal sword, so why would they lend it to him?

If he wanted to borrow the Qingxuan Sword, the best way was to ask the Sword Master for permission to borrow it. Of course, Ye Guan knew that the chances were low, but he still had to try for Nalan Jia's sake.

Ye Guan looked at Qin Feng and asked, "Brother Qin, what are the prerequisites to get on the list?"

"There are two prerequisites: the candidate must be below twenty-five years old, and they mustn't have done any heinous deeds," Qin Feng replied with a smile.

"All right." Ye Guan nodded. "I understand."

Qin Feng asked hesitantly, "Brother Ye, are you not going to challenge the martial list anonymously?"

"Anonymously?" Ye Guan asked, seemingly astonished.

Qin Feng nodded and explained, "One can anonymously challenge the martial list!"

"But why did you suggest that to me, Brother Qin?" Ye Guan asked.

Qin Feng shook his head and explained, "The waters of the martial list are murky and deep, Brother Ye. You're going to participate in the upcoming Destiny Contest, and I'm sure your competitors will play dirty. The Destiny Contest involves the vested interests of many organizations and clans, after all."

"I suggest that you compete anonymously so that you can avoid being targeted by malicious actors. I'm sure they won't let you go the moment they set their eyes on you."

Ye Guan nodded in understanding. "All right, I will compete anonymously!"

"You must also be careful of the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan, Brother Ye!" Qin Feng added.

Ye Guan frowned.

Qin Feng explained, "The An Clan is indignant about the punishment that Representative Ye had meted out to them."

Ye Guan was puzzled, so he asked, "Representative Ye? Are you referring to Lady Ye Guanzhi?"

"Indeed," Qin Feng answered, "She's the Representative of the Main Guanxuan Academy's Department of Arts, and she's an incredibly powerful cultivator in her own right."

"She stripped Lu Chaowen of his status as the Academy Chief of Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy in addition to meting out punishment to the An Clan."

Qin Feng's expression suddenly turned heavy. "She punished them heavily. She executed An Fei and dismissed their clan's current clan leader. You could say that she didn't give them any face at all."

Ye Guan was silent. He didn't expect that Ye Guanzhi was from the Main Guanxuan Academy, not to mention the representative of their Department of Arts!

Qin Feng hesitated.

Ye Guan smiled at him and said, "Brother Qin, I was born in a tiny rural city, and I don't understand the power struggles of the great clans at all. I would be immensely grateful if you could give me some guidance and pointers along the way."

"Honestly, I don't really wish to comment on such topics, Brother Ye. However, let's just say that I'm a talkative man today because the matter concerns you as well," said Qin Feng.

After a few moments of hesitation, he finally said, "It seems that the An Clan have already contacted their clan members in the Main Guanxuan Academy. I'm sure they're going to join hands and retaliate against Representative Ye."

Ye Guan's face fell.

However, Qin Feng wasn't done just yet. "Unfortunately, everyone knows that Representative Ye was trying to take advantage of your situation to curb the great clans' influence and power.

"In other words, Representative Ye ended up provoking those great clans, and they will definitely join forces to attack her."

Ye Guan asked, "Will she be in any danger?"

Qin Feng shook his head and replied, "She won't be in any immediate danger. Aside from the An Clan, the ancient clans of the Zhongtu Divine Continent wouldn't dare to go against her.

"As for the great clans of the Main Guanxuan Academy, I don't think they're daring enough to actually murder her because of her relationship with Academy Chief Qingqiu and the fact that she's Department Head Shuxian's disciple, but..."

Qin Feng stared deeply at Ye Guan and added, "It doesn't mean that they wouldn't be able to do anything against her. She only has two outcomes—she could either prevail over the great clans and become the host of the Destiny Contest, or she could either lose her status and get transferred elsewhere."

Ye Guan was silent. He had never expected that the matter concerning him would become so complicated. To be honest, he had a rather good impression of Ye Guanzhi. He didn't want to implicate her.

"I'm sure that the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan will come after you if Representative Ye ends up getting transferred elsewhere. If they care about their reputation, they will attack you discreetly, but you will have a hard time if they decide to abandon their reputation and attack you in the open.

"I suggest you keep your head low for the meantime, and you should be able to buy enough time for yourself to become even stronger. You should also hide your progress because they would definitely throw all caution to the wind and kill you the moment they notice your extreme growth rate," Qin Feng advised.

Ye Guan nodded his head slightly. "I understand!"

"Brother Ye, I will be here for a while. If you need anything, don't hesitate to come to me," Qin Feng said.

Ye Guan shook his head with a smile.

"You've already done so much for me, Brother Qin!"

"No, I don't think so. I simply told you what I know. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion has the best intelligence network in the universe, so if you need anything, especially information—don't hesitate to come here and look for me.

"I can't fight, but I can definitely give you information. It won't be that difficult for me as well," Qin Feng insisted.

"Thank you, Brother Qin!" Ye Guan grinned and cupped his fists. "I actually want to buy a few items with your help."

Qin Feng's curiosity was piqued.

"What are they?" he asked.

Ye Guan leaned over and whispered into Qin Feng's ears.

Qin Feng chuckled and said, "All right, no problem. Give me a moment."

Qin Feng left, but it didn't take that long for him to return. He took out a storage ring and handed it over to Ye Guan.

"I'll give you a discount; this is yours for only a million gold spiritual crystals!"

A million?! Ye Guan almost keeled over from a heart attack, but he still paid Qin Feng a million gold spiritual crystals.

Qin Feng boisterously laughed before putting the storage ring away.

Ye Guan proceeded to ask Qin Feng a few questions about physique reconstruction.

They talked for roughly thirty minutes before Ye Guan cupped his fists and said, "I'll see you soon, Brother Qin."

With that, Ye Guan finally departed.

Qin Feng wordlessly stared at Ye Guan's back.

He initially wanted to become Ye Guan's acquaintance. He had no plans of forming a deeper friendship with him. After all, Ye Guan's opponents were the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan!

However, Ye Guan's display of talent made Qin Feng change his mind. Ye Guan is too talented! His potential is limitless!

Qin Feng decided to stand on Ye Guan's side.

It had to be known that the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's current success was born from one decision, and it was their decision to invest in the Sword Master back then.

A business had to make investments to succeed, and they also had to invest in people, not just in many different industries.

If Ye Guan managed to become a Sword Sovereign, Qin Feng had everything to gain by having a Sword Sovereign as a friend. Qin Feng would also enjoy a meteoric rise in position within the ranks of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion as well!

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion had internal struggles as well, so a Sword Sovereign friend would definitely increase his Qin Feng's value by an amount that he didn't even dare to imagine for now.

...

Ye Guan went to look for Mo Ya rather than leaving. He had come here to personally express his gratitude to her, after all.

Mo Ya smiled at Ye Guan and said, "I've heard that you've become a Sword Immortal, Young Lord Ye! Congratulations!"

Ye Guan shook his head. He sounded serious as he said, "Lady Mo Ya, I really appreciate your help back then. I currently have no power nor status to speak of, but I will do my best to help you if you need anything in the future."

Mo Ya was overjoyed.

A connection with a Sword Immortal was simply too valuable for someone like her.

“Young Lord Ye, you’re too polite!” she said.

Ye Guan opened his palm, revealing a box that flew toward Mo Ya.

“What’s this?” asked Mo Ya, slightly puzzled.

“It contains five Dragon Pills!” Ye Guan answered.

“I—” Mo Ya was about to reject the offer.

However, Ye Guan beat her to the chase. “It’s my token of appreciation for your help back then, so please accept it.”

“All right!” Mo Ya could only oblige. She accepted the box, and her chest became filled with warmth. She had an ulterior motive for what she had done back then, but she had to admit that it was worth being Ye Guan’s friend because of his character.

“I won’t take up any more of your time, Lady Mo Ya,” said Ye Guan.

Mo Ya nodded and replied, “Stay safe, Young Lord Ye.”

Ye Guan cupped his fists before turning around to leave.

Mo Ya stared deeply at Ye Guan’s departing figure.

“He’s strong, handsome, and kind...” she muttered to no one in particular as she stood there and blushed at her silly thoughts.

...

Ye Guan didn't head over to the Guanxuan Academy upon leaving the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. He went back to the Daoist Sect, and Nanling Yiyi ambushed him.

Nanling Yiyi grinned and asked, "Were you cultivating these past few days?"

"Yeah," said Ye Guan with a nod.

Nanling Yiyi examined Ye Guan from top to bottom.

"I can see that you've become even stronger." She pointed out.

Ye Guan chuckled before taking out a storage ring and extending it over to her.

"This is for you!" he said.

Nanling Yiyi was baffled. "What is this?"

"Take a look," Ye Guan replied before walking away.

Nanling Yiyi examined the storage ring to satisfy her curiosity, but she froze over where he stood upon seeing at least ten ancient scrolls in the storage ring.

The ancient scrolls depicted spells, and they were at least Sky-grade.

There was even an ancient scroll that contained a Divine Mage-exclusive cultivation method, and Nanling Yiyi was stupefied to find that it was a Sky-grade cultivation method as well, just like the spells!

Nanling Yiyi had always loved to analyze spells, and she was a Divine Mage as well.

Unfortunately, the Daoist Sect was too poor, and Monk Dao wasn't that knowledgeable about spells. Cultivation had always been too difficult for her because she had no references that she could use against her cultivation bottlenecks.

She never even had any high-grade spells until now, not to mention a Divine Mage-exclusive cultivation method.

Nanling Yiyi stood rooted for quite a while as she examined the ancient scrolls in disbelief. Soon, she grinned vibrantly and caressed the scrolls gently. She vowed to take care of these scrolls that her junior disciple had painstakingly obtained for her.

She could still remember casually mentioning her wish to Ye Guan, but to think that he would treat her words seriously and fulfill her wish one day.

Chapter 77: Afraid of Killing Him

Monk Dao looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you going to attempt the martial list?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

Monk Dao was silent for quite a while before asking, "Are you confident?"

Ye Guan replied cheerily, "Yes!"

Monk Dao smiled and nodded. "Go ahead, then!"

"All right!" Ye Guan bowed before turning around to leave.

Monk Dao's gaze was complicated as he stared at Ye Guan's departing figure. Ye Guan was too mysterious, and the moment he thought he had already discovered everything there was to discover about Ye Guan, another mystery would pop up.

Monk Dao presumed that Ye Guan had a powerful backer. The figure who had annihilated the True Dragon Clan and suppressed the Shenge Clan was anything but ordinary.

Monk Dao shook his head and turned toward a portrait.

“Ancestor, please protect him! He’s our sect’s only hope!” he muttered into the air.

...

Ye Guan met Nanling Yiyi upon walking out of the great hall.

Nanling Yiyi smiled at Ye Guan, revealing her dimples.

“Senior, what’s wrong?”

Nanling Yiyi smiled. “Thank you!”

Ye Guan smiled as well. “You are welcome.”

Nanling Yiyi asked, “Are you heading out?”

Ye Guan nodded. “I’m going to take on the martial list!”

Nanling Yiyi was surprised, but she still wished him luck. “All the best!”

“Thank you,” said Ye Guan. He hopped onto his sword and vanished into the distant horizon.

Nanling Yiyi stared at the glimmer of sword light far away for quite a while before she muttered to herself, "I have to work hard too!"

She composed herself and walked away.

.....

The Guanxuan Academy of the Zhongtu Divine Continent was situated in the Qilian Mountain Range. The mountain range was a few dozen kilometers long, and it housed more than a few hundred celestial veins. The Guanxuan Academy was indeed a sacred cultivation ground on the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

Ye Guan could already feel the thick spiritual energy, even though he was still a few kilometers away from Qilian Mountain Range. The spiritual energy got thicker and purer the closer he got to the mountain range.

Ye Guan revealed a complicated look. He could finally understand why so many people wanted to become a student of the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy.

I reckon that even a pig would attain enlightenment and become a demonic beast if it were allowed to live here, the environment here is simply too conducive to cultivating!

Ye Guan soon arrived at the foot of the mountain range.

Qilian Mountain Range was composed of mountains that looked like inverted swords. There were tens of thousands of tiny streams pouring down the mountains, creating a magnificent sight.

Ye Guan could vaguely make out the outlines of spectacular palaces among the mountains. The imposing manner of the palaces—as they floated among the clouds and mists—made them look like castles in paradise.

Ye Guan sighed to himself. It would be an insult to compare the Guanxuan Academy in front of him to Nanzhou's Guanxuan Academy.

Ye Guan continued on his journey. Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy was massive, and he wasn't familiar with the area, making Ye Guan feel like a headless fly.

He wanted to ask questions. Fortunately, he saw a man in the distance. The man was dressed in a light red oversized long robe. He was holding a folded fan with a gentle smile on his lips.

Ye Guan approached the man and smiled politely. "Good day, may I know how I can challenge the martial list?"

The man was taken aback at the strange question.

He examined Ye Guan and smiled. "You want to challenge the martial list?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Indeed, I want to give it a try."

The man pointed and said, "That mountain over there is Mount Shenwu. You can challenge the martial list there."

Ye Guan cupped his fists and said, "Thank you."

With that, he turned and headed toward Mount Shenwu.

The man stared at Ye Guan's departing back.

He still hasn't fully grasped the essence of the sword, but he gives off the air of a sharp and untainted sword that is ready to be unsheathed. Such a young Sword Immortal has actually come here to challenge the martial list? This is interesting...

"He's not just an ordinary young man!" said a voice from out of the blue.

The man chuckled and said, "I would have thought that way if he were a Great Sword Immortal, but he's just a Sword Immortal"

"Your tendency to underestimate others will be your undoing!"

"I'm not underestimating anyone, but only those two from the demon race and from the Milky Way are worthy of my attention," the man said nonchalantly before continuing. "I am aware of my arrogance and pride, and that is why I am here. I'm hoping that Representative Ye will defeat and humble me."

The man continued on his journey to the summit of the tallest mountain. Upon arriving at the summit, an old man suddenly appeared in front of him.

The man bowed toward the old man and said, "I am Dongli Mo of the Undying Clan. I'm here to meet Representative Ye."

A hint of surprise flashed across the old man's face. He's one of the strongest participants of the Great Dao Destiny Contest!

The old man smiled amicably.

"Please give me a moment, Young Lord Mo," he said.

Dongli Mo nodded, prompting the old man to leave.

Left all alone, Dongli Mo surveyed the area and said, "The Guanxuan Academy is indeed a sacred cultivation ground."

The old man soon returned and bowed. "Young Lord Mo, Representative Ye has told me to invite you over. I'll lead the way."

Dongli Mo cupped his fists together and said, "I'll be in your care."

Dongli Mo followed the old man, and the two weaved through numerous buildings and trails until they finally arrived at a yard with a pavilion.

A woman was reading a book in the pavilion.

Ye Guanzhi was temporarily in charge of Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanyuan Academy while they were still looking for Lu Chaowen's replacement.

Dongli Mo bowed and said, "Greetings to Representative Ye."

Ye Guanzhi put down the book in her hand and asked, "Why do you want to see me?"

Dongli Mo smiled and explained, "I have heard of Representative Ye's power and talent. I've come here in hopes of sparring with you."

Dongli Mo was smiling, but his gaze contained a fiery blaze.

Ye Guanzhi pondered over it and said, "My cultivation is higher than yours, so it won't be a fair fight."

Dongli Mo was still all smiles. "I don't mind."

Ye Guanzhi stared deeply at Dongli Mo.

"My apologies, Young Lord Mo, but I do not wish to fight," she said.

Dongli Mo's smile deepened. "Are you looking down on me, Representative Ye?"

Boom!

A mysterious energy abruptly enveloped Dongli Mo. Dongli Mo's eyes narrowed, and he turned around to see a figure clad in golden armor standing not too far away from him.

Dongli Mo's expression stiffened upon seeing the figure because the figure was a Guanxuan Guard!

Ye Guanzhi dismissed the Guanxuan Guard with a wave of her hand.

"Young Lord Mo, I simply do not wish to fight. Please go back home," she said.

Dongli Mo hesitated before asking, "What if I really want to fight you today?"

Ye Guanzhi asked back, "Does your clan leader know that you're here today, Young Lord Mo?"

Dongli Mo stared straight into her eyes and said, "No..."

Ye Guanzhi nodded and said, "Go back home and ask your clan leader what he thinks regarding your request. If he agrees, I will fight you. What about it?"

Dongli Mo frowned.

"I—" he started.

However, Ye Guanzhi interrupted him. "I have work to do here."

With that, Dongli Mo could only gaze deeply at Ye Guanzhi before leaving.

An old woman appeared next to Ye Guanzhi moments after Dongli Mo's departure.

"What an arrogant man, why did you not put him in his place?"

Ye Guanzhi chuckled and explained. "He's not arrogant. He's acting like one to make a breakthrough."

The old woman asked, "Make a breakthrough?"

Ye Guanzhi nodded and explained, "He has already reached the limits of his growth, and it is incredibly difficult for him to make a breakthrough. He came here to fight me because he knows that he'll become even stronger from the setback."

"Is that why you didn't humor his request? Do you not want him to make a breakthrough?" asked the old woman.

"I simply don't wish to fight," explained Ye Guanzhi.

"Is that so?" asked the old man, sounding baffled.

Ye Guanzhi smiled and picked up her book once more.

After a while, she muttered, "I was actually afraid of killing him."

The old woman didn't know what to say.

"Anyway," Ye Guanzhi asked, "What is Young Lord Ye doing right now?"

The old woman replied, "I've received news that he has just arrived here. I think he's going to challenge the martial list."

Ye Guanzhi went silent, seemingly pondering over something.

Eventually, she sighed and said, "What a pity!"

The old woman asked, "Why?"

"It's a pity that the academy lost such an extreme talent," said Ye Guanzhi.

The old woman's curiosity was piqued. "You seem to think highly of him."

Ye Guanzhi smiled and asked, "Do you know the difference between talents from the great clans and rogue talents?"

The old woman wordlessly shook her head.

Ye Guanzhi explained, "Talents from the great clans prioritize the pros and cons. They don't bother thinking about the common people. They only care about themselves and their clans. Harshly put, those brats born with golden spoons in their mouths had long regarded themselves as nobler than the common people."

"I think those rogue talents will eventually get greedy and start acting like talents from the great clans." The old woman pointed out.

"You're right." Ye Guanzhi chuckled and said, "However, it is undeniable that they know of the common people's suffering."

"I wish I had more companions who were born as members of the lower rungs of society," Ye Guanzhi lamented.

The old woman went silent.

"Is there any news from the Main Guanxuan Academy?" asked Ye Guanzhi.

The old woman shook her head and said, "Not yet, but it shouldn't be that long until we hear word from them."

Ye Guanzhi smiled. "I'm sure they're still thinking that I'm blowing things out of proportion to suppress the great clans. However, they have all overlooked one thing: the academy's core has always been justice and fairness."

Ye Guanzhi stared at the sky and muttered, "Why has no one addressed Young Lord Ye's grievances just yet? He fought An Mu fair and square in the martial contest of our academy, but rather than accolades, he received fierce retaliation from those affiliated with An Mu."

"Our academy had also not only failed to uphold justice, but we even pushed him into a corner. However, I believe that Young Lord Ye isn't the only victim. I'm sure our academy's corruption has more victims, especially in the Lower Realm!"

Ye Guanzhi shook her head and continued. "Who was the upholder of justice before our academy was founded? It was the Daoist Sect. How did our academy replace the Daoist Sect? It was all because the Daoist Sect had become rotten from the inside!"

"I'm afraid that history is repeating itself. Many different great clans and families are working together to influence our academy, and it's clear that the majority of the people in the academy have already forgotten about the reason why the Sword Master founded the academy!"

The old woman hesitated before asking, "Can you please not think about it, my lady?"

Ye Guanzhi shook her head once more before continuing. "Why did Sword Master establish the Guanxuan Academy? He set it up with the common people at its core, and he wanted to create a level playing field for the masses."

"The Sword Master's dream had always been the happiness of the masses, and we should fight to achieve his dream."

"The academy is rotting from the inside, and we should do our best to remove the source of the rot. Of course, we should also pay attention to issues related to the academy in the outside world, not just within the academy."

The old woman was about to speak once more, but an old man suddenly appeared in front of Ye Guanzhi. He bowed toward Ye Guanzhi and said, "The Committee's orders have arrived. Representative Ye, you are ordered to return to the Main Academy as soon as possible."

Ye Guanzhi was silent for quite a while before sighing. "Great, the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan are truly great! I knew it—touching the vested interests of these great clans is tantamount to threatening their lives!"

Ye Guanzhi put her book down and said, "Let's go and see Young Lord Ye! I'm afraid that this might be our last meeting!"

Chapter 78: Hugely Excessive

Ye Guan soon arrived at Mount Shenwu. There was a three-hundred-meter-tall tower at the summit of Mount Shenwu. It was a magnificent tower that pierced the clouds.

Ye Guan was about to walk into the tower, but a voice echoed behind him. "Young Lord Ye!"

Ye Guan turned around and saw a woman in the distance.

The woman was dressed in a light green robe, and a white sash across her waist wrapped and emphasized her elegant curves. Her long hair was tied neatly into a ponytail, and it was long enough to reach her bottom.

She was carrying a few scrolls in her hands.

Ye Guanzhi smiled sweetly at Ye Guan. Her smile was refreshing, making her give off a feeling similar to a spring breeze.

Ye Guan was on guard until he finally recognized the woman. "Lady Ye!"

Ye Guanzhi smiled and asked, "Are you up for a stroll with me, Young Lord Ye?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Sure!"

The two soon walked together down a path with the beautiful scenery of Mount Shenwu behind them. The greenery of Mount Shenwu swayed gently along with the gentle breeze, and Ye Guan could smell a sweet fragrance in the air.

Ye Guanzhi suddenly said, "Young Lord Ye, I'm about to leave the Zhongtu Divine Continent."

Ye Guan was silent as he suddenly recalled Qin Feng's words.

Ye Guanzhi made a sidelong glance at him and said, "If you're willing, I can bring you over to the Main Guanyuan Academy. I'm sure you would grow even faster there!"

"We're strangers, Lady Ye." Ye Guan sounded serious as he asked, "Why are you helping me?"

Ye Guanzhi smiled and explained, "There are two reasons: the first reason is that you're strong, and the second reason is that I cannot ignore injustice."

Ye Guanzhi's reply stunned Ye Guan, prompting him to stare at her deeply.

"Is it because of the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan?"

Ye Guanzhi was surprised.

"How did you know?" she asked.

Ye Guan replied, "A friend told me."

"Are you sure you don't want to go with me, Young Lord Ye?"

Ye Guan sighed and said, "If I said no, the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan would start targeting me, right?"

Ye Guanzhi nodded and said, "Yes, but I'm sure that they won't dare to bother you any longer if you become the winner of the Destiny Contest!"

"I see..." said Ye Guan with a nod.

Ye Guanzhi came to a halt and sighed. "It seems that you've already made your decision, Young Lord Ye."

Ye Guan wordlessly nodded.

Ye Guanzhi nodded as well and said, "I wish you all the best, then! I hope we'll see each other again."

With that, she turned around and walked away.

"Lady Ye!" Ye Guan called out.

Ye Guanzhi turned to look at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan sounded serious as he said, "I've never really believed in the Guanxuan Law, but you changed my mind! I believe that there are bad and good people anywhere, not to mention in the academy. However, I wish that there were more people like you in the academy."

Ye Guanzhi smiled sweetly and said, "Thank you."

Ye Guanzhi went silent after that. Moments later, she said hesitantly, "I would like to spar with you before I leave, Young Lord Ye. Can you humor me?"

A sparring? Ye Guan hurriedly replied, "Of course!"

Ye Guanzhi's smile deepened, and she said, "Make your move!"

Ye Guan was taken aback.

"Right here?" he asked.

"Yes." Ye Guanzhi nodded. "I want you to use your strongest sword move!"

Ye Guan seemed nervous as he stared at her.

"You might die..." he muttered.

Ye Guanzhi's lips curled up slightly.

"Don't worry, I have defensive spiritual artifacts up my sleeves. I won't die that easily," she said, reassuring him.

Upon hearing that, Ye Guan knew that he wouldn't be able to convince her otherwise, so he could only warn her.

"Please be careful!" he exclaimed.

A sword made out of sword energy manifested in front of him.

The sword flew out and executed the Instant Death Strike, and it arrived in front of Ye Guanzhi's nose in the blink of an eye.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan was proud of his Instant Death Strike, and he was confident that it could ignore the chasm between cultivation realms to kill cultivators three realms higher than him.

However, Ye Guan was stupefied by the scene that had unfolded in front of him. He was unwittingly transfixed on Ye Guanzhi's fingers because the latter managed to stop his Instant Death Strike with just two fingers.

Ye Guanzhi released the sword moments later and said, "Young Lord Ye, your sword is faster than even cultivators three realms higher than you, but it has a critical flaw that you have overlooked."

Ye Guan eagerly asked, "Can you please tell me what it is?"

Ye Guanzhi said, "A domain!"

"A domain?" asked Ye Guan with a frown.

Ye Guanzhi nodded and explained, "Yes, a domain. The space in front of me is under my control through my domain. My domain instantly suppressed your sword the moment it entered my domain.

"The spacetime gravity of my domain is fifty times heavier than the spacetime gravity of the world, and such tremendous weight instantaneously suppressed your sword.

"In other words, the critical flaw of your swordsmanship is that your swordsmanship is still too weak to shatter a domain. It's still bound by the rules of spacetime. If you want to shatter a domain through speed, you must be fast enough to shatter the rules of spacetime."

The rules of spacetime? Ye Guan exclaimed, "Spacetime has rules? I thought only spacetime gravity had rules..."

Ye Guanzhi smiled. "Of course! Your sword couldn't have gotten so fast if you had zero comprehension of spacetime. You have already comprehended the rules of spacetime and spacetime gravity, but you're still under its influence. If you want to become even faster, you have to break the rules.

"A cultivator capable of breaking the rules is a force to be reckoned with; not even Major Tribulation Realm cultivators can stop you by then!"

Break the rules! Ye Guan pondered over her words.

Ye Guanzhi blinked and added, "Actually, it's not that difficult. You can break the rules by shattering the boundaries of spacetime."

Shattering the boundaries of spacetime... Ye Guan created a sword out of his sword energy.

He thrust it forward, shattering the space in front of him.

Wait, no, that was wrong... He tried it again, but the space in front of him only ripped like water. The sword ended up merging with the space in front of him. I don't think that was right...

Ye Guan tried it again, and the sword vanished upon piercing the space in front of it.

Ye Guanzhi's jaw almost fell to the ground in disbelief. She rubbed her eyes and blinked again, but the sword was still missing. In other words, the sword had shattered the boundaries of spacetime.

Did he just break the rules in front of me?! Ye Guanzhi stared at Ye Guan, and a torrential wave of emotions overwhelmed her thoughts.

A few moments later, she composed herself and asked, "Young Lord Ye, does your family know how talented you are?"

Ye Guan chuckled and asked, "Lady Ye, did I manage to break the rules?"

Ye Guanzhi nodded. "Yes, you did!"

Ye Guan grinned. He was overjoyed. He had felt a wall when it came to becoming even faster while he was cultivating in the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, and he had no idea what to do to overcome the wall.

However, Ye Guanzhi had just helped him scale the wall.

Ye Guan had already reached his limits, so it didn't take that long for him to comprehend Ye Guanzhi's words. He simply needed an opportunity, and Ye Guanzhi gave it to him.

Ye Guan cupped his fists with gratitude and said, "Thank you!"

Ye Guanzhi smiled warmly and said, "The glory belongs to you alone, Young Lord Ye."

Ye Guan chuckled and said, "Your advice helped me overcome the conundrum. If it wasn't for your advice, who knows how long would I have to spend mulling over it?"

Ye Guanzhi chortled and responded, "You truly are an outstanding man, Young Lord Ye. I'm already looking forward to our next meeting. All right, I'll see you again, Young Lord Ye."

Ye Guan cupped his fists together and said, "I'll see you again!"

Ye Guanzhi nodded before soaring to the skies and disappearing into the horizon.

Ye Guan stared deeply at the horizon and muttered to himself, "Lady Ye isn't just kind, but she's an impressive cultivator as well, Master Pagoda."

Little Pagoda agreed and replied, "I agree; she is indeed talented."

"Master Pagoda, what kind of talent was the Sword Master? Was he a domineering talent who surpassed his predecessors and served as the role model of the later generations?"

Little Pagoda thought about it for quite a while before saying, "Not really."

Ye Guan frowned. "Is that so?"

"Yeah."

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued, so he asked, "He's the Sword Master... If he's not at least as talented as what I described, what kind of talent is he?"

Little Pagoda said, "You misunderstood me."

Bewildered, Ye Guan asked, "What do you mean?"

Little Pagoda calmly explained, "Talented individuals belong to many different categories since time immemorial, and no one had ever reached the highest category of talent before the Sword Master's advent.

"The categories were revised to suit the Sword Master's talent upon his advent, and do you know the name of his very own category?"

Ye Guan asked, "What is it?"

Little Pagoda replied, "Hugely excessive!"

Ye Guan was stunned.

However, Little Pagoda didn't allow him to speak. "Don't think about it anymore; just go ahead and challenge the martial list!"

Ye Guan obliged. He shook his head and dismissed the useless thoughts.

“All right!” he muttered into the air before turning around and heading for the tower.

...

Ye Guanzhi was on his journey toward a massive starship in space.

The old woman was flying next to her, and she asked, “Are you interested in Ye Guan, my lady?”

Ye Guanzhi smiled. “I suppose.”

The old woman asked once more, “Why did you spar with Ye Guan when you refused Dongli Mo’s request for a spar?”

Ye Guanzhi chuckled and replied, “Well, it’s all because I like handsome young men with manners, and he was quite handsome and well-mannered!”

The old woman was at a loss for words. It seems that I’m truly living in a world where appearance matters as well, not just strength!

Chapter 79: Insensitive Man

Ye Guan walked over to the tall tower, which was known as the Martial Tower. The Martial Tower had thirty-one floors, and each floor represented a ranking.

The highest floor was known as the Hall of Enlightenment, and only the first placer on the martial list could access the floor. Rumors had it that one could meet the will that the Sword Master had left behind in the Hall of Enlightenment.

Ye Guan walked to the tower, and an old man appeared in front of him. He was holding an opium pipe, and his hair was completely white. His overall demeanor made him look sinister.

He stared at Ye Guan and shouted, "Which floor?!"

After thinking about it for a while, Ye Guan replied, "The tenth floor!"

The old man's eyes narrowed. "Are you sure?"

Ye Guan nodded.

The old man stared at Ye Guan for quite a while before saying, "Ten thousand gold spiritual crystals!"

Ye Guan blinked in confusion and asked, "Why is it so expensive?"

Ye Guan's pockets were plump, but he still wanted to save money.

The old man calmly replied, "We're afraid of people stirring trouble for no reason."

Ye Guan handed ten thousand gold spiritual crystals to the old man.

"Your name?" asked the old man after receiving the crystals.

Name? Ye Guan thought for a bit before saying, "Yang Guan!"

Little Pagoda was at a loss for words.

The old man made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan and said, "You'll find thirty teleportation arrays inside the tower. You should go ahead and pick the tenth array."

"All right!" Ye Guan replied and walked into the tower.

The old man frowned slightly, seemingly in deep thought.

Little Pagoda asked, "What's up with Yang Guan?"

"Didn't Brother Qin tell me to keep a low profile for the meantime until I'm strong enough?" Ye Guan replied.

Little Pagoda said, "I understand. I'm asking why you picked Yang as your surname."

Ye Guan smiled and explained, "The Sword Master's surname is Yang, right? That's exactly why I chose it!"

Little Pagoda remained silent.

Ye Guan asked, "Master Pagoda, is there something wrong?"

"No! You should go ahead and challenge the list!" Little Pagoda replied.

"Okay!"

Meanwhile, Little Pagoda sounded shocked as he spoke in the tiny pagoda.

"It's just a coincidence, right? Wait, it's too much for it to be a simple coincidence!"

The mysterious voice replied, "I don't think it's a bad thing. What's bad is if he becomes like his bloodthirsty father who keeps on muttering about committing patricide!"

Little Pagoda didn't know what to say.

...

Ye Guan stepped into the teleportation array and arrived on the tenth floor.

He sat cross-legged. I guess it's time to wait!

Talents on the martial list were known as defenders. A challenger could challenge a defender by entering the floor that the defender had conquered. The defender would have to show up within an hour. Otherwise, their spot on the list would be forfeited.

A man soon appeared in front of Ye Guan.

The man was clad in a brocade robe, and there was a spear in his hands. He smiled slightly as he examined Ye Guan and said, "It's been a while since someone challenged me!"

"Can we start?" Ye Guan asked.

The man nodded and said, "Yes, you could have immediately attacked me the moment I appeared!"

Swoosh!

Ye Guan abruptly vanished. He reappeared in front of the man and thrust his sword toward the latter's throat.

The man's pupils constricted. He thought of evading Ye Guan's sword thrust, but the sword was already inches away from his throat.

He staggered with a look of disbelief.

Ye Guan calmly said, "You've lost."

He then turned around and started walking to the next floor.

The man shouted, "Wait!"

Ye Guan frowned slightly and turned to look at the man.

A few moments later, the man asked, "Can we talk?"

"Nope." Ye Guan shook his head and continued on his journey to the ninth floor.

"A hundred thousand!" the man hurriedly shouted, "I'll give you a hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals. Just give me a minute of your time."

Ye Guan stopped in his tracks.

He turned to look at the man and asked, "Why are you going so far just for a chat?"

The man revealed a self-deprecating smile. "Can you not ask so many questions? A hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals for a minute of your time. It's great, right?"

Ye Guan shook his head once more.

The man chuckled bitterly and said, "My reputation will plummet if you leave early!"

The man was panicking because he was aware that his reputation as a powerful cultivation would be ruined the moment they discovered that he didn't last even half a minute against Ye Guan.

Ye Guan thought about it before saying, "Two hundred thousand!"

"Deal!" the man agreed almost immediately.

He took out a storage ring and sent it flying toward Ye Guan.

Did I ask for too few spiritual crystals? Ye Guan was silent. Ye Guan eventually put away the storage ring and sat cross-legged on the floor.

“All right, what do you want to talk about?”

You spent so much money just to talk to me, so I’m more than willing to indulge you. In fact, I can do this every day!

The man chuckled and asked, “What’s your name, Brother?”

“Yang Guan!”

“Nice to meet you, Brother Yang. I’m Yun Chen!”

“It’s nice to meet you as well, Brother Yun.”

You’re a swordsman, right?” asked Yun Chen.

“Of course,” Ye Guan replied with a nod.

“Your sword was too fast. Your sword is the fastest I’ve ever seen!”

“You’re the strongest person I’ve ever seen as well!”

Yun Chen didn’t know what to say. Since you don’t know how to compliment people, you should have just kept your mouth shut...

An awkward silence filled the air.

Ye Guan eventually shattered it by asking, “Brother Yun, I’m curious about something.”

“What is it?”

“Do you really get five hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals every month just by being the tenth placer on the list?”

“Yeah, but you have to defend your rank for an entire month,” Yun Chen explained.

Ye Guan nodded. “I see.”

“Brother Yang, are you challenging the martial list for money?” Yun Chen asked.

Ye Guan asked back, “Aren’t you supposed to challenge it for money?”

Yun Chen went silent. He was convinced—the bastard in front of him was poor!

Ye Guan suddenly stood up and said, “Time’s up, Brother Yun! Are you going to renew your subscription? If not, I’m not going to chat with you anymore.”

Yun Chen’s expression stiffened. Ye Guan stared at him, waiting for his reply.

“No, I’m fine, Brother Yang.”

He had enough money to make Ye Guan stay here for a long time, but he wasn’t that pretentious.

Ye Guan cupped his fists and said, “I’ll be off then, Brother Yun. I hope we’ll get another chance to meet in the future!”

Ye Guan turned around and left for the ninth floor.

Yun Chen stared at Ye Guan's departing figure with a frown. He couldn't help but wonder about where Ye Guan had come from.

Ye Guan suddenly stopped in his tracks and turned around to ask, "Brother Yun, does the match begin the moment the defender appears?"

"Yes, there are no rules here. You can use any method to win. The match starts as soon as the defender shows up," Yun Chen explained.

Ye Guan nodded and cupped his fists once more before going up the stairs and walking into a shining door.

Ye Guan sat cross-legged on the ninth floor and patiently waited for his opponent.

Rumble!

The space in front of him rippled like water and rumbled. Moments later, a green-robed woman emerged from a rift in space.

Ye Guan took that as a signal and abruptly vanished.

Swoosh!

He thrust his sword toward the woman.

The green-robed woman had just emerged from the rift in space, but a sword was already inches away from her forehead.

The green-robed woman froze in place.

Ye Guan stared at her and said, "Miss, you've lost."

The green-robed woman snarled at Ye Guan. "A sneak attack? Where have your morals gone?"

Ye Guan pondered over it and explained, "Brother Yun Chen told me that the match starts as soon as my opponent shows up."

"So it's that bastard!" the green-robed woman cursed and said, "Yun Chen... I should have crippled you back then!"

Ye Guan ignored the green-robed woman's cursing and turned around to leave.

"See you later," he said before heading toward the eighth floor. However, he made sure to walk slowly so that the green-robed woman would have enough time to think.

As expected, the green-robed woman shouted, "Wait!"

Ye Guan turned around almost immediately and asked, "Yes?"

"Are you a swordsman?" asked the green-robed woman.

She's trying to stall for time without paying me! Ye Guan immediately said, "Miss, I'm busy, so I'll see you later!"

He cupped his fists and turned around to leave.

Swoosh!

However, the green-robed woman abruptly appeared in front of him. She looked annoyed as she snarled and asked, "Can't you stay here and talk with me for a while?"

Ye Guan pretended like he was thinking about it before saying, "Brother Yun Chen paid me two hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals just to talk to me."

The green-robed woman froze. She stared at Ye Guan in disbelief. "Are you poor?"

Ye Guan nodded.

The green-robed woman examined Ye Guan and asked, "How can a talent like you be so poor?"

"Well, it's not like I want to be poor, but what can I do?" Ye Guan said.

The green-robed woman's lips twitched ever so slightly. She stared at him with contempt before showing him a storage ring. "Let's have a rematch. There are five hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals in here!"

Five hundred thousand?! Ye Guan was visibly moved. His eyes were wide in shock as she asked, "Is the martial list full of rich people?"

The green-robed woman retorted, "I think you're just too poor."

Ye Guan's expression froze.

The green-robed woman chuckled, seemingly amused by his reaction.

"Are you going to accept my offer or not?"

"Sure." Ye Guan nodded and said, "Let's do it!"

Boom!

The space around Ye Guan abruptly shattered, and at least ten light rays flew toward Ye Guan at breakneck speeds.

However, Ye Guan wasn't alarmed at all. As soon as the final syllable of his sentence fell, his figure had abruptly vanished, and his sword was already inches away from the green-robed woman. It was a repeat of what had happened earlier.

The light rays froze in their tracks.

The green-robed woman's pupils were constricted as she stared at Ye Guan in a daze. Moments later, she chuckled bitterly and said, "You're too fast!"

Ye Guan wordlessly sheathed his sword.

The green-robed woman opened her palm, and the same storage ring from earlier floated over to Ye Guan. The storage ring truly had five hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals in it.

Ye Guan put it away and said, "Thank you, Miss!"

He then turned around and started walking toward the eighth floor.

"How should I address you?" asked the green-robed woman.

Ye Guan stopped in his tracks and replied, "Yang Guan!"

"Is that your real name?"

Ye Guan shook his head.

“Can you tell me your real name?”

Ye Guan shook his head once again.

It’s better if I stay low-profile!

However, the green-robed woman didn’t give up and asked, “What if I gave you some money?”

“Miss, there’s a reason why I’m hiding my name. I hope you’ll understand,” Ye Guan said with a smile.

The green-robed woman nodded. “All right, I understand. Anyway, my name is Xue Yiren! Have you heard of me before?”

Ye Guan thought about it before shaking his head.

The corners of Xue Yiren’s lips twitched. “Get out!”

“All right.” Ye Guan nodded and said, “I’m leaving.”

With that, he finally turned around and climbed the stairs to the eighth floor.

Xue Yiren stared at Ye Guan’s departing figure and muttered to herself. “I had no idea that the Zhongtu Divine Continent’s Guanxuan Academy had such a young swordsman...”

“Wait...” Xue Yiren seemed to have realized something. “What the hell? He got lucky enough to talk to me, but he still dared to charge me? Am I not beautiful enough? What an insensitive man!”

Xue Yiren pouted and stomped away.

...

Ye Guan soon arrived on the eighth floor.

He sat cross-legged and waited for his opponent.

Little Pagoda suddenly asked, "You know you have a lot of money, right? The amount you have in your storage rings will last you for a long time."

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "Yes, I'm sure I'll have enough money for a long time."

Ye Guan's response baffled Little Pagoda.

"So why..." Little Pagoda trailed off.

Ye Guan answered, "It's because of what Brother Qin told me. He said that I would need millions of gold spiritual crystals to reconstruct my physique."

Chapter 80: You Can Bribe Me

Little Pagoda went silent.

Ye Guan sat quietly on the floor.

He already had almost a million gold spiritual crystals!

If he managed to get first place in the martial list and defend his title for a few months, he would earn a few million gold spiritual crystals. Ye Guan also believed that it was better to have more money than not.

The space in front of him trembled once again.

Ye Guan stood up, and his figure blurred.

Whoosh!

A sword light flew toward the rift in space.

The man had just emerged from the rift in space, but his expression immediately changed as he cried out. “What the fuck?!”

Crack!

A crisp noise echoed, and a golden light burst from the man’s forehead.

The man was sent flying a few meters away.

Ye Guan didn’t continue.

He looked at the sword made out of sword energy in his right hand and saw that its tip was missing. Ye Guan looked up and saw golden fragments on the floor. The fragments belonged to a piece of armor—an Immortal-grade armor!

Ye Guan instantly discovered a critical flaw. His Path Sword’s durability was infinite, but swords made out of sword energy could shatter.

“You’re a swordsman?” asked the man in shock.

Ye Guan nodded. “Yes, I am.”

“Did you just ambush me?” asked the man with narrowed eyes.

“I’m new here, so I don’t really know the rules. However, Brother Yun Chen told me that I can attack the moment my opponent appears!” Ye Guan said in a serious tone.

The man froze and asked, “Yun Chen? Are you talking about that tenth placer?”

“Yes.” Ye Guan nodded in response.

The man’s face fell, and he cursed, “That bastard!”

“Can we fight again?” asked Ye Guan.

The man examined Ye Guan for quite a while before saying, “Forget it! I admit defeat!”

Ye Guan’s attack just now shattered his Immortal-grade armor. If Ye Guan’s attack could destroy such high-grade armor, there was no way he could take on the brunt of Ye Guan’s attack. In addition, Ye Guan was a bonafide swordsman!

Ye Guan frowned and asked, “You don’t want to fight?”

The man nodded and replied, “Yes, I don’t want to fight. I admit defeat!”

Ye Guan instinctively asked, “What about the money?”

“What money?” the man asked with narrowed eyes.

After a few moments of silence, Ye Guan replied, “Yun Chen told me that the loser has to give the victor some money.”

There was a slight pause before he added, "The minimum is two hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals!"

Yun Chen: ???

"Did he really say that?" asked the man.

Ye Guan wordlessly nodded.

The man's face turned ugly. Damn it! If he latches onto me and decides to give me a beating, what will happen to my reputation? Especially if I come out of here with black eyes...

It had to be known that swordsmen were mostly erratic and withdrawn people.

In other words, they could be quite dense.

"Brother, what's your name?" asked the man.

"Yang Guan!"

"Brother Yang, I can tell that you're in a rather tight financial situation. What about this? I have three hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals. You can take them and use them as you like as a token of our newfound friendship."

"Do I have to pay you back?" Ye Guan asked.

The man thought about it for a while before saying, "If you can—no, It's up to you!"

Ye Guan cupped his fists and politely asked, "What's your name, brother?"

“My name is Xiao Che,” the man replied.

Ye Guan nodded and said, “Brother Xiao, it’s true that I need money, but you admitted defeat, so how can I accept your money? You can keep it, brother.”

With that, he turned around and headed for the seventh floor.

Xiao Che stood rooted for a while, but he soon came to his senses and asked, “Are you sure about it, Brother Yang?”

Ye Guan chuckled, but he didn’t say anything and quietly walked toward the seventh floor. He loved money, but he didn’t feel comfortable about taking away the money of someone who clearly didn’t care about their reputation and had admitted defeat.

Ye Guan had to become a powerful cultivator on his own, so it would be great if he had more friends than enemies.

Xiao Che shook his head and smiled while staring at Ye Guan’s departing figure.

“There’s actually such an honest swordsman? Interesting...” he muttered. However, Xiao Che’s expression changed upon recalling something. He then sighed and muttered once more, “It’s a pity that he didn’t take my money. We could have been friends. Sigh...”

...

Meanwhile, Ye Guan finally arrived on the seventh floor.

As usual, he sat cross-legged on the floor. However, he didn’t close his eyes and patiently waited for his opponent. Instead, he opened his palm and created a sword made out of sword energy.

He fell into deep contemplation while staring at the sword floating above his palm. Ye Guan had to admit that his sword energy was flawed, but it was still a sword made out of sword energy, which was made out of profound energy.

In other words, it couldn't be compared to powerful spiritual artifacts.

Unfortunately, Ye Guan didn't have any other swords aside from the Path Sword!

He had to find a way to make a sword that would be his daily driver. Ye Guan's goal was to use the Path Sword only when it was necessary. He was afraid of becoming too reliant on the Path Sword because he was aware that he would end up destroying his path to the summit of cultivation if he were to rely too much on tools.

The space in front of Ye Guan distorted, and a man wearing a long robe emerged from the rift in space. The man was holding a folding fan, and Ye Guan abruptly vanished upon seeing him.

Shrieeek!

The air shrieked as Ye Guan's sword sliced through it.

The long-robed man's eyes narrowed.

He hurriedly unfolded his folding fan and shouted, "Protect!"

Boom!

A golden light burst out of the man's folding fan, but it was too late.

Ye Guan's sword was already inches away from the man's forehead!

The man abruptly stopped moving.

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at the man, but he inwardly lampooned how the talents of the Martial Tower weren't really that strong at all.

The long-robed man stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, "You've won."

Ye Guan put away his sword and replied, "Indeed."

With that, he turned around and headed for the sixth floor.

The man called out, "Wait!"

Ye Guan stopped and turned to look at him.

"What's your name?" asked the long-robed man.

Ye Guan smiled politely and replied, "Yang Guan!"

"Can we have a rematch?"

The man clearly couldn't accept his defeat and felt a bit indignant about Ye Guan's ambush, which caught him off guard.

Ye Guan thought about it before saying, "Brother Yun Chen told me that if someone wants a rematch, they need to pay three hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals. He said it's a service fee for the opponent's hard work!"

Yun Chen: ...

The man remained calm. He opened his palm and sent a storage ring flying toward Ye Guan.

Ye Guan snatched the storage ring out of mid-air and examined it. Indeed, it contained three hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals.

He put it away and asked, "Shall we start?"

"Let's start!" said the long-robed man. He abruptly unfolded his folding fan and swung it at Ye Guan.

Swoosh!

A hundred rays of light manifested, and they flew toward Ye Guan at the same time.

Rumble!

Each ray of light contained so much power behind it that its presence itself was distorting space, creating a terrifying deep rumble.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan's figure blurred the moment the rays of light manifested.

The long-robed man's eyes narrowed.

Swoosh!

He blinked once, and Ye Guan's sword was already inches away from his throat.

He lost!

Ye Guan quietly stared at the man. Ye Guan's sword moves were fast, but he was also quite fast himself. He was even faster while channeling his Royal Sword Art.

“How much power did you use just now?” asked the man.

Ye Guan seemed hesitant to reply.

“Just tell me, it’s okay!” The man smiled and reassured him.

“Thirty percent!”

Thirty percent?! The man’s eyes widened in disbelief.

Thirty percent! Really?! The long-robed man felt numb.

Ye Guan put his sword away and turned around to walk away.

“Brother Yang!” exclaimed the man. “You just go ahead and challenge the first placer!”

“Why?” Ye Guan asked, seemingly confused.

“I think only the first placer is strong enough to defeat you,” the long-robed man explained.

Ye Guan pondered over it and replied, “It’s fine. I don’t think it will take me that long to reach the first floor, even if I take my time.”

With that, Ye Guan continued on his journey to the next floor, leaving the speechless man behind him.

...

Ye Guan had just entered the floor, but a fatty was already standing in front of him.

The fatty's hands were hidden in his sleeves, and he smiled menacingly at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at the fatty.

It seemed that the latter had been waiting for him.

All of a sudden, the fatty's pupils constricted, and he shouted, "Behind you!"

However, Ye Guan didn't turn around.

He vanished like a ghost and charged at the fatty.

The fatty's eyes narrowed, and a terrifying flame erupted from him.

Boom!

The burst of flames didn't scare Ye Guan, but he wasn't dumb enough to jump into the flames. He stopped just a few meters away from the flame and jumped backward to retreat.

It seemed that the fatty also had the same idea because tiny whirlwinds enveloped his feet and sent him flying away from Ye Guan.

However, Ye Guan had already recovered by the time he started floating away.

Shrieeek!

The air shrieked as it was sliced apart, and Ye Guan's sword stopped a few inches away from the fatty.

The fatty's face was stiff as he stared at the sword looming over him.

“Thank you for the fight,” Ye Guan said.

He put his sword away and turned around to leave.

“Wait!” the fatty called out. “I can’t accept this! I want a rematch!”

Ye Guan immediately turned around and said, “Brother Yun Chen said that a rematch costs five hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals!”

The fatty frowned and asked, “Are you referring to that tenth placer?”

Ye Guan nodded.

“He’s lying!” shouted the fatty.

Ye Guan remained calm and wordlessly stared at the fatty.

The fatty stared deeply at Ye Guan before opening his palm.

A storage ring floated over to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan put away the storage ring and was about to say something, but the fatty flicked his sleeve, sending a pile of ashes flying toward him.

Ashes? Ye Guan was taken aback, but he still managed to jump away in time.

He then lunged forward and thrust his sword.

Royal Sword Art!

Sqwelp!

“Ah!” the fatty’s miserable wail echoed from behind the ash smokescreen.

Ye Guan waved his sleeve, and a gust of air vanquished the ashes.

Ye Guan’s sword was stuck in the fatty’s right arm. He waved his sleeve once more, and the sword dissipated before materializing in his hands once more. With that, he turned around to leave.

“I can’t accept this! I didn’t get to use my ultimate move! I want another rematch!” shouted the fatty.

Ye Guan stared with brows raised, but his expression eased after seeing another storage ring flying toward him. He examined it and saw that it contained five hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals!

“You’re rich,” Ye Guan remarked.

The fatty replied, “Well, I’m a Divine Mage, after all.”

Ye Guan was slightly baffled. “Are Divine Mages rich?”

The fatty sounded haughty as he explained, “You don’t say! Divine Mages can just create talismans, and they would be able to sell them at exorbitant prices.”

Ye Guan suddenly recalled something. Why is Senior Disciple Yiyi so poor, then?

“Can you at least let me unleash my ultimate move?” asked the fatty. The fatty was aware that he couldn’t possibly do anything against Ye Guan unless the latter allowed him to do something.

Ye Guan was simply too fast for him to channel any spells.

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

"How am I supposed to fight with you?" asked the fatty, seemingly furious.

Ye Guan thought about it for a while before saying, "Well, I can let you if you really want to, but..."

"What is it?" urged the fatty.

Ye Guan sounded serious as he replied, "But you have to bribe me!"

The fatty stared at Ye Guan in disbelief. This fucker!