

A Sword 91

Chapter 91: Brother!

He didn't expect to hear that Ye Qing was here as well. It seemed that he was doing great and was making good connections with people, albeit someone was currently chasing after him.

"Is he really your brother?"

"Yes!"

The man frowned and asked. "Both of you are from Nanzhou?"

"Yes!"

The man shook his head and said, "It's impressive how a small and insignificant place like Nanzhou managed to produce two capable talents, not to mention that both of you even came from the same clan."

The man turned around to leave.

"Brother Beast, do you know where he is?"

The man stopped in his tracks and said, "My name is Qin Yao. Your brother must be in the Royal-rank battle trial. He's in danger because Liu Qi is chasing after him. Liu Qi is the younger brother of the Hantian Clan's Young Clan Leader, Liu Bing..."

The man paused and asked, "Do you know who Liu Bing is?"

Ye Guan shook his head. He turned around and started walking away.

"Do you know the Hantian Clan?" Qin Yao asked once more.

Ye Guan shook his head, but he didn't turn around to face Qin Yao.

Qin Yao wanted to say something else, but Ye Guan interrupted him. "Don't tell me who they are!"

Qin Yao was surprised, but he was soon filled with awe and respect for Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was saying that Liu Qi's family background didn't matter. He would still go out there and help his brother.

Qin Yao had just witnessed the definition of loyalty.

"I might chicken out if you tell me who they are!" Ye Guan added.

Qin Yao didn't know what to say.

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Ye Guan walked out of the Profound Tower and approached the old man.

"I would like to enter the Royal-rank combat trial!"

The old man was stunned. "Royal?"

Ye Guan nodded.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes!"

“The Royal-rank combat trial costs a hundred thousand gold crystals per day!”

Ye Guan gave the old man a storage ring.

The old man took out a wooden slip and handed it over to Ye Guan.

“Crush that wooden slip, and you’ll be teleported to the Royal-rank combat trial.”

Ye Guan nodded and did what he was told. Moments later, a dazzling light engulfed and whisked him away.

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A black-robed man was leaning against a cliff while staring warily at a few men in the distance. The man was none other than Ye Qing. Ye Qing’s eyes were unwittingly fixed on the white-robed man leading the group.

The white-robed man stared at Ye Qing and chuckled. “I didn’t expect to encounter a Law holder here, and the surprise was made even more pleasant when I discovered that you’re holding onto a Great Earth Law.”

He made a sidelong glance at Ye Qing’s right leg and said, “Oh? You’re charging up your Great Law Force?”

Swoosh!

Ye Qing lashed out with his leg.

Boom!

A massive wave of Great Earth Force emerged from the ground and loomed over the white-robed man.

The white-robed man's pupils constricted.

He slammed his palm to the ground and yelled, "Earth Shatter!"

Boom!

A loud noise echoed as both the white-robed man and Ye Qing retreated at the same time. The dust settled, and a massive chasm appeared between the two of them. The chasm was still expanding in all directions at an astonishing speed.

Ye Qing's eyes narrowed as he glared at the white-robed man. The white-robed man had truly come from the Guanxuan Universe. He was strong, and the ordinary talents of the Zhongtu Divine Continent couldn't compare to him.

The white-robed man was thrilled, and he cried out in excitement. "Your Great Earth Law is amazing! I'm two cultivation realms above you, but you can actually stand toe-to-toe against me? It really is amazing!"

Ye Qing looked indifferent as he asked, "There is no enmity between us, so why are you trying to kill me?"

The white-robed man chuckled and said, "Indeed, there is no enmity between us, but I have taken a fancy to your Great Earth Law! Such a divine power should only belong to those capable enough of wielding it to its limits!"

Ye Qing glared at the white-robed man.

The white-robed man laughed and said, "I know that you have a Dao Protector, but it's a pity that we're in the Profound Tower of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

"If anyone beyond the cultivation base threshold makes a move, a powerhouse of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion will mobilize to suppress them.

"You will also be blacklisted from the Profound World. In other words, your Dao Protector won't dare to help you!"

Ye Qing was silent.

The white-robed man was right. Ye Qing didn't dare to ask his master to make a move in the Profound Tower. After all, the Profound Tower belonged to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion!

His master making a move was equivalent to breaking the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's rules. Ye Qing reckoned that the Immortal Treasures Pavilion wouldn't just stand idly by and allow him to break the rules.

Was he willing to make an enemy out of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion?

Ye Qing shook his head. No!

A man was standing next to the white-robed man. He laughed and said, "Brother Liu, why are you wasting your breath on him? His family background is basically nonexistent. You don't have to think twice about killing him."

The man raised his longsword to attack.

Liu Qi stretched his hand out to stop the longsword-wielding man.

The longsword-wielding man turned to look at Liu Qi.

Liu Qi smiled and said, "He managed to cultivate a Great Earth Law, so he's not an ordinary talent. I'm sure he has an ultimate move, so we must gang up on him to minimize casualties and injuries on our side."

Gang up on him? The longsword-wielding man froze. He chuckled awkwardly and asked, "Is that really okay?"

Liu Qi chuckled and replied, "Why would we fight him alone if we can beat him together?"

The longsword-wielding man boisterously laughed.

Liu Qi glared at Ye Qing and yelled, "Kill him!"

The six of them rushed toward Ye Qing.

Ye Qing's eyes narrowed, and he immediately crouched down. He grabbed the ground with his right hand and hurled it upward.

Boom!

The ground flew up and loomed over Liu Qi and his group.

Liu Qi abruptly vanished and reappeared in front of the massive wave of earth. He clenched his fist tightly and sent a punch toward the wave.

Shwaaa!

A terrifying conflagration struck the wave of earth.

Boom!

The ground melted, revealing Ye Qing's figure rushing toward Liu Qi.

Ye Qing's fist emitted a dazzling yellow glow; it was full of Great Earth Force!

Boom!

Ye Qing and Liu Qi's fists collided, and the resulting collision sent the two flying.

The longsword-wielding man took advantage of the opening to rush toward Ye Qing and slash out.

A ferocious light flashed in Ye Qing's eyes. He put his hands together and stomped his right foot on the ground upon landing.

Boom!

The ground split open, and a golden light flew toward the longsword-wielding man.

"Ah!" The longsword-wielding was blasted away, but a black-robed man appeared behind Ye Qing and sent a punch flying toward Ye Qing's head.

Ye Qing hurriedly turned around and punched the black-robed man's fist.

Boom!

The black-robed man was sent flying upon impact.

Meanwhile, Liu Qi was already in front of Ye Qing!

Boom!

A loud noise echoed as Ye Qing forcefully withstood Liu Qi's fist. Unfortunately, the impact still sent him flying more than three meters away. He twisted in mid-air and landed gracefully, but blood trickled from the corner of his lips.

Liu Qi jeered, "You're pretty remarkable. If I were alone, I wouldn't be sure that I could beat you even though my cultivation base is two realms above you.

"It's a pity that we're in an era where connections are everything. We outnumber you, so victory will still belong to me. Hahahaha!"

Liu Qi smiled sinisterly and roared, "Kill him!"

Liu Qi made a beeline for Ye Qing, and the rest followed closely behind him.

Ye Qing swept his gaze across Liu Qi and the rest before putting his hands together.

A faint azure light appeared on his glabella.

"No, you have just gotten the Heavenly Thunder Law! You still haven't grasped it. If you activate it right now, the battle will end in mutual destruction. You'll suffer severe injuries even if you end up winning."

Ye Qing's face darkened. "I have no choice but to do this, Master!"

The faint azure light intensified, but a change suddenly occurred on the battlefield.

Swoosh!

A ray of cold light flew toward Liu Qi.

Liu Qi's face changed. A golden light burst out of him, and it quickly took on the shape of a golden armor.

Unfortunately, Liu Qi reacted a bit too late.

Slice!

The golden armor didn't manage to protect Liu Qi's neck in time.

The ray of cold light lacerated Liu Qi's throat, and the latter crumpled to the ground.

The sudden change made everyone come to a halt.

A blurry figure appeared in front of the longsword-wielding man. The longsword-wielding man's expression changed, but a ray of cold light pierced his forehead before he could even react.

Shwik!

The longsword-wielding man's eyes widened before he collapsed to the ground.

Ye Qing finally identified the blurry figure.

He quickly recovered from the shock and shouted, "Brother Ye Guan!"

"Kill them!" replied Ye Guan.

With that, he charged toward the other cultivators.

Ye Qing followed closely behind him.

The faces of the remaining cultivators turned hideous. They wanted to escape, but Ye Guan's sword was too fast for them to outrun.

Slice!

A glimmer of sword light was captured in a man's eyes before his world spun. Ye Guan had chopped his head off in the proverbial blink of an eye.

The remaining cultivators grimaced.

One of them shouted, "Fuck! I'm a member of the Shangxiao Clan. My father is the Grand Elder of the Shangxiao Clan. My father will definitely not let you off if you kill me because I'm his only son. Killing me means cutting off his legacy!"

The man's sentence wasn't that long, but by the time he was done speaking, the remaining cultivators had already died, aside from Liu Qi, who was still breathing.

Ye Guan rushed toward the man and pointed his sword at the latter.

The man's face went beyond pallid.

His voice trembled as he pleaded, "Please! There's a misunderstanding here!"

Ye Guan asked, "Is the Shangxiao Clan a very powerful clan?"

"Yes!" the man replied almost immediately.

Ye Guan nodded. He pointed at Liu Qi and said, "Finish him off."

The man was astonished. He recovered moments later and stammered, "I-I don't think that's... a great idea."

The man wasn't dumb. Ye Guan was obviously trying to use him as a scapegoat by making him end Liu Qi's life.

Ye Guan remained calm. "You either finish him off, or I'll do it myself and kill you as well."

The man's expression stiffened.

"I'll give you three seconds to decide. One—"

The man abruptly rushed toward Liu Qi and punched the latter's throat.

Liu Qi's eyes shot wide open. He couldn't believe that he died such a vain death.

The man silently sat on the ground. The Profound Tower belonged to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, so there was no way he could hide how he had personally ended Liu Qi's life.

Ye Guan walked up to him and asked, "What's your name?"

"Lin Qian!"

"Now, we're in the same boat!"

Lin Qian didn't know what to say.

Ye Guan sounded serious as he said, "Don't be afraid. So what if they take revenge on you? You have a powerful backer to back you up, anyway, right?"

Lin Qian was at a loss for words.

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Chapter 92: Sworn Brothers

Lin Qian felt bitter.

Ye Guan had basically forced him to hop onto the same boat as them.

There was no way the Hantian Clan would let him go, even if he told them the truth. Liu Qi and Liu Bing were close friends for the longest time, so Liu Bing would definitely not let go of Liu Qi's murderer.

It's over! Lin Qian sighed. I'm doomed!

Lin Qian glanced wordlessly at Ye Guan and Ye Qing, who were both busy picking up their spoils of war. He knew that he could only cling to them if he wanted to live.

Ye Guan tallied up the gold spiritual crystals in the storage ring of the deceased cultivators and saw that he had earned a total of eight million gold spiritual crystals aside from the gold spiritual crystals in Liu Qi's storage ring.

Ye Guan split it evenly and gave the other half to Ye Qing.

Ye Qing accepted the storage ring with a smile and asked, "Why are you here, Brother Ye Guan?"

Ye Guan chuckled. "I came here to cultivate, and I heard that you were in danger, so I rushed over!"

"Thank you," Ye Qing replied.

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "We're brothers, you don't have to thank me."

Ye Qing smiled and felt warm inside.

Boom!

A terrifying aura suddenly bore down on them.

Ye Guan and Ye Qing's faces abruptly changed.

A middle-aged man appeared, and he heaved a sigh of relief upon seeing Lin Qian.

Lin Qian hurriedly got up and said, "Father!"

The middle-aged man pulled Lin Qian behind him.

He turned to face Ye Guan and Ye Qing.

"Were you the ones who killed Liu Qi?" he asked.

"No, your son killed him," Ye Guan replied.

The middle-aged man yelled, "Stop the nonsense! My son and Liu Qi are close friends, why would he kill Liu Qi? You—"

"I killed him!" Lin Qian shouted.

The middle-aged man was stunned.

He spun around to look at Lin Qian.

Lin Qian hesitated for a while before saying, "I really killed him."

The middle-aged man was enraged. "Do you know what you're saying right now, you unfilial son?!"

Lin Qian repeated. "I killed him."

Lin Qian was aware that he wouldn't be able to push the blame onto someone else because there were quite a few people hiding in the shadows earlier during the battle.

In other words, it was only a matter of time before the Hantian Clan found out that Liu Qi died at his hands.

The Hantian Clan wouldn't let him go along with Ye Guan and Ye Qing.

Liu Bing had always been protective of Liu Qi, so the former would definitely not let the three of them go. Therefore, Lin Qian decided to embark on another path.

The middle-aged man glared at Lin Qian and asked, "Do you know what you're saying?"

People were starting to gather from all directions, and even the Tower Keeper of the Profound Tower had arrived. He had decided to come here to see what the commotion was all about.

Lin Qian glanced sideways at Ye Guan and Ye Qing before saying, "Father, this is Ye Guan and Ye Qing. They are my sworn brothers!"

Ye Guan and Ye Qing froze.

Ye Guan looked at Lin Qian, slightly confused. What is he trying to do here?

Lin Qian pointed at Liu Qi's corpse and shouted, "Father, he coveted Brother Ye Qing's treasure and tried to kill him to obtain it. I tried to stop him, but he refused to listen to me. I had no choice but to kill him to protect my sworn brothers!"

“Outrageous!” yelled the middle-aged man.

He was so angry that he slapped Lin Qian across the face. Lin Qian flew at least thirty meters away and left a trail of fresh blood.

Under everyone’s gazes, Lin Qian stood up and wiped the blood on the corner of his lips. He stared resolutely at the middle-aged man and said, “Father, I’m the one who killed him, so the responsibility belongs to me alone. It has nothing to do with my two sworn brothers. I am willing to die to assuage the Hantian Clan’s fury!”

He threw his head back and headbutted a boulder.

Boom!

The impact shattered the boulder, but Lin Qian was still alive. Lin Qian was covered in blood, looking absolutely miserable.

Ye Guan and Ye Qing looked at each other. I see, so that is what he wants to do...

Lin Qian stood up with much difficulty. He raised his right fist and aimed it at his temple.

There was no way the middle-aged man would let his only son die in front of him, so he immediately intervened.

Lin Qian inwardly sighed in relief.

The middle-aged man’s heart broke upon seeing Lin Qian’s miserable appearance.

He hugged him tightly and said softly, “If you insist on taking responsibility, I will bear it with you, even if you’re not the only one responsible for Liu Qi’s death. At most, I’m just going to offer my life to appease the Hantian Clan.”

The middle-aged man's words made everyone present turn to Ye Guan and Ye Qing.

This is too much!

The three of them were responsible for Liu Qi's death, but only Lin Qian and his father were willing to take responsibility.

Lin Qian had said that they were sworn brothers, so the fact that both Ye Guan and Ye Qing were still silent made the onlookers feel that they were ruthless to the core.

Ye Guan and Ye Qing remained silent. They knew what Lin Qian was trying to do here.

What a ruthless move. He made us look evil while putting himself up on a pedestal!

Ye Guan and Ye Qing had to do something. Otherwise, their reputation would plummet to the abyss.

Ye Qing pulled on Ye Guan's sleeve.

"Brother Ye Guan, I think you should deal with him," he said.

Ye Guan nodded. He approached Lin Qian and said, "Brother Lin, the Law Imprint belongs to you!"

Law Imprint?! The onlookers' gaze turned fiery as they stared at Lin Qian.

The Tower Keeper directed a strange gaze at Lin Qian.

Law Imprint! It had to be known that Great Daoist Brush Master was apparently the one who had created the Law Imprints and the Dao Imprints, while the imprints themselves were under the control of

the God of Daoism. Those imprints were priceless, and one could wield a cataclysmic power by cultivating them.

And this bastard would have one of those imprints?

Lin Qian's expression stiffened. "Brother Ye—"

Ye Guan grabbed Lin Qian's hand and said, "My brother and I were the ones who beat Liu Qi to a pulp, but you ended his life personally. Everyone saw what you did, so the imprint naturally belongs to you. Don't be shy; take it!"

Lin Qian's heart started to beat madly against his chest.

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at Lin Qian's father and bowed slightly. "Uncle, please take good care of Brother Lin. I will not forgive the Shangxiao Clan if anything happens to him!"

He then took out another storage ring and placed it in Lin Qian's hands. "Brother Lin, this is Liu Qi's storage ring. It contains three hundred million gold crystals, so please accept it!"

Lin Qian was at a loss for words.

Ye Guan walked over to Ye Qing and said, "Let's go!"

They turned around and ran away.

Everyone present no longer looked at Lin Qian with sympathy. They were envious of him.

A Law Imprint and three million gold spiritual crystals. He struck the jackpot!

The Tower Keeper made a sidelong glance at Lin Qian. After a moment of silence, he turned around to leave. The onlookers slowly dispersed as well.

Soon, Lin Qian and his father were left alone.

“Do you really possess a Law Imprint?”

Lin Qian shook his head.

The middle-aged man suddenly grabbed Lin Qian by the collar and glared at him.

“You have a Law Imprint, and it belongs to you. Do you understand?”

Lin Qian stuttered, “Father, are you saying that...”

“Yes.” The middle-aged man took a deep breath and explained, “The clan leader and the elders of the clan will only protect you if you say that the Law Imprint belongs to you and has already acknowledged you as its owner. Otherwise, they’ll sacrifice you to appease the Hantian Clan.”

Lin Qian’s expression turned heavy. “I understand!”

The middle-aged man sighed and said, “The clan will only protect you if you’re worthy of its protection. You’ll die if you only rely on me. From now on, I want you to announce to the world that you have a Law Imprint.

“You also have to protect those two bastards earlier no matter what happens, do you understand?”

Lin Qian asked, “Father, you want me to stick close to them?”

The middle-aged man nodded and explained, “Yes, stay as close to them as you can. If anyone brings this matter up, take responsibility for everything. I want you to paint yourself as a loyal and courageous man so that the people will sympathize with you.”

“At that point, the clan will have to think twice about the resulting backlash if the elders and the clan leader decide to hand you over to the Hantian Clan. Do you understand what I’m saying?”

“I understand!” Lin Qian nodded.

The middle-aged man turned around and stared at the horizon.

“Those two bastards aren’t simple. Provoking them will only bring about disaster, but if they really have powerful backgrounds, you’ll end up with an unexpected boon!”

Lin Qian was slightly confused. “Father, what do you mean?”

“By tomorrow, I’m sure the world will know you as their sworn brothers. In other words, you have no choice but to act like you’re their sworn brother, whether you like it or not!”

“But they’re not my sworn brothers...” Lin Qian grumbled.

The middle-aged man replied, “The public’s opinion is what matters the most.”

“Okay...” Lin Qian reluctantly nodded.

The middle-aged man took a deep breath.

He wiped the blood off of Lin Qian’s face and muttered, “My son, be more confident. The act starts upon your return to the clan. Just tell them that you discovered a massive opportunity and that you’ll inevitably become invincible among your peers in just twenty years.”

Lin Qian nodded and replied, “I understand!”

The middle-aged man smiled and patted Lin Qian’s back. “Don’t be too worried. Your father here is still the Grand Elder of the Shangxiao Clan. Even if the sky falls down, I will hold it up for you, all right?”

Lin Qian smiled at his father and said, "Okay."

"Let's go!" said the middle-aged man, and the two of them walked away.

"Father, that Ye Guan is a menace!" Lin Qian said while they were on their journey home. "I think he's more cunning than you!"

"He's brave, cunning, and extraordinary. Be sure not to provoke him the next time you meet him. It'll be great if you truly become his friend, but don't force it, okay?"

Lin Qian hesitated for a few seconds before saying, "I'm a bit scared of him. He's strong, but his motives are dubious. He's an expert at setting others up, and his schemes are dangerous."

The middle-aged man chuckled and said, "Take a look at it from another angle. He rushed to his brother's assistance, which means that he values his relationships as well as loyalty.

"In other words, he's the type of person who is ruthless to his enemies but kind to his friends and family. I'm sure he'll put his life on the line for you if you truly become his friend."

"That makes sense." Lin Qian nodded slightly and said, "Father, what should I do if the clan leader decides to kick me out of the clan due to pressure?"

The middle-aged man said indifferently, "We'll rebel!"

Lin Qian was shocked. He made a sidelong glance at his father.

His father calmly explained, "I've been the Grand Elder for so many years, do you really think that I would have no men on my side? If he dares to do anything to you, why would I not dare to do anything to him?"

"What are the chances?" asked Lin Qian.

“Eighty percent!”

“It’s that high?” Lin Qian asked in shock.

The middle-aged man shook his head and clarified. “He has an eighty percent chance of success, while we only have twenty percent.”

Lin Qian’s expression fell.

“I’m sure the clan will investigate the background of those young men. Let’s hope that they belong to a powerful clan. Anyway, wasn’t one of them a swordsman? Tell the clan that he’s a direct disciple of Great Sword Sovereign Ye Yu.”

“Raise him up as high as you can so that they won’t dare to investigate them thoroughly. I’m confident that even if they find something, we will not be implicated at all!” said the middle-aged man.

Lin Qian didn’t know what to say.

Chapter 93: I Will Not Rely on You

Ye Qing looked at Ye Guan and smiled. “Brother Ye Guan, I have to head elsewhere. I’m afraid I will have to say goodbye to you here.”

Ye Guan nodded and asked, “Are you short of money?”

Ye Qing shook his head, “Nope! I have enough.”

Ye Guan smiled. “Great.”

Ye Qing asked, “Brother Ye Guan, there are only eight months before the Destiny Contest. You’re still going to join, right?”

Ye Guan nodded. “Yup!”

“I will be there, too.”

Ye Guan smiled. “All right, I’ll see you there!”

Ye Qing responded, “I’m looking forward to seeing you there as well.”

The Tower Keeper appeared in front of them.

“Do you really think that the Hantian Clan will let you two go?”

The two went silent.

“Are you familiar with the Hantian Clan?” asked the Tower Keeper.

Ye Qing was about to speak, but Ye Guan smiled and said, “It’s just the Hantian Clan, right?”

The Tower Keeper was stunned.

Ye Guan smiled. “Senior, a mere Hantian Clan is not something to worry about.”

He then pulled Ye Qing and left. The Tower Keeper stared at Ye Guan’s departing figure. His right hand slowly clenched into a fist, and he seemed to be worried about something. Eventually, he relaxed and left.

...

Ye Qing left the Profound World.

Ye Qing stared at the teleportation array behind him.

A voice echoed in his head. "Your brother is a lot smarter than the average cultivator."

"Is that so, Master?" said Ye Qing.

The voice asked, "Do you know why he said those words to the Tower Keeper?"

Ye Qing was confused. "Why?"

"The Tower Keeper was having malicious thoughts toward the both of you, so he told the Tower Keeper that a mere Hantian Clan isn't something to worry about."

"I think Brother Ye Guan was right. It's just the Hantian Clan," said Ye Qing before walking away with a smile.

"What are you going to do if you have to fight him in the contest?" asked the voice.

Ye Qing smiled and replied, "We'll fight. If I lose, it's fine. If I win, I'm still going to give him the Great Dao Destiny Aura."

With that, Ye Qing took off and disappeared into the distant horizon.

...

Ye Guan decided to enter the Immortal-rank combat trial of the Profound Tower upon realizing that the Royal-rank combat trial didn't pose that much of a challenge to him.

He had thirty million gold spiritual crystals as well, so he wasn't worried about running out of money in the near future.

Of course, he still needed a lot of money. He had to buy whatever was necessary to restore Nalan Jian's fleshly body. She would also need cultivation resources by then, so Ye Guan was essentially saving up money for two people rather than just for himself.

Ye Guan's expression turned grim upon arriving at the world of the Immortal-rank combat trial. He heard footsteps behind him and saw a large-framed man.

Ye Guan froze, and the large-framed man froze as well.

The man was none other than Qin Yao.

Qin Yao asked, "Shouldn't you be at the Royal-rank combat trial?"

"It was too easy," replied Ye Guan.

Qin Yao fell silent.

He thought that Ye Guan was being pretentious, but he didn't say anything in response.

Ye Guan smiled. "Are you going to fight me with your true body?"

Qin Yao shook his head. "No, I'm not going to fight you."

Ye Guan was speechless.

Qin Yao stared at him and changed the topic.

“Are you not aware of his brother?”

Ye Guan replied calmly, “I’m aware, but he’s already dead. It’s meaningless to discuss it.”

Qin Yao said solemnly, “His brother will definitely not let you go.”

“I’ll bury him if he dares to come to me,” said Ye Guan.

Qin Yao grinned and gave him a thumbs up.

“Brother Qin, how are you compared to Liu Bing?”

Qin Yao shook his head and replied, “I can’t be compared to him. He’s a cream-of-the-crop talent. He’s not the best, but I still can’t compare to him.”

Ye Guan frowned. “Really?”

Qin Yao nodded. “Yes. You know the Profound Tower is like a dumping ground for those who are too weak to make a name for themselves on the Xiaoguan Continent. We’re here because we couldn’t make a name for ourselves there, do you understand?”

Ye Guan looked at Qin Yao and changed the topic.

“Can we beat him if we work together?” he asked.

“Hey, hey, hey!” Qin Yao shouted and raised his guard up. “What’s up with the nonsense? We’re not even close.”

Ye Guan grinned. “I was just asking.”

Qin Yao looked at Ye Guan. "I'm sure you're hiding your true strength, but I don't think you're strong enough to defeat Liu Bing. He's a Major Tribulation Realm cultivator, and I'm sure I don't have to explain to you what that means.

"Even worse, he's a Major Tribulation Realm cultivator of the Xiaoguan Continent, and cultivators of the Xiaoguan Continent are—on average—ten times stronger than the cultivators of the Zhongtu Divine Continent."

Ten times stronger on average? Ye Guan nodded and said, "I guess I have to immediately use my ultimate move the moment I stumble upon him."

Qin Yao glared at Ye Guan. "Did you even hear what I said? Anyway, he's stronger than the only person from the Zhongtu Divine Continent who made it on the Divine Martial List of the Main Guanxuan Academy, who was a young man from the Undying Clan. In other words, Liu Bing is unrivaled among his peers."

Ye Guan nodded without saying anything.

Qin Yao hesitated. "Are you really not afraid, or are you just optimistic?"

Ye Guan grinned. "I'm optimistic!"

Qin Yao shook his head. "I guess I have to admire you, then. I'm curious about how you can maintain your optimism despite your conundrum."

Ye Guan smiled. "Don't argue with fools."

Qin Yao's expression stiffened. Did this guy just insult me?

Ye Guan changed the topic and asked, "If you're not going to transform and use your true body to fight me, then I suggest you leave, Brother Qin. I paid money to come here, and my heart aches with every second I waste."

Qin Yao shook his head and sighed.

“If I were in your shoes, I would have already run away,” he said.

“There’s a cultivation base limit here, right?”

Qin Yao’s expression turned grim. “Are you waiting for Liu Bing to come here?”

Ye Guan nodded. Run? Where? If he were to go back to the Daoist Sect, his master and senior would have no choice but to get involved in such a dangerous matter.

Therefore, Ye Guan decided to wait. He also knew that the members of the Hantian Clan would come here of their own volition.

He would deal with this issue by himself.

Qin Yao looked at Ye Guan and said, “It seems that I still underestimated you!”

Ye Guan smirked.

He did not say anything as he sat down and closed his eyes. Qin Yao did not leave. He walked to the side and sat down. He knew that the Hantian Clan would soon arrive here, and he was curious whether Ye Guan was a fool or if he was the real deal.

“What are you going to do?” asked Little Pagoda. “I can’t help you this time, so don’t even think about using me.”

Ye Guan wordlessly nodded.

The mysterious voice asked, “Little Pagoda, what do you think? Will he ask you for help?”

Little Pagoda took a moment to respond. "The powerhouses of the Hantian Clan will step out to attack him once he's done dealing with that Liu Bing. He won't be able to handle them, so I will have to help him."

"I don't think so," said the mysterious voice. "I think he has a lot of tricks up his sleeves.."

"Let's see."

Qin Yao turned around and saw a man in the distance. The man was clad in a long white robe, and his long hair draped over his shoulders. The white-robed man's murderous eyes were fixed on Ye Guan.

Qin Yao's expression turned solemn.

Liu Bing! He's a talent on the gifted list, but he still can't be compared to the top rankers on the gifted list from the Guanxuan Universe.

Unfortunately, Ye Guan and Liu Bing were at least five realms apart! Can Ye Guan really handle him?

Qin Yao seemed to have realized something. He peeked over Liu Bing's shoulder, and his face fell. Liu Bing was not alone. The powerhouses of the Hantian Clan were with him.

Liu Bing headed straight for Ye Guan.

"Were you waiting for me?" he asked.

Ye Guan nodded.

Liu Bing nodded. "I heard that you're a swordsman. I want to see just how sharp your sword is!"

Ye Guan looked up at Liu Bing and warned. "Watch out!"

Swoosh!

Ye Guan's words had just fallen, but a sword was already right in front of Liu Bing.

Slash!

Ye Guan's sword struck nothing but air because Liu Bing had already retreated. However, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet. He slashed out once more, and he moved even faster than the previous attack.

Slash!

Ye Guan's sword still struck nothing but air.

He was neither too fast nor too slow. He moved at just the right speed.

Liu Bing's right foot had just landed on the ground, but Ye Guan was already in front of him.

Slash!

Ye Guan moved even faster than his previous attacks combined, but he still failed to hit Liu Bing.

Ye Guan finally stopped attacking. He looked up at Liu Bing without saying anything.

"Your speed isn't bad," said Liu Bing. "Unfortunately, that's all there is to it."

Ye Guan nodded. "Again."

His figure blurred, and he vanished. Liu Bing didn't dodge.

He charged at Ye Guan as well and punched Ye Guan's sword.

Boom!

Ye Guan's sword—which was made out of sword energy—shattered upon impact.

Liu Bing took advantage of that opportunity to bury his fist in Ye Guan's stomach.

Ye Guan was sent flying away.

Liu Bing didn't chase after Ye Guan because the match was over.

However, Liu Bing couldn't have expected that there would be a twist to the match.

Swoosh!

A ray of cold light flew toward Liu Bing, but it shattered the rules of spacetime to instantly appear in front of Liu Bing. The ray of cold light was at least ten times faster than Ye Guan's previous attacks!

It turned out that Ye Guan's previous attacks were made to mislead everyone into thinking that Ye Guan's speed was simply not bad. No one could have expected that he had such a trump card up his sleeves.

Liu Bing's pupils constricted. He wanted to dodge, but Ye Guan's sword had already emerged from a rift in space in front of him and had stopped a few centimeters into his glabella.

Liu Bing stood rooted. Ye Guan appeared in front of him like a ghost and gripped the sword made out of sword energy. However, he didn't push it deeper into Liu Bing's glabella.

A white-haired old man appeared on his right, and the white-haired old man was staring at Ye Guan. The Tower Keeper had also appeared and was staring at the white-haired old man.

It seemed that even the Hantian Clan couldn't break the rules of the Profound Tower.

Blood trickled down the corner of Ye Guan's mouth.

He stared at Liu Bing and said, "You've lost!"

Liu Bing glared at Ye Guan. "You pretended to be weak before catching me off guard with your true power. However, your scheme only worked because I underestimated you!"

Ye Guan grinned. "Just admit defeat. What's the point of saying so much?"

Liu Bing went silent.

Ye Guan put his sword away.

Liu Bing directed a perplexed gaze at Ye Guan.

"Three years. In three years, I will personally go to the Hantian Clan and fight you. I hope you will not underestimate me by then," said Ye Guan before turning around to leave.

Liu Bing clenched his fists without saying anything. Should he attack while Ye Guan wasn't looking at him? Unfortunately, he couldn't afford to do such a thing here. Ye Guan was right as well, he had to admit defeat. Ye Guan had spared his life as well.

The white-haired old man glared murderously at Ye Guan.

“I’m looking forward to your visit in three years,” said Liu Bing.

The white-haired old man could only shake his head and sigh.

Ye Guan was simply too powerful for his age. He felt like he had to nip Ye Guan in the bud before he could grow. However, he knew that killing Ye Guan at this point would transform the Hantian Clan into everyone’s laughingstock.

In addition, the fact that Liu Bing would never get the chance to defeat Ye Guan once the latter was dead meant that Ye Guan could become Liu Bing’s inner demon.

If they were to attack Ye Guan after he had just spared Liu Bing, their reputation would plummet to the abyss. In addition, Liu Bing was the Hantian Clan’s most talented clan member of the younger generation.

It would be a tragedy if he ended up developing an inner demon.

Three years! The white-haired old man stared at Ye Guan’s departing figure with a complicated expression. What a great ploy—a brilliant ploy! This was a ploy that the Hantian Clan had no choice but to acknowledge.

...

Ye Guan only managed to take a few steps outside the Profound Tower before he collapsed to the floor. He spat a mouthful of blood and grabbed his stomach. Liu Bing’s punch was powerful enough to injure his internal organs.

Ye Guan murmured, “Master Pagoda, don’t worry. I won’t rely on you... I won’t ask you for help. It’s just that... before I die... I hope you’ll tell me who my parents are and—cough—what kind of people they are—cough!”

Ye Guan coughed a mouthful of blood.

Chapter 94: With a Sword in Hand, Who Cannot be Killed?

Ye Guan felt warm all over. He opened his eyes slowly and saw a beautiful visage.

He was staring at a silver-haired woman. It was none other than Ji Xuan.

Ye Guan was shocked. "Lady Ji?"

Ji Xuan smiled. "You're awake?"

Ye Guan was confused. "Where am I?"

Ji Xuan smiled. "You are still in the Profound World. You fainted, so I brought you over here. Don't worry, it's safe here."

Ye Guan smiled. "Many thanks for helping me, Lady Ji."

Ji Xuan smiled. "It was nothing."

Ye Guan was curious. "Lady Ji Xuan, why are you here?"

Ji Xuan took out a pill and placed it in front of Ye Guan's mouth. "Take this pill first."

Ye Guan opened his mouth, and Ji Xuan fed him the pill. Her fingers touched Ye Guan's lips, perhaps by accident.

Ye Guan's expression didn't change, but Ji Xuan blushed.

A cooling sensation swept past Ye Guan the moment he swallowed the pill. He felt comfortable all over, and he felt his wounds itch as they healed.

Ye Guan breathed in deeply as the fear from earlier inundated him. He vowed to be more careful in the future. Of course, he acknowledged that sometimes—cultivators would have no choice but to risk their lives.

He had pretended like he was already displaying the limits of his power to deliver his ultimate move once the opponent had let their guard down.

He only had one chance, but it was worth it. Unfortunately, Ye Guan realized through that exchange that he was still too weak and too slow.

If Liu Bing hadn't underestimated him, he would have been defeated. Liu Bing definitely had his own ultimate moves. I wasn't strong enough! Ye Guan breathed in deeply. I have to work even harder.

Ji Xuan smiled at him and said, "I came here to cultivate, and I didn't expect to stumble upon you here. I guess we truly are living in a small world."

Ye Guan pushed away his thoughts and smiled. "Thank you so much, Lady Ji."

Ji Xuan shook her head. "No worries, it was nothing."

Ye Guan smiled, but he didn't say anything anymore. He simply carved the favor on his heart.

Ji Xuan suddenly asked, "Did you just defeat a talent from the Guanyuan Universe?"

Ye Guan nodded. "I got lucky."

Ji Xuan smiled. "You're going to be famous."

Ye Guan shook his head with a bitter smile. He didn't really want to be famous. He very much wanted to remain unknown. The best-case scenario was remaining unknown until he had become invincible.

The strongest powerhouses were those who had grown secretly.

Ji Xuan smiled. "Your reputation throughout the Zhongtu Divine Continent can now be compared to Dongli Mo's reputation. Do you know Dongli Mo? He's from the Undying Clan."

Ye Guan replied, "I've heard of him."

Ji Xuan nodded. "He has always been training in the Main Guanxuan Academy, and he's apparently the best talent the Undying Clan had ever produced. He's also the crowd favorite for the upcoming Destiny Contest[1]."

Ye Guan looked at Ji Xuan. "Lady Ji, are you going to join the contest?"

Ji Xuan smiled. "Yes."

Ye Guan smiled back. "I'm going to join as well."

Ji Xuan blinked. "You have to show mercy to me if we end up facing each other."

She blushed upon thinking of something.

Ye Guan smiled. "You sure know how to jest, Lady Ji. You're so strong to the point that I think you're the one who should show mercy to me."

Ji Xuan chuckled before changing the topic. "Anyway, you should focus on recovering before anything else."

Ye Guan nodded. "I will."

Ji Xuan turned around and vanished before reappearing on a tree branch. She sat down and started reading what looked like a yellowed book. Ye Guan looked up at Ji Xuan and caught sight of the book's title—Thirty-Six Yin Yang Techniques.

Thirty-Six Yin Yang Techniques? Ye Guan frowned. What kind of book is that? What a weird name.

Ye Guan didn't think too much about it and slowly closed his eyes. He started absorbing the surrounding spiritual energy to convert them into profound energy that would speed up his recovery and replenish his reservoir.

Meanwhile, Ji Xuan was still reading the yellowed book on a tree branch, and she would occasionally blush while smiling to herself.

An hour later, Ye Guan sat up. He had more or less recovered. Ye Guan stood up and looked up at Ji Xuan. Ji Xuan hurriedly hid the book that she was reading and smiled at him. "Have you recovered, Young Master Ye?"

Ye Guan nodded and smiled. "Yes."

He hesitated for a few moments before taking out a storage ring and extended it over to Ji Xuan.

"Lady Ji, please take this," he said.

Ji Xuan's curiosity was piqued. She accepted the storage ring and found two intact dragon carcasses inside of it.

Ji Xuan froze and said, "Young Master Ye, what is this for?"

Ye Guan smiled. "Dragon meat. It strengthens your physique and improves your cultivation, so you should eat it whenever you have time."

Ji Xuan thought about it for a moment before smiling. "Thank you."

She put away the storage ring and asked, "Young Master Ye, are you interested in visiting a ruin?"

Ye Guan was curious. "A ruin?"

Ji Xuan nodded. "The ruin is a stone stele in front of a lake somewhere south of the Profound World. The stone stele is emblazoned with words that a swordsman had left behind."

Ye Guan asked, "Words that a swordsman had left behind?"

Ji Xuan nodded slightly. "It's a popular place for swordsmen, and since you're a swordsman. I thought that you might be interested in visiting it. The words on the stele could prove useful to you."

Ye Guan was indeed interested. "What does the stone stele say?"

"It'll be no fun if I just tell you," said Ji Xuan. "We should go there so you can take a look at it for yourself."

Ye Guan nodded. "All right."

With that, the two soared into the sky and disappeared into the horizon.

It didn't take them that long to arrive in front of a lake. There were quite a few people near the lake, and Ye Guan saw a few swordsmen among them.

Swordsmen! This was Ye Guan's first time seeing another swordsman. He truly wanted to exchange blows with another swordsman, but he wasn't so rude as to just approach them and ask for a fight.

In addition, Ye Guan didn't really want to make an enemy of a swordsman.

Ji Xuan smiled. "Let's go take a look."

Ye Guan nodded, and the two of them walked to the lake. A stone stele stood in the distance, and the following phrase was emblazoned on it: the world is vast, and those who wield the sword are free. A meter-long sword in hand, who cannot be killed?

Ye Guan froze. How arrogant!

However, Ye Guan clenched his fists.

Swordsmen had to cultivate both their heart and prowess.

A meter-long sword in hand, who cannot be killed? Can I do that as well? He obviously couldn't do the same. Ye Guan closed his eyes, and the words emblazoned on the stone stele echoed in his mind.

Moments later, Ye Guan walked up to the stone stele and touched it lightly.

"With a sword in hand, who cannot be killed? How arrogant." He paused and inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda, why can I also sense loneliness from these words?"

Little Pagoda asked, "Loneliness?"

"Yes," Ye Guan said, "I think the swordsman who wrote these words had already become invincible. Otherwise, he wouldn't have dared to do such a thing. Those at the summit are often lonely, so this swordsman must have been lonely as well, right?"

Little Pagoda was about to speak, but the stone stele in front of Ye Guan trembled and let out a resonant hum.

Hum!

The onlookers were shocked.

Ye Guan's expression changed, and he hurriedly pulled his hand away.

The words emblazoned on the stone stele transformed into a sword that slashed toward Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's pupils constricted.

The world slowed down. Ye Guan could feel his heart beating loudly against his chest, and the sword had slowed down as well.

However, Ye Guan could still feel the immense power that the sword contained, and it seemed entirely capable of splitting the world into two. It was an unrivaled sword move!

Ye Guan had already seen an unrivaled sword move, and it was Plain-Skirt Sister's sword move. He could still vividly remember the terror he felt while he was staring at that sword move. Back then, he was still weak. He couldn't feel anything else but fear.

However, he had already become a swordsman, and he could finally see how laughable his sword moves were compared to the sword moves of those who were at the summit of the Sword Dao.

So a sword can actually be so powerful? Is it because of the wielder's sheer physical prowess? No! There's also a strange energy.... what?energy? A Sword Spirit! A swordsman must have their own Sword Spirit!

And a swordsman also needed conviction. How is conviction born? Through faith! What is my conviction? Where does my faith lie? Wait, do I even have one? No!

Ye Guan had always treated his sword as a murder weapon. It turned out that he had been a frog in the well all this while. He suddenly recalled his fight against An Mu. It was an unfair fight. Little Jia lost her fleshly body and became a sleeping soul.

Ye Guan recalled how the True Dragon Clan had almost annihilated the Ye Clan. If it hadn't been for Master Pagoda, the Ye Clan would have been annihilated, and he would have perished back then.

He recalled how he had to go ask the clans of the Zhongtu Divine Continent for help and a safe place to stay. He recalled how he had almost died fighting Yun Chen for the very first time.

Ye Guan reviewed all the hardships he had experienced so far, and he came to one conclusion. He had to become invincible and reach the summit of the Sword Dao, or he and his loved ones would perish from the bloody path he had been walking on.

What if he relied on Master Pagoda? No, Master Pagoda is unreliable. I have to rely on myself. I've decided to become a swordsman, so I have to become invincible. If I do not pursue the summit of the Sword Dao, why did I even become a swordsman?

Ye Guan's pupils constricted. He stared at the sword that was still flying toward him and declared with conviction and determination. "I want to be invincible! My goal is to become invincible, and I have faith that I'll become invincible!"

The sword finally pierced Ye Guan's forehead.

It went in smoothly and noiselessly, but....

Boom!

A terrifying burst of power exploded from him, sending everyone staggering backward and forcing them to retreat.

Hum!

The Path Sword in him trembled, and it let out a resonant hum.

The onlookers were stupefied.

“Complete Sword Dao! Half-step Sword Sovereign!”

“I knew he was talented, but I couldn’t have expected that he would discover his own Sword Dao so easily. Even Master and Young Master took quite a while to decide on their goals and establish their faith. I also didn’t think that he would be so ambitious.

“Invincibility... the Invincible Sword Dao! Goodness!” Little Pagoda’s voice was trembling. The Invincible Sword Dao. This world had only given birth to two people who had successfully established the Invincible Sword Dao.

The first one was Plain Skirt Destiny, while the second one was Freedom Swordsman. They had embarked on the Invincible Sword Dao, so they were invincible, but they led lonely lives.

Yang Ye’s sword dao was the Sword Dao of Emotion. He ended up becoming invincible at the end of his journey, but he experienced many hardships on his journey to the summit.

The Sword Master’s journey was similar to Yang Ye’s journey because his sword dao was the World Sword Dao.

Plain Skirt Destiny and Freedom Swordsman were the only ones who had been invincible throughout their journey to the summit.

Ye Guan had seen the words that Freedom Swordsman had carved on a stone stele, and he didn’t hesitate to choose the same path as the latter.

Ye Guan had no idea that he was about to embark on an arduous journey with terrifying consequences. The Invincible Sword Dao demanded invincibility, as it was a Great Dao that loomed over more than three thousand sword daos.

Even a single failure was enough to shatter the Invincible Sword Dao. In other words, a swordsman who had established the Invincible Sword Dao had to be invincible among their peers and go even further beyond while remaining invincible throughout.

1. Great Dao Destiny Contest. Just shortened it 🖱️

Chapter 95: Attack Ye Guan

Ye Guan's performance stunned Little Pagoda. He was aware that his Little Master was an extreme talent, but he didn't expect Ye Guan to be this talented!

Was it because he was the Chosen One who had established the same sword dao as Plain Skirt Destiny and Freedom Swordsman? Anyway, Ye Guan was no longer allowed to lose.

Ye Guan's Invincible Sword Dao would shatter if he were to lose unless he was defeated by an opponent whose cultivation base allowed the latter to take Ye Guan's life with a flick of his sleeve, like Academy Chief Qingqiu.

Ye Guan had to make sure that he would reign invincible among his peers and perhaps even further beyond that but not beyond the confines of common sense.

Little Pagoda was stunned, helpless, but also delighted. He was glad that Ye Guan had chosen such an extremely powerful sword dao to carve a path to the summit, but he was still a little worried about him.

The mysterious voice suddenly asked, "Why is he only a Half-step Sword Sovereign?"

Little Pagoda replied, "His sword faith and goal have been established, but he still needs a proper battle. He needs a battle that will reinforce his goal and faith. That is the only way he'll become a true Sword Sovereign."

Little Pagoda sighed and said, "Sister Destiny gave him a sword dao inheritance, but he jumped from the second chapter all the way to the fourth chapter, which is Sword Dao Faith!"

The mysterious voice's curiosity was piqued. "What's the third chapter?"

“Sword Dao Goal,” said Little Pagoda. “It sounds absurd, but this lad just completed both chapters at the same time.”

“Actually... I think that battle is the reason why he’s so ambitious.”

Little Pagoda asked, “What do you mean?”

The mysterious voice replied, “You kept on telling him to only rely on himself, so how come you’re still unaware? This lad is prideful. Have you forgotten how he had risked his life against Liu Bing rather than asking you for help or using the Path Sword?”

The mysterious voice paused for a moment before continuing. “Little Pagoda, I know you mean well, but you have to understand that he grew up in the Ye Clan. The Ye Clan treated him well, but his parents had never been by his side.

“His sister was the only reason he had been clinging to life and hadn’t done anything drastic.”

Little Pagoda fell silent.

“I’m sure he had dark, intrusive thoughts when Little Jia lost her fleshly body. I really think that you have to pay more attention to his mental health. He has never complained about his parents, but it doesn’t mean that he has goodwill toward them.

“Think about it: did your Old Master even know what the word father?means? Let’s not even mention your Young Master. He was obsessed with killing his own father,” said the mysterious voice.

Little Pagoda sighed.

The mysterious voice spoke once again. “I’m saying that we shouldn’t just focus on his cultivation. We have to make sure that he’s doing well mentally as well. Don’t put too much pressure on him. You should let him relax as well. I mean, come on. He’s just seventeen years old!”

“I understand,” said Little Pagoda.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan exclaimed, “Master Pagoda! Did I make a breakthrough?”

Little Pagoda smiled and said, “Yes, congratulations! You’ve become a Half-step Sword Sovereign!”

A Half-step Sword Sovereign! Ye Guan took a moment to take it in before asking, “Master Pagoda, I’m already a Half-step Sword Sovereign, so am I still an ant compared to the Ye Clan of the Guanyuan Universe?”

Little Pagoda smiled, “Not anymore. Of course, you’re still not strong enough to defeat them, but you won’t have any issues escaping with your life.”

Ye Guan was overjoyed, and he felt like a heavy weight had been lifted off of his shoulders. Ye Guan would always feel this heavy pressure on his shoulders whenever Master Pagoda mentioned the Ye Clan. In his eyes, they were an incredibly powerful clan that treated Imperial-rank demonic beasts as nothing but donkeys.

They were terrifying, but now, he was no longer just an ant compared to them.

Ye Guan took a deep breath. He sounded serious as he asked, “Master Pagoda, I’m going to keep working hard until I become strong enough to rescue my mother from them!”

Ye Clan: “???”

Little Pagoda smiled. “Good luck. I believe in you.”

Ye Guan blinked. There was a tinge of suspicion in his voice as he asked, “Master Pagoda, you’re acting strange today.”

Little Pagoda asked, “Strange?”

Ye Guan thought about it before shaking his head. "I can't put my finger around it."

Little Pagoda grinned. "Then stop thinking about it. Just focus on cultivating."

Ye Guan nodded and smiled. "All right!"

With that, he finally looked around and saw that everyone was looking at him.

Ji Xuan dragged him away and ran. "Let's go!"

The onlookers watched as they ran away until someone exclaimed, "Wasn't that Ye Guan? Sword Immortal Ye Guan!"

Ye Guan? The onlookers were stunned.

Ye Guan was a famous figure on the Zhongtu Divine Continent. He was as famous as the Undying Clan's Dongli Mo.

"Wait, what was that burst of energy earlier? Could it be that he was enlightened to something while examining the stone stele? It also felt like he broke through!"

"Goodness, does that mean he's already a Great Sword Immortal?"

A Great Sword Immortal! The onlookers were shocked. Such a young Great Sword Immortal was a terrifying idea that the onlookers couldn't quite grasp.

...

Ji Xuan finally slowed down.

She made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan and asked, "You broke through?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

"Are you a Great Sword Immortal now?" she asked.

Ye Guan went silent.

Ji Xuan calmly added, "If you're not comfortable about saying it, don't say it."

Ye Guan smiled at her and said, "Lady Ji, I consider you my friend, so I'm not going to hide it from you. The breakthrough just now actually propelled me to Half-step Sword Sovereign."

Half-step Sword Sovereign! Ji Xuan's eyes widened, and then she exclaimed in excitement, "Really?"

Ye Guan nodded.

Ji Xuan gave him a thumbs up. "Impressive! You're truly impressive!"

Ye Guan smiled. He also never expected that he would make a breakthrough just by examining a stone stele.

"You have to conceal your true strength," said Ji Xuan.

Ye Guan stared at her.

Ji Xuan's expression turned grim as she continued. "You're going to join the Great Dao Destiny Contest. The contest alone will be a dangerous endeavor, but if you reveal your true power too early, unscrupulous people will definitely start targeting you."

Ye Guan nodded. "I understand."

Modest and low profile. Simply put, he had to act indifferent toward everything.

Ji Xuan smiled. "I didn't expect that you would directly become a Half-step Sword Sovereign after just a single breakthrough."

Ye Guan smiled and replied, "It was all thanks to you. If you hadn't brought me to that stone stele, I wouldn't have broken through."

"Silly, you made a breakthrough because you're strong. Do you remember how many swordsmen examine that stone stele every day? You're the only one who comprehended the essence of those words."

Comprehension! Ye Guan went silent.

He realized that comprehension was extremely important in cultivation.

However, comprehension wasn't enough to reach the apex. One had to participate in numerous battles as well rather than just read ancient books. Otherwise, they would become a bookworm.

One had to go out and experience the world. The nuances of the world and the harsh reality couldn't be conveyed through books a lot.

It was similar to breaking through realms. If one wanted to break through realms, one had to put what they had comprehended into practice.

"Are you going to represent Daoist Sect for the upcoming Destiny Contest?"

Ye Guan nodded at Ji Xuan's question.

Ji Xuan thought about it before asking, "Are you interested in jumping ships? I know this sounds harsh, but the Daoist Sect is too weak. The Daoist Sect will not be able to help you assuage the injustice you'll inevitably encounter during the Destiny Contest.

"However, it's a different story if you join a powerful clan or organization like the Shen Clan or the Guanxuan Academy. Talent is important, but I admit that a backer is important as well."

Ye Guan shook his head. He could still remember how every major clan in the Zhongtu Divine Continent refused to help him, aside from the Daoist Sect. The Daoist Sect was poor, but he would never forget the Daoist Clan's generosity.

Ye Guan seemed to have recalled something.

"Why did you recommend the Guanxuan Academy to me? I mean, both you and the Guanxuan Academy aren't exactly..." Ye Guan trailed off.

Ji Xuan smiled and explained, "There is enmity between the Guanxuan Academy and me, but I don't hate them anymore."

Ye Guan was confused. "Why?"

"I already killed those I hated," she replied.

Ye Guan was stunned. He soon shook his head with a smile. What a fierce lady!

"Of course, they're still not going to let me go, but I don't care. The contestants for the Great Dao Destiny are protected, so the academy won't be able to do anything to me. I'll join out of spite and to piss them off!" said Ji Xuan.

Ye Guan boisterously laughed.

Rumble!

A horrifying aura suddenly descended upon them.

“I’m afraid that you won’t be able to take that chance!”

Ji Xuan’s eyes narrowed, and she exclaimed, “A powerhouse of the academy!”

Ye Guan frowned. “I thought powerhouses can’t come here and attack people?”

Ji Xuan rolled her eyes at Ye Guan. “The Guanyuan Academy and The Immortal Treasures Pavilion basically wear the same pants!”

Little Pagoda was speechless.

Ji Xuan said, “You should run!”

Ye Guan stood rooted and stared at Ji Xuan.

Ji Xuan smiled at him and said, “This is between me and them. You shouldn’t interfere.”

Ye Guan shook his head and said, “Let me help you escape. I’m very fast.”

He’s very fast?!? Ji Xuan blinked, and she blushed slightly.

However, Ye Guan didn’t wait for her reply. He created a sword made out of sword energy and hopped onto it.

“Hop on!” he said.

Ji Xuan obliged and stood in front of Ye Guan.

Moments later, the sword soared into the sky and disappeared into the horizon.

However, the horrifying aura followed closely behind them. Ji Xuan's eyes narrowed, and she hurled a throwing dagger.

Shrieeek!

The air shrieked as it was torn apart by Ji Xuan's throwing dagger.

Boom!

Ji Xuan's throwing dagger exploded upon impact, forcing an old man to retreat.

However, a gray-robed old man abruptly appeared in front of them.

Ji Xuan examined the gray-robed old man calmly and said, "Discipline Committee Head."

Discipline Committee Head!?Ye Guan's face fell.

An elder of the Guanxuan Academy was in front of them.

Ji Xuan smiled at Ye Guan. "You should go."

Ye Guan shook his head.

Ji Xuan looked at Ye Guan. "You don't have to face the fury of the Guanxuan Academy with me, do you understand what I'm saying?"

Ye Guan smiled at her and asked, "If I leave, will you be disappointed?"

Ji Xuan nodded. "I will, but I'll understand."

Ye Guan's smile deepened as he said, "You had no reason to save me while I was injured, but you did. I think we're friends now."

"Now?" Ji Xuan smiled and retorted, "I thought we were already friends in Sin Abyss?"

"Can the two of you give me some respect?" the Discipline Committee Head said, "Do I look shabby? Is that why you're ignoring me?"

Ye Guan examined the Discipline Committee Head before opening his palm. A sword made out of sword energy manifested in his hand.

"A Sword Immortal?" The Discipline Committee Head's eyes narrowed.

Ye Guan stared at him. "Are you sure you can beat the two of us?"

The Discipline Committee Head was silent.

"If you insist on attacking us, we can only gang up on you. We'll surely be on the Guanxuan Academy's wanted list, but you're going to die here.

"The Guanxuan Academy will throw you a lavish burial and give your family a bit of money to compensate them if you die. What do you think? Is it worth it?" asked Ye Guan.

The Discipline Committee Head wordlessly stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan sounded serious as he advised, "If I were you, I wouldn't risk my life here. We don't have any blood feud, and the academy isn't worth risking our lives for. How about you come another day with a few more people? Sounds great, right?"

Ji Xuan looked at Ye Guan and blinked rapidly in confusion.

The Discipline Committee Head stared at Ye Guan for a moment before saying, "You're talented and smart. Are you interested in joining the Guanxuan Academy?"

"If you join us, we'll provide you with anything you want. You can even have a harem of ladies if you want."

Ji Xuan frowned. Why is this old geezer trying to use ladies to seduce Ye Guan?

Ye Guan replied, "You've put a bounty on the head of this lady next to me!"

The Discipline Committee Head's expression turned grim as he said, "Honestly, I know that she suffered injustice while she was still a part of the academy. If you join the Guanxuan Academy, we'll work together to reopen her case. Don't worry, we should be able to get rid of anyone involved in the cover-up. We'll clear her name in no time."

He paused before adding, "She can return to the academy as well."

Ye Guan went silent. Was this old man seriously here to recruit them?

Ji Xuan tugged on Ye Guan's sleeve and shook her head.

Ye Guan stared at the Discipline Committee Head and asked, "Will you help me if the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan were to attack me?"

The Discipline Committee Head hesitated before shaking his head, "I cannot..."

Ye Guan wordlessly smiled.

The Discipline Committee Head revealed a complicated look. "I'm sorry, Young Master Ye. It seems that our academy is not fated to have you."

"It's fine," Ye Guan said, "Just don't attack me."

The Discipline Committee Head shook his head and said, "We do not wish to become Young Master Ye's enemies. I didn't come here to attack you."

He made a sidelong glance at Ji Xuan and said, "Ji Xuan, Academy Chief Gu has investigated what happened back then. He asked me to invite you back to the academy. Your case will be reopened."

Ji Xuan smiled and asked, "What if I don't return?"

The Discipline Committee Head spoke softly, "We will still reopen the case."

"Is that so? Then, my apologies, but I have already gotten used to being alone."

The Discipline Committee Head sighed.

Ye Guan asked, "Lady Ji, why don't you join our Daoist Sect?"

Ji Xuan nodded. "Sure, I'll join!"

The Discipline Committee Head was too stunned to speak.

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Chapter 96: Who Dares To Say They Are First?

The Discipline Committee Head left. He was left with no choice but to leave.

Ye Guan stared at Ji Xuan and asked, "Are you really willing to join the Daoist Sect?"

"No, I was just provoking him." Ji Xuan chuckled.

Ye Guan sighed bitterly at that.

Ji Xuan explained, "I'm used to being alone, and I don't like to be tied up."

Ye Guan thought about it for a few moments before nodding. "All right, I understand."

The Daoist Sect was indeed quite pitiful. If Ji Xuan were to join their sect, Ji Xuan would have to build her own residence there. Ye Guan himself didn't think that it was appropriate to make a sect's disciple build their own residence in the sect.

Ji Xuan suddenly added, "The Destiny Contest is nigh, so you have to work even harder to become even stronger in the meantime. Be extra careful of the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan!"

Ye Guan nodded. His enemies still hadn't made a move since Ye Guan killed a Major Tribulation Realm cultivator and shocked the world. He actually found it a bit strange, considering the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan's track record.

Ye Guan hurriedly asked, "Lady Ji, I have to make a move first. Take care, and I'll see you again."

Ye Guan hopped onto his sword and flew into the distance.

Ji Xuan watched as Ye Guan flew into the horizon.

She smiled and remarked, "He really looks charming whenever he's flying."

Moments later, her figure blurred and vanished.

The Discipline Committee Head noticed the departure of both Ye Guan and Ji Xuan.

A middle-aged man stood next to him, and the two of them were staring at the horizon. The middle-aged man was the new Academy Chief of Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy—Gu Chaoyuan.

The Discipline Committee Head sighed. "What a pity!"

Gu Chaoyuan shook his head as well and said, "It truly is a pity! They should have belonged to the academy. We would have had participants that would have allowed us to hold our heads high in the upcoming Destiny Contest!"

"The An Clan has really made a fool of themselves this time," said the Discipline Committee Head.

Gu Chaoyuan laughed and pointed out. "They could have killed Ye Guan in the Upper Realm. Unfortunately, they kept on underestimating him, which led to their current conundrum."

Gu Chaoyuan sighed and said, "The An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan need to salvage the remains of their reputation, and they can only do that by killing Ye Guan. Ye Guan has to die, or the people would think that such great clans can't even deal with a swordsman from the Lower Realm. They'll be a laughingstock."

The Discipline Committee Head frowned. "They reaped what they sowed."

Gu Chaoyuan asked, "Are you saying that the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan should apologize to Ye Guan?"

The Discipline Committee Head went silent. There's no way the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan would apologize to Ye Guan.

They were living in a world where strength mattered the most, so who would be willing to admit their mistakes and make themselves look weak? Those two clans would never apologize to anyone unless they had offended a true powerhouse.

Of course, they could be coerced into apologizing, but they would never bow down.

It was the pride of a powerful clan.

“Things have gotten more complicated. Ye Guanzhi’s intervention made the great clans wary of Ye Guan. Now, those great clans want to kill Ye Guan to intimidate Ye Guanzhi,” said Gu Chaoyuan.

The Discipline Committee Head’s voice deepened as he asked, “Academy Chief, aren’t you on the side of the great clans?”

Gu Chaoyuan laughed, “Yes!”

“Why did you ask me to try and convince Ye Guan to join the academy?”

Gu Chaoyuan explained, “I am on the side of the great clans, but I am also from the academy. The internal strife within the Zhongtu?Divine Continent made us lose two extreme talents, which is a massive loss for the academy, and...”

Gu Chaoyuan’s eyes narrowed as he continued. “Do you really think that the great clans can suppress Representative Ye for an extended period of time? Have you already forgotten that Academy Chief Qingqiu and the Sword Master are still alive?”

The Discipline Committee Head chuckled bitterly and said, “It’s been thirty million years since they appeared!”

Gu Chaoyuan said, “That’s exactly why those great clans have become arrogant and why they have been acting like they own the academy.”

Gu Chaoyuan stood rooted for quite a while before he sighed and left.

The Discipline Committee Head followed closely behind him.

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Meanwhile, Ye Guan soon arrived at the Profound Tower.

However, he decided not to enter the combat trials. He wanted to cultivate the aspect that he had been cultivating all this while. Ye Guan also had no opponents that could withstand his attacks.

Ye Guan paid the necessary fees and went directly to the fortieth floor of the Profound Tower's spacetime trials. The gravity on the fortieth floor was immense, but Ye Guan didn't activate his sword intent.

He could easily defend himself using his sword intent, but he decided not to activate it. He was planning on acclimatizing to the extreme gravity with his fleshly body alone. He didn't want to rely on his sword intent in the meantime.

Ye Guan started practicing his sword moves. As usual, his movements were very slow at the start, but he gradually got quicker. He continued his training, and he would climb up at least one floor a day.

The trials soon got hard enough that Ye Guan could only climb the next floor after a few days of acclimatizing to his present floor.

Whenever Ye Guan grew tired, he would eat dragon meat and drink dragon blood.

The effectiveness of the dragon meat and blood greatly increased under his extreme training regimen. Time passed quickly, and it was already two months since Ye Guan entered the spacetime trials.

Ye Guan was currently on the fiftieth floor of the spacetime trials. He had never used his sword intent nor the Path Sword while he was making his way over to the fiftieth floor. He focused on acclimatizing to the extreme gravity with his fleshly body alone.

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Meanwhile, Clan Leader An Ya was seated in the yard of the An Clan's Residence in Qingzhou.

An old man bowed toward her and started talking.

"Is that so?" An Ya asked, "Ye Guan might be a Great Sword Immortal?"

The old man nodded. "He received enlightenment from the mysterious stone stele of the Profound World and achieved a breakthrough. In other words, it's highly likely that he's already a Great Sword Immortal."

A Great Sword Immortal! An Ya fell silent. If Ye Guan were just a Sword Immortal, the An Clan would have had no reason to get worried about him.

However, Ye Guan was truly an extreme talent, and he displayed that by becoming a Great Sword Immortal despite his young age.

An Ya's eyes narrowed. "It seems that I have truly underestimated him."

She looked at the old man and asked, "Did you manage to investigate his background?"

The old man replied, "The Ye Clan of the Lower Realm's Nanzhou adopted him, and they raised him by themselves. However, his true identity remains a mystery."

An Ya's eyes narrowed into a fine line. "Is that it?"

The old man nodded.

An Ya glared at the old man and asked, "Have you not sought out the Immortal Treasures Pavilion?"

The old man replied, "I reached out to them, but they're also not sure of his true identity."

An Ya frowned. "Even the Immortal Treasures Pavilion is unaware of his identity?"

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The old man nodded with a grim expression. "Yes! It's really strange!"

There was a moment of silence before An Ya declared, "We can't allow him to live any longer because he'll definitely become a massive threat to our clan down the road."

"If he ends up joining the Main Guanxuan Academy, it'll become exceptionally hard for us to hunt him down by then." An Ya slowly closed her eyes and continued. "In other words, he has to die here—he has to die on the Zhongtu Divine Continent!"

The old man hesitated for quite a while before saying, "Clan Leader, I think we have to be careful. We're not sure of his backer, so if we get careless, we might end up attracting a disaster to our clan. I suggest we—"

"How dare you!" An Ya glared at the old man and said, "So what if he has a strong backer? Can his Dao Protector alone overpower our clan? Our clan has produced two martial goddesses who ended up being the followers of two Chosen Ones in their own generations, so how can he compare to our clan?"

An Ya's eyes flashed coldly as she added, "If the An Clan claims second in terms of backing, who will dare to say that they are first? Who will dare?"

Chapter 97: I Can Hardly Wait!

The old man in front of An Ya lowered his head and did not dare to speak.

He was just an ordinary worker. He had simply raised a suggestion because he felt that there was something strange with Ye Guan. An Ya didn't want to listen, so there was nothing else he could do. Whatever you say is right. The An Clan is the best!

An Ya sat down.

She gently sipped on a cup of tea and calmly said, "You are dismissed."

The old man bowed and backed away.

Just then, a woman arrived. It was An Daoxin.

An Ya's expression softened. She smiled warmly upon seeing An Daoxin.

An Daoxin sat at the corner and calmly remarked, "We underestimated him, I didn't expect that he would become a Great Sword Immortal!"

An Ya nodded, "He is an exceptional talent. It'll be difficult for us to kill him once the Main Guanxuan Academy discovers him and decides to take him in. Once he gets to the Main Guanxuan Academy and takes advantage of the abundant resources there, it will not be hard for him to reach Half-step Sword Sovereign!"

A Sword Sovereign! There was no way An Daoxin would still underestimate him.

The An Clan couldn't afford to look down on a Half-step Sword Sovereign, not to mention a Sword Sovereign. The Main Guanxuan Academy would definitely take care of someone like Ye Guan, and the An Clan would struggle to meddle by then.

After all, the Main Guanxuan Academy was on a whole different level than the Guanxuan Academy on the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

An Daoxin suddenly exclaimed, "How about we get the academy to commence the Great Dao Destiny Contest earlier?"

An Ya stared at An Daoxin, seemingly urging her for an explanation.

An Daoxin obliged and explained, "It won't be difficult for people to connect the dots to us if we were to send assassins after him. I think it would be best for us to kill him during the contest."

An Ya asked, "Are you confident?"

An Daoxin chuckled, "I'm a hundred percent confident. I don't care even if he's a Great Sword Immortal."

An Ya was startled. "A hundred percent?"

An Daoxin nodded. "Yes!"

An Ya asked, "Where is your confidence coming from?"

An Daoxin chuckled and backed away.

She gestured with her right arm, and the ground shook violently. Moments later, the ground cracked, and a brown-colored lightning bolt emerged from the crack. It orbited An Daoxin calmly, but it contained a terrifying aura behind its docile veneer.

"Great Earth Lightning!" An Ya exclaimed with narrowed eyes. "Daoxin, you've reached the Law Tribulation Realm?! When did you make a breakthrough?"

An Daoxin smiled. "Not too long ago."

An Ya grinned from ear to ear. "Your cultivation is stable as well, but..."

An Ya trailed off before saying, "You still have to be wary of him."

Ye Guan was just a mere Space Shattering Realm cultivator, but the Law Tribulation Realm was above the Major Tribulation Realm, which meant that Law Tribulation Realm experts were six realms above Ye Guan.

In other words, there was no way Ye Guan stood a chance against An Daoxin.

"Don't worry about it, Clan Leader," said An Daoxin. "He'll definitely die if he participates in the contest. In addition, I won't be alone. Most of the talents in the contest are my friends. I already told them the issue, and they're all on my side."

An Daoxin chuckled and added, "One's backer is what matters the most in this generation. The An Clan's history is deep, and we have two martial goddesses who were acquaintances with two Chosen Ones in their generations.

"Aside from the grand clans in the Main Guanxuan Academy, no clan out there can compare to us. Even those great clans do not dare to underestimate the An Clan."

An Daoxin scoffed and continued. "The An Clan has two martial goddesses and sufficient connections to deter even the great clans of the Main Guanxuan Academy, so how can a mere Ye Guan compare to us?"

Was An Daoxin being arrogant? No, she didn't think that she was being arrogant at all! An Daoxin believed that she had the right to speak this way because of the An Clan's prestige and its two martial goddesses.

In fact, every An Clan member was proud that they were members of the An Clan.

"I agree that we should get the academy to commence the Great Dao Destiny Contest early just to be safe," An Ya said, "It's a good thing that such a thing had already happened before, so I don't think the people will think deeper into it."

An Daoxin nodded and said, "Academy Chief Gu is on our side as well, so we can ask him to speak on our behalf. Of course, we should urge the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan to make a move as well."

"What does the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan think of all this?"

An Daoxin snickered and said, "They would have come down to the Zhongtu Divine Continent if it hadn't been for Representative Ye's deterrence."

Representative Ye! An Ya's expression darkened at the mention of the former.

She could still remember how Representative Ye had disregarded the An Clan's prestige. Representative Ye had killed an elder of the clan and dismissed the Clan Leader of the An Clan.

The most infuriating thing was that she voided the Main Guanxuan Academy enrollment slots of the An Clan.

An Daoxin added, "Representative Ye has made her stance clear, so you shouldn't worry too much about her, Clan Leader. She's under immense pressure as we speak."

An Ya's expression was cold as she said, "Her heart is as venomous as a snake, so how come she's still alive?"

An Daoxin hurriedly warned, "You should be careful with your words, Clan Leader."

An Ya had never been to the Main Guanxuan Academy, so she had no idea that Representative Ye possessed immense influence in the Main Guanxuan Academy.

The great clans were wary of her, and they didn't even dare to consider harming her.

Representative Ye's master was the Department Chief of the Main Guanxuan Academy's Department of Arts, and she also had a large number of scholars behind her.

Those scholars rarely get involved in matters concerning the academy, but the scholars would definitely make a move the moment a great clan schemed to harm Representative Ye. Department Chief Shuxia was also there to serve as a deterrent.

Academy Chief Qingqiu was also Ye Guanzhi's senior. In other words, they could only suppress her.

Silence enveloped the air between the two before An Ya shattered it by asking, "Is she allowed to do as she pleases against the great clans?"

"Of course not." An Daoxin shook her head and explained, "The great clans want to suppress Representative Ye, and that is why they're helping us. This isn't about Ye Guan and our clan but the great clans against Ye Guanzhi. We're already in the midst of the academy's power struggle."

An Ya nodded. "I see..."

An Ya was the Clan Leader of the An Clan, but she wasn't qualified to become a student of the Main Guanxuan Academy. In other words, An Daoxin was more knowledgeable than her about the academy's issues.

"The Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan sent someone over to the Zhongtu Divine Continent," said An Daoxin.

An Ya was surprised. "Really?"

An Daoxin nodded. "He's an outstanding talent, even among the younger generation of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan. He's here to help us kill Ye Guan."

An Ya grinned "Great!"

“Clan Leader, you should head over to the Zhongtu Divine Continent and ask Academy Chief Gu to pressure the higher-ups of the academy into commencing the Destiny Contest early. The earlier, the better, we shouldn’t drag this out anymore.”

An Ya nodded at An Daoxin’s words and stood up.

“I’m off, then,” she said before vanishing into thin air.

Left all alone, An Daoxin sneered and muttered, “Representative Ye can’t protect you anymore.”

...

Ye Guan was on the fiftieth floor of the Profound Tower, and he could barely withstand the spacetime gravity on the fiftieth floor. It felt like several mountains were on his shoulders, and he could barely breathe.

Ye Guan took an hour to compose himself before forcing himself to move.

As usual, he was as slow as a snail at the start, but his pace picked up as he acclimatized to the immense spacetime gravity. It took Ye Guan half a day to perform his sword moves properly, but he looked beyond pallid.

He felt as if he were a bowstring that was pulled taut.

The spacetime gravity on the fiftieth floor was too terrifying.

I have to hang in there! I can do it! Ye Guan gnashed his teeth. He only had one thought in his mind—persevere.

Giving up was easier than persevering. He just had to let go of his sword.

However, he would fail the floor the moment he let go of his sword, and he was certain that he would find it difficult to reach this floor in the future.

Hang in there... I have to hang in there! Ye Guan performed his sword moves as usual, but the immense pressure distorted his sword made out of sword energy, creating a terrifying sight.

Four hours later, Ye Guan finally acclimatized to the floor, clearing it.

Ye Guan let go of the sword, and it shattered into innumerable light crystals.

However, the sword would have shattered long ago if it hadn't been for Ye Guan's steadfast will.

Ye Guan was unaware, but his willpower had improved greatly after clearing the fiftieth floor.

Ye Guan lay on the ground and panted with his eyes closed.

The spacetime gravity acting on the fiftieth floor had already vanished, so he could finally relax.

Ye Guan felt like he was reborn. It was an unprecedented feeling, but he knew what it meant. He had gone beyond the limits of his speed and will.

It seemed that Ye Guan was right.

Perseverance was important to achieve greatness.

Just then, Little Pagoda asked, "How do you feel?"

Ye Guan grinned. "I feel awesome."

Little Pagoda asked, "Do you want to make a breakthrough? Your overall prowess will improve massively if you make a breakthrough into the next realm."

Ye Guan shook his head. "Not now."

Little Pagoda was bewildered. "Why not?"

Ye Guan closed his eyes and answered, "I want to do it during a fight."

Little Pagoda fell silent. He hadn't told Ye Guan about it, but he could see that Ye Guan would immediately become a Sword Sovereign if he engaged in a proper fight.

He simply needed a push to become a Sword Sovereign.

"I'm confident that I can kill Liu Bing before he can blink," said Ye Guan.

Little Pagoda laughed. "What about Lady Ye Guanzhi?"

Ye Guan went silent.

Moments later, he closed his eyes and exclaimed, "Master Pagoda, on second thought, I think I'm still too weak! I'm going to cultivate even harder from now on!"

Little Pagoda was at a loss for words.

Damn it! This brat actually doesn't know how to accept a setback. The moment he faces even the slightest setback, he'll always work even harder to overcome that setback as soon as possible.

Little Pagoda wanted to tell Ye Guan that he was strong enough, but he remained silent. A sense of urgency would never become complacency, which Little Pagoda wanted to avoid at all costs.

Rumble!

The space in front of Ye Guan vibrated.

Qin Feng's voice was delivered to his ears through the rift in space.

Moments later, Ye Guan stood up. His eyes were closed, but his fists were clenched.

The Great Dao Destiny Contest would commence earlier. More specifically, it would be held one month later.

Ye Guan exclaimed, "I'm glad that they decided to commence the contest earlier than planned. I can hardly wait to fight, Master Pagoda!"

Little Pagoda didn't know what to say.

Chapter 98: Bury Me With Her

Ye Guan sat on the ground with an ashen look.

There's something strange here. Why is it starting earlier than planned?

He got up and left. He decided to ask Qin Feng about the situation.

Ye Guan headed for the teleportation hub of the Profound World. The teleportation hub of the Profound World housed many teleportation arrays connected to the nodes of many worlds. Of course, they were expensive.

Ye Guan felt a stinging pain in his chest upon thinking about how much money he had spent climbing the tower. Overall, he had spent a whopping three million gold spiritual crystals.

He still had twenty-seven million gold spiritual crystals. It seemed a lot, but it wasn't that many spiritual crystals in the grand scheme.

Ye Guan's gold spiritual crystal consumption rate was absurd. He had to consume a few million gold spiritual crystals just to cultivate.

Fortunately, he had been eating dragon meat whenever he got hungry while cultivating. Otherwise, his rate of progress would have been slower.

Dragon meat was much more effective than elixirs. Dragon meat and dragon blood were great supplements that strengthened his physique as well, and he was sure that other cultivators would have done the same if they were in his shoes.

An hour later, Ye Guan arrived at the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

Qin Feng came out to greet him. "Come with me."

Qin Feng led Ye Guan into a room. Ye Guan looked at him and asked, "Am I the reason why the Destiny Contest is commencing earlier than scheduled?"

Qin Feng nodded, confirming Ye Guan's suspicion.

Ye Guan stayed silent, and Qin Feng explained, "I received news that the Clan Leader of the An Clan, An Ya, personally went to the Guanxuan Academy of the Zhongtu Divine Continent to talk with Academy Chief Gu.

"Their objective is obvious. They don't want to give you time to become even stronger. They want to kill you as soon as possible."

Ye Guan nodded. "I see."

Qin Feng stared at Ye Guan and continued. "I received another piece of news. A monstrous talent of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan has arrived in the Zhongtu Divine Continent. The Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan sent him here to kill you."

Ye Guan pondered over Qin Feng's words for quite a while before asking, "How about the An Clan?"

Qin Feng answered, "The An Clan's representative is An Daoxin. She's one of the most monstrous talents in the history of the An Clan. She's an even better talent than An Mu. She has been cultivating in the Main Guanxuan Academy since she was young, and she's insanely powerful as well."

Qin Feng paused for a while before continuing. "She has many friends as well because of the An Clan's deep history and influence. Her friends are all from the great clans, and they're also the representatives of their own clans. In other words, her friends will probably become your enemies."

Ye Guan fell silent.

Qin Feng's voice deepened as he said, "Brother Ye, I suggest that you don't participate in the upcoming Great Dao Destiny Contest.

"You should head to the Main Guanxuan Academy. You will definitely be accepted there with your talent and prowess. You'll be under Representative Ye's protection, and the An Clan will not dare to touch you there."

Ye Guan asked, "What do you think the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan will do if I follow your suggestion?"

Qin Feng's expression fell. The An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan would then be able to send their powerhouses to hunt Ye Guan down.

They could easily force him out of the Main Guanxuan Academy under the excuse of a mission to ambush him outside the academy.

Ye Guan chuckled and explained, "I think the best decision I can take here is to join the Destiny Contest and win. By then, I'm sure they won't dare to make a move against me."

"The Main Guanxuan Academy also wouldn't allow the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan to take revenge on me for fear of ruining their long-established reputation."

Qin Feng pondered over Ye Guan's words for a while before saying, "Brother Ye, you're right! I failed to consider that possibility. Anyway, are you confident?"

Ye Guan stared deeply at Qin Feng and replied, "I am confident."

Qin Feng was taken aback by Ye Guan's straightforward answer. "Brother Ye, do you have any idea just how monstrous the talents you will have to face in the upcoming Destiny Contest?"

Ye Guan nodded. "I have my own presumptions."

"Brother Ye, it's not that I'm looking down on you, but they're extreme talents," said Qin Feng, and his gaze deepened as he continued. "Every contestant is from a great clan."

"An Daoxin has access to unparalleled resources and a great knowledge base as a student of the Main Guanxuan Academy, but she's not the only monstrous talent."

"Dongli Mo of the Undying Clan is even more of a monster than her. His Undying Bloodline means that it is nigh impossible to defeat him. His Dao Protector is also a cream of the crop elite from thirty million years ago."

Qin Feng stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, "The contestants have their own powerful Dao Protectors. Do you have any idea what Dao Protectors do?"

Ye Guan nodded.

“I’ve heard of Dao Protectors before, but I really don’t know what they do,” he said.

Ye Guan knew that his Dao Protector was Plain-Skirt Sister, but it had been a long time since he last saw her.

“A Dao Protector does exactly what their title says. They protect someone else’s Dao. The road of cultivation is filled with dangers, and even the most extreme talent out there can die if they have no Dao Protectors.

“Accidents are bound to happen, after all. Dao Protectors exist to help you overcome those accidents,” said Qin Feng.

Ye Guan fell silent, and he asked inwardly, “Is he telling the truth, Master Pagoda?”

Little Pagoda answered, “Yes!”

Ye Guan calmly asked, “Master Pagoda, didn’t you say that Plain-Skirt Sister is a Great Sword Immortal? I’m already a Half-step Sword Sovereign. Does that mean I’ve become stronger than Plain-Skirt Sister?”

Little Pagoda fell silent.

Ye Guan boisterously laughed. “Why aren’t you saying anything, Master Pagoda? I’ve become stronger than her, right?”

Little Pagoda sighed lightly and replied, “Actually, I was lying to you.”

Ye Guan nodded. “I guessed as much. Can you tell me the truth now?”

Little Pagoda answered, “Actually, your plain-skirt sister isn’t a Great Sword Immortal. She’s... she’s a Great Sword Sovereign!”

Ye Guan frowned and doubted him. “Are you still lying to me, Master Pagoda?”

Little Pagoda retorted, “Why would I lie to you at this point?”

Ye Guan went silent.

Little Pagoda continued. “Actually, you shouldn’t think about it for now. Focus on yourself and cultivate even harder, do you understand?”

Ye Guan nodded. “I understand.”

Ye Guan decided not to probe any further.

After all, his plain-skirt sister’s cultivation base was less important than his own strength. He had to become stronger in his own right, and he had always believed that one’s own strength was more important than anything else.

Meanwhile, Qin Feng said, “Brother Ye, the An Clan is scheming against you. They know that you’re going to compete in the upcoming Destiny Contest. I reckon that they’re planning on killing you during the contest. If you were to die during the contest, they would be able to avoid the criticism of the people.”

Ye Guan nodded. “Yes, but I don’t have any other choice. I have to compete.”

Ye Guan had another important reason to join the Destiny Contest.

If he got first place, the Undying Clan would definitely allow him to borrow the Qingxuan Sword. The influence and prestige that the Champion of the Destiny Contest carried were enough to attract the Undying Clan’s attention.

In addition, it wasn’t like he would run away with the sword. He would only borrow it.

Still, Ye Guan had to show that he was worthy of the Undying Clan's attention.

Qin Feng smiled bitterly and shook his head. It seemed that Ye Guan was finally going to die.

Of course, Ye Guan could also become the Champion of the Destiny Contest, but could he really do such a thing? His competitors are monstrous talents in their own right with better and more robust family backgrounds.

Qin Feng honestly believed that it was possible, but it would be extremely difficult.

"Brother Qin, do you have any detailed information about my competitors?"

Qin Feng went silent.

Ye Guan chuckled awkwardly. "If you're going to be in trouble by telling me, you don't have to tell me..."

Qin Feng shook his head and explained, "It's not an issue. You'll know them once the contest starts anyway. It should be fine for me to tell you earlier."

Ye Guan cupped his fists together. "Thank you!"

Qin Feng explained, "There are five monstrous talents that you have to keep an eye on among the many participants of the Destiny Contest.

"The first monstrous talent is Fan Qing of the Five Dimensions Universe. His Dao Protector is Mu Tiandao, who was arguably the fourth strongest cultivator thirty million years ago.

"He's the Department Chief of the Main Guanxuan Academy's Heavenly Dao Department."

"Master Pagoda," Ye Guan asked inwardly, "How strong is Mu Tiandao?"

Little Pagoda replied, "He's extremely powerful."

Ye Guan nodded slightly and urged Qin Feng to continue speaking with his gaze.

Qin Feng continued. "The second monstrous talent is Yao Mang from the demon race. He's famous for his born Ancient Desolate Physique and his pair of holy eyes. I'm not too sure, but his Dao Protector is probably Department Chief Erya.

"Department Chief Erya is the Department Head of the Demon Department. Anyway, he's an exceptional talent in his own right. I've also heard rumors that Department Chief Erya personally went to the Demon Realm to become his Dao Protector."

"Master Pagoda," asked Ye Guan, "How strong is Department Chief Erya?"

Little Pagoda replied, "She's very strong."

Ye Guan nodded, but he didn't say anything in response.

Meanwhile, Qin Feng continued. "The third monstrous talent is definitely your enemy. She's An Daoxin, and everyone has high expectations of her. They think that she's going to become the third martial goddess of the An Clan. She's also on the gifted list of the Main Guanxuan Academy."

Ye Guan frowned slightly. "Gifted list? Is she on the same gifted list as Liu Bing?"

Qin Feng replied, "Yes, Liu Bing is on the Divine Martial List as well along with An Daoxin. However, she's ranked ninth, while Liu Bing is currently ranked thirty."

"Master Pagoda, how strong are the martial goddesses of the An Clan?"

"They're very strong," said Little Pagoda.

Ye Guan fell silent.

Qin Feng continued, "The fourth monstrous talent is Dongli Mo of the Undying Clan. He's widely acclaimed to be the strongest talent of the Undying Clan after the Sword Master's era. His Undying Bloodline is extremely pure, so it's impossible to kill him unless his death is instantaneous. He's nigh immortal, and..."

Qin Feng paused before continuing. "I heard that he awakened the Mad Demon Bloodline of the Undying Bloodline. The Mad Demon Bloodline is the Sword Master's bloodline. Needless to say, it's a supreme bloodline. His Dao Protector is also an elite cultivator from thirty million years ago."

"Master Pagoda," asked Ye Guan, "How strong is the Mad Demon Bloodline?"

Little Pagoda belatedly answered, "It's an extremely strong bloodline."

Ye Guan wordlessly nodded.

"The last monstrous talent that you have to keep an eye on is even more monstrous than the talents I've mentioned so far," said Qin Feng. "He's from Milky Way, and he's the Chosen One of this generation!"

"The Chosen One?" asked Ye Guan.

Qin Feng nodded. "I'm sure you know the Sword Master. The Sword Master was the Chosen One of his generation."

"How do people know that someone is the Chosen One of a generation?"

Qin Feng stared deeply at Ye Guan and explained, "Great Daoist Brush Master announces the Chosen One's identity for the world to hear."

"A Chosen One is an individual born with the Great Dao Destiny, and they are invincible among their peers.

"The martial goddesses of the An Clan are strong, right? However, they're still weaker than the Chosen Ones of their generation."

Qin Feng paused for a while before continuing. "His true name is unknown, but everyone knows that he's the Chosen One of this generation.

"His Dao Protector is Great Daoist Brush Master, who is widely acclaimed to be the master of this universe's destiny. The Chosen One is like the main character of a story—unrivaled among his peers!"

"Master Pagoda," asked Ye Guan, "How strong is Great Daoist Brush Master?"

Little Pagoda's voice sounded grim as he replied, "He's extremely powerful!"

Ye Guan nodded slightly before asking, "Master Pagoda, my Dao Protector is Plain-Skirt Sister, right?"

Little Pagoda confirmed. "Indeed."

Ye Guan was about to ask Little Pagoda a question, but Qin Feng spoke, "Do you have a Dao Protector, Brother Ye?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

Qin Feng's curiosity was piqued. "Are they strong?"

Ye Guan asked inwardly, "Master Pagoda, how is Plain-Skirt Sister compared to the elites I mentioned earlier?"

"There's no practical way to compare her to them," replied Little Pagoda.

Ye Guan's head drooped. He was silent for quite a while before he hopelessly muttered, "If I die in the upcoming Destiny Contest, please bury me together with Little Jia, Master Pagoda. Thank you in advance."

Little Pagoda was shocked speechless.

Chapter 99: They're Here

Did I say something wrong? Little Pagoda was a little confused. He thought about it, and it seemed like there was something wrong with what he said. This brat has gotten the wrong idea!

Ye Guan looked at Qin Feng and smiled. "Brother Qin, thank you for your kindness. If I manage to survive the Destiny Contest, I will make sure to repay your kindness!"

He cupped his fists and turned around to leave.

Qin Feng sighed softly and muttered, "Brother Ye, take care!"

Ye Guan waved at Qin Feng before turning into a ray of sword light that flew into the horizon.

Qin Feng stared at the ray of sword light and said, "He's already a Great Sword Immortal despite his young age. A talent like him is extremely rare. It's just a pity that he doesn't have a strong Dao Protector. Sigh..."

Qin Feng stood rooted for quite a while before he turned around and left.

He had already formed a good relationship with Ye Guan.

What would happen next was up to heaven's will!

...

Gu Chaoyuan was in a courtyard of the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy. Discipline Department Head Li Qiu was sitting across from him.

"Why did you agree to the An Clan's request?" asked Li Qiu.

Gu Chaoyuan calmly replied, "If I hadn't accepted their request, they would have forced me out of here by tomorrow."

Li Qiu went silent.

Gu Chaoyuan smiled and said, "I'm not Representative Ye, but they've shown me a lot of face by coming down here to talk to me. If I had decided to disrespect them by refusing their request, they would make sure to kick me out of here."

Gu Chaoyuan shook his head and continued. "The Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan is also affiliated with the Main Guanxuan Academy. The An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan are perfectly capable of kicking me out of here—no, they can even wipe me off the face of the earth!"

Li Qiu sighed and said, "Academy Chief, they're obviously targeting Young Lord Ye. It's clear that they want him to nip him in the bud before he becomes a bigger headache."

Gu Chaoyuan nodded. "Yes, I can see that," said Gu Chaoyuan with a nod. "It's obvious, and everyone can see it as well. However, no one dares to say something about it, and I do not dare as well."

Li Qiu asked, "Can we contact Representative Ye?"

Gu Chaoyuan chuckled and said, "If you want to disappear tomorrow, then sure."

"This is unfair." Li Qiu muttered.

“Unfair? Does fairness even exist in this world? The people of the Zhongtu Divine Continent and the Zhongtu Divine Continent’s Guanxuan Academy know that the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan are at fault here, but no one dares to say anything out of fear.

“And who would want to offend those two great clans for a stranger?”

Li Qiu stared deeply at Gu Chaoyuan and said, “So you’re just going to watch?”

Gu Chaoyuan smiled and said, “Department Chief Li, it seems that you don’t want Ye Guan to die.”

Li Qiu sighed and replied, “Chief Gu, it’s not that I’m siding with Ye Guan. I just feel like we’re betraying the principles of our academy!”

Gu Chaoyuan replied, “Department Chief Li, this matter is already beyond our control. They’re going to kill Ye Guan to flaunt their prowess to a certain someone.

“Who do you think is that certain someone? It’s none other than Representative Ye. It’s all about sending a message. They want to tell Representative Ye that the great clans aren’t pushovers!”

Gu Chaoyuan shook his head and continued. “Unfortunately, Ye Guan also made an enemy out of the other great clans by disrespecting the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan.”

Li Qiu sighed deeply. He was aware that the great clans wanted to send a message to Representative Ye by killing Ye Guan. Otherwise, the Main Guanxuan Academy wouldn’t have forced Representative Ye to return to the academy in the Guanxuan Universe.

Li Qiu asked, “What if—just what if—what if Ye Guan emerged victorious against the An Clan?”

“Do you really think that’s possible?” asked Gu Chaoyuan with a chuckle.

He didn’t even bother to answer Li Qiu’s question. He stood up and left.

Left all alone, Li Qiu was silent for quite a while before he shook his head and sighed.

He was also convinced that Ye Guan had zero chance of winning. After all, there were many variables that hard work and talent couldn't possibly offset. Family background, resources, connections, and Dao Protectors.

A cultivator would either have these things upon birth or they would never have them for the rest of their lives.

...

Nanling Yiyi was the first person that Ye Guan saw upon returning to the Daoist Sect.

Nanling Yiyi was sitting in front of the old and dilapidated gates of the Daoist Sect with her chin propped in the palm of her hands. She looked like she was in a daze, seemingly thinking of something.

Nanling Yiyi unwittingly looked up and saw Ye Guan in the distance. She shot right up and excitedly ran over to him. "Welcome back, Junior Disciple Ye!"

"I'm back," Ye Guan said.

Nanling Yiyi rolled her eyes at him and asked, "Where were you? We couldn't find you anywhere, and you didn't give us any updates as well."

Ye Guan smiled and explained, "I went to the Profound World to cultivate. I ended up staying there for a bit longer than I expected."

Nanling Yiyi nodded and muttered, "Next time, you should tell us if you're going to be away for an extended period of time. I—no, Master was extremely worried about you. Actually, he hasn't been eating properly since you disappeared!"

Monk Dao: ...

Ye Guan nodded and said, "Okay, I will tell you and Master next time."

Then, he looked into the great hall and asked, "Is Master around?"

"Yes," Nanling Yiyi answered.

"I'm going to talk to him," Ye Guan said before walking toward the great hall.

Nanling Yiyi grinned and said, "I'll go make dinner."

She turned around and made a beeline for the kitchen.

Monk Dao was leaning back in his chair. His face was flushed red, and there were many bone fragments next to him.

Ye Guan walked up to him and bowed slightly. "I'm back, Master!"

Monk Dao abruptly sat up.

He pointed at the chair in front of Ye Guan and said, "Have a seat."

Ye Guan sat down.

Monk Dao stared at him and said, "The Destiny Contest has been brought forward to next month."

"Yes, I've heard of it," Ye Guan said with a nod.

"We're not going to participate," said Monk Dao.

Ye Guan had to do a double take at Monk Dao.

Monk Dao nodded and repeated. "Yes, it has been decided. We're not going to participate."

Ye Guan chuckled bitterly. "So you've heard it, Master?"

"Do I look like an old fool to you?" Monk Dao retorted.

"Master," Ye Guan sounded solemn as he muttered, "I have to participate."

"Do you know that the An Clan is plotting against you?"

"I know."

"And you still want to participate?"

"If I don't participate, they'll send their powerhouses after me. I have to participate because I will be fighting my peers in the contest. In other words, I have a chance of winning!" Ye Guan chuckled and continued. "I have to become the Champion of the Destiny Contest because the academy will face grave consequences if they let me die after I win the contest."

"In other words, the Guanxuan Academy will ensure my safety by then."

After a few moments of silence, Monk Dao responded, "That makes sense, and does that mean you're confident?"

"Yes!" Ye Guan replied with a grim look.

Monk Dao's expression turned complicated. Moments later, he stared at Ye Guan and apologized. "I'm sorry. I haven't been able to do anything for you, even though you consider me as your master."

Ye Guan shook his head and smiled. "Master, you offered to help me back then, and that is enough. I have to deal with the An Clan on my own, and I would never let the Daoist Sect be implicated in my matters."

Monk Dao shook his head and said, "It doesn't matter. Our Daoist Sect is already at rock bottom. Once at the bottom, there's no other way but up, right?"

Ye Guan wordlessly smiled.

"All right. Go ahead and cultivate!" Monk Dao said.

Ye Guan nodded. He then stood up and left.

Monk Dao walked over to the incense table and looked up at the dilapidated portrait before muttering, "Old Ancestor! If your will is still around, I plead with you to please please protect him! He's our final hope!"

...

Ye Guan was sitting across from Nanling Yiyi.

A table full of dishes stood between them.

Ye Guan didn't stand on ceremony. He swept through the dishes as if he were a ravenous wolf.

Nanling Yiyi blinked and asked, "Is the food to your liking?"

"Yes, they taste great!" Ye Guan answered with a nod.

Nanling Yiyi chuckled and said, "Then, I'll cook your meals while you cultivate!"

"Many thanks, Senior Disciple Yiyi!" Ye Guan said as he put down his empty bowl.

Nanling Yiyi cleaned the table and said, "You should go ahead and cultivate, I won't disturb you anymore."

"All right."

Nanling Yiyi soon departed.

Ye Guan sat cross-legged on the bed.

He closed his eyes and said, "Master Pagoda."

"Yes?"

Ye Guan didn't reply.

"What is it?" Master Pagoda asked.

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "Forget it."

He then got up and walked outside.

Little Pagoda didn't know what to say.

It was late at night, and the starry skies looked more beautiful than ever as they surrounded the moon.

Ye Guan walked toward the edge of a cliff. He looked down into the abyss and asked, "Master Pagoda, why aren't there many swordsmen in this generation?"

He initially thought that Nanzhou was just an exception because it was located in the Lower Realm, but he didn't expect that even the Zhongtu Divine Continent had a shortage of swordsmen.

After a few moments of silence, Little Pagoda said, "Something happened back then, and it caused the disappearances of many inheritances. The swordsmen suffered the most back then."

Ye Guan nodded and asked once more, "Master Pagoda, are you going to leave once you've healed up?"

"Yes," Little Pagoda replied.

Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled hollowly. "I see. Regardless, it was my honor to have met you and received your guidance!"

"What do you want from me?"

Ye Guan abruptly froze.

"Just tell me. I'll consider it if I can do it."

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "Master Pagoda, I'm a swordsman, but I haven't really seen a battle between swordsmen. I would like to witness a battle between powerful swordsmen. I think I might learn a thing or two from them."

Little Pagoda went silent and stayed silent for quite a while before he said, "I can't let you do that for now."

"Why not?" Ye Guan asked.

“You need to fight a proper battle rather than watch a proper battle. You’ll definitely learn a thing or two from watching two swordsmen duke it out, but you should take it one step at a time, do you understand what I’m saying?”

Little Pagoda was afraid of Ye Guan’s progress.

His rate of improvement was too fast, especially his improvement at the Sword Dao.

The Sword Dao had to be cultivated slowly and step by step. At every step, the swordsman had to assimilate their comprehension before taking the next step. A step couldn’t be too big of a step as well, or the swordsman could suffer a backlash!

Ye Guan pondered over it before saying, “I understand!”

Rumble!

A rift opened in the space in front of Ye Guan.

Ye Guan closed his eyes upon seeing the rift.

A message emerged from the rift, and it was from Qin Feng.

The talents from the An Clan, the Milky Way, and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan had already arrived on the Zhongtu Divine Continent. These monstrous talents had decided to come down here all for Ye Guan!

Chapter 100: Kill Him Alone

The An Clan’s monstrous talent of the current generation—An Daoxin—had just arrived on the Zhongtu Divine Continent, but the great clans of the Zhongtu Divine Continent were already heading to the An Clan’s Residence to pay them a visit.

The An Clan Residence was filled with people, and every corner was filled with noises as the people made friends and conversed with each other. Even the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy had sent a representative to visit them.

The An Clan was one of the wealthiest clans of the Zhongtu Divine Continent, and they were considered a top-tier clan, so the great clans of the Zhongtu Divine Continent sent their representatives to visit the An Clan, aside from the Shen Clan.

Jian Zizai was still absent, so the acting Clan Leader was Jian An.

Jian Zizai had listened to Ye Guan's suggestion back then, so Jian An gained a ton of influence as a result. Jian An had been keeping tabs on Ye Guan.

The great clans visited the An Clan for An Daoxin, but Jian An decided to visit the Daoist Sect rather than the An Clan.

Jian An stared in shock at the dilapidated gates in front of her. She was aware of the Daoist Sect's condition, but she was still astonished to find that the Daoist Sect had regressed to such a degree.

Jian An saw a young woman carrying a bamboo basket. The young woman was none other than Nanling Yiyi.

Nanling Yiyi was surprised to see Jian An. "Sorry, who are you?"

"I'm Jian An, and I'm from the Shen Clan!"

Nanling Yiyi was astonished. She exclaimed, "You're from the Shen Clan?!"

There was no way she wouldn't know the Shen Clan. After all, the Shen Clan was one of the six great clans of the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

Jian An smiled and said, "You must be Lady Nanling Yiyi."

Nanling Yiyi nodded and replied, "Yes, so you must be here for Junior Disciple."

"Yes."

"Follow me, I'll bring you to him."

"Thank you!"

Nanling Yiyi brought Jian An to a hill behind the Daoist Sect.

Ye Guan was cultivating with his eyes closed.

Nanling Yiyi was about to approach him, but Jian An reached out to stop her.

She smiled at Nanling Yiyi and said, "We shouldn't disturb Young Lord Ye. I will sit here and wait."

Nanling Yiyi's eyes shone in astonishment. I didn't expect her to be so polite...

Jian An's gaze was complicated as she stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan! He's the son of the Sword Master and the Young Leader of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion! If his true identity is leaked...

Jian An didn't even dare to think of the consequences if that were to happen.

However, Jian An knew that the entire Guanxuan Universe would definitely be thrown into an uproar the moment Ye Guan's true identity was leaked. The great clans and the aristocratic families in the Main Guanxuan Academy would also rush to come here.

Why? Of course, it would be to greet their Young Leader.

Jian Zizai hadn't told Jian An to come and visit Ye Guan. She had always been a pacifist, and she abhorred participating in messy political matters. In addition, Jian An reckoned that Ye Guan was just her nephew in her eyes.

However, Jian An's thoughts were different. If the Shen Clan wanted to grow even further, they had to build a strong connection with Ye Guan. And that was why Jian An decided to visit the Daoist Sect after hearing about the An Clan's scheme.

I have to stand on his side, I have to stand on his side, I have to stand on his side. It was such an important matter that Jian An didn't dare to be negligent. She repeated it three times in her mind to ensure that she wouldn't make a mistake.

Jian Zizai didn't give her a serious punishment, but she still ended up getting punished. She was currently serving her punishment, but she decided to come here and ensure that Ye Guan would owe her a favor. She had to do it no matter what!

While everyone was busy currying favor with the An Clan, she had decided to build a rapport with Ye Guan. Jian An was convinced that she would surely be rewarded for her efforts today.

The whole world would eventually know that the Shen Clan and Young Leader Ye Guan were close friends.

Ye Guan's eyes shot wide open. He turned and was slightly taken aback to see Nanling Yiyi and Jian An.

"Lady Jian?"

Jian An smiled and said, "Young Lord Ye, I didn't disturb you, did I?"

Ye Guan shook his head. He smiled and walked toward the two ladies.

He directed a strange gaze at Jian An. "Lady Jian, why did you come here?"

"I came here to visit you!"

"To visit me? Why?" Ye Guan asked.

"Young Lord Ye, I've heard that the An Clan is going to attack you during the upcoming Destiny Contest," Jian An explained.

"I know."

Jian An fell into deep contemplation, but she soon emerged from her thoughts. She took out a storage ring and passed it over to Ye Guan.

"Young Lord Ye, it's my Shen Clan's token of appreciation."

Ye Guan examined it and found that it contained thirty million gold spiritual crystals.

Ye Guan was stunned. "Lady Jian, what is this for?"

"I've heard that Young Lord Ye is short of money at the moment. My Shen Clan can afford it, so please accept it."

"Lady Jian, I can't possibly accept this," said Ye Guan. He handed the storage ring back to Jian An.

"Why not?" Jian An asked, seemingly confused.

Ye Guan fell silent. Something's fishy. I haven't really done anything for her, so she must be scheming something by giving me this storage ring.

“Young Lord Ye, I don’t want to take up any more of your time,” said Jian An with a smile. She placed the storage ring on the ground and took off before disappearing into the horizon.

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at the storage ring before asking, “Master Pagoda, was that Shen Clan ancestor acquainted with my parents?”

“Yes,” Master Pagoda replied.

Ye Guan silently nodded. He didn’t ask any more questions because he knew that Master Pagoda wouldn’t give him any answers.

Fortunately, Master Pagoda wasn’t a good liar.

Ye Guan picked up the storage ring and put it away.

Brrr!

A wooden command token hanging from his waist suddenly trembled.

Ye Guan was stunned.

Ye Guan was currently first place on the Martial List of the Zhongtu Divine Continent’s Guanxuan Academy. The wooden command token would notify him of a challenger. He just had to accept the challenge, and he would be whisked away by the command token to the Martial Tower.

Ye Guan turned to Nanling Yiyi and said, “I have to leave.”

With that, he was whisked away by the command token.

Left all alone, Nanling Yiyi shook her head and muttered, “He really only cares about cultivating, and he’s always busy cultivating. Seriously, is he not interested in dating?”

...

Ye Guan saw a man standing in front of him in the Martial Tower.

The man was wearing a long robe. His eyebrows were sharp, and his posture was steady and as upright as a sword. The man glared coldly at Ye Guan with his hands behind him.

Ye Guan wordlessly glared back at the man.

“So you’re Ye Guan? The one who stole my rank while I wasn’t around?” said the man.

Ye Guan was slightly stunned. “So you were the absentee?”

“Does it feel good to be at the top of the list while I wasn’t around?” asked the man.

Ye Guan frowned and asked, “Why do you sound like you’re blaming me for taking first place when you were the one who was absent?”

The man scoffed, “It’s fine. We’re about to fight, anyway. I hope that you’re worthy of being in the first place, you—”

Ye Guan abruptly disappeared.

The man tried to make a move, but Ye Guan’s sword was already a few inches away from his forehead.

The man’s expression stiffened.

“What do you think? Am I qualified?” Ye Guan retorted.

The man’s face turned ugly.

Ye Guan put his sword away and asked, “What’s your name?”

The man replied, “Ye Huofeng!”

Ye Guan nodded and said, “Young Lord Ye, are you familiar with An Daoxin?”

“Nope.” Ye Huofeng shook his head.

“Is that so?” Ye Guan stared deeply at Ye Huofeng before saying, “All right. Let’s just say that you’ve won this battle.”

Ye Huofeng stared in shock at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan sounded serious as he said, “Tell everyone that we exchanged hundreds of moves, but you ended up winning by a stroke of luck. What do you think?”

“You’re trying to hide your strength?” Ye Huofeng was astonished.

Ye Guan nodded while Ye Huofeng fell silent.

Ye Guan added, “I’m sure you don’t want the people out there to know that you lost in just one move, do you?”

Ye Huofeng shook his head. He could accept defeat, but if the people out there found out that he had lost in just one move, his reputation would plummet beyond recovery.

It had to be known that he was a well-respected figure outside. He could be defeated, but he couldn't allow his reputation to plummet into the abyss.

Therefore, Ye Huofeng nodded in agreement. "Okay!"

Ye Guan nodded and handed over the first-placer's wooden command token to Ye Huofeng. Ye Huofeng hesitated, but he eventually composed himself and said, "I'm not afraid of losing. I'm just trying to help you, all right?"

"You asked me for help, and I simply wanted to help you. Otherwise, I wouldn't have agreed to do something as shameless as this, even if you were to beat me to death. Do you understand?"

"Yes, you're helping me out here. Got it," Ye Guan replied.

Ye Huofeng nodded slightly and asked, "Does this mean that we're friends now?"

Ye Huofeng felt like he wouldn't lose anything if he befriended such a powerful cultivator.

Ye Guan chuckled and said, "Yes, and that is why I'd like you to put on a great act once you're outside."

"Leave it to me!" Ye Huofeng nodded. Ye Guan didn't have to tell him to put on a great act. His reputation was at stake here, so he would definitely do his best.

"I hope we'll see each other again," Ye Guan said.

He walked away and disappeared into the teleportation array.

Ye Huofeng looked down at the wooden command tablet in his hands and muttered, "I should be more humble. It seems that there will always be someone better than someone else in this world!"

With that, Ye Huofeng took a deep breath and punched his abdomen.

Bleck!

He spat a mouthful of blood and made sure to stain his face and his clothes with his own blood. Soon, he looked miserable, pallid, and bloodied. He did a double take at his own appearance before leaving the Martial Tower.

The Martial List changed upon his departure from the tower.

The people were stunned to see a bloodied Ye Huofeng limping his way out of the Martial Tower.

Ye Huofeng won?

Ye Guan's reputation as a powerful swordsman had been established long ago, so it was impossible for Ye Guan to pretend like he was weak. After all, everyone already knew his strength, and they had acknowledged his strength long ago.

Everyone was convinced that Ye Huofeng would lose against Ye Guan, so they were stunned to find that Ye Huofeng had defeated Ye Guan.

Ye Huofeng swept his gaze across the crowd. He coughed a few times before cupping his fists and saying, "I won, but it was because of a stroke of luck!"

Everyone fell silent.

He really won?! Ye Guan was defeated?

It didn't take long for such a piece of unprecedented news to spread throughout the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy.

"I see..." Academy Chief Gu muttered in his quiet study. "Are you trying to hide your strength? It's a shame, but it's too late. Your actions will not change your horrible fate. What a shame... really!"

...

An Daoxin frowned upon hearing the news of Ye Guan's defeat.

"He lost to Ye Huofeng?" she muttered.

An old man nodded and replied, "Yes, he lost. Ye Huofeng suffered severe injuries, and he said that he barely won the fight."

An Daoxin closed her eyes and muttered, "Did I overestimate him?"

The old man hesitated before saying, "I'm sure he's strong, but I believe there's a massive difference in strength between Ye Huofeng and Ye Guan. We're on the Zhongtu Divine Continent as well, and Great Sword Immortals here are way weaker than the Great Sword Immortals born in the Main Guanyuan Academy."

An Daoxin fell into deep contemplation.

Soon, she emerged from her thoughts and vowed. "I'm going to kill him by myself during the Destiny Contest!"

An Daoxin initially wanted to ask her friends for help to deal with Ye Guan, but it seemed that there was no need to go that far for a mere Ye Guan. An Daoxin made up her mind—she would kill him by herself.

...