

Ancient GM 191

Chapter 191: Art of Nine Astrarium

The moment after Qin Wentian and the rest stepped into the windstorm tempest, they felt powerful blades of cold wind gusting about. They immediately circulated their Astral Energy, protecting their bodies.

For Stellar Martial Cultivators, their bodies were inherently weaker. Only demonic beasts were an exception.

It was impossible if one wanted to use their physical body to withstand the tempest. Maybe with his powerful physique, Qin Wentian could just barely withstand it, but it would still be impossible for him to do so without aid from circulating his Astral Energy.

Within the tempest, Qin Wentian held onto Mo Qingcheng's hands, as they walked shoulder to shoulder, advancing slowly ahead. Their bodies were shrouded in the brilliant glow of Astral Light, and they could feel that the rate of Astral Energy consumption was incredibly fast. This was also the reason behind the deaths of the earlier cultivators. Luckily, Qin Wentian and the rest all had Stellar Fruits to replenish their energy reserves.

"Qingcheng, we should consume the Stellar Fruits in advance," Qin Wentian spoke in a loud voice to Mo Qingcheng beside him, trying to drown out the keen of the wind. Mo Qingcheng nodded her head; they had already crossed a third of the path, and upon consuming the Stellar Fruits, their energy reserves were restored to the brim.

An hour later, their bodies filled with fatigue, Qin Wentian and the rest finally breached the final barrier, as they heaved a sigh of relief.

"How beautiful." The pretty eyes of Mo Qingcheng gazed ahead. The celestial lake formed a total of seven celestial pools, and each pool was surrounded by sky-high, towering astral stone pillars. The pillars seemed to reach out to the constellations above in the Heavens, causing the shimmering, beautiful starlight to cascade downwards. Nothing more beautiful could be imagined.

This scene, was akin to something in a dream. It was truly gorgeous.

"The Celestial Lake." Those from the Mystic Moon Hall and Ouyang Kuangsheng had arrived. Smiles could be seen flickering in their eyes as they locked gazes. After all, it was because of their joint alliance that enabled them to reach this place. The entire journey wasn't easy, indeed.

Qin Wentian pulled Mo Qingcheng along, walking towards the three cultivators from the Mystic Moon Hall. Looking at the veiled lady, he smiled, "Thank you."

Qin Wentian, when gazing upon the veiled lady, observed that while her eyes were extremely bright and clear, it was as though there were some emotions still left unspoken within them. This caused Qin Wentian to be bewildered, did he know this lady?

"No problem." The veiled lady lowered her head as she lightly replied.

Qin Wentian nodded, as he cast a glance towards Ouyang Kuangsheng. And just when he was about to speak, Ouyang Kuangsheng interjected with a laugh. "I'm Ouyang Kuangsheng from the Azure Continent. Although we really are friends now, no matter what it would be better to introduce ourselves again."

"I'm Qin Wentian, from Chu, a country under the administration of the Nine Mystical Palace."

Qin Wentian smiled as he nodded to Ouyang Kuangsheng, his countenance at peace, his eyes extremely clear, a total contrast from how demonic he had looked earlier.

"How unexpected. To think you originate from a country under the administration of the Nine Mystical Palace." Ouyang Kuangsheng had never heard of Chu before, but he knew of the Nine Mystical Palace. Who would have thought that a small country under the administration of the Nine Mystical Palace actually produced such a heaven-defying genius.

"Haha enough of this, let's get straight to the task at hand." Ouyang Kuangsheng laughed as he gazed ahead, looking at the celestial pools. Everyone nodded their heads as they strode forwards in the direction of the celestial pools. The radiance of inexhaustible amounts of starlight could be seen shimmering within the pools.

"I'm going in." Ouyang Kuangsheng stepped into one of the celestial pools beside him. The instant he stepped in, the stone pillars surrounding the celestial pool began to flicker with resplendent brilliance, as they actually started to shift. Due to the abundance of Astral Energy, an almost oppressive atmosphere manifested. Ouyang Kuangsheng's figure could no longer be seen, his whole figure hidden by a screen made from motes of beautiful Astral Light.

"Let us enter as well," Qin Wentian spoke to Mo Qingcheng, as they respectively stepped into two other celestial pools.

Two females from the Mystic Moon Hall also stepped inside the other remaining celestial pools, leaving only the veiled lady behind. A teardrop rolled down her face, as she saw Qin Wentian stepping into a celestial pool. However, she was smiling behind her veil. Her tears, were tears of happiness.

“Wentian gege.”

A light crisp voice rang out, the sound of a young woman.

The veiled lady lifted one of her hands to wipe away the traces of tears forming in the corners of her eyes. She was truly happy, she had finally managed to be of help to her Wentian gege.

In the span of a year, she had suffered many ordeals and also finally met her master, who brought her to the Mystic Moon Hall located in the Spirit Continent. Her master was extremely strict towards her, but she knew that it was all for her own good. However, with no kin by her side, abruptly being thrust into such a life made her feel tired, so very tired.

It truly felt good to see her Wentian gege again.

“Wentian gege, although I really wish to have a good chat with you, I can’t do so now. My master is excessively strict with me and she would surely find out. I could only secretly arrange for Gu Xing to travel to Chu to help you back then. After knowing that all is well with you and that you even managed to become the champion of the Jun Lin Banquet, I’m truly happy. Just like everything I’ve ever imagined you to be, your radiance is finally shining.”

The young lady murmured to herself, she was only able to use such roundabout methods to ‘speak’ with Qin Wentian.

“Mmm, right, you will be even more illustrious in the future. Not only in Chu, not only in the nine states cities, even the Grand Xia Empire will have your story.” The young lady smiled as she finally stepped into one of the celestial pools. Swiftly after, her silhouette couldn’t be seen any longer, as the screen materialised from motes of Astral Light surrounded her.

Qin Wentian wasn’t aware of how the veiled lady murmured to herself. After stepping into the celestial pool, he could sense how saturated with Astral Energy the pool was. Inclining his head and gazing at the Heavens, he could see starlight cascading downwards, flowing down through the astral

stone pillars. This kind of sensation felt extremely marvellous, and it was like Heaven when compared to the hellish torture they underwent in the windstorm tempest.

Qin Wentian sat down cross-legged, as he entered into his dreamscape. One of the effects of the Great Dreamcast Art he was cultivating, was the tremendous boost to his cultivation speed when he cultivating through his dreams.

Releasing his Astral Souls, columns and columns of Astral Light shot into his Astral Souls. After the grinding and refinement of his Astral Souls, the Astral Light was converted into Astral Energy before once more flowing into his body. Gradually, the Astral Energy stored within his body filled up to the point of overflowing, as the energy started to stimulate the arterial pathways, meridians and energy channels of his entire body.

Gushing sounds rang out, as each of his nine arterial pathways roared. Over here, it felt as though Astral Energy was unlimited in supply. Wouldn't he be letting himself down if he didn't do his utmost to absorb it all?

Qin Wentian understood very well that for Stellar Martial Cultivators, especially during the Body Refinement and Arterial Circulation Realm, levelling up basically depended on the amount of Astral Energy one's body could hold. The accumulation of Astral Energy was paramount, if one wanted to breakthrough. However, once one steps into Yuanfu, breaking through to the next level would no longer have such a heavy dependence on the amount of Astral Energy gathered any longer.

After all, when one steps into Yuanfu, the capacity of one's Yuanfu will be determined at the time of formation. At most, Yuanfus could only be filled to the brim, and any excess energy after that limit was reached, would be impossible for the cultivator to absorb. If one wanted to breakthrough to the next level, they would need to increase the capacity of their Yuanfu, and this wasn't something that could be accomplished by merely absorbing Astral Energy. This was also the reason why the celestial lake was so attractive to peak Arterial Circulation Realm, as well as early stage Yuanfu Realm cultivators.

The dip into the celestial pools lasted three days. Qin Wentian could feel his arterial pathways all expanding to their limits. He was only one step away from the formation of his Yuanfu.

At that moment, he opened his eyes, as Astral Light flickered within.

"I've already passed the test of the Refinement Grounds, but where was the secret hidden by the Azure Emperor? Could it be that I truly have to look for Fairy Qingmei?" Qin Wentian bitterly smiled. As a nameless nobody, how could he even get an audience with Fairy Qingmei?

Rubbing his interspatial ring, the map of Dicang appeared in his hands. There shouldn't be any mistakes, the place marked on the map should be the Celestial Lake Palace.

“Huh?” At this moment, Qin Wentian's heart trembled. The map of Dicang suddenly began to glow with a resplendent light. Under the cascading starlight, many ancient-looking words appeared on the map's flipside, as it suddenly floated up into the air. The words were all formed by the starlight.

This was the real map that would lead to the secret of the Azure Emperor, Dicang! When the Azure Emperor drew that map, it was merely supposed to act as a cover. The flipside of the map, which was totally blank before, was actually the real map! Only under the intense radiance of starlight from the celestial pool would the ancient words show themselves.

Such a discovery left Qin Wentian thunderstruck.

“Art of the Nine Astrarium.” Qin Wentian breathed as he gazed at the floating underside of the map of Dicang. This was a cultivation art, a beyond heavenly-defying cultivation art that would enable one to cultivate up to nine Yuanfus.

The secret of the Azure Emperor, was real!

Qin Wentian studied the map with seriousness as he imprinted the words into his mind. Currently, great waves billowed about in his heart; everyone in the cultivation world could only cultivate a single Yuanfu, but users of the Art of Nine Astrarium were required to cultivate a total of nine Yuanfus.

Not only that, this art could only be cultivated when one was still in the Arterial Circulation Realm. The user must cultivate their first Yuanfu according to the methods stated in the cultivation art, after which, such a Yuanfu would eventually birth a second Yuanfu, while the second Yuanfu would birth a third Yuanfu.

The number of Yuanfus directly correlated to the numbers of Astral Souls a cultivator has. Usually, at the Yuanfu Realm, ordinary cultivators would condense a total of three Astral Souls. This meant that if one lacked the talent, one would be stuck in the Yuanfu Realm. With only three Astral Souls, at most they would only be able to cultivate three Yuanfus.

Other than this, after the Astral Souls were placed within the Yuanfus to be nurtured, that particular Yuanfu would only be able to absorb Astral Energy directly from the constellation the Astral Soul was condensed from. For example, if Qin Wentian chose to nurture the Heavenly Hammer Astral

Soul into his first Yuanfu, he would only be able to absorb the Astral Energy that emanated out from the Heavenly Hammer Constellation. This also applied to Astral Light that was converted into Astral Energy by his Heavenly Hammer Astral Soul.

“After I master the Art of Nine Astrarium, I would then have three Yuanfus when I’m at the Yuanfu Realm. In this case, wouldn’t that mean the amount of Astral Energy I possess would be three times more, compared to others?” Qin Wentian trembled with anticipation.

Wouldn’t it be an extremely simple thing for him to slaughter Yuanfu level opponents just by stepping into Yuanfu?

During that time, if he wanted to kill Ye Wuque, it would be akin to squashing an ant. How could he not be excited about this?

With these thoughts in mind, Qin Wentian immediately started on his cultivation. It was very clear to him that there was no other place in this world that would be better suited to cultivate the Art of Nine Astrarium. Perhaps, this piece of map wasn’t drawn by Dicang, but rather, he had discovered it within this place instead. This may also be the real reason why Fairy Qingmei wanted to claim possession of the place, building the Celestial Lake Palace to monopolise the celestial lake.

If that was the case, it further reaffirmed his earlier conjecture that Azure Emperor Dicang had never broken up with Fairy Qingmei at all. Everything was a farce orchestrated by them, both suffering so much emotionally, taking numerous actions borne of necessity before everyone would believe that Fairy Qingmei hated the Azure Emperor to the core. The story of what exactly happened back then, would definitely be an extremely moving tale.

Qin Wentian didn’t know that at this very moment, Fairy Qingmei was watching his every move. After the passage of a few thousand years, a suitable successor had finally appeared!

Chapter 192: Qing`er

After Qin Wentian, Ouyang Kuangsheng and the four others entered the tempest, the remaining cultivators wreaked devastation upon each other for the Stellar Fruits in Wang Xiao’s possession. After the battle, the clan members who had accompanied Wang Xiao, alongside twenty other cultivators, were all dead.

Even Yao Sheng from the Skydemon Sect, and Shiki from the Beast King Hall, were both seriously injured.

Regardless, the other cultivators were still unable to prevent Wang Xiao from entering the tempest. Upon entering the tempest, he turned his head to gaze at them, flashing a look that left a chill in everyone's hearts.

The followers of Wang Xiao had all died, and he was most definitely incensed. Wang Xiao's hatred for them should be soaring the skies, so if looks could kill, they would all already be dead.

Wang Xiao also arrived at the celestial lake, and proceeded to step into the last available celestial pool. The other cultivators could only dejectedly make their way back. All seven available spots had been filled up, and so the tests of the Refinement Grounds they participated in were all over.

Qin Wentian was totally ignorant of the events happening in the outside world. He immersed himself completely into his cultivation.

On the 6th day after entering the celestial pool, the nine arterial pathways in his body had finally expanded to their limits. His arterial pathways spun as they transformed into a spiralling whirlpool, boundless Astral Energy flooding every fibre of his being. In the place where his nine arterial pathways intersected, a terrifying vortex was formed, causing rumbling sounds to echo from his body.

In the heart of the vortex, the Astral Energy within his body converted into Yuan droplets, each drop flowing towards the whirlpool, causing its outline to appear stronger and stronger.

As the whirlpool was completely formed, a receptacle appeared and the Yuan energy droplets unceasingly dripped into it, forming a Yuan Ocean. That was the basic form of a Yuanfu, the birth of a Yuanfu.

As the shape of evolving Yuanfu gradually formed, the whirlpool seemed intent on continuing its circulation. On the contrary, the speed in which it spun only grew increasingly faster. At the same time, a terrifying stream of Astral Energy surged frenziedly towards the third Astral Gate in Qin Wentian's sea of consciousness, attempting to unlock it. Qin Wentian was currently dividing his objectives by doing two things at the same time. Not only must he establish his Yuanfu, he wanted to unlock his third Astral Gate as well. This was all because he needed to condense his third Astral Soul.

By condensing his third Astral Soul at the moment he stepped into Yuanfu, only then would he be able to separate his Yuanfu into three foundations, as instructed by the Art of Nine Astrarium. Qin Wentian didn't want to miss this perfect opportunity.

Undoubtedly, the abundance of Astral Energy made this place the most suitable for Qin Wentian, who was attempting to unlock his Astral Gate. The success rate was many times higher compared to using Yuan Meteor Stones. And indeed, after several breaths of time, as he sent his consciousness towards the third Astral Gate, it was successfully unlocked.

And because of the existence of the beast spirits, Qin Wentian was quickly able to sense the respective constellations of the demonic beasts within the Heavenly Layers.

Qin Wentian had long made his decision on which third Astral Soul he should condense. His choice was undoubtedly the one ranked first in the Warbeast Index – the Demon Sovereign Constellation! Because of this, Qin Wentian didn't even bother attempting to reach out to the 6th Heavenly Layer.

The Demon Sovereign Astral Soul was ranked first in the Warbeast Index, and from this, one could already see how tyrannical it was. It didn't need to be said how beneficial it would be to Qin Wentian in his cultivation of the Fiend Transformation Art. Therefore, he was certain that condensing an Astral Soul from the Demon Sovereign Constellation was the best possible choice.

Very quickly, Qin Wentian's consciousness appeared in front of the Demon Sovereign Constellation. Incomparably savage and violent waves of Astral Energy gushed out, tinged heavily with terrifying demonic Qi. At the same time, an overbearing and imposing aura emanated forth from the Demon Sovereign Constellation.

With no hesitation whatsoever, Qin Wentian immediately chose to form an innate connection with the constellation, causing columns of Astral Light to cascade downwards, shining onto Qin Wentian's body. After a few breaths of time, an illusory manifestation of his third Astral Soul shining with resplendent light, could be seen shimmering on top of his head. After which, he released all three of his Astral Souls, as three beams of Astral Light cascaded downwards, channelled directly into the currently developing Yuanfu of Qin Wentian.

The whirlpool formed by his nine arterial pathways madly began to refine these three beams of Astral Energy, converting them into tri-colored liquid form, flowing into the Yuan Ocean. Three different colours of Yuan droplets condensed into tri-coloured droplets. Three different kinds of energy, all completely unique, flowing into three separate locations. As his Yuanfuses took form, they eventually formed three Yuan Oceans, filling up the three receptacles.

This transformation continued unabated. Qin Wentian silently mused; if this miraculous place – the celestial lake – didn't exist, it would be exceedingly difficult to find other appropriate places with the right conditions for him to cultivate the Art of Nine Astrarium.

An unknown amount of time passed as Qin Wentian finally opened his eyes. Although he was still immersed in the celestial pool, he felt extremely fatigued. His mental constitution was thoroughly exhausted.

“Success!” A radiant smile appeared on Qin Wentian’s face. Keeping the map of Dicang, he drew in a deep breath, closing his eyes as he sensed the changes in his body. Within his body, three Yuanfus were situated within, the tri-colored Yuan droplets filled Qin Wentian with an unprecedented, overwhelming sense of power that seemed inexhaustible. With a slight intention of his will, his body floated up into the air. He could finally soar through the skies with the power of his cultivation base alone.

“What a marvellous sensation.” Qin Wentian laughed. He had gained much from this trip to the Demon Continent. Now, he only needed to spend more time to familiarise himself with this realm, as well as to consolidate his cultivation.

Qin Wentian initially had still wanted to continue on with his cultivation, however, the radiance of the shimmering starlight in the celestial pool was already fading as the Astral Energy within grew weaker and weaker. Inclining his head, Qin Wentian discovered that Ouyang Kuangsheng and Mo Qingcheng had already exited their celestial pools and were currently looking in his direction.

Not only that, a silhouette actually appeared on top of one of the astral stone pillars. It was none other than the ephemeral beauty that stood beside the Palace Mistress previously.

Her demeanor was still as cold and aloof as before, her aura extraordinary and pristine, appearing as though she was someone not of the mortal world.

“Time’s up.” Her voice was icy cool, as she lowered her head, shooting a glance in the direction of Qin Wentian.

“So fast?” A disappointed smile appeared on Qin Wentian’s face, he felt that the time was too short. He initially wanted to consolidate his cultivation here and wanted to make use of the excessive Astral Energy to unlock even more fragments of memories from the tiny astral-being in his sea of consciousness. It was naturally understandable that he would be depressed after all; cultivating a day in the celestial pool far surpassed cultivating ten days in the outside world.

However, looking at the expression shown on the face of that ephemeral beauty, Qin Wentian knew that it was impossible. Coming out of his celestial pool, he glanced at Mo Qingcheng as he asked with a smile, “How was it? Did your cultivation base improve?”

“Mhm, I broke through to the second level of Yuanfu.” Mo Qingcheng sweetly smiled back as she nodded her head.

“Haha, it seems like everyone benefited this time round.” Ouyang Kuangsheng laughed. He has also broken through to Yuanfu and was exceptionally joyful at this moment. Not only him, even those from the Mystic Moon Hall had smiles on their faces.

“However, that fellow Wang Xiao has also broken through to Yuanfu. He just left not long ago, but still you have to be cautious of this man in the future. The power of the Wang Clan from the War Continent cannot be belittled. A few years from now, after he matures, Wang Xiao will most definitely be a voice of authority within his clan,” Ouyang Kuangsheng warned.

The transcendent powers of the nine continents were all incredibly powerful, regardless of whether they were sects or clans. Especially for those elites of the younger generation, if one’s talent was dazzling enough, one would be recognised and nurtured, eventually becoming a pillar of the clan. By that time, they would wield true authority, but of course, to reach that point they would first have to shine brighter than their peers, attracting the attentions of the upper echelons.

If not, death is the only outcome. For those at the top, deaths of members from the younger generations were nothing to them. Either you stand out, or you are eliminated in the struggle for the top. This was the harsh reality and environment that those younger generations from the transcendent powers had to grow up in.

“Noted.” Qin Wentian nodded.

“Let’s go,” the ephemeral beauty coolly exclaimed, as she leapt downwards, leading the way out of the Refinement Grounds. Their journey here was filled with difficulties, but upon returning, their way was smooth of all impediments, allowing them to proceed unhindered. After some moments, they arrived back at the hall situated outside the entrance of the celestial lake.

“Ouyang.” Jiang Ting and the rest were already there, waiting. Upon seeing his safe return, a warm smile blossomed on her face.

“She’s Jiang Ting, my fiancée.” Ouyang Kuangsheng smiled as he spoke to Qin Wentian.

“Jiang Ting, this is my friend, Qin Wentian.”

Qin Wentian looked towards Jiang Ting as he nodded with a smile. From Ouyang's words, he already knew that Jiang Ting was from the Jiang Clan, and was similarly a transcendent power that had great influence in the Wind Continent.

Jiang Ting silently contemplated Qin Wentian. From what she knew of Ouyang Kuangsheng's character, his decision to be friends with Qin Wentian was already sufficient to show how extraordinary the latter was.

After which, she politely smiled back as she returned the nod, her posture graceful and befitting the noble lady of a great clan.

"Hey, thanks for the hospitality shown to us by the Celestial Lake Palace. Farewell." Ouyang Kuangsheng turned his head back, as he spoke to the ephemeral young lady. However, she remained aloof and indifferent, not bothering to reply. Feeling helpless, Ouyang Kuangsheng and his group of people could only lead their demonic beasts away as they departed the area.

Outside the Celestial Lake Palace, as the remaining survivors bid their farewells to each other. Qin Wentian politely waved his goodbye to those from the Mystic Moon Hall, while he and Mo Qingcheng mounted on her white crane, flying away.

The veiled lady of the Mystic Moon Hall gazed at the departing silhouette of the white crane, as an expression akin to reluctance could be seen passing through her eyes.

"Let's go," she lightly commanded. After a while, they mounted their demonic beasts, and in similar fashion, departed the Demon Continent.

Within another hall, Fairy Qingmei sat there, as the Palace Mistress stood by her side. At that moment, the ephemeral beauty made her way over.

"How was it, do you like him?" Fairy Qingmei inquired in a low voice upon seeing the appearance of the cold-looking young lady.

"I've no idea." The young lady lightly shook her head, while hints of obedience could be seen on her face. Only in front of Fairy Qingmei, would she present such an appearance.

"It doesn't matter if you don't like him, but I need you to stay by his side and to protect him from danger. Qingmei, remember this: you must not let him come to any harm." Fairy Qingmei laughed,

causing waves of jealousy to rock the heart of the Palace Mistress standing next to her. Their teacher only displayed such expressions of gentleness in front of Qinger.

She knew that Fairy Qingmei doted most on her junior sister. And now that Fairy Qingmei had actually instructed Qing`er to protect that youth earlier, it could be seen how highly her teacher regarded Qin Wentian.

Fairy Qingmei's devotion to the Azure Emperor, was truly deep indeed.

"Okay." Qinger's replies were also scarce even when she was talking to her esteemed teacher. However, the look in Fairy Qingmei's eyes was still as gentle as before; she understood Qinger's personality and naturally wouldn't blame her.

"Don't help him in everything he does, and if he uses flowery words to coax you, ignore him. You can only help when he is in moments of absolute danger, and do not reveal your identity." Fairy Qingmei gently smiled as she instructed.

"Qing`er understands." This was the first time she would be venturing outside, so she carefully took note of Fairy Qingmei's instructions. However, was it true that all men were skilled in the usage of flowery words?

"Go then." Fairy Qingmei smiled. Following which, a pair of beautiful wings appeared on the back of Qing`er while she hovered in the air. Her silhouette flickered, as she instantly disappeared from sight. Who knew what terrifying realm had her speed reached!

Chapter 193: Return

Clouds drifted in the skies above Chu, the warm sunlight shone downwards, warming the land and its inhabitants.

A white crane descended from the skies, flying towards Chu. On the back of the white crane, Qin Wentian and Mo Qingcheng sat shoulder to shoulder, their clothes fluttering from the gentle breeze.

"We are back." Qin Wentian looked downwards, his eyes taking in the Royal Capital. This span of two months, felt like an eternity.

This time round for the journey to the Demon Continent, he passed by many countries and had extraordinary experiences. This could be considered the first time Qin Wentian went out to temper himself, as well as his first step on the grand stage that was the Grand Xia Empire.

Over there in the Refinement Grounds of the celestial lake, he discovered the meaning of the idiom, 'There is always a sky beyond this sky'. For those elite geniuses of Chu, they were merely ordinary people when placed in the grand stage that was the Grand Xia Empire.

Regardless of whether it was Ouyang Kuangsheng or Wang Xiao, any one of them in Chu would be an unrivalled existence for realms below Yuanfu. And not only that, they would probably even be able to fight against ordinary Yuanfu experts.

Even Mu Baifei or the two other Swallow Swordsmen would undoubtedly be able to handle the likes of Sikong Mingyue and Orchon with ease.

In addition, during the trip, Qin Wentian even uncovered the greatest secret of the Azure Emperor, and this was definitely the biggest reward. All in all, the harrowing experiences of the Refinement Grounds may well be an important event in his life.

The white crane swooped downwards, hovering in the air above the Emperor Star Academy. Many raised their heads upwards and upon seeing the white crane of Mo Qingcheng, they couldn't help but stiffen in shock.

After Qin Wentian caused that huge commotion back then, he seemed to have totally vanished without a trace. So, he had spent the two months together with Mo Qingcheng.

No one noticed her disappearance because Mo Qingcheng rarely appeared in the school grounds. As to why Qin Wentian's disappearance was discovered so fast, it was because there was too much attention focused on his every movement, not to mention he had 'disappeared' at such a chaotic time. If it were like other cases where students of the academy 'disappeared', such as leaving Chu to temper themselves, this would be considered extremely normal.

"Wait, what? Why has the academy become like this?" Rage boiling in his heart, Qin Wentian had an extremely ugly expression on his countenance when he noticed that the current Emperor Star Academy was changed almost beyond all recognition.

The white crane flew down to the residence of Qin Wentian and an instant later, Old Gu, Mustang, Luo Huan, Fan Le and Qin Yao all arrived in the courtyard.

“Both of you are finally back.” Old Gu’s eyes flickered with laughter, as he regarded Qin Wentian and Mo Qingcheng. The current him, appeared many decades older compared to two months ago.

“Grandpa.” Mo Qingcheng’s heart involuntarily trembled, she couldn’t help but notice how feeble Old Gu looked.

“Teacher, what happened to the academy?” Qin Wentian glanced towards Mustang as bewilderment painted his face. Why would the Emperor Star Academy’s appearance have changed so much? Many landscape structures and buildings had been totally decimated, only leaving spots of emptiness behind.

“This was done by Yue Hanshan and the others from the Azure Emperor Palace. In addition to Yue Qingfeng’s death, those from the Azure Emperor Palace couldn’t find what they sought and thus took their anger out on the Emperor Star Academy. Despite turning the academy into this state, they still couldn’t find anything, and since they were still unable to find the murderer of Yue Qingfeng, they could only leave gloomily with their tails between their legs,” Mustang replied, causing a glimmer of cold light to flash in Qin Wentian’s eyes.

Yue Hanshan from the Azure Emperor Palace, he would remember him.

Yue Hanshan didn’t even remotely suspect Qin Wentian. After Yue Qingfeng had injured Qin Wentian from back then, the fact that Qin Wentian was weaker than his son had already sunk deep into his consciousness. How could he still suspect Qin Wentian, then?

And as for whether he suspected the Emperor Star Academy, only Yue Hanshan himself knew. Seeing how much damage he caused to the grounds of the academy, even if he didn’t suspect it, it was obvious that Yue Hanshan had also wanted to use the destruction to vent the anger in his heart.

“How’s the current state of affairs in the Royal Capital?” Qin Wentian inquired again. Even before he left, their state of affairs already looked extremely grim.

Indeed, upon hearing his question, Mustang knitted his brows as he replied in a heavy voice, “Not that good, the rebel troops led by the Qin Clan were sorely suppressed by the royal armies. The only reason why they haven’t won yet was because of the presence of our Emperor Star Academy. Thus, eliminating the threat posed by the academy was at the top of their list. Not only that, considering the support from the Nine Mystical Palace, it could be said that the Emperor Star Academy was currently in an extremely precarious situation.”

“On top of that, I have a strong suspicion that aside from the Nine Mystical Palace, there are still representatives of transcendent powers from the Grand Xia Empire hiding in Chu,” Old Gu added, worry apparent in his eyes. Since he had made this statement, he was naturally confident of his sources.

“Qingcheng, come home with me first, your family misses you,” Old Gu spoke to Qingcheng, as he continued, “As for Wentian, don’t bother yourself with other matters. Just calm your heart and focus on your cultivation.”

“Right.” Qin Wentian and Mo Qingcheng nodded in agreement, as she left with Old Gu. An expression of astonishment appeared on Mustang’s face when he stared at Qin Wentian, as Astral Light glimmered in his eyes. Nodding lightly as though gratified, he didn’t say anything, only giving a pat on Qin Wentian’s shoulders before he departed.

Qin Wentian then turned his gaze onto Luo Huan. His senior sister, Luo Huan, was still as beautiful and sexy as before, yet there seemed to be something lacking from his observations.

Indeed, Luo Huan was no longer brimming with enthusiasm and warmth as compared to back then. In the past her attitude was always frivolous, enjoyed teasing others, and basked in their smiles and laughter.

However, after everything that had happened: the death of Mountain, her good friend of many years, the academies current perilous situation, having to endure Yu Hanshan’s oppression as a student of the Emperor Star Academy. It felt truly unbearable. She could only bury all feelings of unfairness and grievances in her heart, and face the world with a forced smile.

“Sister Luo Huan.” Qin Wentian walked over, and as he neared, he sensed the strong aura of melancholy emanating forth from her. He couldn’t help but lament in his heart, still remembering the day he first met this senior sister of his. In the Sky Harmony City, Luo Huan’s racy figure was dashing atop the city walls, the atmosphere around her as bright as the sun’s warmth.

Walking forward, Qin Wentian pulled Luo Huan into a hug.

After the hug, a familiar teasing smile finally appeared on Luo Huan’s face as she gazed at Qin Wentian. “Smelly brat, how dare you openly take advantage of your Senior Sister in broad daylight?”

“Who asked my Senior Sister to be so beautiful.” Qin Wentian laughed.

“Hmph, sweet talker.” Luo Huan rolled her eyes. This Junior Brother of hers had really matured. Even his demeanor and aura felt different.

“Senior Sister~” Fan Le sidled upwards to Luo Huan, spreading his arms apart. With a gentle expression in his clear eyes, it was obvious he also intended to give Luo Huan a hug.

“Damn Fatty, try it if you dare,” Luo Huan coldly snorted. As she looked at Fan Le, a smile that wasn’t quite a smile appeared on her face. A momentary expression of grief crossed his face as he replied, “Senior Sister, how can you show such obvious favouritism?”

“Who asked you not to be as handsome as Junior Brother Qin?” Luo Huan giggled. After exchanging a few more pleasantries, Luo Huan departed. To her, it was already sufficient knowing that Qin Wentian wasn’t in any danger.

Fan Le smiled bitterly, but his eyes soon brightened as he cast a glance towards Qin Wentian. “Hehehe boss, where did you go exactly, and how’s the progress with Miss Mo, the illustrious beauty?”

Upon seeing the shameless look in Fatty’s eyes, Qin Wentian scolded in a low voice as he shifted the topic. “Fatty, what’s the level of your cultivation now?”

“Peak of Arterial Circulation, slower than you by just a teeny weeny step.” Fan Le shrugged, his words causing Qin Wentian to feel astonished. But then again, he remembered Fan Le’s ability that allowed him to see the cultivation of others. This Fatty must have already known that he, Qin Wentian, had already broken through to Yuanfu.

“Then all the more for you to hurry up and cultivate.” Qin Wentian smiled.

“Don’t worry boss, this fatty me is a genius. I’ll catch up to you soon enough.” Shaking the rolls of fat on his body, Fan Le swaggered away. Only then did Qin Wentian turn his gaze towards Qin Yao. “Sister,” he gently called out and embraced her, almost overwhelmed by waves of emotion.

“Enough enough, you’ve already grown up. How can you lose control of your emotions this easily? Let me go make something good for you to eat.” Qin Yao rolled her eyes, still as youthful and beautiful as before.

At this moment, a white blur suddenly dashed by, jumping onto Qin Wentian’s chest.

“Little Rascal!”

“Little fellow, your speed is getting faster and faster.” Qin Wentian patted Little Rascal on its head. But this little fellow didn’t seem to have grown at all. Perhaps he would be able to tell the difference if it transformed.

After returning to the academy, Qin Wentian kept an extremely low profile. He knew that since he had only just stepped into Yuanfu, the most important thing to do would be to consolidate his cultivation base and acclimatize himself with the Yuanfu Realm.

The majority of the Royal Capital didn’t know that Qin Wentian had already returned. He had been gone for a period of time, causing the name Qin Wentian to seem like a distant memory. Regardless of how glorious or brilliant a person’s past achievements were, time would dilute everything. After all, the people living in the Royal Capital had their own matters to deal with, their own life to live. Only if Qin Wentian appeared once again in their midst, would they recall his existence.

In the blink of an eye, another half a month passed. There would be many clashes of a minor scale happening off and on again in the Royal Capital, with the most frequent being none other than the bloody disputes between the Royal Academy and the Emperor Star Academy.

Sake Street was the name of a street located in the Royal Capital, filled with inns and restaurants. The pathway of this street was tens of thousands of metres long and was extremely wide. Rows and rows of inns and restaurants of at least two stories high stood at both sides of the streets and many loved to spend their time here either drinking, making merry on the balconies, or gazing at the milling crowd below in the streets. Wasn’t this a simple kind of joy, as well?

Sake Street was situated very near to the Emperor Star Academy, but currently this street was already monopolised by the Royal Academy. They stayed there directly, using its prime location to monitor the movements of the Emperor Star Academy.

At this moment, on the balcony of a certain restaurant, Ye Ran from the Ye Clan, and Elder You from the Royal Academy, were drinking their wine. At the same table with them were several other young men, one of them cloaked in white. He was none other than Ye Wuque. He was still filled with elegance, with an extraordinary bearing.

“Wuque, congratulations on breaking through to the second level of Yuanfu.” Elder You toasted Ye Wuque, silently admiring. This young man before him was currently ranked fourth among the ten prodigies of the Royal Capital. Back then, even before his breakthrough, he was already capable of defeating Qiu Mo, the formerly ranked number four. Now, he had obviously gotten even stronger after stepping into the second level of Yuanfu.

“I took so long to break through to the next level, there’s nothing worthy of congratulations. However, we should be congratulating Sikong instead, since he has already broken through to Yuanfu.” Ye Wuque smiled as he glanced at Sikong Mingyue sitting by his side.

Sikong Mingyue face showed neither expressions of happiness nor joy . He was still as calm as ever, continuing to drink toast after toast with Ye Wuque and the rest, yet a look of incredible sharpness could be seen flashing in his eyes.

In order for him to recover from his injuries, Xiao Lan paid an extremely huge price. Who would have thought that after recovering, Sikong Mingyue would turn that disaster into a blessing, and breakthrough to Yuanfu.

Back then, his body was devastated by Qin Wentian. How could he ever forget that humiliation? Now that Sikong Mingyue had already broken through to Yuanfu and had condensed quite a powerful Astral Soul, he truly wanted to have a showdown once more with Qin Wentian. Even if Qin Wentian were to break through to Yuanfu, he was still confident that he would be the one standing in the end.

How detestable that Qin Wentian had vanished without a trace. And as for that rumor that he was already back, no one knew for certain whether it was true or false.

Chapter 194: Rising Wind

Qin Wentian spent these past few days quietly in cultivation, keeping an extremely low profile. After the lesson learnt from the last assassination attempt, he knew that prevention was always better than a cure. If it weren’t for his powerful physique, he would already be dead.

But who was the assassin? Was he from the Nine Mystical Palace, Ou Clan, Ye Clan or the Royal Clan?

There was completely no way to investigate. All traces and clues that could have been garnered, were all wiped away with the assassin’s death.

To Qin Wentian, the only matter of paramount importance was raising his own powers through cultivation.

Inside his courtyard, he slowly opened his eyes. A faint demonic presence emanated from him, now that he had condensed an Astral Soul from the Demon Sovereign Constellation. Absorbing vast quantities of Astral Energy which were tinged heavily by the demonic Qi, he had met the requirements to cultivate the further levels of the Fiend Transformation Art.

“Boss.” Fan Le walked over. Qin Wentian turned his gaze onto Fan Le as he asked, “Are you slacking off again?”

“Naw, I don’t slack,” Fan Le said with a straight face before continuing, “Teacher Mustang wants us to go clear out a street. Do you wanna come along?” Fan Le grinned.

“Clear out a street?” Qin Wentian’s eyes narrowed.

“Yeah, recently those from the Royal Academy have been encroaching on our former territory. Back then, when those from the Azure Emperor Palace were still around, the academy could only silently put up with it. Now that they’re gone, the academy decided to launch a sneak attack, clearing out those Royal Academy riffraff away from Sake Street,” Fan Le explained.

“Those from the Royal Academy actually dared to act so brazenly?” A cold glint of light could be seen flickering in Qin Wentian’s eyes.

“They only know how to depend on those representatives from the transcendent powers. I wonder where they’re from, since each of them are in control of one region and our Emperor Star Academy won’t dare to act rashly. Teacher says that most likely, all of them are from the Nine Mystical Palace and they wanted to push our Emperor Star Academy into a dead end,” Fan Le replied. Qin Wentian then stood up, “I will go along with you all.”

“Mmm, okay and don’t worry, I’m here with orders from Teacher. This time around, we have to teach those bastards from the Royal Academy a lesson they’ll remember.” Fan Le grinned as anticipation flashed on his face. There should be Yuanfu level experts from the higher echelons of their academy participating in the operation, as well.

Qin Wentian and Fan Le quickly gathered at a previously designated meeting point, a location randomly found in the Emperor Star Academy. Upon noting their arrivals, Mustang spoke, “Disperse and proceed, we will gather at Sake Street. Wentian, you will go together with me.”

“Roger.” Everyone nodded, as they departed in batches. This way, they wouldn’t attract unnecessary attention.

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Over at Sake Street, Ye Wuque, who was currently enjoying his drink, glanced downwards as an expression of misgiving appeared on his face.

“Look over there, those people may be a little troublesome to handle.”

Ye Ran and Elder You narrowed their eyes as though they also sensed something.

“Spread this to everyone, those from the Emperor Star Academy have arrived,” Ye Wuque commanded. As his command was disseminated, the whole Sake Street became busy. Some of the customers with no affiliation to the situation, quietly sat within the restaurant, minding their own business. They didn’t dare to offend either party and could only be spectators.

Diagonally opposite to the restaurant Ye Wuque was in, a group of figures appeared. Upon seeing this group of people, Ye Wuque and Sikong Mingyue’s countenances stiffened.

“Mustang, Qin Wentian.”

“Indeed, Qin Wentian’s injuries have all healed, and the rumors were true. He has returned.”

A terrifying sharp light glinted in Sikong Mingyue’s eyes, as his killing intent pierced towards the direction of Qin Wentian. However, Sikong Mingyue soon laughed coldly when he realized that Qin Wentian didn’t even notice his killing intent.

Group after group of people walked out from the other restaurant, and very swiftly, waves of strong battle intent surged out as both sides of the street soon resembled a battlefield, with opponents standing on either side.

“Kill” A low voice echoed amidst the surging battle intent, and cultivators on both sides started to engage in killing frenzies. The cultivation base of these people were at the 7th level of Arterial Circulation, at the very least, and ranged all the way up to the 2nd level of Yuanfu. Words were unnecessary as the clashes started directly. Upon seeing this, Qin Wentian understood that the enmity of both sides had already reached a point of no return. No side would rest until the other was completely annihilated.

“Sister Luo Huan has also broken through to Yuanfu.” Qin Wentian glanced at Luo Huan who gave the impression of a female Asura, aiming for sure-kills with every strike of her attacks, showing no mercy. It was as though all the melancholy and depression bottled up in her was being unleashed in the form of violence.

“Wuque.” Ye Ran turned his gaze towards Ye Wuque. It was obvious that their opponents came prepared for this battle. Although their reinforcements were on the way, the Emperor Star Academy had many powerful experts rushing over, as well.

Boom! On the roof of a certain restaurant, a powerful expert descended from the skies. This person was robed in black, an extremely bloodthirsty aura could be felt gushing from him as he turned his gaze downwards to the clashes below in the street.

However, after he appeared, another figure also descended onto the roof of the restaurant directly opposite him. Calmly standing there, the new arrival, who was an old man, emitted a powerful aura that didn't lose out to the man robed in black.

The two of them made no movements, as they stared at each other. Obviously, they could feel the threat of each other's power.

Crumbling sounds rang out as the roofs of the restaurants they were standing on disintegrated into dust, no longer able to withstand their powerful auras. Despite this, they remained standing in the air, motionlessly locking their gazes with each other, each appearing as calm as before.

A fearsome whirlwind manifested due to the equally powerful auras blasting against each other.

BOOM! The black robed man stepped forth, punching out as a black-colored windstorm manifested in the air before him. However, his opponent remained calmly standing there. The long white beard of his opponent, fluttered about in the wind, and at the instant when the black robed man closed the distance, the old man slammed forwards with a palm strike, causing tens of millions of palm shadows to descend from the skies. In response, the black robed man coldly laughed as he channeled more of his energy into the windstorm, causing it to strengthen in intensity.

A terrifying aura of destruction devastated their surroundings, as numerous inns and restaurants collapsed. The entire street was in a similar state as it bore the brunt of the attacks from the Stellar Martial Cultivators. The spectators and onlookers frantically retreated to a far enough location, their hearts shuddering as they gazed upon the piles of rubble, so different compared to the luxurious street of just a few minutes ago.

“Experts at the 3rd level of Yuanfu, so it seems like this is not going to be a minor clash.” Many were quaking in their boots. Flying-type demonic beasts could be seen up in the air, as endless waves of experts kept arriving in a rush, reinforcing their respective academy.

It was as though a small-scale battle had set off a chain reaction, as this was quickly escalating to a full blown war.

The restaurant Ye Wuque was in hadn't been demolished yet. At the moment, he was still leisurely drinking wine as he shot a cold glance in Mustang's direction. "Mustang, are you trying to incite a war?"

Upon hearing his voice, Qin Wentian turned his gaze over, glancing at Ye Wuque. He had long heard of Ye Wuque's name. Over a year ago, the reason why Autumn Snow reneged on their engagement, was precisely because of Ye Wuque.

After which, he had met Ye Wuque on several occasions, and from Ye Wuque's indifferent attitude, Qin Wentian could tell that he was an extremely proud and arrogant man.

Mustang couldn't be bothered about Ye Wuque. Although Ye Wuque was considered powerful, if considering their statuses, Ye Wuque was merely a junior. Ye Wuque's way of speaking held no trace of politeness in them at all, so naturally Mustang wasn't going to reply.

"Hmph, he's really good at acting." Ye Ran faintly laughed. Looking at Ye Wuque, he stated, "Wuque, based on your current cultivation base, the 2nd level of Yuanfu, as well as your cultivation speed, soon that Elder from the Emperor Star Academy will be unable to be your opponent."

The Elder Ye Ran was referring to was naturally Mustang. However, Qin Wentian was somewhat shocked when he heard that Ye Wuque had already broken through to the 2nd level of Yuanfu.

"Competing with him?" Ye Wuque laughed as he glanced at Mustang. "Meaningless."

"Indeed, he's a full generation ahead of you after all." Ye Ran's words contained hints of fawning in them. After all, Ye Wuque held an extraordinary position in the Ye Clan. Even though he was an Elder, his authority couldn't be compared to Ye Wuque. Not to mention that the current power level of Ye Wuque was no longer considered weaker when compared to him.

Mustang paid no attention to them as he laughed. Looking at the Qin Wentian in front of him, he felt extremely gratified in his heart. Mustang's Astral Soul was condensed from the Heavenly Vision Constellation, he had naturally discovered that Qin Wentian had also broken through to the Yuanfu Realm.

Back then, when Qin Wentian was still at the Arterial Circulation Realm, he could jump levels and defeat his opponents, regardless of whether they were shocking geniuses like Sikong Mingyue or Luo Qianqiu. Previously at the Arterial Circulation Realm, he could already defend for a time against the Yuanfu-level Ye Wuque. Now that he had stepped into Yuanfu, based on Qin Wentian's historical growth, it wouldn't take too long for him to trample Ye Wuque under his feet.

As for Sikong Mingyue, Qin Wentian had long disregarded this trash.

"I'm already old, there's a limit to my accomplishments. However Wentian, you are different. You don't need to care too much about these so called 'geniuses' of Chu, just treat them as ordinary people. You have to broaden your perspective, and not limit your horizons, as there's no need to compete with them."

Mustang spoke to Qin Wentian, guiding and instructing him. However, was that also not a form of reply to Ye Wuque? He was telling Qin Wentian to widen his perspectives and there was no need to compete with them; obviously this was a slap to Ye Wuque and his comrades, implying that they did not have the qualifications to be compared to Qin Wentian.

Indeed, upon hearing Mustang's words, Ye Wuque's eyes narrowed as a sharp glint of light flashed in them. Ye Ran then glanced at Mustang, as he coldly laughed. "What a shameless boast, truly ridiculous."

"Time has passed so swiftly, indeed. Back then, when I was in the Sky Harmony City, you had just started on the pathway of cultivation. At that time, I had already discovered you when you were in the Bai Clan, and you were merely at the Body Refinement Realm then. Even I didn't dare to trust my eyes when I saw your current cultivation level. I'm truly gratified, and I imagine that the Bai Clan must be filled with countless regrets now."

Mustang was extremely moved. However, from the tone of his voice, Qin Wentian could sense traces of hurt within. He suddenly thought of the death of Mountain, which brought him to a sudden realization that Mustang may have intentions to sacrifice his life in order to seek revenge today. Mountain was the adopted son of Mustang, whom he had raised from a child to man. Back when Qin Wentian was pursuing the killers, he was blocked by the Yuanfu level Ye Wuque. Mustang must have learnt of this from Rain or Luo Huan.

Thinking of this, Qin Wentian's heart trembled slightly. Without a doubt, Teacher Mustang wanted to kill Ye Wuque today.

Yes, he was definitely right. Today, Mustang came for the death of Ye Wuque.

Thinking of the deaths of Zi Jun and Mountain, the glint of light flickering in Qin Wentian's eyes grew sharper and sharper.

The clashes occurring in the street became increasingly ferocious in intensity, as expert after expert rushed over, reinforcing their respective academies. The matter had already turned from a small-scale clash into a large-scale war, and not only that, Qin Wentian also noticed the arrival of Xiao Lan and the others.

Xiao Lù, Wu Chong, Wang Teng. All of them were here.

As for the other spectators, they had long vacated the area, not wanting to be embroiled in the madness.

At this moment, Sikong Mingyue strode forth, soaring upwards as he stood in the air. This undoubtedly proved that Sikong Mingyue had already broken through to Yuanfu.

A malevolent killing intent poured out from him as he pointed his finger at Qin Wentian "Qin Wentian, GET THE F*** OVER HERE. Fight me if you dare."

Chapter 195: Sikong Courting Death

Sikong Mingyue's desire to battle soared, as he flew towards the restaurant Qin Wentian was in.

Fight, he definitely had to wash clean the slate of humiliation he received back then. Only by killing Qin Wentian would he be able to regain his previous confidence and untie the knot in his heart.

Xiao Lan, Ye Wuque, Xiao Lù all turned their heads in the direction of Qin Wentian. Although back then, Qin Wentian's assassination wasn't part of their calculations, Qin Wentian had actually survived even after getting stabbed through the heart!

However, despite hearing Sikong Mingyue's arrogant words, Qin Wentian remained quietly seated, silently savoring his wine, treating Sikong Mingyue as though he was thin air.

"Teacher, we should just let go of matters of the past. We should always look forwards, and not allow history to lock us down." Qin Wentian could sense the heaviness of Mustang's heart. He was very worried that Mustang would impulsively choose to sacrifice himself.

Mustang raised his head as he cast a glance at Qin Wentian. To think that his intentions had been discovered by this student of his. Laughing, he replied, "You are right, we should look forwards. However, there are some debts that must be collected no matter what."

The teacher and student duo chatted as though they were all alone, the chaotic battles unfurling in the skies and on the ground incapable of drawing their attentions. Even Sikong Mingyue's provocation was also ignored.

This caused Sikong Mingyue's countenance to turn extremely ugly. The battle intent emanating forth from him increased in strength, and with a swing of his hands, waves of ancient slaughter word-imprints blasted out, targeting the space above Mustang and Qin Wentian.

As a deafening sound rang out, the roof of the restaurant Mustang and Qin Wentian were in, instantly crumbled into pieces, leaving nothing but the skies above them.

At that moment, several figures could be seen standing protectively around Mustang and Qin Wentian. What's more, they were all floating in the air. Rain was within the group of protectors, who were none other than the Yuanfu-level students sent by the Emperor Star Academy to ensure the duo's safety. They could see Xiao Lan and the rest eyeing Qin Wentian like a tiger eyeing its prey and thus had mobilized a force of Yuanfu cultivators to protect him.

After that last lesson learnt from the assassination attempt, the Emperor Star Academy would never allow Qin Wentian to participate in such a chaotic battle again.

"Seems like I've overestimated you." Sikong Mingyue swept his gaze towards those from the Emperor Star Academy, as a faint smile etched on his face. Since Qin Wentian didn't dare to step out, he wouldn't allow himself to be angered by this. However, with the events unfolding today, it would be impossible to even if Qin Wentian didn't want to take action.

It was as though Qin Wentian hadn't even heard Sikong Mingyue's provocation. In actuality, when he heard Sikong Mingyue's challenging him earlier, he couldn't even be bothered reacting. Although Sikong Mingyue's combat prowess could be considered incredible, Qin Wentian understood his own strength very clearly. The current him should be able to finish off Sikong Mingyue with absurd ease.

Thus, Qin Wentian, didn't even consider Sikong Mingyue as a worthy opponent. But naturally, this was not the only reason Qin Wentian took no action. Killing Sikong Mingyue would be equivalent to squashing an ant for him. The reason why he didn't do so was because he would rather sit down with his teacher Mustang, drinking wine and chatting leisurely.

Upon hearing the gloomy undertone in Mustang's words, Qin Wentian felt somewhat disappointed in his heart. If it weren't for Mustang back then, how could there be a Qin Wentian today? He was a student of Mustang, yet being unable to help, left him with a bitter feeling in his heart.

"Teacher." Qin Wentian no longer tried to persuade him, and continued pouring the wine for Mustang, as both teacher and student downed cup after cup of wine, to their heart's content.

"In my lifetime, the thing that allowed me to feel the most pride was accepting all of you as my students. Although in the end, I didn't give much guidance to everyone, especially you. I didn't even accomplish what a good teacher should have done." Mustang lowered his cup as he smiled at Qin Wentian. After which, he slowly stood up, his gaze sharpening, as it shifted over towards Ye Wuque, Wu Chong, Wang Teng, Xiao Lan and the rest.

At this moment, Mustang's eyes felt as sharp as swords, his gaze alone seemed as though it would be able to penetrate their very souls. An intense, murderous aura gushed out from him.

Not only did he want to kill Ye Wuque, he wanted to do the same to the three beside him as well. If it weren't for Xiao Lan, the Royal Academy wouldn't have the guts to escalate the conflict between the academies, very quickly leading to the decisive battle that would determine the overall victor.

However, it was very clear to Mustang regarding the high difficulty of killing Xiao Lan. Firstly, not including Xiao Lan's combat prowess, the power he represented was sufficient to suppress the Emperor Star Academy. The Xiao Faction of the Nine Mystical Palace gave off the feeling of mountains pressing against the academy. Although the academy had issued a death warrant for Chu Tianjiao, he knew that they still didn't dare to go overboard regarding Xiao Lan. If anything untowards happened to him, the power supporting him may very well decide to eradicate the entire Emperor Star Academy.

This was agonising, yet also a reality. If Xiao Lan was killed, the only thing waiting to 'welcome' the Emperor Star Academy, would be the intense fury of the Nine Mystical Palace's anger.

The nearby buildings were demolished one by one, causing endless heartache to the business owners. However, in the face of these two great powers, they could only bear it all in silence.

In the airspace above Sake Street, other than the two 3rd level Yuanfu experts from both academies, two more exceedingly powerful, aged figures appeared. Both stood in the air, facing off against each other. Their auras were akin to the majestic mountains, giving off a feeling that they were immovable. Their sudden appearance indicated that they had long been hiding in this region, only choosing to show themselves for this moment. The Royal Academy had long since completed their preparations and were ready to attack the Emperor Star Academy at any time. So rather than waiting to be attacked, the Emperor Star Academy decided to bring forward the unavoidable battle.

"They are truly well prepared." Xiao Lan swept his gaze towards the four powerhouses in the air. Sounds of booming rang out, along with tremendous shockwaves, as the buildings around them were demolished and turned into rubble.

Xiao Lan's eyes were filled with killing intent.

Since the Emperor Star Academy wanted to move up the battle, he might as well comply. After all, he too hoped that this matter would be settled as soon as possible.

The departure of the Azure Emperor Palace gradually caused Xiao Lan to lose his patience. Could it be that the secret of the Azure Emperor truly was not hidden in the Emperor Star Academy?

“I want Qin Wentian alive, but show no mercy to the others,” Xiao Lan calmly commanded. He faintly sensed that there were some secrets Qin Wentian was hiding.

As the sound of Xiao Lan faded, the cultivators around him stepped forth. An instant later, numerous dazzling Astral Souls appeared, causing the area to be inundated with Astral Light.

The crown prince of Snowcloud, Xiao Lù, also joined the fray. This was the first time he had done so, illusory forms of his Astral Souls appearing above his head, glowing with exceptional brilliance. His Astral Souls were actually condensed from zither-type Constellations.

Sounds of a melodious tune drifted out, forming a musical note. The soundwaves shaped a visible net, enveloping Xiao Lù and his allies. It was as though the music were able to increase their combat abilities.

The abilities of Wang Teng, Wu Chong, Sikong Mingyue, were all buffed up, as their auras became increasingly stronger.

A raging wind billowed by, as the reinforcements for the Emperor Star Academy arrived. The leaders of the Skydemon and Asura Faction, Xanxus and Du Yidao, were here personally; they had been paying close attention to Xiao Lù, and thus were able to react quickly. Swiftly after, both parties began clashing against each other.

“Du Yidao also broke through.” The strength of the aura that Du Yidao currently emitted, was at the 3rd level of Yuanfu.

Mustang, who had stood up, released his Astral Souls as he walked towards Ye Wuque.

Ye Wuque, in turn, also released his own Astral Souls. Although he was arrogant, he wouldn't underestimate his opponents, especially not when his opponent was an elder from the Emperor Star Academy. Although Mustang's talent couldn't be compared to himself, he was someone who had been in the Yuanfu Realm for many years, and should have several special techniques up his sleeves.

Not only that, Mustang's cultivation base was at the peak of the 3rd level of Yuanfu, the same realm as some of the top talented elite students.

An instant later, both of them were engaged in battle, each radiating a terrifying killing intent. Mustang's attacks were more 'tempered', while Ye Wuque's attacks were backed by his pride and determination. Naturally, Ye Wuque was obviously at a disadvantage.

Qin Wentian stood there, silently spectating the battle between Mustang and Ye Wuque. Seeing how Mustang, at the risk of suffering multiple grievous injuries to himself, went all out to kill Ye Wuque, he could empathize even more with Mustang's feelings. Qin Wentian stood there motionlessly, watching the battle play out. He didn't want any accidents to befall Mustang.

Many people were watching the war between the two academies from afar. The names of Xiao Lan and Qin Wentian were the greatest lure of attention. Although these two weren't the strongest in terms of their cultivation bases, they had already been viewed as the representative of both powers.

Xiao Lan from the Nine Mystical Palace; Qin Wentian, from the Emperor Star Academy. Currently the existence of the Nine Mystical Palace was no longer a secret in Chu. Xiao Lan was a representative from that awe-inspiring transcendent power.

And not only that, Xiao Lan had issued a command – to capture Qin Wentian alive, while the others could be killed without mercy.

“You are still in the mood for idling?” Sikong Mingyue hadn't joined the combat with the rest. In his heart, he was seized by a strong obsession. He had to defeat Qin Wentian.

However, at that moment, a figure cloaked in black abruptly appeared soundlessly behind Qin Wentian, as though that unknown figure had always been there.

Obviously, the Emperor Star Academy wouldn't allow an incident like the last assassination to occur again. They had arranged protection for Qin Wentian.

Sikong Mingyue's gaze stiffened, staring at the black figure as his countenance turned unsightly. Could it be that despite everything, he still couldn't make a move against Qin Wentian today?

“Hehe.” Sikong Mingyue snickered, hints of sarcasm could be heard within that laughter.

Yet he didn't know that currently, Qin Wentian was looking at him , in a somewhat bizarre way. Qin Wentian's eyes seemed as if he was looking at a man who wished to court death.

Following which, under the gaze of Sikong Mingyue, Qin Wentian's body slowly floated upwards, as he stood in the air.

"Yuanfu." The hearts of the crowd trembled as they saw this. Qin Wentian had also broken through to the Yuanfu Realm.

"Hu, the speed of his cultivation, is far too fast to be believable." Many people were sighing with relief in their hearts. Since Qin Wentian had already broken through to Yuanfu, he should have sufficient strength to contend against Sikong Mingyue.

"HAHAHA, that's the way it should be." Sikong Mingyue's Astral Soul erupted forth. His 3rd Astral Soul had a faint, golden corona of light surrounding it. That Astral Soul was from the 4th Heavenly Layer, and was condensed from a beast-type Constellation that represented the demonic beast, Sword Eagle.

"Ranked #316 in the Warbeast Index, the Sword Eagle, known for its powerful attacks," Qin Wentian murmured, upon seeing the beast-type Astral Soul.

The first and second Astral Souls of Sikong Mingyue respectively, were the Seven Slaughters Astral Soul and Sword Astral Soul condensed from Constellations in the 3rd Heavenly Layer while his third Astral Soul, Sword Eagle, was condensed from the 4th Heavenly Layer. No wonder Sikong Mingyue was so confident in himself. All three of his Astral Souls emphasized augmentation of his attack power. In Chu, he could truly be described as monstrous.

"Hmph, you can be considered quite knowledgeable. I shall wash clean all the humiliation from back then with this battle today." Sikong Mingyue drew in a deep breath, as the illusory manifestations of his Astral Souls, appeared to be much clearer when compared to when he was at the Arterial Circulation Realm. Naturally, the degree of augmentation the Astral Souls bestowed would be much higher as well.

A terrifying killing intent frenziedly gushed out from Sikong Mingyue.

The monstrous sharpness of his killing intent pierced towards Qin Wentian. Suddenly, Sikong Mingyue's body was enveloped by a blood-red light, the pressure emitted so stifling, it seemed as though it was borne from the massacre of tens of millions of people, as a fearsome, baleful air

engulfed the space between them. In the blink of an eye, Sikong Mingyue transformed into a stream of light, shooting forth towards Qin Wentian. His body was akin to swords, so sharp that it seemed he was totally capable of tearing apart the walls of reality, lacerating his way towards Qin Wentian. The pupils of the eyes of the crowd narrowed; would Qin Wentian be sliced into two by this attack?

A demonic glint of light flared in Qin Wentian's eyes as a gentle gust of wind started to flutter his hair. His palms glowed with a crimson light. Presently, Qin Wentian was already capable of utilising the power of his Bloodline Limit at any given moment.

Within his body, gushing sounds could be heard from the Yuanfu that connected to his Demon Sovereign Astral Soul. Terrifying amounts of Astral Energy circulated violently, channeled into his arm as Qin Wentian explosively blasted out with a palm imprint. Upon seeing the power of the palm imprint, many in the crowd were so shocked that their faces lost all color. Qin Wentian, was too tyrannical.

RUMBLE~ The pressure generated by Sikong Mingyue intensified as he tried to slash apart Qin Wentian's palm imprint. However, his momentum soon came to a halt. It was as though that palm imprint had inexhaustible amounts of energy within it, making it impossible for Sikong Mingyue to even advance an inch forward.

What palm was this, the might generated from it felt even more imposing than the gigantic mountains. At this moment, Sikong Mingyue's countenance turned ashen as he inclined his head, staring at Qin Wentian. Qin Wentian stared back indifferently; other than his eyes becoming more fiend-like, there didn't seem to be any changes to his appearance. From the disinterested and detached look in Qin Wentian's eyes, Sikong Mingyue comprehended that in Qin Wentian's heart, he had already sentenced him to death.

"I guess you truly wish to court death," Qin Wentian serenely spoke. Sikong Mingyue's body trembled unconsciously, as though he had a sudden premonition of danger. Following which, he made a mad dash to retreat.

Qin Wentian raised his palms up once again, as an astonishing swirl of savage demonic Qi coated his hands. His palms took on an appearance akin to the palm of a demonic beast, as he blasted forth with the Kuji Imprint. This attack was unleashed by a combination of his powerful physique, alongside the tyrannical Astral Energy drawn from the Demon Sovereign Constellation of the 5th Heavenly Layer. How powerful would the might unleashed be?

Kuji meant emptiness and desolation, all life shall wither before it. Sikong Mingyue's defenses were effortlessly smashed through, the Kuji palm imprint slamming into his body, turning him into a desiccated husk of his former self. The crowd saw the body of Sikong Mingyue trembling helplessly in midair, before it flopped over, falling towards the ground.

Sikong Mingyue, one of the Duo Prides of Snowcloud, an absolute talent whose 3rd Astral Soul came from the 4th Heavenly Layer, wanted to wash clean the shame of his humiliation today?

Before he could even cross blows with Qin Wentian, he was already smashed to death by a single palm strike. No words were sufficient enough to describe how tyrannical the force of the Kuji Imprint was at the moment of impact!

Chapter 196: Diyi

Qin Wentian silently hovered there in the skies. There was no change in his expression as though the death of Sikong Mingyue was something insignificant.

The disparity between the two of them was too wide. Back when they were at the Arterial Circulation Realm, during the group battle of five versus five between both their academies, the Sikong Mingyue back then wasn't able to withstand a single blow. It was the same now as well.

Not only that, Qin Wentian didn't even bother to release his Astral Souls. Many people were silently speculating in their hearts, that if the Astral Souls Sikong Mingyue had condensed were from the 3rd Heavenly Layer, 3rd Heavenly Layer and 4th Heavenly Layer respectively, what about Qin Wentian? Previously, his first two Astral Souls were condensed from the 3rd Heavenly Layer and 4th Heavenly Layer. How about his third? (Author: Don't forget that it's still not revealed that QW condensed his first two Astral Souls from the 5th Heavenly Layer.)

Breaking through to Yuanfu meant that Qin Wentian had already embarked on the path of truly powerful experts. From this moment onwards, no longer would anyone dare to belittle this wayward youth, one that used to be met with contempt and disdain back then.

At this moment, in the air space above the Emperor Star Academy, stood the Headmaster of the academy, Diyi.

From his position, he could clearly view the situation over at Sake Street. He also saw how easily Qin Wentian defeated Sikong Mingyue. However at this moment, Diyi's heart was full of endless complications.

Turning, he glanced at the young maiden standing behind him. She was cloaked in a pure and clean feather coat, with a veil obscuring her features. The fine strands of her long hair gently danced about in the wind, as her exquisite figure alone was sufficient to drive people mad with lust. She stood casually, yet gave the impression that merely speaking to her would be an act of blasphemy.

Diyi discovered long ago the existence of this maiden. She should have secretly followed Qin Wentian upon his return. Upon seeing her, Diyi understood that these past 3,000 years of waiting, tasked with the mission of each successive generation of headmasters, that time had finally come to an end.

“In the future, I shall temporarily leave him in your care.” Diyi spoke to the young maiden.

Qing`er was still as expressionless as before; cool, aloof and indifferent as if her appearance and demeanor would remain so forever.

“Okay.” Lightly nodding her head, her reply was only a single word. She had always treated words like they were made of gold and therefore was a person who spoke little. Yet her simple replies gave people a feeling of reassurance.

As though once she had said it, she would definitely accomplish it.

“Foster father.” On the ground, Ren Qianxing called out with reddened eyes, looking at Diyi. “Does it really have to be like this?”

Diyi slowly shifted his gaze downwards, looking at Ren Qianxing with a gentle smile in his eyes. He suddenly recalled many things from the past, how his character was like when he was younger – wild, arrogant, unrestrained and frivolous. Back then, he listened to the instructions of his elders and unwillingly came to the Emperor Star Academy. It wasn’t until he became the headmaster that he understood the importance of his mission.

The reserves of the Azure Faction had never once ‘openly’ appeared within the Azure Emperor Palace, with only a select few aware of their existence. There was only the mission handed down to them throughout each successive generation – Either they obtain the Azure Emperor’s inheritance or, failing to do so, they had to become its guardian, waiting for the successor to appear.

And now, his long wait had finally borne fruit; his mission had finally ended.

“Qianxing, the Emperor Star Academy has always been one of the supreme entities in Chu. It has nurtured and produced countless talents throughout the ages, before finally arriving at this point today.” Diyi smiled as he gazed at Ren Qianxing. “This could already be considered one of the more perfect endings.”

“Is this really a perfect ending?” Ren Qianxing sighed. He was truly unwilling.

“Come, enough of that. Let us watch our students’ final battle.” Diyi smiled, turning his gaze towards the horizon.

Over there, the clashes were just as intense. Even Xiao Lan didn’t anticipate that the scale of this battle would escalate so quickly and to such an extent.

“Go and deal with the black robed man behind him,” Xiao Lan instructed the old man standing by his side. He nodded in agreement, as he moved towards the direction of Qin Wentian.

The black robed man’s eyes glinted as he realized their intentions. The two of them moved at the same time, opting for a different area. They knew that if they chose to engage in their current location, members from both their sides would suffer from the shockwaves of their battle.

Xiao Lan smiled. There was no one guarding Qin Wentian now.

His silhouette flickered, as he flew towards Qin Wentian’s direction. However, Xanxus soon appeared, blocking his path. The two of them collided, with the resulting impact forcing them backwards. Even though their cultivation bases were at the same level, Xanxus was quickly suppressed when fighting against Xiao Lan.

Qin Wentian remained standing there, staring at the fight between Mustang and Ye Wuque. Currently, Mustang was completely dominating Ye Wuque, who could only defend like a sitting duck, as Mustang unleashed his ferocious attacks.

Ye Wuque retreated step by step, his countenance incredibly unsightly to behold. Mustang wanted them to perish together, every strike of his was extremely ruthless, ignoring his self-inflicting injuries for a chance to kill Ye Wuque.

Suddenly, a cold glint of light flashed in Mustang’s eyes, his killing intent overflowing. The sharpness of his palms were even finer compared to keen-edged swords, blasting towards Ye Wuque’s heart.

However, Ye Wuque didn’t dodge, allowing Mustang’s palm strike to slam upon his body. BOOM! A thunderous sound rang out as the robes on Ye Wuque’s body disintegrated into dust, the palm strike of Mustang landing around the area of his heart. However, the terrifying might behind the

palm strike didn't quite reach Ye Wuque's body. He was actually equipped with a divine armor! This was a 3rd grade divine armor that was able to drastically reduce the force of impact for any incoming blow, something the Ye Clan had spent an astronomical amount to forge for him.

"DIE!" Ye Wuque roared in anger, as he slashed his sword towards Mustang's head.

However, Mustang was incredibly experienced. He reacted instantly, causing a row of palm shadows to manifest. The shadows evoked a mini hurricane between them, shifting the angle of Ye Wuque's attack. The sword strike of Ye Wuque wounded Mustang only slightly, forcing him backwards. Ye Ran, who was also watching the battle, was long prepared for this moment. Seizing the opportunity, he immediately flew towards Mustang, as fireballs of a terrifyingly intense heat appeared around him.

Mustang's countenance turned grim, as he hurriedly sent out a palm in an attempt to defend. Despite this, the fireballs still blasted onto his body, causing him to groan in agony.

"Go in peace." Ye Wuque pierced forth with a sword finger, as a five-colored sword light flashed, intending to rupture Mustang's head.

However at the same time, an exceedingly tyrannical palm imprint shot forwards, the Kuji Imprint erupting forth with incredible power, devouring the five-colored sword light, before exploding towards Ye Wuque. Ye Wuque's countenance was a sight to behold as he hurriedly retreated, dodging the Kuji Imprint.

"Qin Wentian." An ice cold look of anger flickered in his eyes when Ye Wuque discovered who had interfered.

"You are truly tenacious indeed." From nearby, Xiao Lan had a shallow smile on his face as he regarded Qin Wentian. After which, Xiao Lan walked slowly towards him, as a strong sense of danger suddenly assailed Qin Wentian. Turning his gaze onto Xiao Lan, he felt a surge of lightning currents gushing into his brain, involuntarily snapping his eyes shut.

"CAREFUL!" Mustang hollered. Qin Wentian felt an impending sense of doom descend upon him, as he quickly gathered his energy. The blood seal within his body jumped about, as demonic Qi emanated forth from him. He then sent out countless palm strikes in the general direction of Xiao Lan, the pressure of each attacks felt as though there was nothing they would not be able to conquer.

Xiao Lan's attack hit him full on, akin to thousands of millions of lightning currents, slamming upon his body. Qin Wentian groaned in misery, and as he felt the energy currents project an aura of

destruction flowing within his body, he began heading towards his sea of consciousness. With a howl of rage, he utilised the power of his bloodline in defense as he escaped with full force, lengthening the distance between him and Xiao Lan.

When Qin Wentian finally opened his eyes, he could only see Xiao Lan serenely looking at him with insufferable arrogance, an expression of coldness on his face.

Xiao Lan was considered an absolute genius of the Nine Mystical Palace, and had a cultivation base at the 3rd level of Yuanfu. One could see how astonishing his combat prowess was from the ease he suppressed Xanxus, who was similarly at the 3rd level of Yuanfu. It was obvious he wasn't an ordinary 3rd level Yuanfu Cultivator. Given how hurriedly Xiao Lan attacked, Qin Wentian, who wasn't prepared, was naturally suppressed. However, despite all that, Qin Wentian only suffered from some minor injuries, a fact that caused Xiao Lan to have an expression of incredulity on his face.

“I thought you wouldn't appear again after vanishing without a trace. To think that you actually returned voluntarily. Do you really think that I wouldn't dare to kill you?” Xiao Lan coldly spoke, his arrogance stifling to the extreme. Suddenly, several figures gathered around Qin Wentian, as many experts similarly appeared around Xiao Lan.

“You want to kill him?”

At this moment, a voice drifted over, causing the crowd to incline their heads, only to see a few figures flying over in the direction of the academy. The man in the lead was none other than the headmaster of the Emperor Star Academy, Diyi.

Diyi turned his gaze downwards, locking eyes with Xiao Lan, as he faintly inquired, “ Since when did you have the ability to kill him?”

Xiao Lan frowned, looking at Diyi with a cold glint of light flashing in his eyes. Since when did someone from the Emperor Star Academy have the guts to speak to him like this?

“As long as I want to, I can kill him anytime. If I wanted to, how could he even oppose me based on his strength?” Xiao Lan's gaze gradually sharpened, as he retorted arrogantly.

“You are saying that with your cultivation base at the 3rd level of Yuanfu, you want to have a one on one battle with him, whose cultivation base is only at the 1st level of Yuanfu? And that those from the Emperor Star Academy are not to interfere?” Diyi coldly laughed.

“Regardless of how you wish to end this, if I want his head, do you think the Emperor Star Academy would be able to stop me?” Xiao Lan spat out. In Chu, he was the absolute authority. With his background, he definitely had the power to trample the Emperor Star Academy underneath his feet, let alone a mere Qin Wentian.

“Is that so?” Diyi’s countenance was still unperturbed. No one knew what he was thinking, not to mention that there weren’t many people who knew his real identity.

“Let me tell you now, if you take another step forward, the person Xiao Lan of the Nine Mystical Palace, shall cease to exist,” Diyi continued calmly. As the sound of his voice echoed out, the entire battlefield fell into silence.

Countless people glanced at Diyi, before returning their gaze towards Xiao Lan.

Diyi said that, should Xiao Lan take another step forwards, he would die.

Xiao Lan also stared at Diyi in shock. Despite knowing his status, Diyi actually dared to threaten him?

Him, the illustrious Xiao Lan, was actually being threatened over here, in such a small place like Chu?

Did he dare to take another step forwards?

What if Diyi was at the Heavenly Dipper Realm?

As the voice of Diyi faded away, the arrogance and prideful heart of Xiao Lan, began to waver.

After all, this place wasn’t the Nine Mystical Palace.

If he died, so what if the Nine Mystical Palace annihilated the Emperor Star Academy afterwards? He would still be dead.

“Why are you so quiet now? Didn’t you have something else to say?” Diyi serenely continued. At this moment, all the clashes and battles had stopped, everyone was focusing their attention closely on Diyi, this inscrutable existence that no one had ever met before.

Maybe back then, Luo Tianya had seen Diyi when he was attempting the test on the 7th level of the Heavenly Star Pavilion.

Some distance behind Diyi, there was a veiled young maiden. The young maiden casually stood in the air, like a celestial immortal. The crowd stole glances at her, before looking at each other. Who was she?

Chapter 197: Xiao Lan's death

Silence!

At this moment, the atmosphere was embedded in total silence. Diyi just stood there, looking down at Xiao Lan.

Xiao Lan stared back at Diyi, but he dared not take that step forward.

Signaling with his hands, an old man walked out from the crowd. However, he didn't approach Diyi, but rather, he moved towards Qin Wentian. At this moment, the killing intent gushing out from his body caused the hearts of those around him to tremble in fear.

The old man was definitely emitting an aura of at least the 7th level of Yuanfu or higher.

Qin Wentian simply gazed at the old man heading towards his direction, remaining motionless without a hint of worry on his face. Today, when Fan Le invited him for this, he never expected that it would escalate to become the decisive battle between academies for the ultimate victor. Naturally, behind the Royal Academy, there was still the representative from the Nine Mystical Palace – Xiao Lan.

Since Teacher Mustang had allowed him to participate, he definitely trusted in the Emperor Star Academy's preparation in providing protection for him.

Hence, he stood there nonchalantly.

The old man moved so fast that a whistling sound could be heard. As he neared, the full brunt of the pressure from his terrifying aura blasted out, locking onto Qin Wentian. Despite this explosive burst, he was also on his guard against Diyi, who was standing in the air.

Diyi still wore a serene expression on his face. With a slight wave of his hands, a gigantic palm strike descended from the Heavens with shocking speed, so fast that the eyes of the crowd couldn't even begin to track its movements.

The old man didn't even have the time to react, before he was slammed explosively towards the ground. With a clench of the gigantic palm's fingers, the old man was held in its grasp. Regardless of how hard he struggled, he was unable to free himself from being bound by the five fingers.

Terror flickered in the old man's eyes, and at that moment, he was no longer a powerhouse of the later Yuanfu levels, but rather, a pitiful old man trapped by the golden palm, free for anyone to slaughter.

In the air, Diyi's hands extended outwards, as the gigantic hand below mirrored his movements.

"You truly don't know what's good for you," Diyi faintly spoke, and abruptly, he clenched his hands into a fist, causing a blood curdling scream to ring out, amidst the sounds of bones shattering. The body of the old man had been completely obliterated.

As the golden palm opened, only a droplet of blood remained within. The body of the old man had been smashed into smithereens, dissipating along with the wind.

A Yuanfu expert of the later levels was akin to an ant in front of Diyi, who didn't even need the slightest bit of effort to kill him.

The meaning of this was extremely clear to the spectating crowd; isn't this strength of the legendary Heavenly Dipper Realm? There was no way to resist his power, it was tyrannical to the point of striking fear into the hearts of everyone watching.

"How overwhelming." Qin Wentian's heart trembled as well. Was that gigantic golden-colored palm from before, a legendary Astral Nova?

Even in his dreams, Qin Wentian wouldn't have imagined that this dusty old guardian of the Heavenly Star Pavilion was actually so powerful to this extent. Not only that, back when Yue Hanshan was lording over the Emperor Star Academy, Diyi was tolerant enough and kept a low profile instead of revealing his true powers. But as for why Diyi had done such a thing, Qin Wentian himself didn't know. He would never have guessed that the reason was all due to him.

Xiao Lan also felt extreme shock shaking his heart. There was actually someone this powerful hidden in the Emperor Star Academy of Chu.

Calming himself, he stared at Diyi. “Did you know he was from my Nine Mystical Palace? Are you not afraid of the repercussions for killing him?”

“If I hear one more word from you, you’ll die.” Diyi stared back at Xiao Lan. Xiao Lan’s countenance instantly stiffened, as his features contorted.

Earlier, Diyi had forbade him from taking a single step forward, and now, Diyi forbade him from even speaking.

If he disobeyed, only death awaited him.

Xiao Lan had never faced such humiliation before, but at this moment, he could only tolerate it.

“The arms of the Nine Mystical Palace have extended too far. Do you really think the Emperor Star Academy is a place for you to act big?” Diyi’s palms wavered, and an instant later, his terrifying Astral Nova transformed into golden streaks of lightning, speeding towards another aged figure of the Nine Mystical Palace. Diyi was purposely aiming for their stronger Yuanfu cultivators.

The countenance of the aged figure underwent a drastic change, he frenziedly dredged up the entirety of Astral Energy within his body, trying to defend against the lightning. However, when the Astral Nova neared, he couldn’t even resist in the slightest, and was crushed to death by the pressure. His body disintegrated into nothingness from the impact, as he was killed without a trace.

However, Diyi didn’t halt his actions, and the golden streak of lightning continued dancing in the air, zooming towards two more Yuanfu experts, wasting them from where they stood.

Silence permeated the air. No one dared to even move a muscle.

Especially those from the Royal Academy, they hadn’t imagined such an ending would occur. As long as Diyi wished it, all of them would die.

The golden-colored palm hovered in the air, they didn’t even dare to breathe too loudly.

The panic in Xiao Lan’s heart surged to its limits, but he kept his mouth shut, not daring to utter a single word.

Bzzz~ The golden palm swooshed past, grabbing hold of Xiao Lan. At that instant, Xiao Lan's heart pounded madly, feeling as though it was about to burst. Recalling the scenes back when Diyi, without blinking, killed the powerful Yuanfu cultivators, he was truly terrified now that he was next.

Everyone's hearts were seized with nervousness.

The golden palm lifted Xiao Lan up into the air, and there were no fluctuations to Diyi's expression. He turned his gaze to Xiao Lan, "In this place where there's no support from the Nine Mystical Palace, no one would even realise it if you died. For all your pride and bluster, wasn't it all false arrogance? If you truly had the ability, did you even need to show off in such a small place like Chu? Today, I can temporarily spare you from death. However in future, if you dare to infuriate me again, I will make you this promise. The moment you step out of the Nine Mystical Palace, I will hunt you down and kill you."

As the sound of Diyi's voice faded, the golden palm abruptly flung out, catapulting Xiao Lan through the air.

"Get out of Chu." A voice sounded out within Xiao Lan's mind, and his body was forced by the impact of the throw to flip countless somersaults through the air before he could stabilise himself. His countenance was incredibly ugly to behold, this shame was pushing him to the brink of rage. However, again, he had no choice but to tolerate it for now.

"Emperor Star Academy." Xiao Lan's eyes glimmered with hatred and impotent fury. However, he didn't dare turn his head back, and could only gulp down his resentment and continue flying away.

Diyi's gaze turned upon the other cultivators from the Royal Academy. At this moment, all of them were trembling with trepidation, their hearts filled with incomparable terror. As long as Diyi wished for it, they would all die here.

"All of you scram," Diyi calmly spoke, causing those from the Royal Academy to blink in wonder. Wasting no time, their silhouettes flickered, vanishing like smoke in merely an instant.

"We still showed mercy in the end." Mustang's fists were both tightly clenched as he sighed. Inclining his head, he stared at Diyi, "Sir, why didn't you allow us to slaughter them?"

From the tone of his voice, one could clearly hear the rage and hatred bottled up within him.

"I didn't want anything to happen to any of you," Diyi replied. Mustang froze, before he drew in a huge breath and bowed, "Mustang was wrong."

"It's alright. For those that aren't aware of this, there is still an extremely powerful old freak in the Royal Clan. Let's return to the academy," Diyi replied. Maybe the others might not know how deep

the waters of Chu were. He had lived for many years, and had spent the majority of his life within the Royal Capital. Although he was relatively unknown, no one else was clearer than Diyi regarding all the happenings in the Royal Capital. Diyi was naturally knowledgeable of the number of true powerhouses belonging to the Royal Clan, but were currently hiding in the shadows.

He knew of the old freak residing in the Royal Clan, who had been secluded behind closed doors for many years. If he had chosen to slaughter all those from the Royal Academy earlier, nothing might happen to him because of his power, but what about those from the Emperor Star Academy? Was he strong enough to protect them all?

The cultivators from the Emperor Star Academy retreated. The weaker ones gathered together, looking at this legendary character from their academy. This was their headmaster, easily slaughtering countless experts with a mere wave of his hands. How imposing was that?

Diyi glanced at the crowd below, as a gentle smile appeared on his face. After guarding the academy for so many years, it could be said that his feelings and devotion to the academy was second to none. However today, he had no choice but to make this decision.

“The Emperor Star Academy, has a history of over 3,000 years. Through these years, we experienced countless rain and snow, but regardless, we always stood at the peak of Chu, enjoying eras of glory. I’m proud to say that I’m a part of the academy,” Diyi calmly spoke, there was only silence in the air as everyone attentively listened.

“However, no matter how it pains me, I have no choice but to make this major decision. From today onwards, the Emperor Star Academy shall be dissolved.”

“What?”

“WHY?” As the sound of Diyi’s voice faded, the countenances of everyone underwent a drastic change.

Perplexity, bewilderment, everyone had expressions of confusion on their faces. Dissolve? But why??

Diyi waved his hands, and the din created by the students died down. Diyi then continued, “I understand all your feelings. However, we no longer have a choice; the Emperor Star Academy can no longer exist in Chu. This decision of mine... I spent years of contemplation before I decided. Despite so, don’t be disappointed, all of you currently standing here is already an indication that your talent is above average. The world out there is truly vast, there are numerous powers that are even stronger than the Emperor Star Academy, and there will be an even bigger piece of sky for you to soar through.”

Qin Wentian calmly listened, but no one knew what he was thinking. Mustang, Luo Huan and Fan Le stood beside him.

“Teacher, did you already know of the headmaster’s decision before this?” Qin Wentian asked in a low voice, sighing.

“Headmaster Diyi made this decision to protect the innocent students, for if we continued with this war of attrition, they would end up the only unlucky victims. Although the headmaster had killed those Yuanfu experts from the Nine Mystical Palace, he had no choice but to do so as a means of intimidation. By choosing these actions, he had already decided that this would be the end.”

Mustang sighed again. Even without Xiao Lan, Diyi had still slaughtered the Yuanfu experts from the Nine Mystical Palace. They had too many methods at their disposal in dealing with students from the Emperor Star Academy.

And as to why Xiao Lan was spared, it was because Diyi knew that should he die, even if the Emperor Star Academy was dissolved, the Xiao Faction in the Nine Mystical Palace would go all out to hunt down the former members of the academy.

If Xiao Lan didn’t die, then with the earlier threats made, the Nine Mystical Palace wouldn’t dare to go too overboard.

Diyi had done what he did, only after contemplating the situation from various angles. Because of the secret of the Azure Emperor, Diyi knew that many transcendent powers already had their eyes on the academy. Under such a situation, dissolution of the Emperor Star Academy was something that couldn’t be helped and overall was the best choice to make.

Naturally, Diyi’s actions today, were also because of Qin Wentian. He had finally completed his mission in the Emperor Star Academy.

“All of you will definitely have better futures. Children, take care.” Diyi smiled as he turned, and walked in the direction at the back of the Emperor Star Academy, towards the mountains. He left behind the students, many of whom still had despondent looks and lost expressions on their faces.

Qin Wentian gazed at the departing back of Diyi. He drew in a deep breath, as a sharp glint of light flashed in his eyes, “I’m really unwilling for the academy to disappear like this.”

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On the outskirts of the Royal Capital of Chu, Xiao Lan was mounted on a demonic beast as he prepared to leave. He no longer had any face left to stay behind in this land of humiliation.

A strong sense of reluctance erupted in his heart, as his fists clenched in anger. Beside him, there were still a few experts acting as bodyguards, but none of them dared to speak for fear of further angering Xiao Lan.

“Who?” At that moment, one of the bodyguards froze. However, as the sound of his voice faded, a terrifying silhouette flashed by. As a slicing sound resonated out, the bodyguard’s head rolled to the ground.

In an instant, the remaining body guards’ Astral Souls appeared, unleashing their auras, however, the silhouette was too quick. In the mere blink of an eye, all of the other bodyguards were annihilated.

Xiao Lan trembled, looking at the figure in front of him. With an ashen countenance, he asked, “Wh..what do you want to do?”

“To kill you,” that figure replied, causing despair to flash in Xiao Lan’s eyes. He instantly turned, trying to retreat, yet it was all futile in the face of this unknown assailant.

Indeed, a palm sliced out with unfathomable might, separating Xiao Lan’s head from his body, stark terror still apparent in his eyes.

Only a single thought ran through Xiao Lan’s mind as he died. If he perished here, then no one would know that he was the one who killed him. It was too late for regrets.

Chapter 198: Lifeand

News of the dissolution of the Emperor Star Academy quickly spread out to the entire Royal Capital, and caused an immense wave of commotion.

Today, the academy that stood at the peak of Chu for 3,000 years, had actually been dissolved. This caused many to lament silently in their hearts.

Everyone actually understood that the Emperor Star Academy had no choice but to do what they did. Facing the relentless suppression from the Royal Clan, together with the backing from the Nine Mystical Palace, including Headmaster Diyi’s tyrannical stance of killing their experts, in the end there was no way the Nine Mystical Palace would let this go. Thus, the best solution left was to dissolve the Emperor Star Academy.

At this moment within the academy, a heavy sense of grief could be felt in the air. Countless students bid their farewells to each other as they departed.

Qin Wentian stood atop a faraway pavilion as he gazed at the students of the academy, and an indescribable feeling erupted in his heart.

“Why are you sad?” Luo Huan walked to the side of Qin Wentian, her beautiful eyes also staring at the departing students. A bitter smile tugged the corners of her lips, as a sense of helplessness could be felt emanating from her.

“Sister Luo Huan, what are your plans now?” Qin Wentian turned, gazing at that beautiful countenance, as he squeezed out a smile.

“Sigh, I plan to visit the Azure Continent. The Nine Mystical Palace is said to be situated there and I want to see how exactly powerful it really is,” Luo Huan replied, “How about you? Where do you plan to go? Do you want to go together with me?”

“No, I still have some things yet to complete,” Qin Wentian replied in a low voice. Luo Huan contemplated Qin Wentian, only to see his clear eyes looking back at her. She couldn’t tell what her junior brother was thinking. This fellow had really matured.

Luo Huan walked forward, extending her arms to embrace Qin Wentian into a hug. Her actions caused Qin Wentian to be stunned. Luo Huan’s beautiful eyes were only an inch away from his, and as her busty chest pressed against his, Qin Wentian blushed, feeling a burning sensation upon his face.

“Seems like you are still a little boy after all, come on don’t be shy.” Luo Huan laughed, as her sexy and lustrous lips kissed Qin Wentian on his forehead.

“Sister, don’t you know how great your charm is?” Qin Wentian bitterly smiled.

Luo Huan giggled as she broke the embrace. “Junior Brother, thank you for everything. You must hurry and grow up to be someone dependable.”

“I definitely will.” Qin Wentian nodded heavily in agreement. Losing such an important place, he never wanted to repeat the experience ever again.

“Enough, Luo Huan, stop flirting with your Junior Brother. Wentian, Elder Ren is looking for you.” Mustang approached them from the back as he smiled.

“Teacher, I’m trying to build up a better relationship with Junior Brother Qin, I don’t wish for him to forget all about me in the future.” Luo Huan laughed.

“You and your dastardly ideas.” Mustang glared at Luo Huan, but he was feeling exceptionally happy in his heart. After the death of Mountain, the students that became closest to him were none other than Luo Huan, Qin Wentian, Yu Fei and Fan Le. He naturally hoped that they would have a good future.

However, there was still a knot in his heart. Ye Wuque, Wu Chong, Wang Teng weren’t dead yet.

The death of Mountain had yet to be avenged.

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Qin Wentian followed Ren Qianxing and arrived at a temporary residence in the mountains. Over there, he met Diyi.

Diyi smiled, gesturing for Qin Wentian to take a seat.

Qin Wentian nodded, as he sat down beside him. Diyi cast a glance at Ren Qianxing, who understood his silent request, and thus departed the area. Over here at this mountain peak, so tall that it could overlook the entire Emperor Star Academy, only Qin Wentian and Diyi remained.

“I’ve asked the teachers and elders to copy the cultivation arts and innate techniques from the Heavenly Star Pavilion and pass it on to our departing students. In addition, I’ve chosen and prepared the original version of these innate techniques for you to cultivate. As for cultivation arts, I didn’t select any. In any case you should know best which are the ones most suitable for you, so go ahead and choose them for yourself.” Diyi took out a few innate technique manuals and passed them over to Qin Wentian.

“Thank you, Headmaster.” Qin Wentian didn’t fake being courteous, as he accepted the manuals. Indeed, he didn’t have the time to go to the 6th level of the Heavenly Star Pavilion to select top-tier Earth-Grade innate techniques.

“How many Yuanfus do you currently have?” Diyi glanced at Qin Wentian inquiringly, as an expression of admiration flickered on his face.

Qin Wentian’s countenance froze, as the words sank in. So, Diyi already knew.

“Three Yuanfus,” Qin Wentian replied. Momentarily, Diyi drew in a long breath, as he patted Qin Wentian heavily on his shoulders. “Good, good, the Azure Emperor finally has a successor.”

“Headmaster, have you always acted as the guardian for the academy?” Qin Wentian curiously asked.

“Yes.” Diyi nodded, as he replied, “You should already know of the Azure Emperor Palace. That year, after the death of the Azure Emperor, the palace was infiltrated by external powers. They wanted to obtain the inheritance of the Azure Emperor. The Azure Faction had no choice, so as a last resort, several babies were sent away, raising them apart from the chaos and the influence of the

disintegrating Azure Emperor Palace. Now a few thousand years have passed, and those external powers that infiltrated the Azure Emperor Palace have already become the main faction while the Azure Faction, those of Dicang's bloodline, were firmly suppressed."

"But luckily, the decision to send away the babies proved to be great foresight. After they grew up, they became the 'hidden' Azure Faction, and no one knew of their existence. However, news of the 'hidden' faction was gradually exposed over the years. This was all due to Luo Tianya, who incited the conflict between the Emperor Star Academy and the Nine Mystical Palace."

"Headmaster, are you saying that the ones that lent the Emperor Star Academy a helping hand was someone from the 'hidden' Azure Faction?" Qin Wentian asked in surprise.

"Yes, back then I was still guarding the Heavenly Star Pavilion. I didn't wish to expose myself before the Azure Emperor's final secret of the Azure Emperor was obtained by a successor. However, this matter was partly discovered by the 'outsider' Faction of the Azure Emperor Palace. Luckily, they only knew bits and pieces of it." Diyi laughed as he continued, "In reality, the 'hidden' Azure Faction would always send some of their members to cultivate within the Emperor Star Academy. I'm a very good example, and there are also others, but no one knew of our true background. However, none of us succeeded in the tests the Azure Emperor set and eventually, the inheritance fell into your hands."

An expression of astonishment flashed through Qin Wentian's face. Only now did he understand more clearly the crux of the story.

Diyi then retrieved a token, with the word 'Azure' engraved onto it. He passed the token over to Qin Wentian as he stated, "I'm the keeper for this token, but I don't have the authority to use it. From this moment onwards, as the successor, this shall belong to you."

Diyi spoke, passing the token over, and as their hands came into contact, his fingers lightly sliced past, and a drop of blood fell from Qin Wentian's finger onto the token. Instantly, it shone with a radiant glow, and to Qin Wentian's surprise, a map appeared in the space above the token.

"From this moment onwards, this belongs to you. The map shows the location of where the 'hidden' Azure Faction is located. I hope that in future, when your power is enough, you will lead them back to the Azure Emperor Palace to reclaim their rightful place, able to live without fear of the threat posed by those transcendent powers of the nine continents," Diyi solemnly spoke, causing great waves to billow in Qin Wentian's heart.

"How strong are they?" Qin Wentian asked.

Diyi smiled, "I'm not clear of their actual strength but at the very least, they should be more powerful when compared to the Xiao Faction of the Nine Mystical Palace. However, you have to remember that members of the 'hidden' Azure Palace place great emphasis on keeping a low profile. Back then, many transcendent powers banded together to kill the Azure Emperor, and they would definitely not allow the Azure Emperor Palace to rise up in power once again."

"Mhm." Qin Wentian earnestly took note.

"And one more thing, you are not a descendant of the direct bloodline, so it will not be so easy for you to completely control the power of the 'hidden' Azure Faction," Diyi explained, and comprehension dawned on Qin Wentian's face. Oh yeah, with his current power, how would those Heavenly Dipper Sovereigns of the 'hidden' Azure Faction even acknowledge his commands? It truly wouldn't be easy.

"However you don't need to worry. Even if you can't control them, at the very least, they wouldn't act against you. They would wait for you to grow, until you obtained their recognition."

"I will definitely work hard." Qin Wentian calmed the waves in his heart as he gave a carefree laugh. Upon learning such a huge secret, there shouldn't be anyone that would be able to remain calm, right?

Although the 'hidden' Azure Faction would be under his control, it went without saying that as of now, the burden and responsibility of reviving the Azure Emperor Palace back to its former glory now fell onto his shoulders.

"I also heard that you and that lass of the Mo Clan are mutually fond of each other. She has extraordinary talent in the field of herbs and alchemy. It's just that it's hard for her talent to blossom when stuck in such a small place as Chu. Before I depart, do you want me to act as your matchmaker?" Diyi laughed, causing an expression of embarrassment to appear on Qin Wentian's face.

"It's still too early for that." Qin Wentian gulped, as nervousness flickered in his eyes.

"Haha, you're right. In that case, I shan't interfere in the matters of you youngsters any longer." Diyi laughed, as he shifted his glance to the ephemeral silhouette poised not far away from him. She stood there silently, as though she didn't exist. Due to her presence, Diyi refrained from reminding Qin Wentian to be wary of dangers and to take care of himself. He knew that Fairy Qingmei had already made preparations to ensure the safety of Qin Wentian.

Naturally, Qin Wentian had already noticed the ephemeral beauty standing near him. He felt it was somewhat strange, however, she didn't say anything to him, and just stood there silently.

.....

Regarding the news of Emperor Star Academy's dissolution, the Royal Clan of Chu was secretly delighted. Although they were intimidated by Diyi's actions, nevertheless from this moment onwards, the Emperor Star Academy would no longer exist. This meant that the power that had been opposing the Royal Clan for over 3,000 years was no more. Naturally, they would feel relaxed.

For these past months, because of Qin Wentian, the Emperor Star Academy remained in direct opposition against the Royal Clan.

Now that the students of the Emperor Star Academy dispersed, some even leaving Chu, the Royal Clan didn't interfere. They were more than willing to see such a situation.

However today, outside the residence of one of the powers supporting the Royal Clan, the Ye Clan, a Life-and-Death Contract was deposited, challenging Ye Wuque. The location was none other the towering platforms of the Chu Emperor District, where the Jun Lin Banquet was hosted. The sender of the letter, was naturally Qin Wentian.

This piece of news was quickly publicized, as it soon engulfed the entire Royal Capital. Diyi's appearance drew so much attention that many had already forgotten the champion of the Jun Lin Banquet, Qin Wentian, had already stepped into Yuanfu. And what's more, he had tyrannically disposed of the second-ranked Sikong Minyue with such ease, it bordered on the absurd.

The most dazzling genius in the Jun Lin Banquet, ignoring the difference in their cultivation levels, had issued a challenge of his own accord to Ye Wuque, who had only just stepped into the 2nd level of Yuanfu himself. Undoubtedly, this piece of news was capable of stirring up the hearts of the people.

How strong was Qin Wentian now that he had broken through to Yuanfu?

A Life-and-Death Contract, these four words allowed everyone to know how strong Qin Wentian's self confidence was.

Not only that, more news followed. Similarly, both Wang Teng and Wu Chong also received Life-and-Death Contracts issued by Qin Wentian.

Ye Wuque, Wu Chong, Wang Teng, were all at the 2nd level of Yuanfu. Back when they accompanied Xiao Lan to challenge the Emperor Star Academy, all three had obtained victory over the geniuses of the Emperor Star Academy who had the same level of cultivation base as them.

The Chu Emperor District, after the Jun Lin Banquet, once again started to attract the attention of the entire Royal Capital.

Qin Wentian, would he still be able to replicate his feats from back then? Shining with as much splendor as before, ignoring the differences between cultivation bases and wasting away those so called 'geniuses'?

Chapter 199: Killing Wang Teng

Chu Emperor District was opened to the masses today. The entire spectator's stand was filled with people from all around the Royal Capital; how could they miss a life and death battle between Qin Wentian and the three powerhouses at the second level of Yuanfu?

If Ye Wuque rejected the challenge, the halo from his 'genius' title, would fade away from him.

In any case, he was Ye Wuque, the most talented cultivator in the Ye Clan's younger generation, with a second level Yuanfu cultivation base. Naturally, he would not reject the battle.

Qin Wentian had long arrived way before the appointed time, sitting atop a dueling platform, with his eyes closed. His countenance did not twitch, it was as though he didn't realize he was the target of stares from the entire crowd in the spectator's stand.

Mustang, Luo Huan and Fan Le had also arrived. How could they miss such a battle?

Even Chu Tianjiao was present. He sat atop the Azure Dragon Jadeite Seat, an expression of anticipation could be seen on his face. He really wanted to see how Qin Wentian could be so confident in winning against Ye Wuque, Wu Chong and Wang Teng.

Bai Qingsong and Autumn Snow were here, as well. Deep in her heart, Autumn Snow felt an indescribable emotion as she gazed upon Qin Wentian. If it weren't for the fact that she was personally witnessing all this, she would never have imagined the day would come where Qin Wentian would duel against Ye Wuque.

Would he be able to win?

For reasons unknown, at this moment in Autumn Snow's heart, she was actually willing to believe there was a possibility for Qin Wentian to defeat Ye Wuque.

"Hmph, look at how much effort the Emperor Star Academy had to expend to protect him. Since he dared to issue the Life-and-Death Contract, he would be the laughing stock of the country if he died here," remarked Qiu Mo with sarcasm. From below the platform, he glared at Qin Wentian, his countenance cold.

Back then, he had never liked Qin Wentian and had been involved in several conflicts with him. Thus, seeing Qin Wentian gradually becoming stronger, he naturally felt displeasure in his heart.

Luo Huan laughed lightly as she stared at Qiu Mo. “Oh yeah, do you still remember what a loser you were back then? You were at Yuanfu, while Junior Brother Qin was only at Arterial Circulation. You only knew how to use sarcastic words and the pressure of a higher cultivation base to bully him. I’m afraid that now, if he merely smacked you once with his palms, you would definitely die.”

Qiu Mo’s countenance froze. His cultivation base was still at the first level of Yuanfu, same as the Sikong Mingyue who was defeated by a single palm strike. He could only snort coldly in response, while bearing with the jealousy in his heart.

At this moment, a few figures abruptly appeared in the air. These figures were none other than Ye Wuque, Wu Chong and Wang Teng.

Ye Wuque was clad in white, and was as handsome as ever. Wu Chong’s own demeanor was incredibly demonic, while Wang Teng gave off an aura of extreme arrogance.

The three of them stood in the air, disdainfully looking down at Qin Wentian with cold gazes. They were exceptional geniuses who had a cultivation base at the second level of Yuanfu, but their face and pride were all tarnished, now that they had been challenged by a mere 1st level Yuanfu cultivator.

“If you died in today’s life and death battle, are you sure no one would come and make trouble for us?” Wang Teng stared at Qin Wentian, as he coldly remarked.

Naturally, Wang Teng was referring to Diyi. If Diyi chose to take revenge for Qin Wentian’s death, no one in Chu could stop him.

“If Qin Wentian dies in battle today, I can promise you that no one from my side will seek revenge for him. However, if anyone from your side dares to interfere in this battle, be prepared to bear the consequences yourselves.” Beneath the platform, Ren Qianxing’s cold gaze shot towards the three figures standing in the air. Since Qin Wentian dared to issue the Life-and-Death Contract, he had absolute confidence in him.

“Fine. There’s three of us here, how do you want to die?” Wang Teng asked harshly, his voice as cold as ice.

Qin Wentian was too arrogant, all of them had a cultivation base at the second level of Yuanfu, their reputations were not just for show.

Qin Wentian spread his hands as he stood up. His eyes were incredibly calm, with no hint of disturbance in them. His indifferent attitude clearly indicated that he didn't even put them in his sights. Such an attitude caused Wang Teng to narrow his eyes in anger. His aura flared up with a sword-like sharpness, as he dashed downwards to Qin Wentian.

Within Qin Wentian's body, the Astral Energy in his Yuanfu circulated as the blood seals of his bloodline fluttered with agitation. Qin Wentian's aura was undergoing a transformation.

His long black hair danced about in the wind, while his eyes turned demonic. Even his physique somehow seemed to become stronger and taller, as a red sheen of bloody light could be seen gleaming in his eyes.

“All of you, come at me together.”

Qin Wentian's voice was still serene, however, and as the sound of his voice drifted into the ears of the crowd, it felt like a thunderbolt strike from out of the blue, shocking them so much that their eyes couldn't help but widen.

Did they hear it wrongly?

Ye Wuque, Wang Teng and Wu Chong; they were all top-tier experts in the second level of Yuanfu. But now, Qin Wentian actually told all three of them to come at him together?

Those in the crowd that initially had confidence in Qin Wentian, now felt that he was too egotistical. He was simply arrogant, to an unreasonable degree.

“He truly doesn't know how high the Heavens are.” Qiu Mo laughed, with contempt in his eyes. Was Qin Wentian looking for death?

Mustang gazed upon Qin Wentian's figure. He didn't know why, but he felt extremely touched.

Ye Wuque, Wu Chong and Wang Teng were the culprits behind Mountain's death. Qin Wentian didn't choose to fight them one-on-one, because he knew that if he killed just one of the three, the other two might no longer want to battle. Only in a scenario of one versus three, would his opponents have no chance to give a rejection.

As for Qin Wentian's decision to fight three of them at the same time, naturally, Mustang also had absolute confidence in Qin Wentian's abilities.

Since Qin Wentian had said it, he would definitely be able to accomplish it.

This was the impression Qin Wentian had always given to him. Back then it was so, when they were in the Sky Harmony City. Back then, it was also the same during the Jun Lin Banquet.

Today, it would be the same as well.

Luo Huan and Fan Le also had the utmost faith in Qin Wentian. Unknowingly, that youth had already caused his friends to believe in him to such an extent, a confidence that had no logic, yet this was an emotion that came from the depths of their hearts.

Ye Wuque, Wang Teng and Wu Chong were all stunned. Even Ye Wuque, who was always calm and collected, couldn't help but to laugh out loud. Qin Wentian was so clueless, he wouldn't even know how he'd die later on.

"The price of your foolishness, is death," Ye Wuque remarked. After which, he glanced at the two others beside him, as he continued, "Since he wishes to court death this much, let's grant it to him."

In unison, the nine Astral Souls of the three cultivators erupted into being. Brilliant star light illuminated the area, as rampant Astral Energy waves bedazzled the audience's vision.

"DIE!" Ye Wuque roared, as brutal killing intent pressed downwards. The three of them turned, rushing towards Qin Wentian with incredible speed. In the blink of an eye, they formed a chaotic maelstrom of carnage gusting towards Qin Wentian.

Ye Wuque's attack resembled a sword, flashing multi-colored beams of sword light, penetrating through everything.

Wu Chong's attack resembled a demon, incomparably ferocious, able to suppress all his opponents.

Wang Teng's attack resembled a war chariot, bulldozing over everything that blocked his path.

Their attacks congregated together, forming into the maelstrom, with Qin Wentian as the target. The hearts of the crowd pounded wildly, it was as though they could already see Qin Wentian getting lacerated into pieces. The maelstrom howled in madness.

Boom! Qin Wentian took a step forwards, as a towering aura erupted forth from him. In that instant, boundless amounts of demonic Qi and a blood-colored glow coalesced, shrouding him in a layer of light. His inky black long hair was so straight that they resembled swords.

Qin Wentian inclined his head, as his eyes flickered with a fearsome bloody demonic light. Just a single stare from him was capable of causing the three above to feel a stifling sense of pressure, but in spite of this, they did not lessen the power of their attacks. They wanted Qin Wentian to die here.

ROAR~ A terrifying howl of rage exploded from Qin Wentian, as though he wanted to obliterate both Heaven and Earth. Blasting out with both his palms, the crowd felt the aura Qin Wentian was exuding resembled an Ancient Demon. His attacks gave off the feeling that there was nothing they couldn't conquer.

As the last stance of the Thousand-Hands Imprint – Great Thousand-Hands Imprint, erupted forth, the space between Qin Wentian and the three attackers were filled with countless gigantic palm shadows, colliding directly with the incoming maelstrom.

The terrifying sounds of an immense explosion rang out, actually reducing the might of the fearsome maelstrom, to the extent it became a ferocious after-wind, blowing upon the faces of the crowd. After the explosion, Qin Wentian was already flying in the skies, dragging the three attackers with him as he continued heading upwards.

“KILL!” Qin Wentian roared, as he spat out endless beams of sword rays, while blasting forwards with both his palms. His attacks were filled with an indomitable might.

The scene of Qin Wentian dragging the bodies of his attackers upwards, caused the hearts of the crowd to tremble with disbelief. Was this even possible? They felt as though they were under an illusion, it was as if Qin Wentian was the one with the higher cultivation base. He gave off the feeling that his body contained an unlimited amount of energy.

“You are dead, Wang Teng.” Qin Wentian's voice drifted to the crowd as he executed the Dragon Capturing Hands from the top-tier, Human-Graded innate technique – Dragon Subduing Fist. With his current cultivation base, the Dragon Capturing Hands when executed, was akin to him really subduing a demonic dragon. His hands transformed into blood-red dragon claws as he made a grab towards Wang Teng.

The countenances of the three attackers turned incomparably unsightly to behold. Howling madly, they spun in the air and twisted away as the Astral Energy within their Yuanfu exploded forth, granting them sudden bursts of strength. After they lengthened the distance between them and Qin Wentian, powerful innate techniques of different varieties were blasted out, targeting the latter.

Qin Wentian responded by pushing out his left palm. A fearsome red-colored mountain peak manifested, as it explosively slammed towards Ye Wuque and Wu Chong. Qin Wentian had already perfected his Falling Mountain Palms, especially when he had converted the Astral Energy absorbed

from the Heavenly Hammer Constellation to Mountain-type Divine Energy within his body. This further augmented the power of this innate technique.

Ye Wuque and Wu Chong both madly sent out their attacks, splitting apart the mountain peak. However at the same time, Qin Wentian's right draconic claw had already reached Wang Teng.

"SCRAM!" Wang Teng howled, as his Astral Souls descended. The attack he unleashed with both hands were akin to the power of ten thousand horses galloping across the plains. However, the Dragon Capturing Hands Qin Wentian executed was infused with Sword-type Divine Energy, containing an exceptional sharpness, easily breaking Wang Teng's attack apart. Fear flashed in his eyes, as Wang Teng quickly retreated. However, the draconic claws of Qin Wentian seemed as though they were truly attached to the arms of a demon. With great speed, Qin Wentian's arms actually lengthened, his claws clutching around Wang Teng's head.

"NOOOOOOO!" Wang Teng's features contorted with terror. When he stared at Qin Wentian, he felt as though he was looking at an invincible demon king.

"Goodbye." A crisp sound rang out, as the draconic claws crushed Wang Teng's head. The savage, bloody scene caused the spectators to freeze, as countless people in the crowd were seemingly lost, yet to come back to their senses.

Was that really an attack unleashed by a cultivator at the first level of Yuanfu?

At this moment, the hearts of those second level Yuanfu cultivators in the crowd were also shuddering. If they placed themselves in Wang Teng's shoes, they would also be unable to block that attack, enabling Qin Wentian to kill them.

When they looked upon Qin Wentian again, there were no longer any traces of the youth from before. He was too powerful.

That youth had matured, and already had the capability to look down on all those supposed 'geniuses' of Chu, advancing towards an Era that solely belonged to him!

Chapter 200: Matters of the Past Dissipate With the Wind

Ye Wuque and Wu Chong felt dread in their hearts as they saw the death of Wang Teng.

The three of them had only just started encircling Qin Wentian, but who would have expected that within the blink of an eye, Wang Teng would already be dead.

When Ye Wuque and Wu Chong gazed at Qin Wentian again, trepidation could be seen in their eyes, as their facial expressions grew incredibly ugly to behold.

Not only that, many of the spectating Ye Clan members stood up, gazing towards the skies as shock bombed their hearts.

When had Qin Wentian become this strong... if that were the case, wouldn't Ye Wuque...

Qin Wentian then swept his gaze towards the two attackers. Ye Wuque and Wu Chong locked eyes for an instant before similar expressions of ruthlessness could be seen on their faces.

AWOOO~ An overflowing sense of demonic Qi permeated the air, as all three of Wu Chong's Beast-type Astral Souls howled. His whole appearance resembled a demonic being rushing down from the skies, aiming to kill Qin Wentian. Over ten thousand manifestations of illusory demonic beasts materialized, as they rushed together with Wu Chong, viciously targeting Qin Wentian.

The entirety of Qin Wentian's arms were as though they were covered by demonic armor. The violent look in his eyes grew increasingly pronounced. Now that he had already cultivated the second stage of Fiend Transformation Art, in addition to the power of his bloodline limit, he truly resembled an ancient demon monarch, imperiously gazing at Wu Chong.

The Dragon Subduing Fist he unleashed, metamorphosed into numerous illusory demonic dragons howling in anger. Their towering violence could be felt, even by those in the spectator's stand, as the illusory dragons explosively clashed against the horde of ten thousand demonic beasts.

At the same moment, a pair of wings appeared on Ye Wuque's back, as he descended in a graceful arc. With beautiful multi-colored swords equipped in both hands, his swords sliced towards Qin Wentian's throat.

Qin Wentian didn't even bother to look at Ye Wuque. He merely raised his left hand, flicking a finger in the direction of Ye Wuque as monstrous sword Qi erupted forth from him. The countless numbers of sharp swords formed from the sword Qi, congealed into a powerful beam of light as it shot towards Ye Wuque.

Ye Wuque's countenance sunk, as he instantly changed tactics. At the same time, Qin Wentian's right palm had already wavered several times, reinforcing the illusory dragons as the tyrannical force of his earlier strike blasted apart Wu Chong's attack. The remnant of his attacks continued forth unimpeded, the waves of aftershock causing Wu Chong's head to explode.

The expression on Ye Wuque's face was exceptionally unnatural when Qin Wentian directed his gaze towards him again. His wings fanned out, granting Ye Wuque an increase in speed as he explosively retreated. From that earlier exchange of blows, he already knew that he wouldn't be able to defeat Qin Wentian. And in the face of certain death, he had totally discarded his face and pride. Staying alive was the most important thing to him.

A pair of Garuda Wings sprouted behind Qin Wentian's back, his body sliced through the air with incredible speed, akin to a real Garuda, easily catching up to Ye Wuque. Upon nearing his target, Qin Wentian executed the Dragon Capturing Hands, grabbing onto Ye Wuque. Regardless of how much he struggled, Ye Wuque realised that he could no longer advance forward.

The direction that Ye Wuque was moving forward to, was naturally in the direction of the Ye Clan. At that moment, aside from sensing a strong will from Ye Wuque, those from the Ye Clan could also see true terror reflected in his eyes.

"No..." The countenances of the Ye Clan's members turned incomparably unsightly. They had no way to accept such an ending.

Rendering Ye Wuque immobile with a few well-placed strikes to his spinal area, Qin Wentian stood in the air with Ye Wuque's body in his hands, staring down at the Ye Clan's members with his expression as serene as ever.

"Is this the so-called number one 'genius' from your Ye Clan? Even before I started cultivation, the halo of his supposed 'brilliance' had already shone so brightly in the Sky Harmony City, pressuring my Qin Clan, as well as myself." Qin Wentian glanced at the Ye Clan, as well as Bai Qingsong.

"From then to now, around a year or more has passed right?" Qin Wentian murmured to himself, yet his calm waves sent great ripples through the hearts of the crowd.

Yes, in just this short span of time, Qin Wentian had already defeated Ye Wuque.

Despite seeing the pitiful begging expression on Ye Wuque's face, Bai Qingsong still didn't dare believe all of this was real.

"Release him."

At that moment, a voice rang out. The speaker was none other than the person atop the dragon seat, Chu Tianjiao.

His countenance was still as unperturbed as before, and nobody knew what he was thinking of. However, as he spoke his earlier words, asking Qin Wentian to release Ye Wuque, his voice was filled with an unquestionable command.

A ray of hope bloomed in Ye Wuque's heart, as the eyes of the Ye Clan's members brightened. As the person with the most authority in Chu, maybe Chu Tianjiao would be able to save Ye Wuque.

Qin Wentian didn't turn his head, and continued staring ahead. The sounds of bones shattering echoed in the stillness of the air. In that instant, the light that was shining forth from the eyes of the Ye Clan's members, turned dim.

Qin Wentian slowly relaxed his grasp, as Ye Wuque body fell lifelessly downwards, slamming onto the ground. His reply took the form of action, breaking apart the last of their hopes.

An unnatural light flashed in Chu Tianjiao's eyes. Although he had expected the possibility of Qin Wentian not complying, he didn't think that Qin Wentian would be so decisive, killing Ye Wuque immediately after he interceded for him.

It was as though Chu Tianjiao himself was the culprit that hastened Ye Wuque's death.

Without a doubt, in front of the spectating crowd, Qin Wentian's actions were akin to a huge slap to Chu Tianjiao's face.

"Release him?" A sarcastic smile appeared on Qin Wentian's face. "Mountain was merely a student of the Emperor Star Academy, who did he offend? Had his murderers ever thought of showing mercy to him? When facing the oppression from the Royal Academy and Nine

Mystical Palace, did you ever think of sparing the students of my Emperor Star Academy? Back when the Ye Clan surrounded the Sky Harmony City, causing many in my Qin Clan to die, did they ever think of granting us a path to live?"

Each and every word spoken by Qin Wentian was filled with coldness. He couldn't even be bothered to look at Chu Tianjiao.

The Chu Emperor District was totally silent, it was as though the entire crowd could feel the flames of fury burning in Qin Wentian's heart. If not, he probably wouldn't have gone all out, crushing the three attackers so overwhelmingly.

"Chu Tianjiao, if you had the opportunity to kill me, I don't think you would show me any mercy as well, right?" Qin Wentian asked indifferently.

Chu Tianjiao didn't reply, but the truth was as what Qin Wentian had said. If he really had the opportunity to kill Qin Wentian, there was no way he would show him mercy.

"Me too," Qin Wentian quietly spoke, causing the crowd's gaze to freeze. The simple words of 'me too', had already announced Qin Wentian's determination.

Qin Wentian then turned to regard Bai Qingsong. At that moment, Bai Qingsong was truly afraid.

Back when the Ye Clan came to the Sky Harmony City with a marriage proposal for Autumn Snow and Ye Wuque, Bai Qingsong was incomparably excited. In the proposal, he saw the rise of his Bai Clan, as well as hope, which caused him to kick Qin Wentian away without hesitation, betraying the Qin Clan.

But now, Ye Wuque had actually died in the hands of the youth he kicked away. He felt as though he were dreaming, this sensation was extremely surreal. Nobody would be able to comprehend the current emotions running through Bai Qingsong.

Did he regret it? He didn't know. But so what if he had regrets? At this moment, he felt as though he had aged tremendously. He was somewhat jealous of Qin Chuan, why did he have such an excellent adopted son? It was the opposite in the case of his own daughters; Autumn Snow was a 'genius' that had degenerated, while Bai Qing, his younger daughter whom he used to look down on, had actually condensed an Astral Soul from the 4th Heavenly Layer for her first Astral Soul. Yet, because he had repaid kindness with enmity, Bai Qing broke their father and daughter relationship, discarded their familial ties and disappeared completely. Up till now, no news had been heard about her.

As for him, after enduring all these 'impacts', and seeing the rise of Qin Wentian with his own eyes, it all caused him to have an extremely bitter feeling in his heart.

"Qin Wentian." At this moment, Autumn Snow spoke. The smile on her face when she faced him was as though she had already discarded the huge rock that had always been in her heart.

“I know that our Bai Clan has let you down. I, too, have also let you down. Sometimes in the middle of the night, I would regret the choices I made back then. It was you that allowed me to become the dazzling genius of Sky Harmony City, but what you received in return... was my betrayal. Not only that, after the academy selection, my Bai Clan joined the Ye Clan in encircling and killing members of your Qin Clan. I know that I don't have the qualifications to beg for your forgiveness, but I still have to say this.”

The Autumn Snow of this moment had already discarded the burdens filling her heart, as she calmly continued, “The things that happened, were all wrought by my own hands. Regardless of how you want to deal with me, even if you want to kill me, I would have no complaints and will wholeheartedly accept your decision. However, please spare my father, he's already so old... I'm no longer the dazzling 'genius' I once was and even my little sister, Bai Qing, has abandoned the family because of you. My father is truly old.”

“Do you know that Bai Qing was even more amazing compared to me. Her first Astral Soul was condensed from the 4th Heavenly Layer. That day, she cried as she spoke to my father, releasing her Astral Soul, while telling him she was leaving because of her Wentian gege. Because of you, she severed all ties with us, abandoning her clan, and up till now there has been no news of her. You should know how much she cared for you. I know that I have no qualifications to beg you, but please... please, for the sake of my little sister Bai Qing, please spare my father. If she knew that her beloved Wentian gege killed her own father, how would she face you in the future?”

The crowd also felt moved in their hearts as they heard the sincerity of Autumn Snow's beseechment. So, the rumors were true, her talent was bestowed upon her by Qin Wentian. Back then, the Bai Clan did indeed betray him.

But to think that the little daughter of the Bai Clan had actually condensed an Astral Soul from the 4th Heavenly Layer for her first Astral Soul, wasn't this a little too terrifying?

Qin Wentian's heart shuddered lightly, as the silhouette of a little girl appeared in his mind. He still remembered back then, how the little girl handed a dagger to him, asking him to use her as a hostage for him to escape the clutches of her father. Back then, he could still remember how devastated her heart was.

“Wentian gege.” The sound of the lass Bai Qing's voice resounded in his head. Qin Wentian drew in a deep breath, as he tried to clear his mind. Today, he had truly intended to kill Bai Qingsong. However, upon hearing the words of Autumn Snow, his normally resolute heart, actually wavered.

How could he still face Bai Qing if he were to truly kill her father?

Qin Wentian directed his gaze onto Autumn Snow again. Autumn Snow still had a smile on her face, yet tears were silently flowing down it. She too, was reminiscing on the beautiful memories of the three of them together. Now, everything they once shared had dissipated together with the wind, leaving only painful memories.

“Bai Qingsong, cripple your own cultivation and this matter shall be at its end,” Qin Wentian finally spoke, deciding not to kill him.

Bai Qingsong’s expression faltered, before he nodded his head lightly. Raising his palm, he gritted his teeth and ruthlessly slammed his palms onto his chest, causing his arterial pathways to shatter. In the next instant, Bai Qingsong appeared to have aged over ten years older, as strands of white appeared among his hair.

“Father,” Autumn Snow cried out, as she shifted her gaze towards Qin Wentian.

However, she only saw Qin Wentian turn around as he left the platform, doing nothing to her.

The strength in Autumn Snow’s legs gave up as she stumbled. She sat on the ground, with tears streaking down her face. This painful emotion in her heart felt extremely excruciating. Watching Qin Wentian walk further and further away, she couldn’t help but question herself, what had she lost..?

She was finally free and should be overjoyed, and yet why did she feel such intense pain instead?

Qin Wentian left, this piece of his past that was stuck in his heart, had faded away like smoke. Only that bright-eyed and innocent little lass, Bai Qing, remained in the warmth of his memories.