

## Apocalypse 101

### Chapter 101

You only truly reach the requirements to breakthrough a realm if you can enter this state.

At this very moment, Gu Qing Shan's spirit energy is rushing around his entire body, travelling through every acupoints before concentrating at the full moon behind his head.

"Open!" Gu Qing Shan breathed out one word.

With that word, the full moon broke into pieces, each piece disappeared into nothing as they shattered.

The intense spirit energy released from that created a storm inside the pill furnace, blowing Gu Qing Shan's sleeves fluttering.

Suddenly, a crack opened in space.

Gu Qing Shan felt himself exiting his body, pulled into the void.

What's going on?

He never anticipated this.

Even in the past life, despite his brush with death when breakthrough Foundation Establishment, he didn't face this situation.

He looked down unconsciously to see his body was still sitting in the pill furnace, only his consciousness was being sucked into the void.

"How is this possible!"

White goose jumped up in surprise, and started pacing around the hall.

"What happened?" Qin Xiao Lou opened his eyes, his expression was serious.

"Because I'm here, there aren't any Tianma, but Gu Qing Shan's soul vessel itself is entering the void" white goose answered worriedly.

"How is that possible, what could have happened, I've never heard of a situation like that before" Qin Xiao Lou muttered.

"There's nothing we can do now, he can only rely on himself" white goose said dejectedly.

Xiuxiu thought a bit, then said: "Shifu once told me that breaking through a realm have something to do with your karma"

Qin Xiao Lou's eyes glowed a bit, saying: "That's right, it could be that he has some sort of good fortune so he's being led towards it"

White goose sighed: "Hah, we spent all that time preparing, but still couldn't protect him, we can only hope he really doesn't run into any problems"

As Gu Qing Shan melded into the void, he was pulled a mysterious force, flying in a certain direction.

On the way, numerous strange faces appeared.

Gu Qing Shan could even see a Demon-faced Tianma.

But all the faces and monsters seems to be afraid of touching him, so as soon as they saw him get close they immediately ran as far as possible.

While flying, he felt something amiss.

This direction gives him a sense of familiarity.

Suddenly, the mysterious force became clearly stronger.

The force felt like a rushing water current, pulling him along its path, avoiding all the broken space-time along the way.

Gu Qing Shan felt his vision blurred before being pulled into a certain scenery.

A giant pillar was in front of him.

A pillar made of bronze.

A bronze pillar so big it separates heaven and earth, and neither ends can be seen.

A corpse 10-stories tall was pinned to its gigantic shaft.

The corpse was looking downward, his body covered in a full-body black armor.

On the ground under the corpse was an entire world filled with black skeletons.

The skeletons were trying their best to climb up the bronze pillar.

You could tell, they wanted that corpse.

Gu Qing Shan felt a soul-freezing chill, not understanding why he came here again.

This place was supposed to just be a strange place that he accidentally went into last time he travelled through the space-time vortex to reach Shen Wu world.

“You’re here”

A voice resounded in Gu Qing Shan’s consciousness.

“Who are you?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The voice was silent, then answered: “You had better not know that, if my name was spoken then both you and I will be discovered”

Gu Qing Shan looked again, the giant corpse was hidden inside his armor, unmoved.

This is a very weird location in space-time, no one knows how it exists, no one knows what it is, and why it is here.

It is literally a scene that can only be seen in the space-time vortex.

The voice continued: "You only need to know that I've seen many worlds born and destroyed, I've stood at a peak so high that most creatures can't reach, even after a billion years, my name would still be known across the corners of the worlds"

"Then why are you here?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The voice went silent, then spoke with a low tone: "There are a few things that even I can't stop, that no one can stop ——we don't have time, let's not talk about that right now"

"Did you bring me here?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

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"I did" the voice said: "You can't blame me for that, I've not met a single creature for over 200 million years, do you know what that feels like?"

Gu Qing Shan asked again: "Then I'm here already, what do you want?"

The voice spoke: "You are a unique existence, otherwise you would not be able to pass into this prison cell safely"

"There really is no time so I'll keep it short" the continued: "I want to make a deal with you, one day when you're strong enough, come and save me"

Gu Qing Shan evaluated again, if the other party could move at all, the very first thing it would do is probably make him stay here.

Even though it could bring his soul vessel, it probably has no way to force him to do anything, that's why it's asking for a deal.

Gu Qing Shan purposefully asked: "Why can't it be right now?"

The voice seems to be laughing, replied: "Because it's too soon, right now you're much too weak, I already didn't have any other way that I had to put my hopes onto you"

"Then what's in it for me?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"What do you want?" The voice answered.

"Just now, you said you've seen many worlds born and destroyed, then I have something that I want to know" Gu Qing Shan said.

"What is it?"

"Why" Gu Qing Shan arrange his words a bit: "Why do so many Apocalypse-level calamities happen at the same time in a single world?"

As the voice heard that, it muttered: "At the same time? This type of situation is very rare, mostly because the cost for it is too high, so demons would always do it one step at a time"

"You should know, everything has a cause and effect, it's very possible that they're facing some kind of trouble where they currently are"

“Demons are a type of creature that’s afraid of the strong and bullies the weak, they’ll always pick the softest fruit in the yard first”

Facing trouble where they are.

Pick the softest fruit.

These two sentences felt like lightning, blowing away the mist in Gu Qing Shan’s mind, revealing part of the truth behind the advent of the Apocalypse.

All the rapid changes in Reality quickly appeared in Gu Qing Shan’s mind.

It really could be that.

Because I appeared unexpectedly, Gong Sun Zhi and Ning Yue Xi survived, the situation with Shen Wu world became wide-spread.

Because I was accepted into Bai Hua Fairy’s sect, she herself acted, defeating the entire demon army’s frontline, killing 4 Beast Saints and unveiling the traitor amidst humanity in the process.

Because of that, humanity of this world has realized very early on that they needed to band together. To prevent themselves from becoming like Shen Wu world, they’re preparing to retaliate with their full power.

Facing such opposition, the demons turned their effort elsewhere, attempting to penetrate the relatively weaker Reality.

It’s because of that that the calamities of Reality would come so quickly, and things became dangerous so fast.

In the past life, because cultivation world had so many casualties that Reality became their reinforcement to help fend off the demons, it wasn’t until the cultivation world was destroyed that the demons started to be invaded in full force by the demons.

But in this life, because the cultivation world’s flow of events has changed, Reality instead became the main point of attack for the demons.

The fate of the two worlds has been reversed and changed just like that, it’s so ridiculous that he can’t even laugh.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly asked: “Is there any way to stop the demons?”

The voice: “Of course there is, you only need to take the two worlds’ main 5-Elemental ———-“

The voice stopped

“What is it? What about the main 5-Elements?” Gu Qing Shan shouted.

But his question was answered by intense lightning raining down on the bronze pillar.

In a matter of seconds, the bronze pillar was already covered in arcs of lightning.

Boom!

Gu Qing Shan felt deeply shocked at what he saw.

This isn't normal lightning, compared to the Lightning Trial, this is many times much stronger than it.

This is an apocalyptic level of power, no one can resist it no matter who they are.

The corpse didn't move, and didn't say anything else, only stayed still and endured the lightning strikes on its body.

Gu Qing Shan could see a drop of black blood dripping down the corpse's mouth, then dissipated within seconds.

All the skeletons on the ground was struck and destroyed by the lightning, the ground became a sea of black-colored bones.

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan felt the mysterious force surrounding his body disappeared.

Another immense pulling force appeared, as Gu Qing Shan was sucked away from this world and return immediately.

One second later, he opened his eyes and found himself back inside the pill furnace.

As he opened his mouth, Gu Qing Shan exhaled.

The breath he exhaled concentrated in the air, swirling and formed a natural rune.

When spirit energy naturally forms runes, that means you've successfully entered Foundation Establishment.

At the same time, an intense light appeared on the War God UI.

Large lines of text appeared on the UI one after another.

"Detected user to have broken through and became a Foundation Establishment cultivator"

"Begin attempt to awaken Thaumaturgy"

"Detected user to have completed War God Thaumaturgy Quest"

"Detected completed Quest evaluation to be S"

"Begin rolling gacha for Thaumaturgy reward"

Everything happened so quick that Gu Qing Shan didn't even have time to think.

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He calmed himself down and looked at War God UI.

No matter what happens, let's just take the reward first before doing anything else.

Outside the pill furnace, white goose and Qin Xiao Lou were both a bit shocked, then breathed out in relief.

"Ok" Qin Xiao Lou doesn't mediate anymore, only sat on a chair and crossed his legs, "now we'll have to see his luck, whether or not he can awaken a Thaumaturgy after breaking through"

"As long as he's safe, having a Thaumaturgy or not doesn't matter" white goose casually said.

“Is Third brother fine?” Xiuxiu asked, not knowing anything.

“He’s fine” white goose nodded at her.

Xiuxiu smiled like she got a load off her chest.

On the War God UI, four patterns appeared on the wheel.

A line of text appeared in the middle of the wheel.

“Thaumaturgies has been rolled successfully, because the user’s Quest completion evaluation is S, you’ve received the highest amount to pick from: 4”

“The user can choose 1 out of 4 Thaumaturgy to awaken”

Looks like completing the Quest perfectly does have its benefits, Gu Qing Shan was a little surprised at being able to choose out of so many.

If he didn’t do anything, he’d probably only receive a random Thaumaturgy without the chance to choose.

Looking at the four patterns, he found whichever he looks at will light up and shows him a detailed description.

The first pattern is a clock.

A clock will always signify a time-based Thaumaturgy.

Time-based Thaumaturgies can only be either a God’s Chosen Skill or a Divine Skill.

Gu Qing Shan’s heart jumped a bit.

Then he looked at the detailed description

“God’s Chosen Skill: Timed Announcement”

“Description: On your 22nd birthday, exactly at 8 PM, you can use the skill to let the entire world hear your voice”

———the fuck can this be used for?

As expected of a God’s Chosen Skill, it could be any type of strange and unusual effect.

Gu Qing Shan could almost feel the black lines on his head, so he skipped to the next pattern.

The second pattern is a fist.

“Martial Thaumaturgy: Air Fist”

“Description: Attack with your fist, within a 3-meter radius, as you use martial arts, you can hit your opponent with the strength of a normal fist attack”

With any martial artist, this would be quite a decent ability, but thinking, Gu Qing Shan feels that he should just keep going on the path of the sword.

Regretfully, he also skipped this one.

The third pattern is a girl.

“God’s Chosen Skill: Female transformation”

“Description: After use, the user will become female. Allure +1000%, personal strength increased to 115%”

Gu Qing Shan doesn’t even hesitate to skip this ability.

He’s feeling a bit anxious now.

Don’t tell me I couldn’t even get a single usable Thaumaturgy?

If there’s no choice, he can only choose Air Fist, it’s a practical Thaumaturgy, all things considered.

Gu Qing Shan sigh, then looked at the last pattern.

The fourth pattern are two silver slithering snakes.

As he looked at it, the two snakes quickly twisted together, forming one big words

“Smiting” (TN: as in Divine Smite)

As he saw that, Gu Qing Shan’s heart jumped again.

“It’s Smiting”

He spoke with a slight trembling voice.

He doesn’t even need to check the description and immediately chose this Thaumaturgy.

“The user has picked Smiting to be his Thaumaturgy, War God Thaumaturgy Quest reward complete”

“10 seconds later, the user will have a choice between Life or Death Lightning”

On the War God UI, the wheel began to shrink, then jumped to one of the black buttons at the bottom, replacing it.

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There’s only two active buttons in the entire row of buttons right now, one of them was “War God Skills” and the other was this wheel.

On it, a small icon flashed.

If you look at it carefully, you’d see the words “Smiting” on the icon.

The wheel was completely empty except for this Thaumaturgy.

But Gu Qing Shan is already very pleased.

This is a mutated 5-Element, a Thaumaturgy that many dreams of having.

———Lightning element spirit energy

Lightning isn’t just very effective against demons, it also has numerous other unthinkable uses and characteristics.

In the previous life, after a certain person awoken a Lightning elemental root, he stole a Warship, risked the dangers of meeting space monsters to go to outer space and found a planet to live on.

This was a place the Confederate found after much research, known to have very few space monsters.

The Warship itself have a self-sufficient ecosystem, he only needed to provide it with energy for it to last for 50 years.

After 50 years he would die, but by then the world would've already ended and the rest of humanity already died out, it would have been a long enough life.

During the last few dark and depressing years of the Apocalypse, he would send a broadcast of his happy, luxurious daily life for the world to watch.

Right, when he left, he also took his girlfriend with him, a blond beauty.

As well as a dog.

And before the Apocalypse came, he was a chef.

His life was truly something to envy.

Luckily, that happy life only lasted for 7 years, because in the 8th year, a space monster passed by where he was and accidentally killed him.

When the news reached the survivors living the harsh life on Earth for the 8th year in a row, everyone felt a rare sense of happiness that couldn't be described.

This is the most extreme usage of Lightning Element root; so Gu Qing Shan won't attempt it.

But you can see from this just how useful Lightning can be.

Inside the pill furnace, Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

He's already awoken the Thaumaturgy, what else did he need to choose?

"Choice begin!"

1 second later, the entire world disappeared in front of his eyes.

Gu Qing Shan found himself standing on a mountainous sanctuary, or to be precise, on a road of a sanctuary.

It was night, the rain was pouring with vigor, only when Gu Qing Shan appeared did the rain suddenly stopped.

All things became still, as the night wind slowly blew, lightning was brewing in the cloud above, occasionally let out a thunderous roar.

It was like the world itself was waiting for something.

Then words appeared from thin air, silently floated in front of where Gu Qing Shan stood.



“Thunder, outer Yin, inner Yang, creating thunder, contains sound but no substance”

“Lightning, inner Yin, outer Yang, sparking lightning, contains light without sound”

“Lightning and Thunder, mirrors Life and Death. Thunder is Death, there is nothing but to kill; Lightning is Life, there’s only a will to live. From Life and Death, choose only one”

“You have 1 minute”

Gu Qing Shan silently read all of it and went silent.

Main 5-Elements and mutated 5-Elements, from what he knows, the awakening process is always the same, so he had no idea that Lightning had such a way of categorizing.

But thinking about it clearly, normally when awakening an Element, most people awaken main 5-Elements; mutated 5-Elements are quite rare, and the rarest of them all would have to be Lightning, so he doesn’t have much information to go on in the first place.

Then which does he choose?

He only has 1 minute.

But Gu Qing Shan already made a choice.

He doesn’t have any interest in the killing aspect of Thunder, because he’s a sword cultivator, and there’s no lack of ways for him to kill with the sword.

If there are too many methods for them to do the same thing, cultivators would eventually have to think about which would be better, thus affecting their progress.

Gu Qing Shan have seen Lightning element cultivators fought their foes.

The strength of Thunder is outrageous, truly something designed to destroy.

In the past life, all players that awaken to Lightning elemental would always choose Thunder type, probably because they’re afraid they might not get strong enough attack skills.

But Gu Qing Shan is absolutely confident that his sword arts won’t lose to any Thunder type cultivators in destructive power.

### **Chapter 103**

Does he really want to make this choice?

Gu Qing Shan was a bit hesitant, after all, he has never seen anyone choose Lightning of Life before.

In the Apocalypse, all everyone want to do is survive, so as soon as they can, they all choose Thunder of Death to increase their fighting strength, who cares about Life or whatever?

Not to mention, many players and cultivators don’t even have the chance to choose, even if they breakthrough a realm.

The awakening of a thaumaturgy isn’t a simple matter, as it would affect a cultivator’s direction for the rest of their life.

He already knows about how strong Thunder of Death is from his past life. If Gu Qing Shan doesn't want to risk it, choosing Thunder of Death isn't a bad choice at all.

This decision will affect the direction he grows from now on, if he chooses wrong, its effect isn't going to be felt until much, much later.

Lighting of Life, he has never seen anyone use it before in the past life.

— — — or maybe there were, but it didn't get noticed.

A powerful ability, yet never noticed by anyone. What kind of ability would that be?

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

Ting!

The System sound was heard.

"Time is up, please make your choice"

"I choose Life" Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth and chose.

As he said so, the text in the air disappeared.

The scenery regains its sounds.

But the sound of thunder in the sky disappeared, instead replaced by the sound of bugs on the banks of a forest stream, the sound of fish jumping out of the water, the cries of animals.

There was life on the mountain.

As he looked up, he saw a single a long streak of lightning, silent and timid, illuminating the sky. Asides from that, there wasn't anything else in the world.

Light and dark intersected, day and night turned over as the creatures on the ground started to prosper, and the sky became silent.

At this moment, a streak of lightning shaped like a dragon appeared, slowly flying into Gu Qing Shan's body.

As Gu Qing Shan slowly exited from this miraculous state, War God UI showed some text.

"Thaumaturgy awaken: Lightning"

"Because the thaumaturgy naturally contains the power of Smiting, all user damage to demons increased by 30%:

"Thaumaturgy first level: Seven Shackles, is now usable" (1)

"Seven Shackles: Any creature that gets hit by your Lightning will temporarily lose control of their body. Time limit: 1 second"

Gu Qing Shan was first stunned, then jumped in joy.

This is a true CC Skill, for a Profession with strong and deadly physical attacks like sword cultivator, having a CC Skill is like a tiger being given wings. (2)

The time limit is quite short, only 1 second, but even 1 second is enough for a sword cultivator like Gu Qing Shan to kill someone with his sword.

Not to mention, Lightning of Life is only at the first level, as the thaumaturgy become stronger and stronger, Gu Qing Shan believes he'll unlock the second and third level, gaining more power from it.

To him, Thunder of Death is strong but he won't be as used to it as he does the sword, while Lightning of Life give him something that he can't replace with sword arts.

In this moment, he's extremely glad he chose Lightning of Life.

Gu Qing Shan silently felt himself, opening the palm of his hand.

A blue, chaotic arc of lightning appeared, floating in his hand.

Gu Qing Shan grabbed it, striking the wall of the pill furnace.

Immediately, arcs of lightning slither like snakes and dragon along the wall of the pill furnace, letting out a crackling sound.

"Sword" he silently shouted.

The Earth sword appeared from thin air right where his hand was.

As Gu Qing Shan circulated his spirit energy he noticed the spirit energy in his Dantian indeed has an element now.

Lightning element.

Gu Qing Shan silently raised his sword.

A dim, shadowy light appeared on the sword.

Then, very quickly, the light bursts.

Numerous arcs of blue lightning circled the shaft of the sword, constantly appearing and disappearing, lighting up the dark interior of the pill furnace like a blinking light.

Outside the pill furnace, they all noticed this miraculous sight.

"Ah? How did Lightning appear? Third brother shouldn't be facing a Lightning Trial yet" Xiuxiu muttered, confused.

Qin Xiao Lou quickly understood, praising: "How rare, to awaken Lightning element spirit energy the very first time he broke through a realm, if that's the case, in later breakthroughs, it'll be fine even if he doesn't awaken any thaumaturgy"

White goose went silent, then sighed in relief.

Frontline.

"Ahahaha, it's Life type! Life type! Finally a bit competent, this Saint didn't make a mistake after all"

The entire camp could hear Bai Hua Fairy's silvery bell of a laugh.

Everyone looked at each other, confused as to what happened.

The red-faced Daoist was silent, then suddenly said: "Great Monk, is she alright?"

"What are you worried about?" The monk asked.

"There should be nothing wrong, but I'm afraid of what happens if it's a Sainted realm Tianma..." The red-faced Daoist hesitantly replied.

As he heard that, the monk's face became serious.

He stood up, saying: "Then we'll go take a look"

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"Ok then, a look won't hurt" The red-faced Daoist solemnly replied.

Bai Hua Palace

After confirming Gu Qing Shan has broken through, white goose chased Qin Xiao Lou and Xiuxiu out.

"There's many protection formations here, as well as pills and spirit cooking, since you've just broken through, take the time to stabilize your realm"

"We won't stay here, we'll come back to check on you tomorrow"

As white goose said so, he flapped his wings and flew away as well.

Gu Qing Shan finally has the chance to slowly savor the feeling of being a Foundation Establishment realm.

In theory, the best thing to do right now is to concentrate on circulating his spirit energy, to stabilize his cultivation.

But Gu Qing Shan doesn't do that yet, as a person that lived twice, he already has an accurate sense of where he stood, already knew what kind of power he can use, so stabilizing his cultivation is something that he can achieve in no time at all.

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

So the reason why his time flow is in a constant state of chaos has something to do with the two worlds changing, or it could be because the corpse on the bronze pillar did something to him.

As Gu Qing Shan seriously thought about it, he couldn't help but shiver.

What kind of existence is able to lock on to someone, as well as messing up his time flow across the space-time vortex?

It even noticed and took the opportunity when he broke through a realm to pull him away.

Such god-like powers, even Gu Qing Shan himself having lived twice had never heard of anyone capable of it.

But an existence that's so strong, so terrifying, is still being pinned on the bronze pillar and couldn't move even a little bit.

Then just who pinned him there?

This corpse wearing black armor spent so much effort and time, just to pull his soul vessel to see him. Then there's something he knows for a fact.

The corpse needs help from outside to be able to act.

The last thing he said was the way to deal with the demons.

Unfortunately, he was cut off, and Gu Qing Shan has no way of meeting him again in a short period.

"The two worlds' main 5-Element? What does that mean?"

Gu Qing Shan suddenly remembered something.

Looking down on his War God UI, he noticed sand was falling incredibly slowly on his hourglass, only a few grains has fallen down despite it's been almost a whole day already.

Looks like the time flow is really messed up.

The rapid and intense changes in Reality seems to severely affect both worlds' time flow.

Gu Qing Shan hasn't faced such a strange occurrence before, so he can't really do anything about it.

He could only sigh.

Seems like I'll be staying at this world for quite a while this time no matter what.

There's one thing Gu Qing Shan is very good at.

That is, when facing something he can't solve, he can completely ignore and not think about it, only focusing on what he can solve.

Right now, he cut off all other thoughts in his mind, pulled out Earth sword and started to practice his Sword arts.

After all, stabilizing his cultivation is something that must be done.

This practice continued into the night.

It was only when dawn came again that Gu Qing Shan stopped and started to meditate to rest.

A bit later, Qin Xiao Lou carried a giant bucket as he slowly walked in.

"What is that? A medicine bath?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"What medicine bath, this is your breakfast" Qin Xiao Lou answered.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly waved his hands: "I can't eat that much"

Qin Xiao Lou smiled brightly, saying: "Just eat however much you can then"

As he heard that, Gu Qing Shan looked over.

It was all spirit rice ———no, not quite, they were actually all pills that were about the size of spirit rice.

“First brother gave the ingredients and I spent the effort, all these are ingredients good for regulating the body, you can eat first” as Qin Xiao Lou finish explaining, he turned around and left.

There was only Gu Qing Shan alone in the hall.

He smelled it.

How alluring.

If Bai Hua Fairy herself told Qin Xiao Lou to make this, then it couldn't be anything bad.

Fine then, even if he can't finish it, he'll at least eat as much as he can.

Gu Qing Shan took the bowl and chopsticks, filled it with the pills and started to eat.

No need to mention, but the state is excellent.

As he ate, he read the message on War God UI.

“User successfully broke through to Foundation Establishment realm, maximum Soul Points increase to 20”

“Current Soul Points: 640/20”

“As the user's cultivation has increased greatly, in accordance to user's memory, all sword styles that won't harm the user's soul vessel are as follows”

“Sword Style: Bai Tai Style”

“Sword Style: Flowing Clouds Style”

“Sword Style: Four Seas Style”

“Sword Style: Battlefield Style”

...

“Secret Art: Crescent Slash”

“Seeing that the user had a very deep understanding of the sword, the cost to awaken his own sword cultivation reduced to its lowest”

“To awaken a Sword Skill, Soul Points Cost:5”

“To awaken a Secret Art, Soul Points Cost:10”

A total of 20 sword styles and 1 Secret art.

Gu Qing Shan didn't hesitate and awaken them all.

Note:

(1) Seven Shackles: it's heavily implied that the 7 in the name has to do with the 7 openings in the face: 2 eyes, 2 noses, 2 ears and 1 mouth.

(2) CC: crowd control, but not really. If you don't know what crowd control is, play a few online games.

## **Chapter 104**

“All sword skills awoken, remaining Soul Points: 530/20”

After that, Gu Qing Shan simply ignored it and went back to eating nonstop.

After half an hour.

The entire large bucket of spirit cooking was finished by him alone.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the empty bucket, a bit confused.

Since when am I a bottomless pit?

First he was surprised, but after thinking for a bit, he understood.

Normal cultivators definitely can't eat that much

Qin Xiao Lou must have used some sort of technique while cooking.

To allow someone to unknowingly eat an entire bucket of food and still isn't full, that's some real skill.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit impressed.

"Third brother"

White goose stood at the gate, gesturing at him with his wings.

"Let's go outside and work a bit to get used to your new cultivation"

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan happily replied.

Outside, Xiuxiu was sitting under the palace wall without a large bowl in her hand, snacking on some herbs and vegetables.

On the empty field in front of the palace, Qin Xiao Lou was actively swinging a long Blade around.

"Ah, so second brother was a Blade user" Gu Qing Shan commented.

Qin Xiao Lou face went red, then ignored him.

White goose took that chance and spoke in a low voice: "He used to like swords, but during the last semester examination, when he met Ning Yue Xi, his womanizing tendencies acted up and tried to hit on her"

White goose coldly cleared his throat.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly remembered Gong Sun Zhi's words.

"...Those sword cultivators stuck to her, trying to gain her favor, when they couldn't and tried to use violence, they got beat up"

"She always only beat them up enough to grovel on the ground and beg for forgiveness to stop"

...Gu Qing Shan can totally imagine that scene.

Gu Qing Shan looked at white goose, noticing white goose was also looking at him.

A man and a goose looked at each other with full understanding.

"Then... did Shifu not show up for second brother?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Shifu gave Ning Yue Xi a few valuable herbs, and thanked her as well" white goose answered.

Pff!

Gu Qing Shan stopped himself from laughing, then seriously thought about it.

— he also would support Ning Yue Xi in that case.

“Come, junior brother” Qin Xiao Lou swung his Blade, “today this senior brother will spar with you to let you stabilize your cultivation”

He was already handsome, while talking his Blade swung into 7 phantom images at once, so even Xiuxiu couldn't help but fan-girl him a bit.

“Thank you, senior brother” Gu Qing Shan was a bit hesitant, asking: “Then what realm is senior brother right now?”

White goose cut in: “He was in the same cultivation generation as Ning Yue Xi, but he's only Foundation Establishment mid-level right now”

Ning Yue Xi is now at peak perfected Rejuvenation realm.

Qin Xiao Lou glared at white goose, saying: “Ning Yue Xi is a monster, people like me are the norm”

“Normal my ass, you sleep after sitting down for 5 minutes, complaining you're tired after Blade training for 1 minute, cultivate for half a day and you already want to rest and eat, and you still call yourself a cultivator?” white goose angrily.

“I —— I was busy learning the 6 arts” Qin Xiao Lou couldn't say anything to that, so he changed the subject, looking at Gu Qing Shan: “Junior brother, come, let us spar”

“Yes” Gu Qing Shan happily drew the Earth sword.

Qin Xiao Lou took a defensive stance, half-leaning forward: “You're the junior, so I'll let you attack first”

“Then here I come” Gu Qing Shan held his sword in hand and attacked.

The first strike is very normal, its speed also isn't that quick, you should be able to block it as a cultivator.

This is a part of sparring etiquette with people in your own sect.

In a sect, everyone is always seeing each other, if you only need one strike to deal with your senior or junior brother, what would happen to that brother's reputation? How would they continue to live together from then on?

“Come” Qin Xiao Lou looked at the strike, nodded then returned with a Blade strike.

Sword and Blade crossed.

Boom!

“Aaaaa!”

Qin Xiao Lou's screaming voice was heard as he flew across the sky.



In one strike, he was hit flying above the high palace walls, turning into a black dot far into the sky and not seen anymore.

Gu Qing Shan was confused.

He looked at white goose and hurried explained: "I didn't use any force, not even a bit of spirit energy"

White goose laughed heartily, flapping his wings: "That's because he's too weak, and also because when you broke through a realm, the Earth sword's power was released a bit more, can't blame you"

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White goose continued: "Hm, your second brother's cultivation was mostly put together with pills and herbs. And his Blade skills... I think today was the 5th time he held a Blade ever since he swore to train with it?"

Gu Qing Shan's face turned grim.

You can actually reach Foundation Establishment realm like that?

Senior brother Xiao Lou, how do you even cultivate? Can't you put in a little more effort in it like you do with the 6 arts?

One minute later.

Qin Xiao Lou's face was swollen, sullenly sat on one side.

Gu Qing Shan held his Earth sword, slowly swinging every strike one at a time.

"So I can use a 60,000 tons strike with the Earth sword after I break through" he muttered.

White goose stood on one side, teaching: "You have to learn to use spirit energy to communicate with the Earth sword, to let the sword knows your thought and understand your emotions"

"Yes"

Gu Qing Shan replied, then swung Earth sword again, training his skills.

Each time he swung the sword, he felt a bit more memory of him using swords in the past resurface.

The quicker he swung his sword, the quicker his knowledge and feelings of his swordsmanship returned.

At this moment, Gu Qing Shan was becoming rapidly stronger.

In the past life, he remembered training with the sword for 7 years straight, like he was in a frenzy, until the very end where he had nothing but a single sword in his heart.

One day, while fighting at the frontline, he suddenly saw the Great Monk of Sorrow, one of the 3 Saints fighting against a Beast Saint.

No matter how many tactics and tricks the enemy used to fight, the Great Monk of Sorrow only counteracted with a single move.

As Gu Qing Shan saw that, he realized the nothingness of sword styles.

No matter which style it is, in the end it's only a change in the speed and power of the strike.

He realized his own true sword will.

From then on, Gu Qing Shan started to truly become stronger, step by step walking up the peak to become a Sword Saint.

This life, thanks to the awakening of his sword styles, Gu Qing Shan's progression with the sword was lightning fast.

While white goose was looking at him, he squinted his eyes, muttering: "His swordsmanship is rapidly progressing, a bit similar to Qin Xiao Lou's talent in the 6 arts, seems almost like he was naturally born to use the sword"

Afternoon, Qin Xiao Lou couldn't help it anymore and wanted to spar with Gu Qing Shan again.

As a senior brother, to lose in his junior's hand really is too humiliating.

Not to mention, Gu Qing Shan had only just broken through to Foundation Establishment, a whole rank below himself, it's too humiliating if he can't even act as a sparring partner.

After a few dozen strikes, Gu Qing Shan used a light strike to knock Qin Xiao Lou's Blade away.

Qin Xiao Lou was surprised, laughed loudly 3 times, then sighed 3 times, finally went to pick up his Blade.

White goose curiously asked: "What did you laugh about?"

"I was laughing" Qin Xiao Lou answered, "because in our sect, you're a goose, I don't like to cultivate, and Xiuxiu is still young, so with third brother being a sword cultivator, we finally have someone to hold up our reputation"

White goose asked again: "Then what are you sighing about?"

Qin Xiao Lou held his Blade, walking up to white goose and asked: "First brother, I remember you once gave me an unrivalled Blade scripture?"

"Yeah" white goose replied.

"I don't know where I left it anymore, can you give me another copy?" Qin Xiao Lou said.

"You still want it? What for?" White goose asked.

"To cultivate" Qin Xiao Lou said.

White goose opened his eyes wide in disbelief.

Then he took a jade tag out from who-knows-where and gave it to him.

Qin Xiao Lou put the jade tag away, saying: "I don't mind losing to Qing Shan, but now since he's here, if I keep being lazy like this, people only need to glance to know his cultivation is higher than mine"

"I don't mind his cultivation being higher as well, but that way, people will doubt Shifu's eyes for picking such a useless disciple like myself"

“And that is unacceptable. No one gets to say that Shifu didn’t make the right choice”

“I have to try a bit more, at least I have to get far enough on the path of the Blade so that no one can say anything”

“It won’t be too late for me to be lazy then”

“Senior brother, junior brother, junior sister, I’m going to go into seclusion for a while”

Saying that, he took the Blade in hand, walking away full of motivation.

The field in front of the palace was silent.

Gu Qing Shan complimented: “Second brother isn’t bad”

Xiuxiu also nodded: “Just now I actually felt he was a bit handsome”

White goose scoffed, but his eyes showed a hint of happiness “Finally, this child grew up a bit”

White goose said: “Qing Shan, nice job, next time you and Xiao Lou spar, you can use 50% strength”

Xiuxiu was shocked: “What? Just now, third brother wasn’t using his full strength?”

White goose looked at Gu Qing Shan, saying: “He only used 30%”

Seeing how awkward Gu Qing Shan looked, white goose continued: “No worries, just keep stimulating him like that. I found that he’s the type to only act when threatened instead of spoiled”

“If I have to” Gu Qing Shan sighed, saying: “I eat the food he makes but also have to beat him up, it’s a bit awkward”

“Talking about eating” Xiuxiu suddenly asked, “if second brother goes into seclusion, what do we eat?”

An indescribable silence.

All three of them didn’t say anything.

White goose suddenly said: “No good, I have to remind him not to forget to cook even if he goes into seclusion”

Saying so, white goose flapped his wings and flew away.

## **Chapter 105**

As Gu Qing Shan watched white goose flew away, he suddenly had a thought.

It couldn’t be that Bai Hua Fairy doesn’t want to cook that she took Qin Xiao Lou in as her disciple, right?

He quickly shook his head, telling himself he was thinking too much.

As Xiuxiu saw both white goose and second brother left, she tilted her head and asked: “Senior brother, how about coming to my place, I’ll make you some juice?”

“No, second brother is already motivated like that, so I myself need to work hard and cultivate too” Gu Qing Shan smiled and said

Xiuxiu heard that, tilted her head again, then suddenly: "Then, how about I and senior brother cultivate together?"

"Sure, you're welcome to do so"

Looking at her fidgety state, Gu Qing Shan quickly agreed.

Having been encouraged, Xiuxiu put down her snack bowl and trotted across Gu Qing Shan.

"Senior brother, we'll spar a bit ok?"

"Ok then"

"I'm only qi training stage 6, so senior brother is stronger, please hold back ok?"

"I'll do my best to be careful" Gu Qing Shan very seriously promised.

Having been assured by Gu Qing Shan, Xiuxiu relaxed herself.

"Then, I'll go first" she said.

Gu Qing Shan swung his sword, entering a defensive stance and smiled: "Come"

Xiuxiu's hands glowed a dark color as she made a hand seal.

Since she was a bit anxious, her hand seal couldn't finish before the dark glow disappeared.

"Oops, I'll try again" Xiuxiu panicked.

"No worries, remember to keep yourself steady when making hand seals, no need to think too much about other things" Gu Qing Shan guided her.

"Ah, ok, thank you senior brother" Xiuxiu once again made her hand seal.

The dark glow appeared again on her hands.

As he saw that, Gu Qing Shan was a bit curious.

Metal-Wood-Water-Fire-Earth, Wind-Lightning-Light-Dark-Sound, these are the 5 main Elements and mutated Elements.

Mutated Elements themselves are very rare, and Dark is one of the rarer of them.

There's a specific way to use this Element's spirit energy, and the results they bring are quite similar to God's Chosen Skills.

Even more interestingly, even if two cultivators have the same Dark element and use the same hand seal, the results they get are very different.

Xiuxiu spent a total of 4 breaths to finally finish her hand seal.

Then she triggered it, saying: "Come!"

The space around started to warp and boil, like something was struggling, trying to get out.

A minute later, space really did crack open.

A grey, featureless bird flew out, headed straight to Gu Qing Shan.

Following the bird was another 20 other grey birds that looked just like it.

Gu Qing Shan shouted: "Come!"

He swung his sword, hitting one grey bird straight on.

It immediately broke apart into black smoke.

As Gu Qing Shan raised his sword, about to fight against the birds.

But the crack behind them widened.

Another flock of birds flew out from it.

After that were grey wild dogs, then grey tigers.

These are all monsters created through Dark element channeling the world's essence.

Hordes of monsters rushed towards Gu Qing Shan.

As Gu Qing Shan's inner sight passed through them, he couldn't help but feel amazed.

Who knew, Xiuxiu's spell was actually one to open the gate for an army of thousands, Gu Qing Shan have never seen such talent for Dark element spirit energy before.

Going by numbers alone, there are about over 1000 creatures here.

As for power, being hit by Dark element won't hurt your body, but it'll directly affect your soul vessel.

And the soul vessel being hurt is extremely troublesome.

To deal with such enormous amount of monsters, the best method would be his Secret Art: Water Flow Severance.

Once Water Flow Severance is unleashed, all the monsters are guaranteed to become dust.

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But since Xiuxiu is standing behind them, if he doesn't control it well, he might harm her.

Crescent Slash is fine too ———but Gu Qing Shan doesn't want to kill her, so he can use literally anything except that one.

Seeing the monsters rush him like that, Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth, and ran away.

No choice, all his abilities are focused on swords play, if he can't use powerful sword skills, he doesn't have any spells to use, so he can only run.

The monsters gave chase.

Xiuxiu stood there, releasing her hand and questioned: “Where is senior brother going? Does he have something urgent to do?”

Gu Qing Shan brought the horde of monsters running around Bai Hua Palace.

Occasionally he would also stop, put away his sword and use the Night Rain to clear out some of the monsters that are too close.

After a while, when he saw the chance, he used his Secret Art to finish off the monsters at once.

“Xiuxiu, you’re really good” Gu Qing Shan walked back, breathing heavily.

“Am I? Thank you senior brother, actually I still know one more spell”

Being praised, Xiuxiu laughed happily.

Then she put her hands together, made another hand seal to cast a spell.

Since her mood was very good, her speed increased greatly. So fast that Gu Qing Shan couldn’t even say “Stop” in time.

Not even one breath later, her spell has already been unleashed.

Space cracked open again.

This time was different, as numerous dark grey demons jumped out from the crack in troves of hundreds.

Gu Qing Shan silently complained, then jumped forward, as his sword slashes turn into shadows, weaving between all of them, using a total of 700 slashes before he killed all the demons.

Xiuxiu opened her eyes wide: “Senior brother is also very strong”

Gu Qing Shan sat down on the spot, reluctantly smiled, so tired that he didn’t even want to speak.

At twilight, Qin Xiao Lou appeared again.

Just like every day, he made another full table of delicious food, laughing proudly: “I knew you couldn’t bear to leave me”

Actually we just couldn’t bear to leave your spirit cooking, Gu Qing Shan and Xiuxiu silently retorted in their minds.

This night, Bai Hua Fairy also returned.

She sat at the top seat, while her disciples sat around, the entire sect having dinner together.

“Shifu, where did you go?” White goose asked.

“A few matters at the frontline, all the cultivator sects showed up to discuss a few things” Bai Hua Fairy answered.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan was extremely curious.

Splitting yourself into another person to talk to yourself, what exactly would that feel like?

Sadly, only Bai Hua Fairy possess such an unthinkable Divine Skill in the entire cultivation world.

As Shifu is here, all the disciples ate silently without saying anything.

After dinner, when Gu Qing Shan wanted to help Qin Xiao Lou clean the dishes, Bai Hua Fairy called them back.

“There’s one thing today that you all need to know”

They all stopped their feet.

Bai Hua Fairy said: “This year’s semester examination will come early”

“For what reason? The semester examination hasn’t changed for hundreds of years” Qin Xiao Lou asked in confusion.

“Because we lack people, or to be precise, we lack cultivators” Bai Hua Fairy answered.

All of them went silent.

This isn’t hard to understand, since all the cultivation sects banded together like this, there couldn’t be any other reason except to plan a counterattack and wipe out the demons once and for all.

They don’t have any other choice.

Because demons and demon beasts are an endless horde, while humanity only have so many cultivators, if the frontline war situation doesn’t stop and keep on going like this without recruiting any new blood, many smaller sects would soon be without disciples.

In the past life, this is one of the reasons why cultivation world fell in the first place.

But the bigger problem would have to be humanity’s high-tier fighting strength.

Qin Xiao Lou sighed: “There’s some new Sainted realm demon beasts every now and again, yet humanity only have a total of 3 Saints after so many years”

“I really wonder, is reaching Sainted realm so simple for demon beasts?” he asked in annoyance.

“That truly is strange” Bai Hua Fairy said as she thought deeply about something, “there’s another strange fact that you might not know if I didn’t tell you”

They all raised their heads.

“Sainted realm demon beasts mostly win through sheer numbers, one of them alone isn’t even a match for one of my hands”

“Sorrow and Xuanyuan both have the same feeling”

“Our hands are really tied ——we are obviously stronger than they are, but there are simply too many of them that we can’t kill them all at once. Not to mention, we can never use all our strength, because as soon as we make any mistakes, and any of us were to die, humanity’s strength would greatly decrease, resulting in a very dangerous situation”

“Last time, to help Qing Shan save the two people, I used my flesh incarnation. But Sorrow and Xuanyuan doesn’t have this ability, so every time they go out, they must always put themselves in

danger”

“That is also the reason why we Saints can’t easily act”

A nonchalant complaint from Bai Hua Fairy made Gu Qing Shan know another great secret that he didn’t know about in the past life.

## Chapter 106

“This time’s semester examination” Bai Hua Fairy returned to the topic at hand, “we will choose the most suitable seeds among the lone cultivators and martial artists. As they’re accepted into the respective sects, they’ll receive the best resources and scriptures to quickly build themselves up”

“After the semester examination, all cultivators above a certain level will all join a great counter attack operation, hopefully we’ll be able to turn things around” Bai Hua Fairy said.

“Qing Shan, Xiuxiu”

“Yes”

“Yes”

“Since you’ve been accepted as my disciples, there is no need for you to take the examination, but since this is a thousands-year long tradition that have to do with Divinity themselves, so you still have to go”

Bai Hua Fairy looked at the two of them.

Gu Qing Shan looked like he was thinking about something, breathed out a sigh, but stayed calm.

Xiuxiu on the other hand is already panicking, she clenched her fists right, bit her lip and tense up her entire body.

Bai Hua Fairy quickly consoled Xiuxiu, smiling: “No need to worry, all you need to do is see the world and show up for the sake of showing up. Qing Shan, make sure to take care of Xiuxiu, you’ll leave tomorrow morning”

“Yes”

“Yes”

They both replied at the same time.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the War God UI.

There was still  $\frac{3}{5}$  of sand left in the hourglass.

After they were dismissed and he’s done helping Qin Xiao Lou clean up, Gu Qing Shan once again went out to the empty field in front of the palace.

He pulled out Earth sword and continued his practice.

The sword was like a dragon or snake, flowing across the entire empty field, occasionally let out a blue arc of lightning.

Gu Qing Shan’s was already soaked with sweat, but still took every second he has to strengthen himself.



He didn't awaken Lightning-elemental root in the past life, so he doesn't have any experience with it.

This is a completely new ability and a new horizon for him. Even with his experience, he still has to seriously explore and experiment with the easiest method to use it.

One sword after another, connecting without stop.

Qin Xiao Lou and white goose has been standing there watching him for a while.

Then, Qin Xiao Lou suddenly said: "Junior brother's swordsmanship really is excellent, but he gives me a strange feeling"

"What feeling is that?" white goose asked.

"Like he's racing against time" Qin Xiao Lou said, contemplating, "he wants to become stronger before a certain amount of time is up"

White goose replied: "I also feel that way; he seems like he's carrying some immense pressure on his back"

Qin Xiao Lou suddenly turned and walked away.

"Where are you going?"

"To cultivate"

"Wouldn't you usually be sneaking off to some night bar in Xi Shan country to enjoy yourself around this time?"

"I'm not going now"

"Why?"

Qin Xiao Lou stopped his steps: "If one day, junior brother needs my help as a senior brother, and yet I can't do anything to help. Even thinking about that is too much for me"

Saying so, he left.

White goose stopped there, as a smile appeared on his face.

"That's good, at least he didn't realize it too late, thanks to Qing Shan" He muttered.

White goose flapped his wings as he flew away.

Right after, Bai Hua Fairy appeared on the empty field.

"Shifu" Gu Qing Shan stopped his sword.

"Qing Shan, your swordsmanship has improved very quickly, but there are a few mistakes. If I don't correct them, you'll be going down the wrong path"

Bai Hua Fairy drew a slender and intricate sword for female use.

"Come, let us spar, I'll show you where your weakness is" Bai Hua Fairy swung the sword as she said.

The Saint herself will teach him swordsmanship!

Gu Qing Shan was incredibly happy, bowed and said: "Shifu, then I'll do my best"

Bai Hua Fairy smiled and replied: "If you hold back, you'll regret it"

Gu Qing Shan swung his sword and advanced.

The sword turned into countless shadows, as all sorts of sword styles and Secret arts are attacking in a weave.

Gu Qing Shan's swordsmanship is fierce as lightning, without a shred of hesitation or mercy. If another were to see this scene, they'd even have the illusion that Gu Qing Shan really wants to kill Bai Hua Fairy.

Bai Hua Fairy held one hand behind her back.

Holding her sword with just one hand, facing Gu Qing Shan's numerous attacks, all she does it one strike here, a few thrusts there, carrying an incredible sense of ease.

One side was like a thunderous storm, while the other was an afternoon stroll. Two very different styles facing each other in battle makes for an indescribable sense of discord.

After about 300 strikes to and from, Bai Hua Fairy finally asked.

"Did you noticed? Your problem?"

"I was attacking too quickly?" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Bai Hua Fairy smiled then explained: "Normal sword cultivators that are self-taught are always very afraid that their strikes are too slow. Afraid that their attacks aren't fierce enough. Afraid that they'll be counter attacked. This is because they lack confidence"

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

Bai Hua Fairy continued: "The path of the sword is like an open path. Walk on it grandly, walk openly, not too quick and not too slow"

Seeing Gu Qing Shan was still confused, she held her sword up: "Come, again!"

After another 100 strikes, Bai Hua Fairy suddenly shouted: "Whose life are you risking?"

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She scolded him: "If every single strike is risking your own life, then sooner or later you won't have any more life to risk! Do you understand?"

Bai Hua Fairy suddenly attacked, her sword slowly and lightly hit Earth sword's shaft.

Clang!

Gu Qing Shan was pushed back 5 steps before stopping.

Bai Hua Fairy casually asked: "Did you see it? I didn't have to risk my life, but why was my strike able to push you back?"

Gu Qing Shan's mind felt like it was hit by a hammer, as his body stopped in place.

Touching the Earth sword, he closed his eyes and stood still.

"It's not right, this isn't the way, I understand now" he muttered.

There were no seniors or anyone to teach him how to cultivate in the past life. Everything he had he exchanged for with blood, risking his life to earn spirit stones, then exchanging those spirit stones for the sword styles he has. He only had himself, himself alone training, himself alone killing demons, finally carving out a self-taught path for himself.

Now, one of the 3 Saints, Bai Hua Fairy herself was teaching him, sparring with him, Gu Qing Shan's talent for the sword was able to flourish for the very first time.

Seeing his blank expression, his non-reaction, Bai Hua Fairy knew his enlightenment has come.

She silently waved her hands, arranging layers on layers of formation around them.

Time passed, as Bai Hua Fairy stood watch for Gu Qing Shan, all the way until midnight.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly opened his eyes again.

Swinging the Earth sword, he was practicing his strikes one after another, his movement quicker and quicker.

The sword strikes were the same, the person was also the same, but he was emitting a completely different aura.

To compare, if he was a wild blood-thirsty wolf before, right now he was a tiger laying down under the sun, free and at peace.

Suddenly all the images of sword slashes disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan held the sword, then a normal, unimpressive thrust of the sword.

Seeing that thrust, Bai Hua Fairy finally smiled.

"Seems like I didn't waste my time tonight, is there anything else?" She asked.

"Yes"

Gu Qing Shan's sword stance changed, suddenly swinging at Bai Hua Fairy.

Bai Hua Fairy blocked it, then returned a strike.

Clang!

Gu Qing Shan also blocked it, but didn't even retreat half a step and returned another thrust instead.

———before, whenever Bai Hua Fairy retaliated, he would always be pushed back a few steps, but this time he was able to counter attack.

Bai Hua Fairy's eyes glowed.

"Very good" she praised.

This strike was finally a true step forward for him.

“There’s still more” Gu Qing Shan said.

“There’s still more?” this time Bai Hua Fairy was a bit surprised.

The Earth sword was thrust forward again, this time, just for a second, a blue arc of lightning was on the sword.

Lightning is the power of the world, its main purpose is to destroy.

But this arc of lightning was silent, and didn’t contain any power.

As the two swords crossed, only silence was heard as the arc of lightning flashed.

The arc of lightning followed the slender sword, easily repelled by Bai Hua Fairy.

But her mouth slightly lifted, praising him loudly: “Very good!”

Another clang.

Both swords crossed again, and separated again.

The lightning once again disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Bai Hua Fairy smiled brightly and gave Gu Qing Shan a look of approval: “With such swordsmanship, you’ll definitely become a Sword Saint, possibly a real Saint as well”

If anyone else were to hear Bai Hua Fairy’s evaluation here, they’ll definitely be shocked.

Her eyes are famous for being the highest in the world, receiving such praise from her is nothing short of amazing.

Gu Qing Shan clasped his hands and bowed, thanking her: “Thank you Shifu for teaching me”

Bai Hua Fairy nodded, saying: “I can’t teach you too much about the sword, from now on, you’ll have to look for your path yourself”

“Yes” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Bai Hua Fairy left.

After she left, Gu Qing Shan looked again at his War God UI.

Just now, he saw something flashed on the War God UI, but since he was sparring with Bai Hua Fairy, he didn’t bother to look.

Now, he clearly sees that there’s a line of text on War God UI, dead in the middle.

“All sword styles that won’t lead to the user’s soul vessel collapsing has been awakened”

“Total sword styles awaken: 1106. Detailed list below”

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Gu Qing Shan quickly read through them all, noticing that besides from his Secret Arts, the basics has all been awakened.

Looking at his Soul Points, it hasn't decreased one bit.

All this wasn't thanks to the System, but purely because of the effort of his two lives finally paid off.

But Gu Qing Shan isn't sad or happy, he isn't the least bit happy about getting back his skills from memory.

He was calm and steady.

He's very sure that himself right now, standing in front of Bai Hua Palace, has already surpassed his past self in the way of the sword.

As his cultivation increase and he once again become a Sword Saint, he'll definitely shine much brighter than he ever did in the past life.

## **Chapter 107**

Gu Qing Shan spent the rest of the time until morning slowly practicing his sword skills.

White goose came flying from somewhere.

"Go prepare yourself, after that go have breakfast, then you both can leave for the examination" white goose said.

"Yes"

As Gu Qing Shan put the Earth sword away, he realized that his entire body was covered in sweat.

After taking a shower, he returned to Orchid Hall.

On a cushion, cultivation resources are once again neatly arranging there, as well as a stack of yellow talisman on top of it all.

Gu Qing Shan picked them up to look at and understood.

These are communication talismans, after imprinting them with his inner sight, he can give them to people to use to communicate with him.

Looking at the rest of the resources, there were pills, common formation plates, rations, spirit stones and spare changes of clothes, all of them top-quality.

Next to the pile of resources there were also a bunch of snow-white jade tags.

On top of them was a single talisman.

Picking up the talisman, Gu Qing Shan infused it with his spirit energy.

Bai Hua Fairy's voice was heard: "These are 5-Element Secret Arts. As a sword cultivator, you don't need them; but when going outside, there's always a need to make connections, so use these Secret Arts to give as favors as you see fit"

5-Elemental Secret Arts are 1 step higher than 5-Elemental spells, in the way that they're much more powerful.

Despite being much more powerful, these Secret Arts cost about the same amount of spirit energy, so they're known to be extremely precious.

In auction houses, 5-Elemental Secret Arts are things that you can't buy with money, even more valuable than sword Secret Arts.

Because sword Secret Arts are basically useless without the talent to actually learn them.

But 5-Elemental Secret Arts are different, as long as you have the appropriate elemental root, you only need to slowly learn, slowly comprehend them and you'll master them over time.

In a normal sect, each and every Secret Art is considered to be valuable enough to use as a proof of lineage.

They're such valuable things, and Bai Hua Fairy just gave Gu Qing Shan a bunch of them to give to others as a favor.

This is the generosity of a Saint, the wealth of Bai Hua Sect.

Putting the stack of Secret Art jade tags into his Inventory Bag, he felt a bit prideful.

Very quickly, he returned to Bai Hua Palace.

Qin Xiao Lou has already made them a hearty breakfast, right now was talking to an anxious Xiuxiu, teaching her what to do.

"If you meet any strange cultivators, just ignore them, no matter where you go, always make sure to hold your third brother's hand" he went on and on.

"Hm" Xiuxiu nodded her head.

"It's fine, let's eat" said Bai Hua Fairy sitting on the main seat.

Everyone sat down and enjoyed their meal.

Breakfast was very quickly over.

Bai Hua Fairy then said: "This semester examination, Qing Shan and Xiuxiu will go together. So make sure to remember what I say right here"

Both Gu Qing Shan and Xiuxiu perked up their ears.

Bai Hua Fairy: "Go safely, return safely, you only need to broaden your minds, no need to care too much or compare yourselves to others"

Gu Qing Shan and Xiuxiu were stunned.

Xiuxiu's tense heartstrings immediately came loose.

Qin Xiao Lou complained: "Shifu, isn't this different from what you told me that year"

Bai Hua Fairy asked: "How is it different?"

"That year you told me, during the semester examination, if I were to make you lose face, you'll throw me into Bai Hua pond to sleep for 3 days and nights"

"Hmph, that's because you don't concentrate on your cultivation, always slacking off"

"Then them ——"

"Qing Shan and Xiuxiu are my disciples, why would they need to compare themselves to anyone else? They only need to come back safely" Bai Hua Fairy composedly said.

"Aren't I also ——"

"You're a hopeless disciple"

"I——"

"Can you beat Qing Shan?"

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Qin Xiao Lou couldn't say a thing to retort, finally could only dejectedly comment: "Shifu, you're just breaking the relationship of our brotherhood"

Then he suddenly turned around, saying to Gu Qing Shan: "Junior brother, this time's semester examination is especially important, all the sects will be there, so you have to watch over Xiuxiu carefully"

Gu Qing Shan wondered: "Could it be someone is targeting Xiuxiu?"

"That's not it" Qin Xiao Lou arranged his words a bit, "we're a famous sect in all the sects of the world, but we have not been founded for very long, not to mention there are so few people. A few trees don't make a forest and all that, you understand. That's why sometimes there are those that can't accept it"

He seriously advised them: "Especially the other Saint's disciples, as well as the other 10,000-year large sects"

White goose coldly scoffed, saying: "In the last semester examination, you were beaten to Ning Yue Xi enough to grovel on the ground begging for forgiveness, but aren't you just fine right now? Still slacking off and showing off every day"

Qin Xiao Lou's face went red, not admitting it: "That's just because I don't want to argue with a woman"

Gu Qing Shan is a returner, so he's very clear about all the hidden dirty interactions between the sects, very solemnly replied: "I'll make sure to carefully protect Xiuxiu, you can be assured"

Both white goose and Qin Xiao Lou were pleased with his attitude, nodding their heads.

Bai Hua Fairy also smiled, saying: "Go, you can be on your way"

Xiuxiu looked at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan smiled at her: "Nothing to worry about"

“Hm” Xiuxiu nodded.

...

Dignity Mountain isn't just a mountain.

Dignity Mountain is a town on the Sea of Emptiness' shore.

This town was built on the cliff of a tall mountain near the sea, taking “Mountain” as its name, originally it was called Dignity Mountain Town.

Different from a normal human town, all the people that live here are human cultivators, for the sake of protection.

Every year, when the semester examination starts, they are responsible for all the preparations and accommodating the sects.

This isn't as simple a task as it sounds.

All the prideful, hotheaded great cultivators, not to mention the equally prideful large sects, if they don't receive the best possible treatment, many riots will start and end up in chaos.

Only when all matters are settled calmly that a semester examination is considered perfectly hosted.

On this day, Dignity Mountain began to become rowdy again.

Large-scale teleportation formation on all sides, as each squad of cultivators stationed there are ready to receive their guests.

And this year was a particularly busy one, as all 5 of the large-scale teleportation formations were lighting up nonstop.

Groups of cultivators appear from the teleportation formation, after some light questioning from the guards, they'll be guided to where they're supposed to go.

A few sects are so large that they can't teleport all at once, having to split into groups and teleport separately, only after meeting up will they all go towards the town.

Each sect is responsible for searching for good cultivation seeds in their respective territory.

Because of that, the people that teleport here aren't just cultivators, but also the talents picked out by each sect.

All the cultivators responsible for patrol are so busy that they can't even stand in place, all of them wishing for the day to quickly be over.

On one of the large-scale teleportation devices, two people appeared.

A 7-8 years old little girl holding the hand of the young man besides her tightly, looking around in anxious.

One of the cultivators responsible for this formation saw that, thinking that they were from some small sect, about to shout for them to step off quickly.



But the head of the guards slapped his head, pushed him backwards while smiling to receive them.

“Can I see your identification jade cards please?” he said.

Gu Qing Shan took out their cards.

As the head guard scanned it with his inner sight, he became even more respectful.

He bowed down a 90 degrees angle while welcoming them with his open palm.

“Well, thank you” Gu Qing Shan nodded to greet him back.

He leads Xiuxiu away while following the head guard towards the town.

“That’s strange, what’s going on with the captain today?” the cultivator from before couldn’t help but wonder.

Another cultivator had already noticed and reminded him.

“Why don’t you use your head a little, of all the sects in the world, which one has the fewest disciples?”

This cultivator thought for a bit, then regretted as he realized and slapped himself.

“Ah! Such a good chance and I couldn’t take it to gain some connections”

## **Chapter 108**

Gu Qing Shan led Xiuxiu by her hand, along the way introduced her to this and that nonstop to take away some of her nervousness.

“Look there, that store mainly sells talisman”

“This is the place where they make weapons, the big man without a shirt over there is the black smith”

“This shop’s storefront has a pill furnace, so it’s a pill store”

“On the left, yeah, that stall on the left sells spirit cooking, there’s a really delicious candied fruit jam — shopkeep, give me one fruit jam”

Saying so, he put a stick of candied fruit into Xiuxiu’s hand.

Does it taste good? Xiuxiu hesitated for a bit before licking the fruit.

Um, very sweet.

She started eating happily.

Seeing a certain place, Gu Qing Shan’s eyes lit up and called: “Come, Xiuxiu, come with me”

“What is it, senior brother?” Xiuxiu was nervous again.

“See that, that store belongs to Spirit Beast Sect, they have a lot of strange and exotic spirit beasts, we can take a look!”

“Wow, do they have cranes, I love cranes!”

“They do”

“Then let’s quickly go”

The head guard looking at the two of them running around like that could only smile wryly.

People that come here for the semester examination are all nervous wrecks, very rarely are there people like them who are so free-spirited.

How they do in the semester examination directly affects whether or not they’ll enter a sect, which sect they’ll enter, and what their treatment will be like.

Even those who are already part of a sect are nervous

———what if I don’t do well? What if I lose to those that come after me?  
If I perform exceptionally well, would there be a better sect that wants me?

These are everyone’s thoughts.

Because of that, the entire Dignity Mountain is full of cultivators quickly walking, carrying heavy faces that couldn’t wait to be tested.

But these two right here, what part of them is here for the examination? They’re obviously here to sight-see!

The head guard waited for a while for the young man got out of the spirit beast store together with the little girl.

On the young man’s face was a faint smile, while the little girl had already thrown her anxiety away, so excited that her face is red.

“Senior brother, what will we do now?” Xiuxiu asked

“We’ll rest for a bit, wait until time comes then we’ll go up to Sky Palace”

As Gu Qing Shan said so, he nodded at the head guard with an apologetic face.

The head guard quickly led them to an inn to rest.

After they settled in, Xiuxiu was clearly closer to Gu Qing Shan than before, asking him many problems regarding cultivation.

Gu Qing Shan also answered as best as he could.

Noon quickly came, they took out Qin Xiao Lou’s rations to eat for lunch, washed their faces and sat down meditating.

About another hour passed before a lightning sound was heard outside.

Everyone then started shouting.

“The time has come!”

“Gather, all of you!”

“It’s about to start, we can go now!”

The cultivators very quickly left in groups, large and small.

“Senior brother?” Xiuxiu opened her eyes and asked Gu Qing Shan.

“We’re leaving too” Gu Qing Shan smiled and answered.

They went together with the sea of people, walking all the way to Dignity Mountain’s peak.

The mountain’s peak has been made into a large square. Numerous sect’s cultivators, as well as lone cultivators and marital artists who wanted to be picked into a sect stood there, waiting, discussing loudly between themselves amongst the rowdy atmosphere.

About a minute later, one person walked on the air to arrive, shouting: “20 breaths later the Sky Palace will appear, please all be ready to ascend the Sky Palace”

As they heard that, everyone became silent, many are eagerly waiting for the time to come.

“Senior brother, what do they mean by Sky Palace? Second brother said there would be thunder, is thunder going to come?” Xiuxiu curiously asked.

“Just look and you’ll see” Gu Qing Shan didn’t tell her.

But after speaking, he gestured Xiuxiu to cover her ears, while covering his eyes himself.

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Right at this moment, lightning struck down as the thunderous roars made many people cover their ears.

A person standing next to Gu Qing Shan coldly laughed: “So slacking in cultivation that they can’t even handle the sound of thunder, this generation of cultivators are really lacking compared to ours”

Gu Qing Shan rolled his eyes and didn’t bother to reply to him.

This isn’t normal thunder, but Divine thunder from the world of Gods, if you hear it, it’ll strongly affect your soul vessel. No one below Ascension realm can handle it.

Covering your ears is the most effective and simple way.

If you don’t try to resist it at all, your soul vessel itself might be hurt.

Sure enough, another voice asked next to him: “Oy big brother, why is your nose bleeding?”

The other person acted like it was nothing and said: “Hmph, yesterday I cultivated enough that I ranked up, so my circulation just bled a bit”

Gu Qing Shan have been through many things so he doesn’t mind that and said nothing, but Xiuxiu couldn’t help it.

Before leaving, Xiuxiu was taught not only by Shifu but also her senior brothers, so she knows about the thunder very well.

The other party is trying his best to keep up the terrible act, but she’s only a child so she let out a stifled laugh.

The other party immediately got angry, glared and asked: “Little missy, what are you laughing about?”

He said as he walked towards them.

Gu Qing Shan unconsciously hid Xiuxiu behind his back, asking back: "What, you have the right to ban people from laughing?"

The other person grumbled: "You must have also come here to join the semester examination with a senior, pray that you won't meet me, otherwise I'll make sure you get it"

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and scanned the person.

Qi training first stage.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head, couldn't even bother to get angry.

The other person saw that he said nothing, thought that he won and went back triumphantly.

All the people around looked at Gu Qing Shan with disdain.

This guy couldn't even talk back, what kind of cultivator is he?

Xiuxiu tugged on Gu Qing Shan's clothes.

Gu Qing Shan looked back to see Xiuxiu silently grumbled: "Senior brother, why didn't you teach him a lesson? If second brother was here, he would've done so already"

Gu Qing Shan rubbed her head: "Shifu said, this time we need to go safely and return safely, so why make a fuss?"

"Not to mention" Gu Qing Shan sighed, "he's too weak, I'm afraid I might not be able to hold back enough"

Xiuxiu was stunned, then remembered how Qin Xiao Lou got knocked into the air by Gu Qing Shan's single strike.

And Qin Xiao Lou was already Foundation Establishment.

Xiuxiu nodded in agreement.

They kept their ears covered as the divine thunder continued for a while.

Then, the world went silent again.

The black clouds parted as a grand floating palace appeared in the sky.

A single look at the palace made everyone unconsciously hold respect.

There were Divinity statues on all four sides of the palace, on its lapis roof tiles were fixtures of Dragon, Phoenix, Bulls, Donkeys, Fishes and about a dozen other kinds of Divine beasts

In front of the palace was an arched four-sided platform. On the platform was a drum, a table, pens and paper.

Below the platform was a large square surrounded by the entire palace.

Even after countless years, this palace still emits an air of unparalleled dignity.

Sadly, it seems to have been destroyed by something, as over half the structure was gone.

There was only half of this Sky Palace left.

It silently floated in the air, showing its incomplete form to the world, seemingly to tell everyone something.

“To——— The——— Sky——— Palace!”

A dignified voice was heard from the cultivators in front.

## **Chapter 109**

All the cultivators started to move.

The first to act was a group of 10 cultivators standing in the corner.

They drove a large airship, carrying about 50-60 carefully selected cultivators and went up.

The leading cultivator announced: “Flowing Clouds Sect, Song Yang Zi, here to bring our sect members to participate in the semester examination!”

He solemnly bowed to the direct of the Sky Palace.

The airship slowly rose, bring people of the Flowing Clouds Sect upward into the Sky Palace.

After them, an old man stood out and also announced: “Thousand Swords Sect, Huo Shan Fei, here to bring our sect members to participate in the semester examination!”

This is the sect master of one of the world’s largest sects, Thousand Swords Sect.

He also bowed respectfully towards the Sky Palace.

Then, a giant sword floated overhead the Thousand Swords cultivators, as they all jumped on it to fly to the half-destroyed palace in the sky.

The square became more and more excited.

Each sect brought out their own flying implement to bring the martial artists, qi training and Foundation Establishment realm cultivators who couldn’t fly yet towards Sky Place.

“Clear Sea Sect, Lee Yuan Xiu, here to bring our sect members to participate in the semester examination!”

“White Mountain Sect, Bai Jiang Ha, here to bring our sect members to participate in the semester examination!”

...

“Yao Guang Sect, Lee Xiao Yao, here to bring our sect members to participate in the semester examination!”

Gu Qing Shan turned to look at he saw that, and sure enough saw a familiar face.

Leng Tian Xing turned and nodded to him, sending his voice: "I'm the first round's judge cultivator, we'll talk more when you come up"

Yao Guang Sect produced a magnificent shroud of light, covered and brought all their members up to the Sky Palace.

"The sects of our cultivation world really have so many strange and unusual flying implements, they look so cool" Xiuxiu looked and excitedly commented at each sect.

Gu Qing Shan smiled, saying: "All their flying implements are meant to represent their sect's characteristics"

Xiuxiu recalled, then said in surprise: "No wonder, Thousand Swords Sect's was a giant sword, Yao Guang Sect's was an Aurora, Spirit Beasts Sect's was an almost 10 thousand years old turtle"

"But so many sects simply use airships, maybe it's because they don't have the resources or time to spend on something like this" she said.

"That's right, Xiuxiu is so smart" Gu Qing Shan complimented her, saying: "This is a chance to show off the sects' good points, so that the cultivators waiting to be picked can have a basic idea of them, as well as to lure in any genius cultivators that might be here"

Right now, the amount of sects flying into the air was quite numerous, so many flying implements that Gu Qing Shan himself was also unable to catch them all.

After a while, someone suddenly announced: "Heaven's Limit Sect, Han Tian Ming, here to bring our sect members to participate in the semester examination!"

Heaven's Limit Sect?

Gu Qing Shan looked over and immediately see Ning Yue Xi.

This isn't the frontline, so today she isn't wearing her armor, nor her face mask.

She was wearing a feather coat, stood out among the entire crowd of people, like a white lotus out of water.

Seemingly noticed Gu Qing Shan's sight, Ning Yue Xi turned around, her water-clear eyes looked over.

———then noticed him.

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

Ning Yue Xi also smiled back.

"Why don't I see your second brother?" She squinted and sent her voice.

"...He isn't feeling well"

"That's unfortunate, we'll talk more when we're up there"

"Very well" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Ning Yue Xi's eyes finally drifted next to Gu Qing Shan's waist, at his sword, her lips pouted a bit.

This sort of animated expression actually appeared on the cold and distant Heaven's Limit Saintess, making so many male cultivators that are silently observing her fall deeper into her beauty.

Gu Qing Shan however, felt his back soaked with cold sweat, silently regretting not hiding his sword.

"Not good, this time I can't even run"

Gu Qing Shan silently muttered.

Heaven's Limit Sect are experts in formation, as well as Divination, the basis of their teachings are powerful 5-Element spells, so their flying implement is a giant 8-trigram wheel.

It was only after the 8-trigram wheel brought people of Heaven's Limit Sect up that Gu Qing Shan finally breathed out.

After that, all the other sects began to release their flying implement and ascend to Sky Palace as well.

There weren't many sects left.

Suddenly a voice called out.

"Can I ask for your name, brother?"

Gu Qing Shan looked back to see a young man that wasn't much older than he was, wearing a loose blue Daoist robe standing behind him.

This person carried himself pridefully, his etiquette is perfect without a fault, while talking, his tone is also modest and sincere. And he seems to be around Foundation Establishment last-stage.

Gu Qing Shan being able to reach Foundation Establishment at 18-19 is already above average, yet this person who's not much older than he is 2 ranks higher. Meaning he is also a genius among men.

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While looking at Gu Qing Shan, his eyes looks like it was observing an ant, carefully evaluating.

Even though he hides it very well, he couldn't hide it from an expert who's been through so many times of the same situation that is Gu Qing Shan.

Because of those eyes, Gu Qing Shan immediately don't like this person.

To actively call him out like this, he definitely has some ulterior motive and not simply to make connections.

Sure enough, before Gu Qing Shan could even reply, the other person already spoke.

"Heaven's Limit Saintess seems to have observed your sword very carefully, so I'm curious, could I borrow and look at your sword for a bit?"

His words were very polite, but the content is extremely rude.

Not only did he just admit he was eyeing Ning Yue Xi, he's also asking to see Gu Qing Shan's sword.

For a sword cultivator, their sword is their life, their partner through thick and thin, their religion itself, how could they just take it out and give to others to see?

Not to mention, out of the millions of spells and techniques in the world, there are many that are made specifically to seek out a person's weakness from their weapons.

Some stronger cultivators can even place curses on someone through their weapons.

In extreme cases, where the sword has borne a sword spirit, if they're taken by people with bad motives, they could not only harm the sword spirit, but break the sword as well.

You can't let others borrow your personal weapons, this is common sense of all cultivators, something that anyone should know about.

But he is openly asking to see his sword.

Gu Qing Shan laughed: "I'm sorry, but no"

The other person was stunned, then his face shifted.

"Do you not know who I am?" He said.

"How would I know if you don't tell me" Gu Qing Shan answered.

He shook his head: "You don't even have that much observation skill and still dare to come to this semester examination?"

"Yet here I am" Gu Qing Shan answered honestly.

"I'll say it one more time, let me look at your sword"

Gu Qing Shan thought a bit, then said: "I don't mind letting you see it"

The other party nodded, seeming to be a bit less annoyed.

"But how about you also take out your weapon to let me take a look as well, huh?" Gu Qing Shan sincerely asked.

The other person's face clearly became dark, asking: "It's been very long since anyone dare to talk to me like that, you really won't give it?"

Behind him, a few dozen other cultivators that also wore blue Daoist robes stepped over, staring at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan ignored them all and smiled: "I won't"

Being asked for his sword so many times made his killing intent starts to boil.

But he looked around.

There are too many people around right now, so if they really fought, it won't be easy to protect Xiuxiu.

Gu Qing Shan kept his hand on his sword a bit, then let go.



The other person looked around a bit, noticing that many sect masters are paying attention here, he finally stared at Gu Qing Shan, saying: "You'll regret this"

And left.

After he left, Xiuxiu asked: "Senior brother"

Gu Qing Shan looked at her being so anxious, smiled and said: "It's fine"

"You can't let other cultivators see your weapons?" Xiuxiu asked.

"Of course not, besides from Shifu and your senior brothers, you can't let anyone else see your weapons" Gu Qing Shan seriously told her.

Xiuxiu nodded, understood but not quite understood.

The other person went back to their sect, then loudly announced.

"Blue Clouds Pass, Lee Chang An, here to bring our sect members to participate in the semester examination!"

All the voices around stopped.

Even the sects that are preparing to take off also stopped themselves, not daring to be impolite when they hear that.

Blue Clouds Pass is one of the 3 Saints, Xuanyuan Tianzun's sect.

And Lee Chang An, is one of Xuanyuan Tianzun's direct disciples.

Openly in front of everyone, Lee Chang An looked back smirking at Gu Qing Shan.

He sent his voice: "Your sword, can you take it out now?"

His expression was calm, modest, only his eyes contained a hint of disdain, almost like he was waiting to see Gu Qing Shan's face of shock.

But he was very quickly disappointed.

As Gu Qing Shan only smiled back at him, nodded and soundlessly replied with his mouth gesture

"Piss off"

## **Chapter 110**

They are such simple words that as long as you are paying attention you'd be able to make it out, so many people there raised stifled laughs.

Lee Chang An was very angry, enough to almost want to go and kill them.

But in front of all those people, he definitely can't do such a thing.

Lee Chang An calmed his emotions, tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a talisman.

"Fly"

He silently shouted, activating the talisman.

The talisman quickly burned up, turning into a Phoenix.

“A divine beast!”

Someone shouted in surprise.

Everyone quickly focused their eyes.

Even Spirit Beats Sect doesn't own a divine beast.

The phoenix happily cawed, spread its wings wide and flew to the sky.

On the way, all things it passed through became a road of fire.

The sky turned into a road of fire.

“Go”

Lee Chang An ordered.

All the members of Blue Clouds Pass walked on this road straight to the Sky Palace.

Miraculously, the fire doesn't seem to hurt them at all.

While Lee Chang An ascended, he even looked down mockingly at Gu Qing Shan.

He also opened his mouth and soundlessly said something.

“Just you wait”

Gu Qing Shan ignored it, but still praised: “This method of ascending the Sky Palace really is outside the box”

“Senior brother isn't mad?” Xiuxiu curiously asked.

Gu Qing Shan smiled, then took out a bunch of snacks.

He asked: “What do you want to eat, Xiuxiu?”

Xiuxiu was already bored of watching, so when she saw these snacks, her eyes glowed in excitement.

“When did senior brother buy all these, how come I didn't know?”

“I bought them all when you were busy looking at the spirit beasts”

“Hm, so delicious, senior brother is so good”

“Of course I am”

Blue Clouds Pass had just used an unforgettable method to ascend the Sky Palace.

After them, a loud Buddha chant was heard.

“Amitabha”

One of the 3 Saints, Great Monk of Sorrow's sect is also here ———Spirit Leaf Temple.

The one that is in charge on their side is a young monk who has his eyes closed, looking around 17-18 years old, about the same age as Gu Qing Shan.

As he chanted, golden lotuses sprouted from the earth, lifting the people of Spirit Leaf Temple up to Sky Palace.

"Wow, Golden Lotus From Earth, this is a Buddhist thaumaturgy, what an eye-opener indeed!" Xiuxiu ate her snacks while excitedly commented.

Then she suddenly thought of something.

Something extremely important.

"Senior brother, senior brother!"

"Yes?"

"We both don't know how to fly; how do we go up?"

Gu Qing Shan looked around to see there weren't many other people atop the mountain anymore.

"No need to worry" Gu Qing Shan smiled, "Shifu is even more concerned about this type of thing than we are"

He tapped his Inventory Bag, taking out a communication talisman.

"Bai Hua Sect" Gu Qing Shan raised his voice.

These three words were like magic, as soon as they were heard, even the cultivators already on the Sky Palace had to look down.

"Gu Qing Shan, here to bring our sect members to participate in the semester examination!"

After saying so, he solemnly bowed at Sky Palace.

As the communication talisman was activated by his spirit energy, it turned into a flame and flew away.

They all waited for a few breaths, but nothing happened.

Lee Chang An's face visually changed, his thoughts quickly turned.

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Who could've known, this guy is actually from Bai Hua Sect, no wonder he dared to oppose me. But so what if he's from Bai Hua Sect, I'm also a Saint's disciple, I'll step on you, step on you! Ning Yue Xi...

Thinking about the beautiful Saintess, his eyes became even fiercer.

———may be stepping on him might be more effective than anyone else for this.

As he thought so, he quickly acted.

The sound of his laugh quickly came from the Sky Palace.

All the cultivators turned back to see it was Blue Clouds Pass' Lee Chang An

Lee Chang An shook his head, saying: "Bai Hua Sect only sent two people, if you can't come up here then you'd better just leave"

As everyone heard that, they were all confused.

Why does that mean?

Does Blue Clouds Pass and Bai Hua Sect have some discord?

But Bai Hua Sect shouldn't get into any problems at this kind of occasion though?

Then again, Bai Hua Fairy is very hard to predict, so who knows what could happen.

Lee Chang An dared to say it, but normal cultivators like them don't. They all shut their mouths, only exchanged looks or sent voices to each other and stayed completely silent, afraid they might invite some unwarranted trouble.

Suddenly a 7-colored cloud appeared at the horizon.

This cloud was as beautiful as it was majestic, containing a dignified air, enough for all that sees it to become immersed.

The 7-colored cloud quickly descended, turning into a beastly wild, mature older woman as she reached the top of the mountain.

Gu Qing Shan pulled Xiuxiu and quickly bowed, saying: "I greet you, Saint"

The mature woman smiled, saying: "No need to be so formal, I'm here on orders of Fairy to assist you"

Saying so, she twirled her body, turning into a giant peacock with majestic tail feathers.

Normally, only male peacocks would have colorful tail feathers like this, but how could Beast Saint Peacock be compared to a normal peacock? As a divine beast, every feather on her body contains immense beauty and essence of her Dao, it could even help with feeling and comprehending the laws of the world.

"We've troubled you, I can offer nothing but gratitude" Gu Qing Shan once again bowed.

Beast Saint Peacock felt his respect and nodded: "Let's go"

As she swung her wings, Gu Qing Shan and Xiuxiu quickly got on her back.

Carrying the two of them, Beast Saint Peacock spread her wings and ascended Sky Palace.

Her beautiful form seems just like a cloud of 7 colors, but more slender and soft, unforgettable to all that sees it.

All the cultivators couldn't help but held their breath at this scene.

Sainted realm is the limit of cultivation, the symbol of status, a title without equals, a position that's always treated with the utmost respect.

In the entire history of humanity, there hasn't been a single person that could make a Sainted realm beast into their steed.

The actions of Bai Hua Sect this time would definitely still be a topic of discussion, not only for the next few dozen years, but perhaps hundreds.

Gu Qing Shan and Xiuxiu dropped down onto the Sky Palace square, as Beast Saint Peacock nodded at them, turned into a cloud and softly drifted away.

Looking to her left, Xiuxiu saw a bunch of cultivators looking at them, stunned. Looking to her right, she also only saw a bunch of cultivators looking at them, stunned.

She asked Gu Qing Shan in a low voice: "I think Shifu might have gone a bit overboard"

Gu Qing Shan replied, also in a low voice: "Shifu purposely wanted such an effect"

Xiuxiu thought about it a bit, then nodded in agreement.

After a while, everyone finally regained their senses, got back to discussing among each other.

Lee Chang An's face was sour as lemon, annoyed. He turned away and acted like he didn't see it to get over his annoyance.

10 minutes later, the semester examination officially started.

The very first round is very simple, all they had to do is show off their strongest ability, 7 sect masters that was nominated by the cultivation world will begin to evaluate them, if they feel like they're talents that can be nurtured, they'll be passed.

During this time's semester examination, all sects basically opened their back door, even martial artists that are halfway decent will be accepted into a sect.

The first round quickly finished, as most martial artists and low-rank cultivators were accepted into one sect or another.

Quite a few were so happy they cried.

Gu Qing Shan was also very sentimental, during the past life, he came here as a lone cultivator, but since he only knew a single sword style, he couldn't even make it past the first round.

At the time, he was so poor, that even that sword style was something he had gotten from risking his life at the frontlines.

After the first round is the second round.

The second round is to test their knowledge.

Members of sects will categorize and test the lone cultivators, those that pass will go onto the next round.

Entering the next round is the same as getting the qualifications to become an inner-hall disciple, if you fail, you'll have to keep training yourself as an outer-hall disciple. (1)

Four Martial Eminence are responsible for testing the martial artists and martial cultivators. Three 5-elementalist are responsible for spell users. Three sword cultivators are responsible for testing sword cultivator, Blade users and other weapon-specialized cultivators. And two Elders are responsible for testing God's Chosen Skills.

Xiuxiu doesn't do anything else but watch the process of testing God's Chosen Skills, completely interested.

"Senior brother, can we really just stay here and do nothing like this?" She asked anxiously.

"Doing this is for the best, we get to open our eyes to the world, and come back safely, perfectly complying with Shifu's orders" Gu Qing Shan smiled and answered.

Note:

(1) inner hall and outer hall: A common way to separate cultivators in a sect. Inner hall cultivators usually are more talented, so they get more resources to become stronger quicker, and will usually take up important positions in a sect. Outer hall cultivators are less talented, get less resources but have to contribute more to the sect through various kinds of works, they basically make up most of the low-mid ranged fighting strength of a sect.

## Chapter 111

As they were talking, a brilliant, shining beauty made their way towards them.

Wherever she went, all cultivators that had a sword very quickly hid them behind their backs.

All the sword cultivator that has been beaten up by her once hides them even quicker, making the female cultivators following her break into stifled laughter.

She ignored them all, like she's already well-used to this scene.

Then she finally made her way to Gu Qing Shan and Xiuxiu.

"Are you living well at Bai Hua Sect?" She asked.

Gu Qing Shan looked at her.

Ning Yue Xi was showing a radiant smile, even her apricot eyes are as gentle as water.

She's able to struck the numerous cultivators here smitten by simply standing there.

From afar, Lee Chang An couldn't help but turn around, he gritted his teeth watching this scene as his eyes became cold.

At this moment, he's no different from the rest of the male cultivators.

Gu Qing Shan responded: "Shifu and my senior brothers all treat me very well; junior sister and I are also very close"

Then he gently pulled Xiuxiu from behind him, introducing her to Ning Yue Xi: "This is my junior sister. Xiuxiu, greet the Saintess"

Ning Yue Xi's eyes were very gentle, rubbing Xiuxiu's head as she said: "Calling me that would make me such a stranger, just call me sister"

Xiuxiu looked at third brother, then again at Ning Yue Xi, a bit timidly: "Sister"

Ning Yue Xi looked incredibly happy, held Xiuxiu's hand as she took out a small intricately designed bag and put it in her hand.

"This is my greeting gift to you, little sister" (1)

"A Spirit Beast Bag? What's inside?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Ning Yue Xi answered: "A Red-necked White Crane"

Xiuxiu exclaimed in joy, then hugged Ning Yue Xi: "Thank you, sister"

She isn't one to fake her emotions, so such a genuine display of joy also made Ning Yue Xi openly pleased.

Ning Yue Xi took out another pretty small Inventory Bag and put it in Xiuxiu's hands.

"I made this myself, but you can have it" She said.

"It looks so pretty" Xiuxiu hugged the Inventory Bag, smiling, "it smells good too"

Ning Yue Xi took Xiuxiu's hand, gently shifted herself as she introduced the 5 female cultivators behind her to Gu Qing Shan.

"Liu Qing Yan, Wang Ning Xiang, Dong Xue, Zhao Dan, Zhang Cui Wei, these are all my close sisters"

The girls quickly stepped forward and greeted Gu Qing Shan.

"Nice to meet you, senior brother"

All of them had their eyes lit up as they watched Gu Qing Shan.

The Saintess has never actively approached any male cultivators like this before, not to mention to bring them all with her like this.

And this man right here is the only one to receive such an honor.

What's so different about him?

We have to see for ourselves.

Is that they were thinking.

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist, smiling: "Nice to meet you, sisters, I am Gu Qing Shan, the third rank in Bai Hua Sect"

As the girls hear that, they silently nodded.

Bai Hua Sect, the Saint's Sect, very suitable for our big sister.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then said: "Can I ask you sisters what your elemental roots are?"

The female cultivators felt a bit strange that he would ask so openly, but as this was not that big of a deal, they simply replied.

After hearing them, Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and picked out 5 jade tags.

Ning Yue Xi was a bit surprised: "What are you doing?"

Gu Qing Shan answered: "My junior sister has already received your greeting gift, as her senior brother, I can't not show my good will to your sisters, can I?"

Ning Yue Xi smiled, asking: "What do you want to give them?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "5-Elemental Secret Arts"

All the people that were silently paying attention here was shocked from hearing those words.

These are 5-Elemental Secret Arts you know, techniques so precious that they can be passed down for generations within a sect.

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Even if you bring them to an auction house, one of them could go anywhere from a hundred thousand to a million spirit stones.

Yet he just gave them out?

He just gave them out as greeting gifts?

Bai Hua Sect, Bai Hua Sect, god, what kind of sect is this?

From afar, Heaven's Limit Sect's sect master was originally sitting still, not saying anything, but then lightly smiled, her mood became infinitely better.

All the other large sect's great cultivators exchanged looks, then silently sighed.

It can't be helped, they can only blame themselves for not having such a brilliant person like Ning Yue Xi in their sect.

All the female cultivators accepted their jade tags, shaking, one of them even shrieked from joy on the spot.

"It's too precious, you've scared them" Ning Yue Xi scolded him.

"It's not, really, they're all very simple Secret Arts, it's fine as long as everyone's happy" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Thank you very much, senior brother" all 5 female cultivators lightly bowed.

"No need to be formal, we're all family here" Gu Qing Shan said. (2)

Family? Ning Yue Xi's face flushed as she heard that, then glanced at Earth sword, couldn't help but ask: "So you are training with the sword now?"



As soon as she asked that, all the male cultivators that were dejected from before immediately became extremely happy.

A feeling of laughing on another's misfortune spread like wildfire among all the cultivators here.

Beat him up! Beat him up! Beat him up! Beat him up! Beat him up!

Screw you bastard, screw you for showing off, screw you for giving secret arts, you can't get out of this! Go ahead, Saintess, beat him up real good! Just like you always deal with sword cultivators, better make him grovel on the ground and beg for forgiveness!

Gu Qing Shan instantly became tense, but after thinking a bit, if he denied he's still getting hit, if he admits he's still getting hit, so he just straight up told the truth.

"I can't help it, right now the situation is quite dire, I have to quickly grow, quickly become stronger"

"If I'm not strong enough, in the future when I have to go out to exterminate demons, who knows how I'll die"

"I have to get stronger, this is simply something that can't be helped"

Ning Yue Xi listened, but didn't say anything, only the smile on her face slowly retracted.

However, Xiuxiu noticed the air wasn't quite right, so she cut in: "Sister, Shifu's very hard on third brother about this you know? Yesterday she was sparring and teaching him about the sword, all the way until midnight you know"

Ning Yue Xi's face changed.

Xiuxiu is only 8, an age where children still don't know to mince their words, so she wouldn't lie about this.

To get to spar with the Saint herself, what a privilege it is, what an honor it is.

Everyone knows very well that Bai Hua Fairy's eyes are higher than her head. Sometimes, she wouldn't even go out herself when fighting, rather send someone else instead, saying that she doesn't want to dirty her hands.

Yet Bai Hua Fairy accompanied him to spar, all the way until midnight.

How many in the world can say that they've been personally taught by a Saint?

Even Ning Yue Xi couldn't help but admire that.

Even she couldn't help but feel envious, so of course other people are the same.

For the first time, Heaven's Limit Sect's master who was listening from afar, turned her head and evaluated Gu Qing Shan with her own eyes.

Ning Yue Xi thought about it, then thought some more, and some more, finally said: "The Saint... is forcing you to go on the path of a sword cultivator?"

Gu Qing Shan's mind turns, grasping at the giant straw that just descended from heaven: "I've really wanted to try the path of the Blade, but Shifu told me to train with the sword, no matter how much I beg, she wouldn't give me a chance to take up the Blade"

Ning Yue Xi thought about Xiuxiu's words, muttering: "The sword really isn't something good, but the Saint's discerning eyes..."

She shook her head, looking at Gu Qing Shan in empathy: "Hah, you've really suffered"

Bullshit! What kind of twist is that? All the male cultivators here all unanimously screamed in their hearts, about to go mad.

Saintess, he's a fraud, don't believe him!

They screamed in their mind.

At this very crucial moment, Xiuxiu pulled Ning Yue Xi's sleeves and happily told her: "It's not like that, sister, Shifu secretly told me that third brother has the potential to go really far on the path of the sword"

Bang!

Critical hit!

As Ning Yue Xi heard that, no matter how reluctant, she still felt happy for him.

Then she smiled: "Really far huh? Very well, I'll keep my eye out to see how far you can go exactly"

"Hah, it's really not as impressive as you think" Gu Qing Shan waved his hands to dismiss it.

Looking at Ning Yue Xi's gentle smile, he finally relaxed and was enlightened.

———in a time of life's crisis, there's nothing better than having a god of a teammate to assist you. (3)

"Xiuxiu, you must be tired standing there, let Senior brother carry you"

Note:

(1) greeting gift: it's a Chinese tradition, on the first meeting between a senior and an acquaintance's junior, the senior will gift the junior something to show that they're pleased with them/their talents.

(2) we're all family here: A Chinese proverb, the meaning is more commonly used as "everyone is really no strangers", but it can also be understood by its literal meaning.

(3) god of a teammate: it's part of a modern Chinese proverb "The scariest thing isn't the enemy having godlike teammates, but rather you having a pig of a teammate". This is commonly used in MOBA games. "Pig of a teammate" means someone so shit at the game, it's like a pig is sitting behind the controls.

## Chapter 112

"You'll focus on the sword from now on?" Ning Yue Xi asked.

Gu Qing Shan kept his hesitant expression, saying: "Perhaps, besides from training the sword, I could also occasionally train with the Blade"

"You can't" Ning Yue Xi advised him against it, "no matter if it's the sword or the Blade, true strength comes from being single-minded, you can't split your concentration"

"If that's so, then fine" Gu Qing Shan reluctantly said: "I'll focus myself on the sword"

"Hm, that's right" Ning Yue Xi nodded, pleased.

All the male cultivators in the area have already bowed their heads in dejection, speechless.

Saintess, this isn't how you normally are!

Coong!

Coong!

Coong!

The resounding sound of the bell.

The 3rd round of the examination is about to begin.

Ning Yue Xi hesitantly said: "I'll have to leave, I'm responsible for the 3rd round of the examination"

"Ok then" Gu Qing Shan nodded, taking out a communication talisman.

This is his communication talisman.

Ning Yue Xi quietly took it, taking out a communication talisman of her own, nodded and gave it to Gu Qing Shan.

All her fellow female cultivators hide their smiles with their sleeves, but couldn't hide it with their eyes.

Ning Yue Xi is also easily embarrassed, so she turned around and declared: "Sisters, let us leave"

"Senior brother, we'll be going first, see you!"

"See you"

"Sisters, see you!"

"Little sister, remember to listen to your senior brother ok, if you're free, come to Heaven's Limit Sect"

"Yes, I'll definitely come"

After all their formalities, Ning Yue Xi brought her smiling sisters back to Heaven's Limit Sect.

"How is he?" One of them silently asked.

The others held their secret art jade tags, then all at once: "Full marks!"

Right after was the 3rd round of the semester examination.

It was only at this stage that the elders and leaders of large sects started to become serious.

The elites that represent their sects also showed full interest.

The first round is very simple, its main purpose is to evaluate the new blood; the second round is testing their knowledge, to further explore their temperament and talents, to separate the riff-rafs from true cultivators.

This is meant to filter out people who are weak-minded, or so lazy that they don't have the will to cultivate. No matter how talented they are, they will not be accepted.

Because such a situation has happened before.

There was once a person who is quite decently talented, but a complete coward. After being raised with mountains of resources, he easily reached a decently high realm of cultivation.

But the results of that was, even as a Golden Core realm, he was so scared that he literally pissed himself facing weak demon beasts.

Even among peers in his sect, he never dared to spar or fight with anyone.

Meaning, the sect had used so much resources just to raise a good-for-nothing.

People who are like this must be filtered out from the very start.

After two rounds of filtering, the third round is the real place to pick out talents.

The true talents and potential of a cultivator will be shown in this round.

During this round, the only newcomers left would be exceptionally talented martial artists, or lone cultivators that made it to qi training and Foundation Establishment through their own effort.

There are no “average person” in this round.

“Average people” has already been eliminated from the other two rounds, where they’ll climb up step by step, solidifying their foundations, train their temperament, learn about the common sense of cultivation ————this is a process that cannot be passed.

A large bronze plate and its support was brought by two cultivators onto the platform.

Ning Yue Xi softly jumped onto the platform, standing next to it.

Just by standing there, she was like a descended angel, pure and beautiful.

All the male cultivators’ sights clung onto her, unable to take them off.

Ning Yue Xi began to host the 3rd round’s examination.

She announced: “Semester examination, 3rd round, start!”

“All newcomers who has passed the 2nd round are to come up here and place their hand on the bronze plate”

“A reminder, those that have already joined a sect still have to come here to join the 3rd round”

From start to finish, there was no ruckus to stop her words, and no one voiced their resistance.

All the elders of the sects exchanged looks, nodding to each other in satisfaction.

In the previous years, there would always be some ruckus at this stage.

Quite a few newcomers don’t want to touch the bronze plate, afraid that their elemental root or unique abilities will be revealed.

They don’t understand that their small little tricks couldn’t even count as actual abilities, not to mention completely insignificant in the face of actual cultivators.

But since the host this time was Ning Yue Xi, all those hot-headed, or cold-blooded, or self-centered, narcissistic male newcomers all stayed silent without raising any ruckus.

Maybe it's because they want to show off their good side to the beauty that is Ning Yue Xi?

Ning Yue Xi is Heaven's Limit Sect Saintess, as well as their next sect leader in line.

Thinking that they could catch her eyes, even if a little bit, they're all very glad to show off their best side.

"Seems like next year, we'll need to have her host the 3rd round again" one sect's elder suggested.

"That's a good idea"

"I agree"

"Agree"

All the elders were busily discussing among themselves.

The very first newcomer went up, nervously touched the bronze plate.

A red light shot out from the plate, circled around him once before going back into the plate.

"Very good, you have a Fire elemental root, but it's not awoken yet, do your best to cultivate from now on. Step down now"

Ning Yue Xi said.

Behind her, a row of judging cultivators each held a jade tag in their hand, recording the person's results.

The newcomer happily bowed, silently looked at Ning Yue Xi a bit longer before stepping down.

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The second newcomer went up, also touching the bronze plate.

Suddenly it spun, turned into a large bell and trapped that person inside.

Ning Yue Xi lightly tapped the bronze plate, retracting it.

She told the newcomer who was still stunned: "You have a trapping type God's Chosen Skill, do your best to cultivate and awaken it one day"

The newcomer was joyfully bowed, quickly stepping off the platform.

The 3rd newcomer went up, but this time the bronze plate stayed still.

Seeing the newcomer, a bit lost, Ning Yue Xi lightly smiled and encouraged him: "No worries, even without an elemental root or God's Chosen Skill, you can still cultivate yourself, one day you'll definitely become strong"

As he heard that, his entire body became alive again.

He blankly stared at Ning Yue Xi, clasped his hands and bowed: "Thank you fairy, for your teaching"

This scene will become something that he never forgets.

At the end of his life, throughout his countless experiences and struggles, as well as times of happiness and glory, never will he forget that during this day of a semester examination, a brilliantly beautiful woman that encouraged him so.

As time passed, the 3rd round was already half done.

One newcomer whose sect has already been determined went up. Seeing Ning Yue Xi was the examiner, he couldn't wait anymore and also wanted some glory, so he quickly touched the bronze plate.

As he touched the bronze plate, it showed phantom images of countless weapons, finally stopping at the sword.

Many cultivators below immediately paid attention ———perhaps the Saintess will no longer hate sword cultivator from now on?

If that's the case, at least that guy did something good for everyone.

But as soon as Ning Yue Xi saw the sword phantom, she scoffed coldly: "You trained with the sword? Then you'll be a sword cultivator, go, quickly scam!"

The other person was shocked speechless, then Ning Yue Xi swung her sleeves, using her spirit pressure to push him off.

Many people in the crowd that had weapon shrunk their heads.

All the sword cultivator instantly felt hopelessness again.

Xiuxiu found it interesting so she tiptoed, trying to get a better look.

Gu Qing Shan rubbed Xiuxiu's head, carefully asked: "Are you still anxious?"

Xiuxiu looked up, then truthfully answered: "Not anxious, everything is so fun, but there are so many people so I can't see the stage"

Gu Qing Shan thought a bit, then held Xiuxiu and placed her on his shoulder.

"How about now?" He asked.

"Wow, I can see everything, thank you, senior brother!" Xiuxiu was very happy.

Cultivators from all sides glared at them ———are you two here to have fun or participate in the semester examination!?

At this moment, a girl stepped up and touched the plate, suddenly it burst into flame and broke into two pieces.

The girl was scared stiff, sobbed and said: "It's not me, I didn't break it!"

Ning Yue Xi didn't know whether to laugh or cry, lightly tapped the broken bronze plate to turn it back to normal.

"You have an unawakened Fire elemental root, as well as an unawakened Attack-type God's Chosen Skill, talent like yours is very rare, do your best to cultivate and quickly awaken them" she casually said.

The girl finally understood that it's because she had both an elemental root and a God's Chosen Skill, immediately stopped crying and smiled.

As soon as the girl stepped off, numerous sect elders stepped out to try and recruit her.

Another newcomer went up, placing his hand on the bronze plate.

The plate then showed a cultivator's phantom who was quickly doing a series of fist martial arts.

"You'll probably awaken to a fist-type martial thaumaturgy; you should do your best to improve your martial arts skill" Ning Yue Xi nodded.

The other person joyfully stepped off.

"There's quite a few good seeds here" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Xiuxiu sat on his shoulder, suddenly asked: "Senior brother, will we come up there?"

"We won't" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Ah, but I'm so curious"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "What are you curious about?"

Xiuxiu: "I'm curious what would happen if I touch the plate"

"A dark-grey colored thread of light will fly out and circled you once" Gu Qing Shan continued, "perhaps it won't be just a thread, the specifics will have to depend on how strong your elemental root is, the stronger the root the stronger it will show"

He also added: "Our sect also has one of these, if you're very curious, when we come back we can ask second brother to find it for you to play with"

Xiuxiu nodded satisfyingly, then suddenly asked: "If Shifu were to touch it, what would happen?"

Gu Qing Shan thought for a while, then said: "It would probably change for 3 days and 3 nights, each time showing a different thing"

Xiuxiu couldn't help but laugh.

While they were talking, a man about 20 years old walked towards them.

"Hm? Hello fellow Dao seeker, is there anything you need?"

Gu Qing Shan evaluated the person, then asked.

The man suddenly kneeled down on the spot, bowing to Gu Qing Shan, making the two of them almost jumped in surprise.

Then he said: "This humble one has always head his loyalty to Bai Hua Sect, I beg of you to take me in, I'll be very grateful"

Gu Qing Shan and Xiuxiu exchanged looks, as Xiuxiu asked: "Senior brother?"

Gu Qing Shan looked at the other person, saying: "If you want to join Bai Hua Sect, then come to Bai Hua Immortal country to attempt the Bai Hua lists. If you succeed, the Saint will evaluate whether or not you have the ability to join us"

The other person quickly: "This humble one does not dare to wish for the Saint to take him"

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "Then what are you kneeling for?"

The other person's eyes showed slyness, loudly saying: "I beg you to take me as your disciple!"

Gu Qing Shan almost coughed up blood.

"Fellow Dao seeker, I'm not even as old as you are, this is not appropriate" He said.

"Is it very appropriate, how could it not be, a person like you must be extremely talented, unrivalled in both brain and brawn, in the future you would definitely be the core of humanity's might, possibly even a Saint, so please take me as your disciple!" he said determined.

All the other people watched him in confusion, then suddenly realized.

That's right, no matter how he really is, he's a member of Bai Hua Sect. If you can become his disciple then you're also a member of Bai Hua Sect by proxy.

### **Chapter 113**

This is a direct disciple of one of the Saints, Bai Hua Fairy.

Rumour has it that Bai Hua Sect doesn't have many members, so all of them receive the best possible treatment.

Not to mention, after joining the sect, there's no such thing as needing to compete for your cultivation resources, all the secret arts and skills are free to be learnt, if you try hard enough you might even get to be personally trained by the Saint herself.

All of them began to feel tempted.

Gu Qing Shan stood for a few seconds, then very seriously replied: "Without the Saint's permission, both me and my junior sister cannot accept any disciples of our own, otherwise, once the Saint gets angry, not only will we be punished, but even your life might be forfeit, so just give up"

The other person still wanted to say something, but Gu Qing Shan already loudly declared to all: "I'll say this right now, my junior sister and I are new members of Bai Hua Sect, aside from us, Bai Hua Sect have no plans to accept any new disciples"

"If you really want to join Bai Hua Sect, please first go attempt a Bai Hua list"

Seeing him so adamant about it, the crowd could only stop their schemes.

As the other person heard that, he reluctantly stood up, mumbling while walking away.

"I had to kneel for nothing..."



Lee Chang An lightly laughed, then muttered: “Bai Hua Sect doesn’t accept any disciples, but if you can defeat these two new members of Bai Hua Sect, you might catch the attention of some other large sects”

These words weren’t very loud, but all the people here are cultivators, so they all heard it quite clearly.

Many people suddenly realized, then looked at Gu Qing Shan and Xiuxiu with ulterior motive once more.

The 3rd round quickly ended.

Ning Yue Xi went off the raised platform.

After that was the final round of the semester examination.

Four sect masters came up the platform, all bowed towards the Sky Palace, then placed their hands on the four corners of the platform.

They infused their spirit energy into the four corners.

Very quickly, the four pillars light up together with the platform itself.

The four lights shot straight up at the sky, past the clouds and into the high unseen.

One of the sect masters ceremoniously declared: “One last round, the Chosen of Divinity, begin”

Chosen of Divinity, from the description of old scriptures, the human’s competition will attract the Divinity to watch them, if a Divinity sees any human fit, they will present that person with a gift to help them on their way of cultivation.

There are no longer any Divinity here, but humanity has always kept up this tradition for thousands of years.

The large platform was now split into 4 sections, each of them turning into their own fighting ring.

One newcomer jumped onto the ring, loudly declared: “This one is Zhang Bui, who shall challenge me?”

“I will!” Another newcomer also jumped on the ring.

The referee looked at them, seeing they were both qi training realm, nodded and reminded them: “This is just sparring, do not take it too seriously”

“Yes!” they both confirmed.

“Begin!”

Then they entered combat.

Very quickly one of them lost as the other got to move on.

More cultivators were also fighting on the other 3 rings.

“Senior brother, what do we do now?” Xiuxiu asked.

“Ah, we only need to watch” Gu Qing Shan responded.

“We came all the way here and did nothing, would that make Shifu angry?” Xiuxiu asked anxiously.

Gu Qing Shan smiled, saying: “Did you forget what Shifu said?”

“I remember, to come safely and to return safely” Xiuxiu answered.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “That’s right, we only need to show up here to say that Bai Hua Sect has come, then watch them fight to broaden our views, that much is enough”

He rubbed Xiuxiu’s head, saying: “Not to mention, our Xiuxiu is only 8 years old, what kind of fighting do you want to do? Let’s just wait for a few more years”

Xiuxiu smiled, then said nothing anymore.

As she focused on watching the fights on the ring, she quickly became immersed.

Gu Qing Shan was also watching, but didn’t concentrate much.

Occasionally, he glanced over to look at Ning Yue Xi.

After a few times, her face became flushed.

He can’t help it, she really is a very beautiful girl, Gu Qing Shan’s eyes are also just unconsciously seeking her out.

Taking the chance when the fight down at the ring was at its most heated, Ning Yue Xi found a time where no one was watching her, then glared angrily at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan immediately gave up on teasing her.

— — —they’re still a few realms apart, if Ning Yue Xi really wanted to, that glare just now could easily shave off over half his HP bar.

Finally, around 20 people remained, picked out as the top cultivators of the 4th round.

All the sect leaders watched the newcomers, silently exclaimed something, then quickly picked their seeds.

To be able to make it this far, their talent, effort and battle sense are all the cream of the crop, the only thing left to do is to see if they fit the sect’s core scriptures.

“Very well, you’ve all earned your places here, but we will need to pick out the top three of you all to finish this year’s Chosen of Divinity” one sect master said.

“Next, you are free to challenge your opponent by name”

Challenging by name, means that you can call out anyone’s name you want to challenge him to battle, if they refuse, it will count as automatically losing that battle.

20 people exchanged looks, quickly evaluated the other 19 people, looking for the opponent most suitable for themselves.

This is also a test of observation skills and wits.

Suddenly, one of them shouted: "I want to challenge Bai Hua Sect's Gu Qing Shan"

The whole place went silent.

Everyone quickly looked toward Gu Qing Shan and Xiuxiu.

"Senior brother" Xiuxiu asked

"No worries" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

He noticed, this was the same person that kneeled down earlier.

You really want to be noticed that much?

Leng Tian Xing was one of the referees, and the first to shout for him to stop: "Gu Qing Shan has not made it to the top 20 competitors, he's not part of those you can challenge"

The other person said: "According to the rules of Chosen of Divinity, the top 20 people can challenge whoever they like, no one can refuse"

This is correct, but no one has ever done so before.

Because if they couldn't make it to top 20, that means they've already lost.

As a strong person, actively challenging someone weaker will only invite disdain.

Not to mention, there are many sect's cultivators, just like Bai Hua Sect, come here only to follow tradition, only to watch the examination, not to participate.

Ning Yue Xi also said: "Bai Hua Sect is only here to watch the competition, they have never gone on the ring, so they are not part of those you can challenge"

Hearing two great cultivators saying so, the person was a bit hesitant.

Lee Chang An suddenly stood up, laughing loudly: "Very good, you have guts to dare to challenge a Saint's disciple, very good indeed, cultivators should be like this, to still face the challenge despite knowing it's hard"

"No matter if you win or lose this time, our Blue Clouds Pass will still take you in"

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No matter if you win or lose.

Means that he still has to fight.

The person immediately understood as he heard that, as well as all the cultivators around him.

As long as they fight, they'll get to join Blue Clouds Pass.

Blue Clouds Pass is also a Saint's sect, their numbers also exceptionally numerous, no one in the cultivation world dares to cross them, as well as having a great reputation.

On one side is Bai Hua Sect that won't accept anyone, the other is Blue Clouds Pass that's opened its door waiting.

Comparing the two, pleasing Blue Clouds Pass is the real way to heaven!

Immediately, over half the 20 people below started to complain.

“Why can’t we challenge him?”

“He’s also here for the semester examination, why does he have the privilege to not get challenged?”

“We respect the Saint, but he’s not a Saint!”

“If a cultivator won’t even accept a challenge, how is he still a cultivator?”

Many of the elders exchanged looks, not knowing what to do.

While the sects’ Elites cultivators, aside from Leng Tian Xing and Ning Yue Xi, no one spoke up.

Truthfully, Gu Qing Shan made too much of a ruckus before, not only did he ascend the Sky Palace with a Beast Saint, he was also seen talking close with Ning Yue Xi, making many green with envy.

Such a person, if he has to face a bit of a hard situation, or lose face a bit, it’s a good thing for them.

Gu Qing Shan seeing them became more and more agitated, stood up and clasped his fists: “Gentlemen, listen to me”

He very sincerely said: “This, there’s actually been a misunderstanding”

The person who stood out first stared at him, asking: “What misunderstanding is that?”

Gu Qing Shan answered: “It’s not that I won’t fight, but rather, before we left, the Saint has specifically told us not to fight”

The person that stood out first waited for him to finish, about to rebuke him as soon as he explained.

But hearing Gu Qing Shan say something like that, no matter how long he thought, he couldn’t rebuke him.

The Saint.

The Saint specifically ordered.

The Saint didn’t allow them to fight.

That’s why I won’t fight.

On the ring, all the top 20 cultivators looked at each other.

He already said that his Shifu didn’t allow him to fight, now the heck do they deflect that reason? How do they provoke him?

Do they really want to offend a Saint before they’re even sure about entering a sect?

The loss outweighs the gain.

They all shut up.

Xiuxiu looked at this, then silently said: “Senior brother, it’s so strange”

“What’s strange?” Gu Qing Shan asked with a low voice.

“What you said is clearly very shameless, yet somehow I still feel you’re very cool”

Lee Chang An cleared his throat, asking: “Bai Hua Saint really ordered you like that?”

“Of course” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Lee Chang An silently cursed him, but couldn’t really say anything else, he really had no choice but to let him go.

—-but does he have to let him go?

This is in front of every sect in the cultivation world, the best chance to slap his face.

Seeing him not wanting to enter the ring no matter what, he’s obviously scared that he’ll lose.

But he already used the Saint as a shield, even if he doesn’t want to stop, he has to.

Lee Chang An glanced at Ning Yue Xi, seeing her looking at Gu Qing Shan, her lips slightly lifted, a bit speechless, but also pleased.

He gritted his teeth, very annoyed.

“So you really won’t fight?” Lee Chang An looked at Gu Qing Shan, then at Xiuxiu, softly spoke: “You also brought such a young girl, since the Saint ordered so, that must mean she’s afraid you’ll misplace the child —-right, why does Bai Hua Sect have such a child, whose child is she?”

These words seem to be okay on the surface.

But you only need to think about it a bit to see just how dirty his implications are.

Bai Hua Sect really doesn’t have many members, so asking “whose child is that” would create countless rumors.

“Lee Chang An, what did you just say!” Ning Yue Xi angrily glared at him.

“I’m only asking about this child’s background, wanting to know which sect are her parents from, what’s wrong with that?” Lee Chang An quickly added to his reasoning.

He showed that he had no ill will, only wanting to ask about her background —-asking about background is a very normal thing, many cultivators who enter a sect will also get asked that.

But the implications he said before had already went into everyone’s minds, the longer it is left brewing, the more rumors will be borne, definitely affect her reputation later.

Xiuxiu said nothing.

Both her parents are already long gone.

She had to go through so much struggle to finally get back to normal.

But these words are poisonous, immediately hurt her deeply.

Gu Qing Shan’s expression has already gone blank.

He let go of Xiuxiu, seeing the little girl's eyes are already red, as her tears are dripping down, stopping at her chin.

Gu Qing Shan's insides felt numb, but still smiled and said: "Xiuxiu, hear senior brother out for a bit!"

"Yes"

"Senior brother has really been too loose this time around"

"Yes"

"Now that senior brother knows what he's done wrong, I'll go fix it right now"

"Yes?"

The little girl wiped her tears, showing a face of hearing something unexpected.

But Gu Qing Shan had already picked her up, quickly walked to where Ning Yue Xi is.

"Help me watch Xiuxiu for a bit"

Saying so, he didn't wait for Ning Yue Xi to reply and simple jumped onto the platform.

The Earth sword appeared from thin air, gripped tightly in his hand.

Putting the sword on his shoulder, glancing over at all 20 cultivators below, saying: "Since you all want to prove yourself so much, come here, I'll beat the proof into all of you"

"And you"

He looked at Lee Chang An: "You must feel like your way is speaking is so smart, don't you?"

A bone chilling killing intent could be felt from Gu Qing Shan, but his voice was as calm as water.

"Get the fuck down here and receive your death"

## **Chapter 114**

The entire crowd went silent, who could've thought such a calm and well-mannered young man would say something like that in front of everybody.

"How arrogant" the first person to step out spoke.

He stepped forward onto the ring, saying: "When you get beaten to a pulp by my martial thaumaturgy, you'll know just how big the world is"

Every step he takes, his body grew bigger and bigger, as visible layers of martial thaumaturgy flowed along his body.

That means he already could channel martial thaumaturgy in his body before even entering a sect!

No wonder he dares to challenge Gu Qing Shan first.

When that martial cultivator stepped before the ring, he has already turned into a 4-person tall giant.

His entire body was as hard as magma, even his skin turned jet black, standing below the platform, he was still 2-person taller than Gu Qing Shan.

“This is Rock Diamond!” a privy cultivator exclaimed.

Many elders who are experts in martial arts also looked at him in interest.

There are a few martial thaumaturgies that could consecutively level up, and they’re the subject of interest for many.

Because these are very basic thaumaturgies, as the cultivator’s martial arts grow more and more, it will also become stronger and stronger, until finally becoming unrivalled great thaumaturgies.

Rock Diamond, after reaching the final stage will become Fearsome Diamond, an extremely powerful martial thaumaturgy.

After the martial thaumaturgy evolve into Fearsome Diamond, if they can enter a Buddha sect to train in Buddha’s teachings, they might be able to awaken one of Buddha’s Divine Skills ———Unbreakable Diamond.

But when looking at the monks of Spirit Leaf Temple, all of them were lowering their heads, not even paying a bit of attention to him.

Buddha’s teachings emphasize temperament and fate, and it seems that this person isn’t fitting.

Having such a thaumaturgy, yet still ignored by Spirit Leaf Temple, no wonder he would be so eager to prove himself.

The giant looked down at Gu Qing Shan, mocking him: “Such a weakling like you, I can kill 2-3 with a single swing of my fist”

His voice was very loud.

Gu Qing Shan calmly stared at him, not saying a single word.

As the giant saw that he wasn’t speaking, his fighting spirit increased: “Hmph, weakling, fighting on the ring have their own rules, even the Saint can’t help you now”

The giant jumped up, attacking Gu Qing Shan straight on.

His body was like a small mountain, blocking out the sun as he covered the entire ring.

Right as he jumped, Gu Qing Shan also jumped, receiving him.

The Earth sword was already being held tight in Gu Qing Shan’s hands, batting at the giant.

That’s right, batting at him.

The strike was extremely slow, but no matter how the giant tried to dodge, it always seems to be heading straight at him.

I can’t dodge! The giant realized.

“Then die!”

The shouted, swung his fist to meet him head on.

Bang---

Boom!

As the two of them faced off, one of them was swatted to the ground as fast as a shadow.

A cloud of blood filled the air, as a giant hole was formed right below the ring.

When they looked back, they saw Gu Qing Shan still standing on the ring, while the giant was nowhere to be seen.

The numerous judging cultivators quickly went down the hole.

After a few seconds, a scream of agony was heard from inside the hole.

"It hurts, it hurts, IT HURTS! AHHHHHHH!"

As they heard the scream, the cultivators around couldn't help but be curious, spread their inner sight downward at the hole.

Many of them trembled on the spot.

"Holy shit..." someone muttered.

"All his bones are broken, even if you do all you can to fix him up, it'll take at least a few years to fully recover" another small voice muttered.

During these few years, the pain he'll have to feel won't be any less than going straight to hell itself.

Everyone's expressions changed as they looked back at Gu Qing Shan.

Many sect leaders contemplated: "It's very similar to Kai Shan Style, but much stronger, what style is this?"

After receiving teaching from the Saint, Gu Qing Shan has fully comprehended 1106 types of sword styles.

After combining them all into one, together with the Earth sword's 60,000 tons' strike, of course this sect leader couldn't tell what kind of sword style this was.

"Even our sect's Hidden Sword Hall doesn't have such a sword style, if it's not created by himself, it must be something the Saint taught him" an elder of Thousand Swords Sect commented.

Many elders became interested and continued to watch.

"Next" Gu Qing Shan swung the blood off his sword, coldly declared.

A thin cultivator stepped out from the top 20.

"Don't look down on people, your sword is only a bit heavy, so speed must be your critical weakness, you definitely can't hit me"

He said, shifting his body, already standing on the ring 1 second later.



“And my speed technique just happens to counter your heavy sword” He looked at Gu Qing Shan pridefully.

Gu Qing Shan didn't even look at him, only glanced down the ring and declared: “All of you, come up here, don't waste my time”

“You!” the thin man became angry, both feet stepped on the ground, rushing at Gu Qing Shan.

As soon as he moved, the expressions of all the people under the ring changed

Hm? What?

While the thin man was still confused, a voice from under the ring shouted: “Don't move!”

This voice was a certain large sect's elder who brought him here to participate in the semester examination.

He really treated him very well, and he was very grateful, originally wanted to enter that sect.

But the situation now is different, he has the chance to join a sect like Blue Clouds Pass right in front of him, and it's so easy to take, he has no choice but to let go and choose the best for himself.

Even though the thin man heard it very clearly, he pretended not to, as his body turned into a hurricane, attacking Gu Qing Shan.

One second later, he found his eyes were looking at a headless body.

That looks like my body.

As soon as he thought that, he felt an overwhelming pain, then total darkness as he no longer felt anything.

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From the others' perspective, as soon as the thin man rushed forward, his hands, arms, feet, legs, gradually got cut off from his body one by one, until finally his head was also cut off.

After all his limbs and head fell down, his body still moved forward for a meter before hitting the ground, spilling blood everywhere.

On the ring, Gu Qing Shan held the Earth sword, softly swung it to one side.

“Don't blame me when you seeked death yourself” he said.

Numerous transparent threads retracted back into the Earth sword before disappearing completely.

“Sword qi to silk? At this age?” The elder of Thousand Swords Sect exclaimed in shock.

This is a brilliant sword qi control technique, you have to be able to control it down to the micro-level to turn sword qi into silk threads and use them as layers of traps like that.

Gu Qing Shan pointed his sword at the remaining 18 cultivators, saying: “Come, come, come, all of you come, I said I'll beat the proof into you, and so I will”

Looking at the horrible state of the two before them, all 18 cultivators felt a chill down their spines.

They gritted their teeth, exchanged looks, then immediately understood.

“All attack at once!”

“Kill him, or we all die here!”

The over-dozen figures all rushed onto the ring.

“That’s right, this is less trouble for me” Gu Qing Shan raised the Earth sword upward, pointing at the bunch of people leaping forward, still in the air.

While he thrust the sword forward, the intense killing intent they felt could almost freeze them in place.

But very strangely, he didn’t point his sword directly them.

He was pointing it at the sky behind them all.

The world became silent.

Inside the Earth sword, something seems to have awakened, as it let out a satisfied whisper.

Then.

Donk! Donk! Donk! Donk! Donk! Donk!

Just like the sound of ancient giants banging on their drums.

Blinding sword phantoms escaped from the tip of the Earth sword, all flowing outward, creating a deafening crashing storm of swords.

“Secret Sword Arts!” someone screamed in fright.

Many sect leaders looked at each other, as one of them confirmed: “That’s correct, it’s Water Flow Severance, it’s been many years since I last saw such a Secret Art”

The fierce storm of swords blew past, as all of the people who rushed forward were nowhere to be seen.

They’ve all been sent flying, their consciousness robbed by the exploding swords, their bodies scattering as they were knocked outside the Sky Palace.

All the judging cultivators flew out, using flying treasures to catch the unconscious people.

More than a dozen cultivators were lined up, their eyes closed tight, fainted.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the sect leaders that have already stood up, saying: “These people are still useful to humanity, so I left them alive”

Then he looked at all the cultivators below the ring, saying: “From now on, if someone dares to insult my Bai Hua Sect again, I swear I’ll kill them”

His tone was calm but sure.

Quite a few cultivators recalled the scene just now and quickly confirmed his words.

This young man truly did tilt this sword away at the last moment, otherwise the strength of that strike was more than enough to kill all of them.

Gu Qing Shan sheathed his sword, looked back at the three remaining cultivators under the ring.

“Ah? You’re still here?” he asked, confused, “didn’t you say you wanted to fight me?”

All three of them knelt down on the ground, bowing: “I was wrong, I was wrong, a great person such as you don’t need to concern yourself with us”

As a cultivator, to bow down to someone else, their Dao heart is already broken.

Gu Qing Shan no longer looked at them, breathed in and looked at Lee Chang An

“Get down here” Gu Qing Shan smiled and said.

Lee Chang An also laughed, saying: “You think I’m scared of you?”

“Sure you have your Secret Art, but I don’t have my own techniques?” he walked step by step onto the ring, saying: “Even a Saint’s disciples have their own rankings”

A spear appeared in his hand.

Gu Qing Shan stood still, not saying a thing.

Lee Chang An raised his spear, swung it to one side and stopped.

“Let’s teach” he said. (1)

Seeing his arrogant demeanor, these two words probably meant that he wanted to teach Gu Qing Shan.

Not waiting for Gu Qing Shan to talk, his spear has already moved.

——from stillness to movement, his actions only took the blink of an eye, turning into a fierce killing blow, ripping the air as it let out a sharp sound.

Lee Chang An’s entire body become one with his spear, like he has become an arrow that doesn’t know to retreat.

This attack is a special spear technique; its meaning is to never retreat until it hits the enemy.

No one could guess that Lee Chang An would be so sly, he doesn’t even let him talk, taking the first chance he has to strike, not to mention using a killing blow right from the start.

If Gu Qing Shan isn’t prepared, or doesn’t know the proper way to counter it, he would be pierced immediately.

The spear seems to almost struck Gu Qing Shan.

It struck!

I won!

Lee Chang An opened his mouth, wanting to laugh, but then realized the feeling of his spear isn't quite correct.

Looking back, what he pierced was an after image, while the real person is already gone.

Not good!

Lee Chang An swung his spear backwards.

As he felt a chill on his head, he doesn't hesitate to swung his sword upwards, wanting to strike him down.

The two weapons clashed in the air, making a loud metal sound as they do.

Lee Chang An shouted: "I've caught you, die!"

The spear carried the hissing sound of the air, screaming as it swung.

— — —and missed again.

Note:

(1) Let's teach: this is a common phrase used when sparring, the original meaning is closer to "teach me what you can"

## **Chapter 115**

Right as his spear missed its target, Lee Chang An's expression dimmed as he had a bad premonition.

Then an intense pain came from behind him.

Lee Chang An shouted angrily, turned around and thrust.

But there was no one there.

Touching his back with his hand, he was bleeding.

But where is that guy?

His inner sight is telling him that the guy is still behind him, just a distance of one sword strike away.

"I've caught you!" he suddenly shouted.

But before he could even turn around, he felt pain on his back again.

Another slash.

Just like a tiger going berserk, Lee Chang An swung his spear, completing the entire 49 strikes of Saint's Will Spear Techniques, leaving no space to take advantage of.

This is Xuanyuan Tianzun's personal technique that he was taught, Lee Chang An had to practice it for a whole 2 years to master it, originally about to use it today to show off his strength.

But he only managed to swung it half-way before being slashed again on his back.

"Aaaaaaaa, I dare you to face me!"

Lee Chang An was already about to go crazy.

The crowd watching him was stunned silent.

Because what they're witnessing is truly too bizarre, there no words they can use to describe the match they're seeing right now.

From Lee Chang An's second strike onwards, Gu Qing Shan has already gone past and stood directly behind him.

Whenever Lee Chang An move, or uses any technique, Gu Qing Shan would also move at the same time, making sure he's always right behind him.

Lee Chang An turns around, he also turns around; Lee Chang An rushes forward, he also rushes forward; Lee Chang An stops, he stops.

The distance between them doesn't change, the position doesn't change.

He's like a shadow, mimicking everything.

Creating such a laughable, yet also frightening scene at the same time.

Lee Chang An would never see where Gu Qing Shan is, but Gu Qing Shan is always behind him, as soon as he finds the chance, he'll slash his back.

To be able to do this, you have you have unparalleled battle insight, enough that you won't ever make a mistake.

One second, one step, one wrong movement and you won't be able to recreate this same effect.

Knowing full well that his opponent is behind him, yet never actually see him, not to mention taking wound after wound, Lee Chang An could no longer keep his cool.

"Get out here! Get the fuck out here!"

He swung the spear around himself several more times, only to take another slash to his back as he stopped to breathe.

"AAAAAAAAAAAAaaa!"

Lee Chang An could only try thrusting his spear backwards again.

No sound, no reply, no block, no counter attack, nothing.

It was like his opponent didn't exist, but whenever he stops, he's sure to receive another sword wound.

Due to the intense pain, Lee Chang An once again jumped up, once again tried to complete the set of spear techniques.

Once again, he stops to breathe, take one slash, swung his spear, stops to breathe, take another slash.

All the cultivators watching could only feel a chill from head to toe, their backs soaked in cold sweat.

Heaven's Limit Sect's master sighed, saying: "No wonder Bai Hua Saint does not take disciples easily"

Thousand Swords Sect's master hadn't said anything until now, breathed out: "The next generation is to be respected" (1)

On the platform, Gu Qing Shan is still sticking close right behind Lee Chang An, silently following his every move.

No matter what Lee Chang An does, no matter what techniques he uses, he still can't see Gu Qing Shan.

His back was already covered in slashes, soaking him with his own blood.

Lee Chang An felt himself falling into a deep nightmare, even his Dao heart is already shaking.

He could only endure, gritting his teeth: "You're clearly very skilled, how about we stop here?"

No replies came from behind.

Only an intense, bone-chilling pain ———as another slash came.

He's a man-shaped devil!

Lee Chang An couldn't take it anymore, shouting: "If you want to die then don't blame me!"

He tapped his Inventory Bag, taking a talisman in hand.

This is Xuanyuan Tianzun's Divine Phoenix Talisman.

Divine Phoenix Talisman isn't something Gu Qing Shan can deal with right now.

Since Lee Chang An took out this talisman, that means he doesn't care about his face or winning anymore.

Using a Saint's talisman on the Chosen of Divinity's fighting ring is the same as insulting traditions, breaking the rules of over a hundred thousand years.

His reputation will drop like a rock after this, but right now, Lee Chang An couldn't care less about something like reputation.

Lee Chang An's spirit energy flowed, as the talisman glowed brightly.

A transparent outline appeared and expanded from the talisman, as a Phoenix phantom began to form.

Lee Chang An was gritting his teeth so hard it was bleeding.

Once the Phoenix shows up, I'll take your life!

While he was grinning maliciously, Lee Chang An felt another slash on his back.

This time it wasn't too deep, but his entire body felt numb, he couldn't even move his pinky finger, his body ached all over, his muscles couldn't help but contract.

His entire body suddenly lost control, his consciousness felt lost for just a fleeting moment before realizing...

Shit, this is Lightning!

Lee Chang An realized how dire the situation is, but his Dantian could no longer be controlled, so not even a speck of spirit energy followed his will.

Being cut off from spirit energy, the Divine Phoenix Talisman lost its power source.

The Phoenix could only show its head before cawing unwillingly, and got sucked back inside the talisman.

A single second later, Lee Chang An could feel his body again.

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But a lot could happen in one second.

The Divine Phoenix Talisman in Lee Chang An's hand was already taken away, and a sword pierced him from his back all the way through his chest.

The sword very precise pierced in next to his spine, slanting outward to his left, one centimeter away from his heart. Not only is the location scary, the intention is also very cruel.

Fresh blood dripped down the tip of the sword.

Lee Chang An was locked in place by the sword, unable to move at all.

If he carelessly moved and hurt his spine, he'll become permanently paralyzed.

Even if he doesn't hurt the spine, the sword was right under his heart, one careless movement and he'll cut it open and die on the spot.

Right now, status, female, reputation, cultivation, winning or losing all become insignificant.

Facing death, Lee Chang An finally understood what the most important thing is.

"Please don't kill me, I beg you, don't kill me" His voice was trembling.

"Ah? You're begging me to spare you?" he finally heard the devil's voice from behind.

"Yes, yes, yes, I was wrong, please spare me"

Gu Qing Shan slightly tensed his sword, saying: "You're not polite enough, first apologize to our Xiuxiu"

Xiuxiu?

Who is Xiuxiu?

Lee Chang An unconsciously looked below the ring, looking for that little girl.

The little girl's eyes were still in tears, glaring at him.

"Xiuxiu, I'm very sorry, I was wrong, I shouldn't have spoken so carelessly, you're a great person, please spare me" Lee Chang An endured the searing pain from inside his body and reluctantly said.

"Not sincere enough" Gu Qing Shan spoke.

His sword slightly moved.

“Aaaaaa” Lee Chang An was soaked in cold sweat, screaming.

“Again, this time your tone must be softer, your attitude must be sincere” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Xiuxiu... I was wrong, I beg you, forgive me” Lee Chang An said again.

“Senior brother...” Xiuxiu looked at Gu Qing Shan.

“Xiuxiu” Gu Qing Shan encouraged her: “This piece of shit is already pierced by senior brother’s sword, whatever Xiuxiu wants to do with him, senior brother will do it”

“Just follow your thoughts, if it can relieve your anger, even if senior brother has to slice him in two, I won’t refuse”

Gu Qing Shan then reached out at Lee Chang An’s Inventory Bag, throwing it to Xiuxiu.

“This will be considered something to make up for hurting your feelings, what do you say?” Gu Qing Shan asked Lee Chang An.

“Yes, make it up, make it up to Xiuxiu”

Lee Chang An smile looks even worse than a frown, everything he possess is in that Inventory Bag.

Xiuxiu took the Inventory Bag, hesitated a bit, then threw it back on the platform.

“What it is? No need to be formal with him” Gu Qing Shan said.

“All his stuff is so bad” Xiuxiu said, clearly didn’t want them.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

Xiuxiu is the one Bai Hua Fairy cares most about. Both her food and daily necessities, there’s nothing she uses that isn’t the best there is to offer in the entire cultivation world, so she really doesn’t care for Lee Chang An’s stuff.

“That’s not easy then” Gu Qing Shan said, a bit troubled, “if he can’t even make it up to you, how about I kill him?”

He talked about killing like it was eating a meal, not even a little bit of fluctuation in his emotion.

A psycho, he’s a killer psycho, Lee Chang An finally realized and began to regret picking a fight with such a person.

“Erm, you there...” one sect master hesitated, wanted to speak up.

“Ah? You want to stick your hands in a matter between Bai Hua Sect and Blue Clouds Pass?” Gu Qing Shan unexpectedly asked.

The sect master immediately shrank.

All the elders around also shut their mouths.

If it was a dispute between Great Monk of Sorrow and Xuanyuan Tianzun’s disciples, then they could try and mediate, but this is Bai Hua Fairy’s disciple.



Bai Hua Fairy is unpredictable, if you're not a Saint and still annoy her, you should already be prepared for your funeral yesterday.

Gu Qing Shan thought a bit, then sent the Divine Phoenix Talisman over to Xiuxiu.

"This thing can release a Phoenix, it's a decently good item, if you're bored you can even exchange it for some spirit stones" Gu Qing Shan said.

Xiuxiu had seen the talisman before so she was a bit interested, hearing her senior brother said so, she took it.

Finally, her mood improved.

Gu Qing Shan seeing so, finally patted Lee Chang An on the shoulder, saying: "I myself have no bones to pick with you"

"Yes, yes"

Lee Chang An nodded quickly, silently relieved that he was able to get out of dying today.

Great people don't need to pay attention to every loss, first I need to guarantee my life, then I can think of other ways to kill this bastard later, otherwise, I won't be able to lift my head for this entire lifetime. If the mountain doesn't move, the road will have to, one day, sooner or later, I'll be able to find the chance to kill him.

Lee Chang An silently thought so, but doesn't show a single bit on his face.

Yet, Gu Qing Shan's tone changed: "But if I spare your life today, everyone will think they can just make up random rumors about our Bai Hua Sect without any consequences. That way, our reputation would be in trouble"

"So to prevent that, I can only kill you to make sure there aren't anymore idiots"

Seeing the situation change so suddenly, Lee Chang An felt something wrong, shouting: "I was wrong, I shouldn't have talked bad about Bai Hua Sect, I swear ——"

Gu Qing Shan ignored him and continued: "Because of that, go ahead and die, as you die, everyone will see you as a model, they'll know just what fate awaits those that splash dirty water on Bai Hua Sect"

Lee Chang An shouted louder: "WAIT! My Shifu is Xuan——"

"I don't care who your Shifu is" Gu Qing Shan calmly said.

He pulled the sword out from his chest, and swung.

The corpse fell downward, as the head was lopped off, it rolls, apparently still holding an expression.

Lee Chang An's head rolled and stopped at the corner of the ring.

The expression was full of fright; his mouth still opens as if wanting to say something to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan looked straight at the head, very solemnly and sincerely spoke: "In the next life, before splashing dirty water on someone, first consider their feelings"

Saying so, he put away his sword and jumped off the ring.

The entire place was silent.

Note:

(1) "the next generation is to be respected": a chinese proverb, the meaning is basically "you can't underestimate how respectable the young generation is"