The Brilliant Fighting Master

Chapter 3: Fan Tu

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The housekeeper had announced some news on behalf of Senior Lord Ning the next day. But it was not about the issue between the west and east courtyards, which was what Ning Tianxiong's was interested in. It was about changing their surname.

The Ning Mansion would become the Jiang Mansion.

The Nings would become the Jiangs.

It turned out that the ancestor of the Ning Mansion was from another clan, whose surname was Jiang. He was the Nings' subordinate. The Nings bestowed their surname on him to reward his service to the family. The family had been using Ning as their surname ever since.

Now the Nings had deprived Jiang's grandson of his holy pulse and had imprisoned his son under the Black Dragon Pool.

He would have rather abandon this surname!

There were no objections in the family. What the Nings had done to the east courtyard was like a slap in the face of the whole clan. It also weakened the mansion's power.

But in this way, Ning Chen had become Jiang Chen again!

"Isn't this God's will?"

Jiang Chen was somewhat surprised, but he didn't pay much attention to it. He was busy figuring out a way to recover his meridian system.

It was not difficult for him.

To achieve this, he only needed a piece of the Scripture of Spirit Nurturing, which was a secret method to strengthen the meridian system. It was rather

common in the Sacred Zone. Any force more or less powerful would possess one.

However, the Hundred Thousand Mountains didn't possess it. The Ning Mansion-no, the Jiang Mansion didn't possess it.

That was why after the family found out about the status of his meridian system, they didn't think he could ever recover.

"How ridiculous!"

Jiang Chen let out a sigh. The importance of the meridian was so obvious. Hence it was crucial to make it impregnable.

But here, people had to upgrade their states to strengthen their bodies. The strengthening of the meridian system was only a secondary effect of this process.

In the Sacred Zone, it was quite the contrary.

They would nurture their meridians first by practicing secret methods. As they got stronger and stronger, they would yield twice the result with only half the effort when they practiced. Even if there was anything wrong in the process of practicing, their meridians would be strong enough to hold it. They didn't have to be as cautious as the people were here.

"Here we go."

The whole section of Scripture of Spirit Nurturing showed up in his mind. He told the maid not to disturb him, and then sat on the bed with eyes closed.

As his breath became more and more even, a halo appeared around him.

These were the spirits of the universe. They were swarming into his meridian system.

Obviously, people of the Jiang Mansion had no idea of how to use these spirits to amend the damaged meridians.

It was quite simple, actually. Before the spirits turned into genuine qi, they would disintegrate into numerous tiny spots, which would be scattered into the whole meridian system.

The meridians would absorb these spirits automatically.

The holy pulse was removed from Jiang Chen's body, so his meridians should have been more or less the same as an ordinary human being. However, additional harm was done during the transplant, and as a result, his normal meridians were severely damaged.

The meridian in his left chest and ventral area were almost fractured.

His meridian next to his Dantian and Qihai were so weak that even a slight manipulation of his genuine qi brought him great pain. If he acted recklessly, the meridians that connected Qihai would be entirely broken. That would make him genuinely disabled.

The genuine Qi converted from the spirits would be saved in Qihai, located in the Dantian area. Hence, the meridians were very important.

Jiang Chen was practicing the Scripture of Spirit Nurturing with much care. The goal was to recover the area near Qihai.

Jiang Chen felt very warm during this process, as if he were bathing in a hot spring.

Half a day had passed before he knew it. His meridians around Dantian had been greatly recovered. At least he wasn't feeling so much pain when manipulating the genuine qi.

His state had been enhanced from Cloud Two to Cloud Three.

The state enhancement is that fast?

Jiang Chen was quite surprised. But on second thought, after all,, he was once in Cloud Nine. His state was greatly lowered due to the damage to his meridians and the deprivation of his holy pulse. But he had never practiced with the holy pulse before.

"Young Master, the meal is ready. Do you want me to send the food over or...?" A maid asked from outside the door.

"No need to send it over."

Jiang Chen came to the main hall of the east courtyard. His mother, Gao Yue, was already sitting at the table. Behind her was standing a row of silent servants, with heads bowed.

The atmosphere was quite dull. Gao Yue was in a bad mood, absentmindedly staring at the bowl in her hand.

"Mother, what happened?" Jiang Chen asked.

"The west courtyard is poaching people from us. The east courtyard used to be full of talented people. Our annual income was many times more than the sum of the other three courtyards. But now..." Gao Yue unconsciously said, but soon realized that there was no point in telling this to Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen recalled that when he went to the Black Dragon City with his father, they were not alone, but had many attendants and loyal subordinates of the east courtyard.

"None of the Red Cloud Guard came back?" Jiang Chen nervously asked.

Gao Yue didn't reply, but her expression was enough of an answer.

Jiang Chen felt cold and gloomy inside. The Red Cloud Guards were attendants of his father, recruited when he was struggling for success. They were all very loyal and had watched Jiang Chen grow up.

Jiang Chen realized his new identity and felt anger burning in his chest.

"Fan Tu is the only one that came back. He brought you back, too. He was being chased along the way and got very severely injured."

Jiang Qingyu was imprisoned in the Black Dragon Pool, but his attendants didn't have such luck. They were such loyal attendants that even if their master touched a tiger's whiskers they would follow him with no hesitation.

They were all executed by the Nings. Their corpses were hung on the walls of the Black Dragon City.

The maid Cher ran into the room crying, "Lady, I am afraid Steward Fan is dying!"

Gao Yue stood up quickly and followed Cher out. Jiang Chen followed them as well.

The three of them soon arrived outside of a room in the east courtyard. Even before entering the room, they were able to hear the noises inside.

They could smell a pungent mix of blood and medicine.

Gao Yue pushed the door open. Jiang Chen, who was behind her, saw a few men who looked like doctors bustling about next to the bed.

The man in the bed was strong, but was clearly in agony.

"Lady, Steward Fan is too severely injured. There is nothing more we can do." An elder doctor came to her, his face full of shame and embarrassment.

"Young Lord, My Lady." The man in the bed tried to get up when he heard them.

"Fan Tu, don't get up."

Gao Yue went to him and sorrowfully said, "It's our fault that you got injured..."

"Lady Lord, please don't say that. If Lord hadn't saved my brothers and I, we would have been killed by the bastards of the Fire Cloud Gang, though all of my brothers are already dead now." Fan Tu was so immersed in his sorrow that he looked like he had forgotten his pain.

"What are you doing?!"

Jiang Chen had been looking around since he came into the room. He saw that the doctors were packing their things. He also found the traces of the failed treatment they had left in Fan Tu's body when they were treating him. What he saw made him angry.

"How dare you call yourselves doctors?"

His anger made all of them confused.

The doctors were astonished and speechless.

"Young Master Chen, we have tried our best."

The elder doctor came to him and bent down to answer his questions. He thought Jiang Chen was only venting his frustration to them.

"Give me a set of silver needles," Jiang Chen ordered crossly.

The doctors were looking at each other. They didn't understand what he was going to do.

"Son, what are you doing?" Gao Yue didn't think that Jiang Chen was capable of curing Fan Tu.

"Mother, Uncle Fan's life is in danger. There is no time to lose. I'll explain it to you later."

Jiang Chen found some silver needles in the doctors' wooden box. He rushed to the bed, while Gao Yue stepped aside doubtfully.

Fan Tu was a tough man. He had a liberal attitude regarding life and death. Thus, he didn't really care whether Jiang Chen was able to save him. He grinned at him. "Young Lord, I didn't know you knew medicine."

"Don't worry. Even Yama has to give up if I intend to save someone," Jiang Chen said.

Any patient in the Sacred Zone would have dreamed to hear such a promise.

Jiang Chen worked very fast. The set of silver needles were quickly positioned in different parts of Fan Tu's body. Then he started to twirl the silver needles in different ways, depending on how bad the wound was.

The doctors behind him were craning their necks to watch him. They weren't happy that they had been accused of malpractice by Jiang Chen like that, so they wanted to see how "great" Jiang Chen's medical skill was.

It seemed Jiang Chen really knew a thing or two by how his hands were moving, but they had never seen anyone treat people like he was.

"Chief doctor, Steward Fan was injured by the people chasing after him. He has a great number of severe injuries to his body, which resulted in the internal organ failure and the meridian atrophy. How will acupuncture help?" someone asked the elder doctor in a low voice.

"Just leave it to him. He is the Young Master of the east courtyard." The elder doctor shook his head. In his opinion, Fan Tu was doomed to die. Just let Jiang Chen do whatever he wanted to do.

Suddenly his pupils dilated. He looked at Fan Tu in his bed in great surprise.

The needles scattered across his body were somehow glistening. The rays of light were connecting with each other so that a wonderful pattern had been formed on Fan Tu's body.

The light was becoming more and more dazzling. Fan Tu's face got very red. He clenched his teeth, as if he were suffering some inexplicable pain.

"Doesn't matter. Shout if you want." Jiang Chen knew how much pain his treatment could cause. He didn't want Fan Tu to suffer too much.

"A piece...of cake. Doesn't hurt." Fan Tu was holding his breath so that this sentence had almost been squeezed out of his teeth.

Jiang Chen admired him for his toughness. He removed all the needles when almost everything was done.

The light on Fan Tu's body disappeared immediately.

To everyone's surprise, the heavily injured Fan Tu had recovered. Perfectly intact skin showed up after the black blood was wiped off his body.

"I feel great."

Fan Tu, who had been dying, sat up. The doctors in the room were flabbergasted.

The elder doctor had seen something odd. He was in a bigger shock than anyone else.

He invoked the spirits of the universe to repair the injuries by twisting the silver needles, and then treated them step by step via acupuncture. It's really brilliant. He had nothing to regret in his life after having seen such a medical skill with his own eyes.

"Young Lord, thank you for saving my life!" Fan Tu said emotionally.

"You saved me, too. If you hadn't taken me back to the Southwind Ridge, I would have been dead already," Jiang Chen said with a smile.

On hearing this, Fan Tu got off the bed unexpectedly and knelt down. Jiang Chen and Gao Yue were taken aback.

"Young Master, I am so sorry. It's totally my fault!" Fan Tu exclaimed.

It turned out that it had been Fan Tu who had been safeguarding Jiang Chen. But he thought there was no danger in the Black Dragon City, so he went away to drink with others. As a result, Jiang Chen was easily tricked by the Ning's First Lady.

"Fan Tu, you..." Gao Yue's expression changed suddenly on hearing him. Her chest was heaving rapidly.

"Mother, even if Uncle Fan hadn't left, there would have been no difference. Instead, he would have died in the Ning's hands." Jiang Chen didn't care. He was trying to comfort both of them.

Fan Tu's face was covered with tears. He gritted his teeth and said, "The Master asked me to take Young Lord back to punish me, so that I couldn't fight to death in glory with my brothers!"

"You are still alive, so you can avenge them," Jiang Chen said.

Fan Tu was shocked. He stood up and nodded quickly.

"Yes, I will avenge them!"

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When he left the room, Jiang Chen felt Gao Yue's skeptical look. He forced himself to smile, "Mother, ask me."

"Son, when did you learn such medical skill?" Gao Yue asked.

"I didn't only learn medical skill, I have also recovered some of my meridians. It won't take too long for me to recover completely. Though I don't have the holy pulse anymore, I can still practice like before."

"Really? How did you do it?" Gao Yue was half astonished and half joyful. However, if she told Jiang her doubts, she would be relieved.

Jiang Chen didn't hurry. He told her something that had just occurred to him.

"An old man with a white beard appeared in my dream when I was in a coma. He told me that he felt sympathy for me, so he would like to take me as his disciple."

"In my dream last night, he appeared again and taught me the medical skill to recover the meridians. I never expected to use it on Uncle Fan."

Jiang Chen looked quite calm when saying this, but he was feeling extremely anxious inside.

He wasn't sure whether Gao Yue would buy this story. Fortunately, from her response, she did.

Gao Yue looked astounded. No matter how many adventures she had experienced on the continent, she was still amazed by such a weird story.

"What else did the old man say?" She was speaking in a much lower voice so that others wouldn't hear them.

"He said he would try his best to help me, but I shouldn't share his secret too much, otherwise he would be upset."

Gao Yue nodded, taking it seriously, and said, "Sure. Don't let anyone know about this. I won't ask you about it either, unless you want to tell me."

That was exactly what Jiang Chen wanted. Of course he wouldn't disagree.

Mother and son came back to the main hall. Jiang Chen recalled how his mother had been gasping, so he asked, "Mother, did you get hurt once?"

"Sorry?"

"I saw that you were very tired after teaching Ning Jian a lesson. At first I thought it was simply because you hadn't had a good rest. But today I saw that you got tired very easily," Jiang Chen said.

Gao Yue was shocked and let out a sigh. She didn't deny it. Instead, she smiled bitterly and said, "Your father and I were planning to get out of the Fire Field once, to see the big world. With your father's talent, he would have achieved something greater. But I became his burden. He gave up better opportunities, and took me back to the Jiang Mansion. Later, we had you."

Jiang Chen felt so lucky to have revived in this body when he heard this. Otherwise the poor woman would have lost her husband and her son. She definitely couldn't have dealt with such a loss!

"What I have isn't an injury, but poison. Every time I fight, I use some of my life force."

Jiang Chen felt startled. This poison effect brought a name to his head that wasn't good. He pretended that he didn't understand and asked in false surprise, "Poison? Mother, could you tell me what poison it is? I can ask my master to help."

"Death Warrant Flower."

Of course.

A cold feeling swept through him. This poison had a serious effect.

The Death Warrant Flower was deemed one of the most vicious poisons. It didn't have a toxicity that made people tremble with fear. Those who got poisoned would not die right away.

But it was vicious. The poisoned person will be tortured in a most cruel way until they died, but it was a slow process, especially for strong people.

Every time they used their force, their state would be drawn back. The aging process of their bodies would be accelerated.

It would put a person into the Mental Wander State or an even higher state wait for his death like an ordinary being.

You would only poison another person like that if you hated them to the core.

No wonder no one in the Jiang Mansion knew about Gao Yue's ability- she had never shown it.

If it were injury, Jiang Chen would be able to cure her.

But it became much more complicated when it came to poisons. He had to have all of the ingredients to work out the antidote.

He knew how to detoxify the Death Warrant Flower. But the ingredients needed were very rare, at least very rare in the Sacred Zone.

He wasn't sure whether they existed in the Nine Heavens Continent.

Luckily, they would have enough time, as long as Gao Yue didn't fight.

"Silly boy, don't worry about me. As long as I don't fight, I can live like a normal person, and watch you grow up."

Gao Yue gently touched his head when she saw Jiang Chen's worried look.

Jiang Chen's body was quite stiff, but he was filled with nameless emotions.

He was very grateful for his fate, for he had had great parents in both of his lives.

In the previous life, his parents were too strong, so that he didn't know how to pay them back.

But now it was different. He would not only save his father, but he would also rid his mother of the poison.

After the meal, Jiang Chen went back to his room. Instead of resting, he continued to recover his meridians.

There were so many things for him to do. He had to be strong enough!

As Jiang Chen was recovering his meridians, the winter hunt was coming closer and closer.

The quarrel between the west and east courtyard had been known in the whole Southwind Ridge. Many rumors had arisen.

Fan Tu's recovery had made the east courtyard less passive. And many people loyal to the east courtyard felt greatly eased.

However, Fan Tu was only one man. It was far from enough just relying on him. Huge amounts of people were needed in the east courtyard.

Since they suffered such a great loss in the Black Dragon City that day...

As a result, Gao Yue went in person to the Sus living in the Whitewater City to ask for help.

The Sus was a family from the Hundred Thousand Mountains, not as powerful as the Jiang Mansion, but powerful enough to lend them a hand for an extreme urgency.

Their eldest daughter was engaged to Jiang Chen. The two families were relatives by marriage. So there was no big problem to get help from them.

On the day of the winter hunt, Jiang Chen finally had all of his damaged meridians fully recovered. It had taken him a fortnight, no more and no less.

But he only achieved the Cloud Six, instead of the Cloud Nine as he had imagined.

This was actually nothing unusual, since such a great injury resulted in the previous Jiang Chen's death, for sure his genuine Qi was greatly lost.

He had to continue practicing so that his state would be enhanced.

"Besides the Scripture of Spirit Nurturing, any practice method that I know will drive the Nine Heavens Continent crazy.""

But he didn't rush to practice.

Since he had to prepare for the winter hunt...

He took a look at the daybreak and wanted to have some more sleep.

Jiang Chen's face turned to a terrible look instantly. He was feeling an unendurable hotness, as if his blood and flesh were burning. The most horrifying part was that he felt as if there were a hand digging in his body.

""What's going on? Could there be any problem?""

No matter how many theoretical knowledge he had, it was the first time for Jiang Chen to practice. He was totally taken by surprise.

Luckily, no other bad feelings other than some discomfort for now.

In a moment his meridians got pressured to some extent, but Jiang Chen showed an ecstatic face.

It felt like a new meridian was growing in this body.

If he wasn't wrong, this new meridian was exactly the holy pulse.

""Hahaha, the Nings must have been too lame to take away the holy pulse completely.""

It was like reaping Chinese chives. The Nings only took away the top part other than the root, so it totally could be recovered.

"It's true. It's no easy to transplant the holy pulse. How would the trivial Nings from the Nine Heavens Continent be qualified to do that? However, they caused that poor guy's tragic death."" Jiang Chen thought.

In addition, it was Ning Haotian who got the holy pulse. The holy pulse in his body would only exist temporarily. It would disappear soon.

But it was a pity that the holy pulse cannot be recovered once and for all. Instead, one pulse grows after another. The pulse growing in him now was extending to his throat from his Dantian area, which made him feel like to puke.

With the holy pulse, not only the progress of practice would be brought forward greatly, Jiang Chen also found a powerful advantage.

Besides many practice methods, he also remembered lots of secret methods.

The Scripture of Spirit Nurturing was a secret method. This kind of method would make his body indestructible, able to resist fire and water, and even grow out three heads and six arms.

The method to take in the spirits of the universe is a practice method.

Besides, to adopt a secret method requires you to enhance your state.

For example, Tai Ji Wan, what was on Jiang Chen's mind now, is a secret method aiming at your genuine Qi.

Manipulating the genuine Qi in a spiral way will have much more power than the normal way.

However, this method requires the practicer to be in the Mind Wander State, since the spiral genuine Qi will hurt the practicer's merdidians. Only by achieving the Mind Wander State will the practicer experience a thorough change and will his meridians be able to bear the tearing of that kind.

But now, he only had one holy pulse.

Oh, holy pulse!

If he couldn't achieve this, it would be impossible to get the complete holy pulse.

""I can take advantage of the winter hunt to practice!""

Jiang Chen lost the desire to sleep. He sat up and got off the bed, changed into his hunting outfit.

He saw Fan Tu, who was about to go somewhere, when he left the room.

"Uncle Fan, how is the east courtyard going recently?"

"Not very good. The west courtyard keeps expanding. It's said that they are going to swallow us up before the spring festival."

"We can do nothing about it. Don't blame yourself for that, Uncle Fan. Let's see whether mother could bring some help."

Jiang Chen found that everyone in the east courtyard, even servants and maids, was in a low mood. The atmosphere was extremely depressing.

It seemed all of them had lost hope.

In these people's opinions, even though the property of the east courtyard could be kept, still, Jiang Chen would be unable to practice. Unless their lord was released from the Black Dragon Pool, otherwise the hands would be changed in the east courtyard.

""If I don't do well enough in the winter hunt, the west courtyard for sure will push us to move out. Fortunately, I've regained the Cloud Six. It's my show time.""

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The winter hunt was an annual tradition of the Jiang Mansion. All adult disciples had to participate in it. Different awards would be given according to their performance.

The mountain behind the Jiang Mansion was where the hunt took place. All disciples had to gather on the lawn at the foot of the mountain before noon.

When Jiang Chen arrived, many disciples of the Jiang Mansion were already there.

Although we were talking about the disciples of the Jiang Mansion, actually they were the excellent youngsters of the whole Southwind Ridge. They were all from ordinary families. As a result they didn't dress in such a fancy way like the children and young ladies from the mansion.

These disciples were very surprised to see Jiang Chen. Recently there were many rumors about what had happened to the east courtyard, among which Jiang Chen was the center of people's attention.

As people already knew, most of his meridians were damaged and his state went back to the Cloud Two. In their eyes he had no chance to rally for his whole life.

The awkward thing was that he had to take part in the winter hunt since he had turned adult this year.

The hunting result usually represents one's status in the mansion.

In addition, Jiang Chen was the child of the east courtyard.

Considering the current situation of the east courtyard, Jiang Chen was in an awkward dilemma as to whether to come or not.

But he had chosen to come, which was quite admiring.

However, some people were quite scornful of him.

"I cannot believe he has really come."

"After all, he is an adult now. If he doesn't come, it only means that he is a disabled man."

"But what's the point to push himself to come? He was brought back like a dead dog."

Unpleasant gossips kept cropping up around him. The harsh words were all coming from the disciples of the west courtyard. As to the east courtyard, the

disciples were suffering a low morale. Some of them were looking at Jiang Chen in a blaming manner.

Probably they were thinking that if Jiang Chen hadn't been found to have a holy pulse, no disasters would have happened to the east courtyard, let alone his father's imprisonment.

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In previous years it was the lord of the mansion who hosted the hunt. Sometimes there were special occasions in which one of the four lords of the courtyard would host on behalf of him.

However, this time it was the Second Elder of the Jiang Mansion who host the hunt.

He was an old man over 50, with an experienced face, a pair of deep, bright and piercing eyes.

He was very well respected in the Jiang Mansion, famous for his rigidity. All of the disciples of the Jiang Mansion there were standing far away from him.

In addition, a team of Wind Move Guard was also on the lawn. They were the elite forces of Jiang Mansion. Each and every one of them was tall and strong, in black armour and having a cloak hanging down from the shoulder until the floor.

They were fully armed, with longbows and arrow bags on back and long knives in hand.

"Young Master Chen, the Wind Move Guard won't be at your side to protect you during the hunt. Are you sure you'll participate in it?" the Second Elder asked Jiang Chen when he saw him coming. He didn't mean to offend him, but he just had to clarify. There was no expression on his face when he was speaking.

But the question made many people laugh quietly. They were curious to hear Jiang Chen's answer.

"Sure," Jiang Chen said.

The Second Elder nodded. "Ok. Then join the team please."

Jiang Chen went towards the disciples. It was interesting that those standing closest to him couldn't help stepping back.

"How tough Young Master Jiang is! Almost a dead duck, but still comes to hunt. Hopefully he wouldn't be lifted out of the mountain in the end," a very harsh voice was heard from the disciples.

Most people were only gossiping in a low voice, but this man scorned Jiang Chen to his face, which was quite surprising.

"That's Jiang Jun, from the west courtyard."

Someone recognized him. He was from the west courtyard. That explained everything.

Jiang Jun was the same age as Jiang Chen, but one head taller than him. He was just skin and bones. His eyes were as small as those of a mouse.

He quite enjoyed being the center of attention and was wreaking havoc upon Jiang Chen for the overwhelming grievance resulting from Jiang Chen's previous incomparable excellence.

Jiang Chen didn't bother to quarrel with him, but went on walking.

Jiang Jun felt even more cocky when he saw Jiang Chen's silence. He asked, "What's up? Young Master Jiang doesn't even know how to talk anymore?"

Jiang Chen looked up at him and asked, "Who do you think you are? How dare you talk to me like that?"

Jiang Jun was startled by his reaction. His face turned completely red. When he came to his senses, he said, "Pah, you think you are still who you were? Why don't I dare talk to you like that? Beat me if you are capable."

Jiang Jian, who was standing in the crowd, laughed silently and looked on with both arms folded across his chest.

Obviously, he had plotted the whole thing. This was only the beginning.

"It's the first time in my life that I've heard a request like this."

Jiang Chen shrugged his shoulders. Hardly had Jiang Jun's voice faded away, when he punched him.

Jiang Jun, who was following Jiang Jian's orders, had a level no higher than Cloud Seven. He was in Cloud Six as well. His nose started to bleed from this unexpected punch.

The moment Jiang Chen's fist hit his face, the whole world grew quiet.

Jiang Jun stepped back with a shrill cry. Crimson blood dripped onto the lawn.

"You are dead meat!" Jiang Jun was severely offended. He threw himself at Jiang Chen, covering his nose with his hands.

"Enough!"

Jiang Jun didn't have the nerve to oppose the Second Elder when he started to talk. He stepped back into the crowd silently.

The Second Elder went up to Jiang Chen and kept staring at him. He asked, "Young Master Chen, have your meridians been recovered?"

"Yes."

"How much have you recovered?"

Jiang Chen knew well that the Second Elder was his grandpa's best help. His intention to inquire was quite obvious.

"One hundred percent. But I am only in Cloud Six now. I have to keep practicing in order to enhance my state. It shouldn't be too difficult." Jiang Chen tried his best to give him details.

"Okay." The Second Elder nodded, still with no expression on his face. No one ever knew what was on his mind.

It was the other disciples who were shocked. To their knowledge, it was impossible to recover a meridian system as broken as Jiang Chen's.

"Hum, the east courtyard must have spent a huge sum of money on hiring apothecaries to cure you. But it's no big deal. You are 16 years old this year and you've gone back to Cloud Six," Jiang Jian said to him sneeringly. He was the least happy person to hear this news.

Jiang Chen smiled. "Jiang Jian, as I recall, you were in Cloud Six when you were 16. Are you insulting yourself?"

"It doesn't matter to me. No one has ever called me a genius. Anyway, my current state is higher than you. I am ahead of you."

Jiang Jian sneered in contempt. He suddenly looked to other disciples and announced in a high voice, "Anyone in the same team with Jiang Chen is against me."

Many hands make light work. Of course more people would make it easier to hunt on the mountain.

Acting alone was not only dangerous, but also less efficient.

The Second Elder announced the beginning of the hunt. "It's time to start the hunt. Those who fail to show up will lose the competition by default."

There were some important matters to explain before they went into the mountains. "There are people in charge of processing the dead bodies of the beasts of prey you hunt, while the meat will be sent to your respective homes." Beasts of prey have different ability levels as well, which are soldier level, general level, king level, spirit level and holy level.

Your targets mostly belong to the soldier level. Beasts of the general level can only be hunted by teams. However, in any case, please run away immediately if you see any beasts of the king level. Although you are under the protection of the Wind Move Guard, there are still risks. Take care and keep yourselves safe. Let's go."

There were more than 50 disciples of the Jiangs on the spot. The atmosphere was quite lively.

However, these weren't many people on the whole mountain. Once they went into the mountain and were separated into teams, they wouldn't be able to see each other because of the vast space of the mountain.

Most of them were walking in teams or at least had one companion, except Jiang Chen. But soon after he went into the mountains, he found that two of the Wind Move Guard were following him. The Second Elder obviously didn't want anything unexpected to happen to him.

However, he could only rely on himself to hunt the beasts.

The two guards kept a distance from him, but were close enough to keep him in sight all the time, so that they could shoot arrows to save him if there was any danger.

"He looks so lonely. The east courtyard's days of glory are over and it has been declining so quickly. I feel pity for him thinking of that."

"After all, that's the Black Dragon City. By comparison, we are only peasants from the Hundred Thousand Mountains."

"Yes, you are right. The Jiang Mansion has high prestige in the Hundred Thousand Mountains and has no rivals in the Southwind Ridge. But it's really trivial in the whole Fire Field."

"What's the point in talking about this?"

In a sorrowful atmosphere the two of them found a beast of the soldier level in sight.

One of them took a long arrow out of his bag and put it on the bow. He did this at a stretch. He kept a sharp eye out for anything unusual, so that he could pull the bowstring right away when it was necessary.

"It should be fine. It's only a soldier level," the other one said.

Jiang Chen felt weird when he was watching the wild wolf in front of him. He had never killed anything in his days in the Sacred Zone, since he was unable to.

Until today. The living creature he was facing should be the weakest.

He had a subtle feeling that everything had started over again.

He was holding a scimitar in his hand, which was specially prepared for the hunting disciples. He could have chosen a bow and arrow as a second weapon, but he thought it was too much.

He thought of the advice of his father of his previous life.

"Calm down. Nothing can beat you if you focus."

He could smell the stench in the wolf's mouth and was sure that this beast wouldn't mind his identity or be afraid of the Jiang Mansion. It would bite his throat once it got the chance.

This idea gave him a cold chill.

"Is he frightened?"

"It's his first time after all."

The two guards didn't know that what Jiang Chen was feeling wasn't fear, but excitement. A desire for blood that he had been longing for was awakening in him.

The wild wolf launched itself with all of its strength, flinging soil behind it as it ran. As fast as a lightning, it threw itself on Jiang Chen.

The bowstring of the Wind Move Guard had already been pulled back.

At this moment, Jiang Chen raised his scimitar.

With a scream, the wolf fell to the ground from the air. It was cramping and was soon covered in its own blood.

A fatal strike.