

Dragon King 421

Chapter 421: Third Uncle, Please!

Oldman Zeng, who was walking toward the Dragon God Shrine, stopped at the entrance for a moment before two inspectors led him, Zeng Yitao and Premier Lu into the Dragon God Shrine. The rest of the elders could only stay outside.

As West Ocean Dragon Palace's people entered the Dragon God Shrine, Zhao Guang showed a hint of concern. The East Ocean Dragon Palace came to the Dragon God Shrine to regain something that belonged to them, and the West Ocean Dragon Palace came to the Dragon God Shrine too...

Bang!

While everyone was looking toward the Dragon God Shrine, the two Xun-level cultivators started fighting in the arena.

The appearance of the West Ocean Dragon Palace not only concerned Zhao Guang, but also the two cultivators on the arena.

In the past, the four ocean dragon palaces were never involved with the Dragon God Shrine, and cultivators from the four ocean dragon palaces never appeared in the general exams at the Dragon God Shrine either.

However, this time, not only did the East Ocean Dragon Palace sent their Fuma, but the West Ocean Dragon Palace also appeared at the Dragon God Shrine on the last day!

This meant that the four ocean dragon palaces might send their own cultivators to the general exams at the Dragon God Shrine in the future!

There were a lot of cultivators in the four ocean dragon palaces. If they decide to join the general exams, future competitions would become more intense than ever!

Boom...

The two cultivators' nature essence collided with each other in the middle of the arena.

The appearance of the East Ocean Dragon Clan and West Ocean Dragon Clan threatened them and made them fight even harder! If they lost this round, they would only have a one-year contract as an assisting inspector, which meant that they would have to compete against the cultivators from the four ocean dragon palaces in the future.

The fierce nature essence swiped through the east exam area, and the pressure suffocated the low-level cultivators. The two cultivators in blue robes constantly changed their positions. Each time they collided with each other, the low-leveled cultivators experienced chest pain!

Waa...

Another small arena was bombarded by the nature essence and became a pile of gravel.

The wood-elemental Xun-level cultivator and the earth-elemental Xun-level cultivator both exerted all their strengths and used everything they got!

Shoo...

Another splash of nature essence flew out from the chaotic battle.

A young cultivator at the front was caught off guard and got knocked out by the nature essence.

Wa.... Shoo... Shoo...

The wood-elemental nature essence and the earth-elemental nature essence collided with each other fiercely, and all kinds of chaotic energy flew in all directions.

As they fell into an intense battle, the two Xun-level cultivators, who were determined to defeat their opponents, didn't care about the audience.

The low-leveled cultivators could not stand the repercussions of the Xun-level cultivators' attacks. Even though they all backed up immediately, a lot of the low-leveled cultivators still got hit on the faces, shoulders, and heads.

Suddenly, two dashes of nature essence that contained wood-elements and earth-elements glowed as they flew directly toward Hao Ren.

Zhao Yanzi, who was standing next to Zhao Hongyu, panicked as she suddenly saw two razor-sharp arrow-like energy flying toward her.

Wa!

Hao Ren's right hand suddenly shielded Zhao Yanzi's face, and the two dashes of nature essence hit Hao Ren right in his palm.

Hao Ren caught the two dashes of energy with his hand at lightning speed!

Zhao Yanzi's shrugged shoulders slowly relaxed as she sighed.

She turned around and looked at Hao Ren.

At that moment, she didn't know what to say.

"It's too dangerous here. You should go to the back..." Hao Ren said to Zhao Yanzi.

Zhao Yanzi, who was confused, heard Hao Ren's comment and suddenly showed her teeth and said, "I don't want to! I am not scared of those things anyway!"

As she finished, two more dashes of nature essence flew toward her again.

Hao Ren withdrew his right hand intentionally.

Zhao Yanzi bent over and screamed as she saw the two dashes of nature essence flying toward her. Suddenly, Hao Ren reached out and caught the two dashes of energy at the last moment.

Zhao Yanzi, who was holding her head, looked up at Hao Ren before she suddenly pouted her lips and lightly punched Hao Ren.

“Jerk! Stop playing tricks on me!” she said.

Xie Yujia could not help but smile as she looked at Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi.

Bang! Bang!

Both the south-east corner and the south side of the grand arena collapsed.

The turbulence along with the scattered rocks of the arena flew toward all directions like bullets. Cultivators below Dui-level had to hide to avoid getting injured.

Doom!

Zhen Congming, who remained quiet, formed a cyan colored energy sphere.

The energy sphere surrounded Hao Ren and the rest of them. All the scattered rocks turned into dust as they hit the energy sphere.

Most of the dragon cultivators weren't good at forming energy spheres and array formations. The only energy sphere they could create was the red energy sphere that could hide them from mortals' sight.

At that moment, without any preparation, Zhen Congming suddenly formed a protective array formation and grabbed many other cultivators' attention.

“Useless. let me show you what I can do!” Zhen Congming, who was sitting on Little White's back, snapped his finger.

Suddenly, the cyan light glowed brighter and formed two rapidly expanding light walls, covering the grand arena and other small arenas in the surrounding.

The nature essences and rocks that hit the light walls immediately turned into dust!

Zhen Congming effortlessly formed a huge energy sphere that covered the entire east exam area!

Elders from different clans looked at Zhen Congming and thought, “The East Ocean Dragon Palace, no wonder they have such a well-deserved reputation.”

It was at this moment when Oldman Zeng walked out from the Dragon God Shrine along with Zeng Yitao and Premier Lu.

The two inspectors from the Dragon God Shrine led them to the entrance and did not go any further.

Oldman Zeng greeted the elders who stayed outside by the entrance and led them toward the arena.

As Oldman Zeng was about to step into the viewing area, a bright light suddenly raised at the tip of his foot.

Energy sphere!

Inside the arena, the green and yellow nature essence shook continuously.

The energy sphere that Zhen Congming formed was created by absorbing the scattered nature essences from the two Xun-level cultivators.

As Oldman Zeng was blocked by the energy sphere, his face turned pale and was embarrassed.

The elders behind him stepped up and were about to break the energy sphere, but Oldman Zeng suddenly yelled, "Stop!"

However, right after he yelled, the energy sphere that covered the entire east exam area suddenly collapsed.

During the fierce battle between the two Xun-level cultivators, the nature essence from both sides broke out at their peak. As the energy sphere suddenly collapsed, all kinds of scattered nature essences and rocks flew toward the crowd of cultivators.

All the cultivators who laid down their guards because of the protection of the energy sphere were caught off guard and got wounded.

Even the elders from some clans were thrown into a panic!

In an instant, all cultivators looked toward Oldman Zeng who just walked out from the Dragon God Shrine. Their stares were filled with anger!

"Just because the West Ocean Dragon Palace wants to enter the viewing area, they broke the energy sphere and caused many injuries among the cultivators from different clans. They do look down upon weaker clans... As expected, the West Ocean Dragon Palace does handle things rudely and unreasonably!"

Oldman Zeng saw all the hatred from the crowd as he felt wronged. In fact, the energy sphere collapsed before they did anything to it...

However, no explanation would work at this moment. All Oldman Zeng could do was groan and lead the elders toward the arena.

Although all the cultivators did not say a word, they were disgusted with the West Ocean Dragon Palace.

Zhen Congming, on the other hand, sat on Little White's back and smiled. With a small tactic, he made all the clans at the arena start to hate the West Ocean Dragon Palace!

In contrast, the East Ocean Dragon Palace, who offered an energy sphere to protect the cultivators, made good impressions to the clans.

"Good job," Hao Ren said to Zhen Congming quietly.

"Don't mention it!" Zhen Congming said proudly.

Boom...

Another small arena was razed to the ground.

The wood-elemental cultivator, who was glowing in green, started to show signs of weakness.

Although the earth-elemental cultivator was not as powerful as he was before, he clenched his teeth and was fighting even more fiercely.

A stamp-shaped dharma treasure flew out from the earth-elemental cultivator's chest and shot toward the wood-elemental cultivator.

The wood-elemental cultivator got hit directly by the stamp, and he spat a mouthful of blood and flew out of the arena.

However, a green vine was released from his hand, and it turned into a streak of green light and shot toward the earth-elemental cultivator's head!

"Still struggling!" The earth-elemental cultivator glowed in yellow as the stamp doubled its size and directly shot through the wood-elemental cultivator's chest!

The stamp hit the ground and formed a huge pit, and the wood-elemental cultivator fell into the pit, not knowing whether he was dead or alive.

"Ji Yin, victory," Qin Shaoyang stood up and said coldly.

Immediately, two level 2 inspectors, who were standing on the side of the arena, rushed toward the wood-elemental cultivator and dragged him out of the pit.

The elders from the wood-elemental cultivator's clan hurriedly took him in and tried to heal him.

As the wood-elemental cultivator's chest was shot through by the earth-elemental cultivator's dharma treasure, and it seemed like he would not be able to make it.

During the most intense part of the combat exams at the Dragon God Shrine, cultivators usually had to face difficult opponents and gave everything they've got to win. Each year, there would be one or two cases where cultivators were severely injured or died in battle.

The earth-elemental cultivator withdrew his stamp-shaped dharma treasure and slowly walked away from the arena while clenching his chest. It seemed like he was suffering from internal injuries as well.

Qin Shaoyang took the wood-elemental cultivator's identity token from his waist and waved his hand. "Next."

Zhao Yanzi looked at the wood-elemental cultivator whose eyes were lustreless and suddenly pulled Hao Ren's robe as she frowned. "Hao Ren, don't get up there!"

Just a second later, Zhao Kuo took a huge step and entered the arena!

Hao Ren gritted his teeth and freed his hands from Zhao Yanzi before he walked toward the large arena.

"You can't defeat my uncle, so don't go, please!" Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren and yelled.

Hao Ren didn't turn around. He jumped into the arena and cupped his hands before his chest. "Third Uncle, please!"

Oldman Zeng widened his eyes and looked at Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo who were standing in the arena.

"Hold Up!"

At this crucial moment, Su Han, who was standing on the side of the arena, suddenly yelled.

Chapter 422: Battle!

Under everyone's gaze, Su Han walked into the arena and to Hao Ren's side.

The three-clawed golden dragon embroideries on her silver robe meant that she was a level 3 inspector.

The audience still remembered her confrontation with the main examiner and her suppression over him.

"This Ren Yin cultivator is her assisting inspector..."

"She's a super beauty..."

Seeing Su Han's sudden appearance on the arena, the cultivators who were watching began talking amongst themselves.

"Su Han! This is a combat exam. What are you doing up there?!" Qin Shaoyang couldn't bear it anymore and stood up from his chair.

He felt disgraced when the people from the West Ocean Dragon Clan appeared suddenly and interrupted this combat exam. Now by going into the arena without asking for his permission, Su Han was challenging his authority!

Ignoring him, Su Han grabbed Hao Ren's arm and sent a strong surge of nature essence into his body, forcing out a series of colorful circles from the top of his head.

The five colored circles, representing metal, wood, water, fire, and earth.

"Five... Five Mountains Bracelets?" an elder from a clan exclaimed.

"Five Mountains Bracelets... Those are Five Mountains Bracelets that are used by inspectors..." The topic turned from Su Han to the Five Mountains Bracelets.

Some low-leveled young cultivators didn't know about the Five Mountains Bracelets, but the elders all knew that these were top-tier dharma treasures used to restrict a cultivator's nature essence.

"It means that this Gen-level cultivator had been competing while wearing the Five Mountains Bracelets!" At this thought, the elders from many forces looked astonished.

On the viewing area, Qin Shaoyang was also surprised, and the deputy examiners by his side looked at each other in shock as well. After all, during the combat exams, every cultivator tried to use 120% of their true force, but Hao Ren had been competing while wearing Five Mountains Bracelets!

Standing opposite to Hao Ren, Zhao Kuo was also a little surprised. With his experience, he was very familiar with the function of the Five Mountains Bracelets.

He thought what Hao Ren showcased was his real strength and was surprised that Hao Ren made it so far with greatly restricted strength!

"Due to some small wrong-doings, I put a set of Five Mountains Bracelets on him as a punishment. Is there a problem?" Su Han looked up at the seven examiners and asked in a loud voice.

The six deputy examiners shook their heads while Qin Shaoyang remained silent with a gloomy expression.

It was quite common for official inspectors to punish their assisting inspectors. Although the Five Mountains Bracelets were usually used to lock up criminals, no rules said that they couldn't be used on assisting inspectors.

Besides, from her behavior yesterday alone, Su Han was rather protective of her assisting inspector.

After the Five Mountains Bracelets were removed, Hao Ren felt lighter as remainder 60% of his cultivation strength returned abruptly!

The array formation that locked up his strength disappeared, and Hao Ren found that he could circulate his nature essence a lot smoother than before!

With the Five Mountains Bracelets in her hand, Su Han lightly got out of the arena.

She chose this moment to remove the Five Mountains Bracelets because she thought Hao Ren could unleash his full strength in this fight.

While the Five Mountains Bracelets restricted Hao Ren's nature essence, it also protected him. The bracelets restricted 60% of his nature essence from going out, and it stopped 60% of the inflow of others' nature essence at the same time.

Therefore, when he encountered strong opponents, the Five Mountains Bracelets acted as an armor protecting his important meridians from being shattered by his opponents' nature essences. That was why Su Han didn't remove the Five Mountains Bracelets when he was competing with Wang Xi.

At this moment, Wang Xi was the one who was the most astonished outside of the arena.

After losing the match yesterday, he didn't leave the Dragon God Shrine. Instead, he stayed the night in the outer city and just wanted to watch Hao Ren's pathetic failure today.

However, when he saw Su Han removing the Five Mountains Bracelets from Hao Ren, he was stunned by the realization that Hao Ren didn't unleash his full strength in the battle with him!

Likewise, Lu Qi in the audience was also stunned at this sight. He thought he was just one step away from defeating Hao Ren, but the fact was that Hao Ren's Gen-level power far surpassed his Dui-level strength somehow!

After the removal of the Five Mountains Bracelets, Hao Ren swung his arms and cupped his hands at Zhao Kuo again. "Third Uncle, please!"

"Humph!" Zhao Kuo snorted. "If you admit defeat now, I'll let you go."

Looking at Zhao Kuo calmly, Hao Ren said, "Third Uncle, if you are brave enough, fight me."

Hearing his words, Zhao Kuo's eyes widened.

Boom! Hao Ren abruptly released his aura, and the debris around the arena spread outward.

After two fierce battles, only eight of the 24 small arenas were left, and the grand arena Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo stood on was also severely damaged.

According to the rules for the combat exams, anyone who fell to the ground would lose the match. Since 16 small arenas were in ruins now, Zhao Kuo and Hao Ren would have less space to maneuver and thus increasing the difficulty of the battle.

If they both fell to the ground at the same time, they would lose together and be disqualified from further competitions.

This was the result Qin Shaoyang hoped to see.

“Then... Don’t expect mercy from me!” Glaring at Hao Ren, Zhao Kuo released the 720 sword energies from his arms.

“Good!” With a shout, Hao Ren’s 320 sword energies shot out from his back.

One was like a thousand-arm buddha while the other looked like a peacock that was spreading feathers. Each shot out hundreds of sword energies into the air, and the dancing sword energies presented people an impressive sight.

The unknown Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll would probably become famous from now on!

However, this technique was now placed on the top level of the Profound Cultivation Palace as the purple-grade technique of the East Ocean Dragon Palace, and only Zhao Kuo and Hao Ren were cultivating this technique!

Standing by the arena, Xie Yujia turned to look at the wood-elemental cultivator who just lost the match. He lied on the ground motionlessly, and the elders from his clan tried their best to save him. In the end, they shook their heads helplessly.

A wood-elemental female cultivator took the Xun-level cultivator in her arms and cried.

However, most of the cultivators were focused on the imminent battle between Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo.

After all, winners would take all while losers could get no attention.

“Well...” Xie Yujia sighed sadly and took out a small red box. After placing it into Little White’s mouth, she said to it, “Deliver it over there.”

Little White blinked and understood her instruction. It got Zhen Congming off its back and flew toward the wood-elemental cultivator.

The sorrow elders saw Little White toss a small red box at their feet, and they picked it up.

“Life Fortune Pill!” The elder who opened the box exclaimed.

Life Fortune Pills were made from combining level 4 Detox Elixir Pills, level 4 Foundation Establishment Elixir Pills, level 4 Essence Replenishment Elixir Pills, level 4 Realm Elevation Elixir Pills, and level 4 Empowerment Elixir Pills.

Right now, even level 4 pills were scarce, not to mention the Life Fortune Pill which required five kinds of level 4 pills!

As the name 'Life Fortune Pill' indicates, this pill could turn the dying back to life. As long as the cultivator still had one breath left in his or her body, the pill could restore the vitality.

With five-colored light beams underneath its paws, Little White returned to Xie Yujia and wriggled its tail, signaling that it had done the errand.

Xie Yujia rubbed its head and gave it a light smile.

In order to make this one pill, she practiced a lot and wasted half an elixir furnace of level 4 pills. She planned to save it for Hao Ren, but she was soft-hearted. After hearing that woman cry so miserably beside the dying wood-elemental cultivator, she felt very sympathetic...

Bang! Bang... In the arena, Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo had begun hitting each other with sword energies.

The 320 sword energies and the 720 sword energies were way to flashy in the air, and it made people dizzy. Only Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo could tell the sword energies apart.

While the battle went on, the sword energies got closer and closer... Bang!

Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo both flew 100 meters out and landed on the Li Chun Arena and Li Qiu Arena respectively.

Crack! Crack... Some sword energies burst like bubbles!

Hao Ren smiled as he stood on Li Chun Arena,

"Kid... You are good," Zhao Kuo steadied his body and said to Hao Ren across from the grand arena between them.

Among his 720 sword energies, 80 were just shadows without any nature essence, and Hao Ren discovered this weakness during the battle and broken them one by one!

Hum! Hum!

The 640 sword energies surrounding Zhao Kuo lined up in neat square groups and blinked.

"Third Uncle, you are good, too," Hao Ren said politely.

The reason he discovered the 80 sword shadows was that he also cultivated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, and he knew that the number of the sword energies would only double, which meant that after 320 sword energies were 640, not 720.

"It was just a warm-up. Now, let's start the fight!" Zhao Kuo opened his arms and lightly bent his knees, getting ready for battle.

His sword energies hummed like bees, encircling his body.

"Hehe! Same here!" Hao Ren pointed his right hand forward, and his 320 sword energies turned around, pointing their tips toward Zhao Kuo.

Suddenly, Zhao Kuo leaped 100 meters into the air!

Exerting strength through his legs, Hao Ren jumped up as well!

The sword energies collided with one another while Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo's fists crashed in the air!

Bang!

The violent aura left a crack in the big arena!

The fundamental boxing techniques of the East Ocean Dragon Palace!

Chapter 423: More Experienced?!

The cultivators in the Ren Yin group and the Yi Mao group all had a taste of the power of the fundamental boxing techniques which were more powerful in the hands of Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo.

The fundamental boxing techniques of the East Ocean Dragon Palace looked ordinary, but they were the foundations for the soldiers of the East Ocean Dragon Clan who had to be ready for battles and wars.

The soldiers were mostly low-leveled cultivators with little talent, and they didn't possess high realms to use powerful techniques like the elders. Their way of earning merits was to fight wars and win honors in the army.

That was why this set of boxing techniques didn't have any fancy yet less effective strikes, and they were aimed at vital spots such as important organs and body parts.

Bang! Bang!

Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo hit each other's chest with their right fists, and the ground they stood on collapsed by half a meter!

Bang! Bang...

Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo entangled with each other while their fists and feet struck each other so fast that the audience couldn't see clearly.

Bang...Their shoulders got punched by each other.

Whoosh... They each retreated three steps.

After they regained their balances, the ground beneath their feet collapsed into deep holes. They were both directing the energy from their opponent out of their body and into the ground, and the hard floor of the arenas couldn't hold together.

"Dad..." Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo as she yelled at Zhao Guang with concern.

Zhao Kuo and Hao Ren were engaged in a fierce battle, showing each other no mercy.

Zhao Guang locked his eyes on the arena and didn't answer her.

Sword energies rushed into the space between Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo while they continued to fight fiercely.

They leaped up into the air again.

Bang! Bang! Bang! They fought their way from the air to the arena.

Zhao Kuo kicked at Hao Ren, and the latter dodged. However, the Li Qiu Arena that Hao Ren stood on collapsed with a bang.

Leaping high, Hao Ren punched at Zhao Kuo, but Zhao Kuo moved aside by half a meter. As a result, Hao Ren's fist turned the Jing Zhe Arena below Zhao Kuo into debris.

One punch and one kick each destroyed an arena, and it was clear that a ton of nature essence was empowering these two moves.

"Is this still a battle between a Gen-level cultivator and a Dui-level cultivator?" The surrounding cultivators were shocked by the sight as they thought, "Such kicks and punches would inflict the same damage to cultivators' bodies as the dharma treasures!"

While the audience was stupefied, Zhao Kuo and Hao Ren's elbows collided with each other.

Like two balloons that were crashing into each other, Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo's feet also collided with each other, and they were bounced back for hundreds of meters.

Bang! Bang!

The small arenas Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo landed on were instantly shattered. Before the audience could react, they leaped into the high sky like flying cranes and exchanged attacks in the air.

Bang! Bang... They fell onto the grand arena from the air. Faster than Hao Ren, Zhao Kuo swept his leg toward Hao Ren and turned a region of the grand arena into dust.

Bang! Hao Ren blocked Zhao Kuo's leg with both fists and fought back.

Bang! Bang! He turned the arena beneath Zhao Kuo's feet into dust as well.

To the audience, they were not fighting but destroying the arenas.

"Mom, why are Third Uncle and Hao Ren fighting like this?" Seeing Zhao Guang ignore her, Zhao Yanzi turned to Zhao Hongyu and asked.

"Your third uncle and Hao Ren don't want to injure each other, and they are trying to force each other out," Zhao Hongyu said.

"Force each other out..." Zhao Yanzi thought for a moment and understood.

With the small arenas all destroyed and the grand arena significantly damaged, the places that they could stand on would get smaller, and the battle would become even more difficult. The person who couldn't block the other's attack would fall to the ground and lose the match.

"Dragon King Zhao..."

At this moment, a voice interrupted the conversation between Zhao Yanzi and Zhao Hongyu.

Zhao Guang, who had been watching the competition, turned his head and saw an old wood-elemental cultivator walking to his side with two young wood-elemental cultivators; they were all looking at him with respect.

“I’m Song Xi, the First Elder of the Yuhuang Mountain Dragon Clan. I want to express our gratitude to East Ocean for giving us the elixir pill,” the elder introduced himself and said.

Baffled, Zhao Guang looked at him and wondered, “Although the Yuhuang Mountain Dragon Clan is a big force in the wood-elemental dragon clans, East Ocean is far from them, and we don’t have a close relationship.”

“In the future, if the East Ocean Dragon Palace needs the help of the Yuhuang Mountain Dragon Clan, we’ll do our best,” the wood-elemental elder cupped his hands at Zhao Guang and said.

“Elder Song, you are too kind. As members of the Dragon Tribe, it’s our duty to help each other,” Zhao Guang said.

“I’ll always remember the East Ocean Dragon Palace’s generosity. After my disciple recovers, we’ll pay you a visit.” The First Elder nodded at Zhao Guang and left with the two young wood-elemental cultivators.

Zhao Guang suddenly saw the wood-elemental Xun-level cultivator who battled on stage not long ago, and he realized why they came to him.

He turned to look at Xie Yujia and got a bit emotional.

Due to the recent upheavals, the reputation of the East Ocean Dragon Clan in the Dragon Tribe dropped to a new low, and many of the dragon forces thought that they were very aggressive and demolished the West Ocean Dragon Palace on purpose.

However, Xie Yujia saved the unknown wood-elemental cultivator with her elixir pills, making the Yuhuang Mountain Dragon Clan see the East Ocean Dragon Clan in a new light.

Since the elixir pill was delivered to them by the East Ocean’s Fuma’s spirit beast, the Yuhuang Mountain Dragon Clan credited everything to the East Ocean Dragon Clan.

According to the First Elder, he would bring the Xun-level cultivator to the East Ocean Dragon Palace to express their gratitude, which meant that they wouldn’t come empty-handed.

The Yuhuang Mountain Dragon Clan had a low-profile but enjoyed an impeccable reputation. In the southwest area, they were not the most powerful in strength, but their words held the highest weight.

In other words, Xie Yujia improved the situation for the East Ocean Dragon Palace with one elixir pill.

Zhao Guang turned to look at Zhao Hongyu, and latter nodded with understanding.

Xie Yujia brought great fortune to the East Ocean Dragon Palace!

In the future, the two of them need to be more considerate toward Xie Yujia and offer more business opportunities to her parents in the U.S.

Bang! In the arena, Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo crashed into each other again.

Sore and numb all over, Hao Ren's sword energies became messy. Since the sword energies were created by his nature essence, they represented Hao Ren's current state.

Zhao Kuo's sword energies took the opportunity to hack toward the arena beneath Hao Ren instead of stabbing toward his body.

Crack... The hard rocks instantly turned into dust. The sword energies created by the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll were as sharp as dharma treasures and could shatter these special rocks easily.

Hao Ren retreated quickly, but Zhao Kuo's sword energies swept beneath his feet! The moment he lifted his feet, the rocks under him turned into dust!

"No! Hao Ren will lose," Zhao Yanzi blurted out.

Zhao Hongyu turned to look at her and realized that Zhao Yanzi wanted Hao Ren to win after all. However, she didn't point it out and turned her gaze to the center of the arena.

After all, faced with Zhao Kuo who had been at peak Qian-level, Hao Ren had done a great job lasting for so long.

Hua... Hao Ren retreated fast and was already at the edge of the arena; that was the limit.

The eight small arenas at the beginning of their battle were now all destroyed, and they had little ground to stand on in the grand arena.

Bang!

Zhao Kuo's last wave of sword energies swept over, and the rocks beneath Hao Ren's feet immediately broke.

With the protection of his 320 sword energies, Hao Ren tried to jump toward one of the last remaining rocks in the arena.

"You are trapped. Surrender!" With his sword energies, Zhao Kuo destroyed that piece of rock before Hao Ren could land.

He left no place for Hao Ren to land.

Dang! Dang... Hao Ren sent 160 sword energies to block Zhao Kuo's sword energies while he leaped over to another rock in the distance.

"In your dreams!" After a long battle, Zhao Kuo finally got the upper hand, and he wouldn't give Hao Ren the chance to regain his footing.

The 640 sword energies shot toward 12 places, shattering all the landing areas in the surroundings!

By now, in the entire east exam area that had 12 small arenas and one grand arena, only the stone pillar with an area of half a square meter under Zhao Kuo's feet was left.

"It is done," Zhao Guang said pitifully.

Boom... Zhao Kuo's sword energies withdrew from all directions.

His 640 sword energies guarded eight directions, each group containing 80 sword energies. He formed the magnificent and most powerful central defense array— Eight Trigram Array.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Two sword energies appeared beneath Hao Ren's feet and supported him in the air.

"Such high-level sword energies!" Some cultivators recognized it and blurted out.

The dragon cultivators, except for Qian-level and Kun-level cultivators who could use their nature essence efficiently, had to use dharma treasures to fly.

At Gen-level, Hao Ren could hover in the air without any dharma treasures. It was a great feat in the eyes of the others.

Outside of the arena, Oldman Zeng also looked surprised. Releasing sword beams and sword energies were not extraordinary, but supporting one's body with sword energies was. It meant that the sword energies were almost as powerful as dharma treasures!

It meant that each of Hao Ren's 320 sword energies was a dharma treasure!

Hua! Hua!

Zhao Kuo released two groups of 20 sword energies.

Hao Ren's body shifted and dodged the 40 sword energies as he looked down at Zhao Kuo.

The 40 sword energies returned to Zhao Kuo, and his 640 sword energies rotated around him slowly.

Zhao Kuo used his defensive stance, and Hao Ren was exposed in the air like a moving target.

The flashing competition became a battle of defense and attack.

The key here was whether or not Hao Ren could destroy the stone pillar under Zhao Kuo's feet.

Standing in the air, Hao Ren slowly tightened his fists, and his 320 sword energies lined up in order.

Chapter 424: Killing Tribulation!

Hum... Hum... The 320 sword energies formed a triangular pyramid around Hao Ren, and they blinked with more injections of Hao Ren's nature essence

Little White was jumping around the arena as if it wanted to join the battle.

However, they were competing using their sword arrays, so it was no longer important if Little White was Hao Ren's mount or not.

"It looks like the Five Mountains Bracelets are effective..." Standing outside of the arena, Su Han thought to herself.

Released from the restriction of the Five Mountains Bracelets, Hao Ren experienced an explosive growth in the use of his nature essences.

Swoosh! Swoosh... The 320 sword energies formed a line before stabbing toward Zhao Kuo who was protected by 640 sword energies.

One-line Snake Array Formation!

Wang Xi who was standing at the sideline of the arena widened his eyes subconsciously.

He had once seen Hao Ren's One-line Snake Array Formation, but this time, the power was ten times stronger than the last time.

The 640 sword energies rotated at great speed around Zhao Kuo.

As the former Commanding General of East Ocean, Zhao Kuo had a profound understanding of arrays, and he was able to use Light Splitting Sword Shadow Technique. After all, the sword energies were like soldiers, and the cultivator was the general.

Hao Ren's 320 sword energies dashed into Zhao Kuo's Eight Trigram Array and were bounced back instantly.

Then, Hao Ren's right hand formed a sword gesture, and the 320 sword energies divided into three One-line Snake Array Formations before dashing downward at Zhao Kuo in the center of his array from three directions.

Zhao Kuo waved his hands, and the sword energies in eight directions around him pulled back suddenly and closed like a lotus!

Hao Ren's sword energies shot down onto the outer edges of Zhao Kuo's sword energies!

The sword energies entangled with each other and then suddenly paused.

After a short silence, Hao Ren's sword energies were pushed away for hundreds of meters.

Standing in the air, Hao Ren almost fell to the ground due to the enormous impact on his spiritual sense.

In his blue robe, Zhao Kuo stood proudly while his 640 sword energies spread out and rotated in the positions of the Eight Trigrams.

"It's no use. He can't win," Zhao Guang said in a low voice.

If they were engaged in close-range combat, Hao Ren might have a chance to win. It was impossible for him to defeat Zhao Kuo this way.

Standing where he was, Zhao Kuo waited for Hao Ren's attacks. He was well-prepared in all eight directions, and his 640 sword energies were like elite soldiers under his command.

Zhao Kuo far surpassed Hao Ren in strategy, force, and position.

They were respectively the former and the current Commanding General of the East Ocean Dragon Clan, but Hao Ren's experience in military battles was far inferior to Zhao Kuo's.

This wasn't only a battle of cultivation strength but a battle of military strategy as well!

Zhao Kuo was the general who had to guard the city, and Hao Ren was the general who had to siege the city!

With narrowed eyes, Oldman Zeng finally saw through this.

The power of arrays could deal with more than one cultivator.

Hao Ren could release 320 sword energies at Gen-level while Zhao Kuo could release 640 sword energies at Dui-level. Each of the sword energies was equivalent to a dharma treasure, and they could be positioned in changeable arrays.

If Zhao Kuo cultivated to a higher realm, then no one could defend against this former No.1 Master in the mortal world.

If Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo worked together, then the powerful sword energies would be like swarming soldiers... Oldman Zeng's eyes widened gradually, and he was suddenly struck with fear.

The technique that Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo were cultivating was not a battle technique but rather a destruction technique!

Even though the West Ocean Dragon Palace had 300,000 soldiers, they couldn't withstand 10,000 well-controlled sword energies!

Bang! Another collision of hundreds of sword energies startled Oldman Zeng, and he was soon covered in cold sweat.

Two Dragons Array Formation!

Standing in the high sky, Hao Ren's 320 sword energies divided into two groups which tried to ambush Zhao Kuo's 80 sword energies from both sides.

Zhao Kuo's 80 sword energies retreated ten meters while his other 160 sword energies closed in on Hao Ren's intruding sword energies from both sides.

Hao Ren's 320 sword energies were locked into Zhao Kuo's array formation.

Bang! Bang...

The sounds of the explosion didn't come from the sword energies but Hao Ren's body.

While his sword energies were damaged, Hao Ren's meridians exploded!

His blue robe was dyed in patches of red instantly.

"Gongzi!" Lu Linlin and Lu Lili immediately screamed.

"Third Uncle!" Zhao Yanzi also screamed.

However, Zhao Kuo didn't show any intention of going easy on Hao Ren. His 640 sword energies dismantled Hao Ren's 320 sword energies in the sword array little by little in all eight directions.

There was no mercy in war!

With his 320 sword energies captured and destroyed by Zhao Kuo, Hao Ren would become defenseless.

Zhao Kuo demonstrated to Hao Ren what war and cruelty meant with his action!

A commander who didn't treasure his or her soldiers and commanded them impulsively would fail!

"Zhao Kuo!"

Seeing the situation deteriorating, Zhao Guang yelled in concern.

If this continued, Hao Ren's sword energies would all be destroyed, and his realm would be significantly reduced.

"I'm your enemy at the moment, not your third uncle!" Zhao Kuo said coldly to Hao Ren while his 640 sword energies brightened again to destroy Hao Ren's remaining sword energies!

Hao Ren remained silent while he maneuvered the remaining sword energies which decreased by the second, trying to find a way out of Zhao Kuo's array formation.

Drops of blood fell from his heels, and his palms had cracks in them.

"Hao Ren, admit defeat! Third Uncle won't stop!" Zhao Yanzi screamed in tears.

Xie Yujia's eyes flashed with fear as well.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili were ready to rush over and save Hao Ren.

Everyone could see that Hao Ren was no match for Zhao Kuo and wondered why he persisted.

Coldly, Zhen Congming watched the battle and curled his lips as if he thought of something. By his side, Little White was anxious to jump into the arena but was held back by Zhen Congming's palm. Hao Ren had also ordered Little White to stay put with his spiritual sense.

"You are defeated. Why are you so stubborn?" Zhao Kuo looked up and asked him in a loud voice.

"I'd rather fight it out with Third Uncle!" With blood oozing from the corners of his mouth, Hao Ren answered in a loud voice.

"What a fool..." Zhao Kuo shook his head slightly. "Then, I'll give you a total defeat and beat you back to Zhen-level!"

Zhao Kuo's sword energies lit up with humming sounds.

"Zhao Kuo!" Zhao Guang yelled.

Not far from them, Oldman Zeng smiled with pleasure.

Hum!

Suddenly, a brighter light appeared in Zhao Kuo's sword array.

Among the dozens of Hao Ren's remaining sword energies, 12 sword energies suddenly turned grey.

Hundun sword energies broke everything of the five elements!

The hundun sword energies abruptly scattered Zhao Kuo's Eight Trigram Array!

The 12 sword energies connected with each other and shot toward Zhao Kuo's heart.

It was a sudden attack!

Hao Ren's 320 sword energies were being dismantled, but it was within his strategy of breaking out.

Who said that Hao Ren didn't know anything about the art of war?!

Wide-eyed, Zhao Kuo had no time to react. The sword energies were so fast that they hit his chest and sent him flying from the stone pillar, and there was no place for him to land!

If he landed on the ground, he would lose!

Deng!

From Zhao Kuo's heel appeared a weapon.

The pitch-black tri-point double-edge sword that was made from 10,000-year-old green-water mystic iron!

It was Zhao Kuo's weapon, the one that earned him his reputation – Killing Tribulation!

Ding! The tri-point double-edge sword, over one-meter long, shot into the ground with its tip upward.

Zhao Kuo landed on the sword and regained his balance.

As long as he didn't land on the ground, he didn't lose the match!

Surprised at Zhao Kuo's response, Hao Ren rushed over to take the only stone pillar in the grand arena. However, Zhao Kuo's sword energies shot at it without mercy!

If Zhao Kuo couldn't step on it, he wouldn't allow Hao Ren to get it.

Hao Ren turned in the air and shot out 12 sword energies with both hands to block Zhao Kuo's sword energies before backing off by ten meters.

The arena was suddenly quiet.

Zhao Kuo stood tall on the tri-point double-edge sword while Hao Ren hovered in the air one meter above the ground.

Around them was all debris, and the 24 small arenas and one grand arena were no longer recognizable.

Between them was a stone pillar that was only one meter long and half a square meter big.

The surrounding cultivators held their breaths since none of them had ever seen such a fierce battle.

"Kid, you are good," Zhao Kuo looked at Hao Ren and said.

"So are you, Third Uncle," Hao Ren answered.

Around Zhao Kuo rose 320 sword energies.

Hao Ren clenched his fists and released 160 sword energies.

At Dui-level, Zhao Kuo didn't feel like it was easy to use 640 sword energies at full force. On the other hand, Hao Ren, with his meridians damaged, had reached his limit when releasing 160 sword energies.

Hao Ren's hundun sword energies left a huge hole in Zhao Kuo's robe right in front of his chest, revealing a black color beneath it.

Rip! Zhao Kuo tore off his robe.

Black Mystic Iron Armor!

Beneath his robe, Zhao Kuo was wearing a Black Mystic Iron Armor!

The armor weighed 2,250 kilograms!

He had been battling while wearing such a heavy iron armor and carrying Killing Tribulation, a weapon that weighed over 3,250 kilograms!

Wow! The surrounding cultivators exclaimed.

These cultivators didn't know how to lead troops in battles, but they knew that Zhao Kuo's iron armor was used in wars and was very heavy.

"You are the first person who has forced me to take off the iron armor." Standing on the tri-point double-edge sword, Zhao Kuo took off his iron armor and tossed it onto the ground.

Thud!

The iron armor created a small crater in the ground while a big cloud of dust flew up.

At this sight, the cultivators who had been speculating about the weight of the iron armor were all astonished. After all, the platform the Dragon God Shrine was on was not made of ordinary rocks!

With his upper body naked, Zhao Kuo revealed his magnificent figure. A fierce-looking black dragon tattoo was on his chest, running from his shoulders to his waist. At the moment, he was only wearing a pair of grey pants that covered his brawny legs.

While everyone was staring at him, Zhao Kuo suddenly slid off the tri-point double-edge sword.

The moment before he landed on the ground, his hands gripped the handle of the sword and pulled it from the ground with force!

Bang!

The black tri-point double-edge sword turned in a white beam of light before the tip smashed onto the ground.

In the dancing debris, Zhao Kuo rode on the upward force and flew toward Hao Ren while viciously striking his sword forward!

Chapter 425: Break Your Killing Tribulation!

Slash!

Zhao Kuo's tri-point double-edge sword whistled toward Hao Ren.

The blade of the black Killing Tribulation shined a dazzling light.

The 320 five-colored sword energies around Zhao Kuo attached themselves onto the tri-point double-edge sword, releasing magnificent aura!

It happened in an instant, and Hao Ren didn't have any time to dodge; he hurriedly condensed his 160 sword energies to form a shield.

Crack! The tri-point double-edge sword easily broke through Hao Ren's sword energy defense. With a twist of his wrist, Zhao Kuo turned the stabbing motion into a slap, smashing the body of the heavy tri-point double-edge sword onto Hao Ren's chest.

The Killing Tribulation weighed about 3,250 kilograms!

Hao Ren felt like his chest was going to shatter as blood spurted from his mouth, and he flew backward.

"Uncle!" Zhao Yanzi tensed up and yelled.

However, Zhao Kuo didn't stop. With an arc of light, the tri-point double-edge sword crashed onto the ground and bounced back, pushing Zhao Kuo toward Hao Ren.

With his tri-point double-edge sword, Zhao Kuo didn't need to fly on sword energies to keep him from falling to the ground!

Swoosh! Black-faced and black-bearded, Zhao Kuo flew like a shooting star toward Hao Ren with the black Killing Tribulation in his hand, and he quickly caught up with Hao Ren.

Hu!

The tri-point double-edge sword struck toward Hao Ren's heels!

Snap! Snap!

With two crisp noises, the sword energies under Hao Ren's feet immediately scattered!

Seeing the sword coming at his feet, Hao Ren transferred his nature essence into his legs and caught Zhao Kuo's Killing Tribulation in between his feet!

However, his strength was no match for Zhao Kuo's!

With a naked upper body, Zhao Kuo put strength into his arms which then expanded as thick as water barrels, and he sent Hao Ren flying hundreds of meters upward!

Bang!

Zhao Kuo smashed his tri-point double-edge sword onto the ground, and his massive body shot up like a rocket. Meanwhile, his 320 sword energies suddenly left Killing Tribulation and flew to the ground before rising abruptly!

Zhao Kuo's momentum soon got canceled by gravity, but he struck his tri-point double-edge sword onto his sword energies!

Bang! The stronger repulsive force of the collision sent Zhao Kuo further up!

All his movements were done in one breath!

The cultivators in the area gaped since they had never seen such a fierce battle before.

In the blink of an eye, Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo were both 200 meters from the ground.

However, Hao Ren who was flying on his sword energies was in a passive situation.

Hua! Hua...

Zhao Kuo swirled his heavy tri-point double-edge sword like a windmill.

In the face of Zhao Kuo's Killing Tribulation, Hao Ren's 160 sword energies were scattered easily.

Dang! Dang... Zhao Kuo's 320 sword energies followed him like shadows as he struck his tri-point double-edge sword toward Hao Ren's sword energies, and Zhao Kuo could change positions in the high sky by hitting his weapon against his sword energies.

Without a flight dharma treasure or having to fly on his sword energies, Zhao Kuo didn't fall to the ground. In addition, Hao Ren couldn't escape from him!

Like a ball, Hao Ren was chased by Zhao Kuo from east to west, and then from west to south.

The 160 sword energies barely guarded Hao Ren's body, and he couldn't fight back at all!

Bang! Zhao Kuo's tri-point double-edge sword scattered Hao Ren's 160 sword energies again.

However, the scattered 160 sword energies condensed back together immediately like bees.

"Kid, surrender!" Zhao Kuo hacked toward Hao Ren and yelled in a deep voice.

"I still have one breath left in me!" Hao Ren yelled.

Bang! Hao Ren's 160 sword energies were scattered again.

In such a fierce competition, Hao Ren had no time to organize and use his sword arrays, and Zhao Kuo wasn't planning to fight Hao Ren with sword energies as well, knowing that Hao Ren's sword arrays were stronger than his.

He would beat Hao Ren to submission with his Killing Tribulation, so that latter would know the great power of Zi's Third Uncle and the Killing Tribulation and wouldn't dare to bully Zi anymore!

As Zhao Kuo and Hao Ren battled in the sky, the cultivators around the ruined arenas had all kinds of emotions on their faces. Most of them were astonished by the fact that the match between a Gen-level cultivator and a Dui-level cultivator was even fiercer than a battle between two Xun-level cultivators.

"Good! Kill each other!" Oldman Zeng stood beside the arena and said in satisfaction while stroking his beard.

The moment he murmured those words, dozens of sword energies from the battle shot toward him swiftly!

Hurriedly, Oldman Zeng raised his arms to block them but failed. With a thud, he fell to the ground. Although his aura was on the level of Qian-level, his real strength was only at Dui-level.

“Sorry! It was an accident!” With the Killing Tribulation in his hand, Zhao Kuo yelled while he chased Hao Ren in the battle.

Oldman Zeng struggled up and was greatly disgraced as the old dragon king of the West Ocean Dragon Palace.

He was about to say something to save his face when Zhao Kuo’s sword energies collided with Hao Ren’s, and dozens of sword energies flew toward him again.

Prepared, the 12 elders of West Ocean immediately stood before Oldman Zeng to protect him.

However, the sword energies collided with each other again on the way and changed their direction, shooting toward Zeng Yitao!

Two elders rushed over to block them and were sent flying by half a meter.

“The weapons are blind. Be careful, everyone!” Zhao Kuo yelled again.

“Ok!”

Many cultivators outside of the arenas yelled at the same time.

Their responses weren’t just an answer to Zhao Kuo’s warning, but also a subtle way to express their satisfaction with the ‘accidents’.

After all, Oldman Zeng’s arrogant appearance with the elders of West Ocean brought resentment to the cultivators in the area.

Therefore, when the bold Zhao Kuo embarrassed the West Ocean Dragon Palace twice in the ‘accidents’, it gave the crowd great satisfaction.

“Well done! Kid!” Zhao Kuo returned his gaze to Hao Ren and said.

“He deserved it!” Hao Ren answered while he dodged Zhao Kuo’s tri-point double-edge sword.

Among the dozens of sword energies, some came from Hao Ren!

While they were battling fiercely, they heard Oldman Zeng’s gloating words and immediately turned the sword energies at him.

They coordinated well even though they were in a fierce fight!

Looking at the agile sword energies, Oldman Zeng didn’t dare to utter another word at the sideline of the arena. His face turned from livid to red while his body shivered violently with pent-up rage.

“Surrender!” Zhao Kuo shattered a patch of ground with his tri-point double-edge sword before leaping up into the air again.

Hao Ren immediately tried to block it but fell for ten meters!

Dang!

Zhao Kuo hacked at him again with the tri-point double-edge sword.

Having nowhere to dodge, Hao Ren was forced down another ten meters!

Dang!

Zhao Kuo repeated his attack.

Hao Ren's body dropped 20 meters, and the shocks his body received messed up his nature essence, making it hard for him to condense his sword energies.

If his body was not tempered by heavenly lightning, he would have been ripped apart by Zhao Kuo's attacks even if the 160 sword energies protected him.

Despite all this, Zhao Kuo's tri-point double-edge sword shattered his sword energies and hacked onto his shoulder, opening his old wound.

As blood gushed out from his shoulder, Zhao Kuo hacked toward him again with his tri-point double-edge sword!

Dang!

The sword energy's Hao Ren condensed with great difficulty were scattered again.

Zhao Kuo's intention was clear; it was to beat Hao Ren to the ground!

Seeing the match entering this stage, the viewing cultivators all had their hearts in their throats. They shivered lightly as if Zhao Kuo's tri-point double-edge sword hit their bodies.

Some high-leveled cultivators wondered if they could withstand Zhao Kuo's fierce attacks and shook their heads afterward.

Dang!

It was another vicious swing of the sword.

Not able to remain standing, Hao Ren's body almost touched the ground with his face down!

"Surrender, and I'll make you lose gracefully!" Zhao Kuo said while swinging the tri-point double-edge sword.

"I haven't lost!" Hao Ren yelled.

"You are still stubborn! I'll make you surrender!" Zhao Kuo moved his hands to the end of the handle of his sword and drew the biggest arc in the air before striking toward Hao Ren's back.

If it hit, Hao Ren would drop to the ground face down instantly!

Dang! Dang... Hao Ren's sword energies shot out together.

Bang! The Killing Tribulation in Zhao Kuo's hands suddenly exploded!

The Killing Tribulation that was very heavy and sturdy suddenly shattered.

Without the support of his weapon, Zhao Kuo lost his balance and fell!

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Hao Ren hadn't had the strength to fight back, but Zhao Kuo's tri-point double-edge sword broke!

Swoosh! Hao Ren's body flew five meters forward, and he found the balance.

Since Zhao Kuo's weapon was made of water-elemental materials, Hao Ren purposefully increased his earth-elemental sword energies and hit the same location on the sword.

Zhao Kuo's movements with the tri-point double-edge sword were swift, but Hao Ren's sword energies were faster. During each collision, they hit the same spot on the tri-point double-edge sword with accuracy!

Among the five elements, earth countered water.

After hundreds of collisions, Hao Ren finally shattered the water-elemental tri-point double-edge sword with his sword energies!

Without the support of the tri-point double-edge sword, Zhao Kuo start dropping to the ground in a straight line!

Hao Ren learned the flying sword technique from Fifth Heaven, but Zhao Kuo never liked flight dharma treasures and flew around with his Qian-level nature essence. Therefore, that was why he couldn't fly on his sword energies.

Panting, Hao Ren watched Zhao Kuo fall as he felt exhausted all over, and the dragon core in his body cracked.

At his current state, he couldn't recover to his full strength even if he took elixir pills

Zhao Kuo fell straight to the ground, but the moment before his head crashed into the ground, the black dragon tattoo on his chest suddenly began to swim around his body!

Roar! Zhao Kuo turned into a black dragon!

"Damn! He can do this?!" Hao Ren immediately flew back on his sword energies.

Chapter 426: Slaying the Dragon

After turning into a black dragon, Zhao Kuo could naturally fly. He was determined to win the match!

As long as he didn't fall to the ground, he didn't lose the match! After all, the rules for the combat exams at the Dragon God Shrine didn't prohibit transforming into dragons.

In the previous matches, the cultivators didn't turn into dragons despite the fierceness of the matches. That was because they couldn't use their powerful techniques and had to compete with physical strength only. Besides, the dragon cultivators usually wouldn't want to turn into their dragon forms unless they were in deadly danger.

Zhao Kuo's transformation into a dragon at this moment surpassed everyone's expectation.

"Third Uncle, you are cheating!" Zhao Yanzi blurted out as she stood on the sideline of the arena.

After all, only the cultivators above Dui-level could transform into dragons. At Dui-level, dragon cores would have enough unlocked openings, which provided the necessary nature essence for the dragon cultivators to transform into dragons.

However, Hao Ren was only at Gen-level.

Boom! While everyone was looking at Zhao Kuo's magnificent black dragon form in astonishment, Hao Ren suddenly shed his blue robe and became a small silver dragon!

"What... is this!"

Everyone including Oldman Zeng was stupefied.

After all, transforming into a dragon at Gen-level was beyond common senses!

Zhao Kuo, who was about to press Hao Ren to the ground with his claws, paused in the air in astonishment as well.

However, Hao Ren didn't hesitate and flew up with a sway of his body!

He was in high spirit while he battled with Zhao Kuo. After seeing the latter transforming into a dragon, he immediately turned into a dragon as well!

Transforming into the dragon form consumed a great deal of nature essence and would cause some damage to the body, and that was why the dragon cultivators rarely did it.

Hao Ren forced himself into the dragon form at only Gen-level, thus causing greater damage to his body!

While the audience was still in shock, the small silver dragon and the black dragon began battling in the high sky above the arena!

Both Zhao Kuo, the black dragon, and Hao Ren, the silver dragon, were hornless; they were known as Chi Dragons.

Although the body of the silver dragon was only one-fourth to one-third the size of the black dragon and looked weaker, it still had a length of more than 100 meters.

Hao Ren's 320 sword energies were suddenly released.

Zhao Kuo's 640 sword energies also appeared!

Bang!

Hao Ren released an aura and created another 320 sword energies, increasing the number of his sword energies to 640, the same as Zhao Kuo's!

Wow! The audience member looked up and exclaimed in astonishment like mortals.

Zhao Kuo and Hao Ren each had 640 sword energies which encircled their dragon forms with mysterious colors.

The sword energies were their nature essence. Even in dragon forms, Zhao Kuo and Hao Ren, who cultivated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, didn't need any dharma treasures to use their techniques!

Although Hao Ren's dragon form was smaller than Zhao Kuo's, his body looked heavier with the 640 sword energies encircling him.

Clap! Clap... Before the two dragons got close, their sword energies began to collide with each other fiercely.

The 1280 sword energies traveled with each other.

Riding on the sword energies, Hao Ren's speed was greater than Zhao Kuo's.

The small silver dragon shot up into the high sky in a straight line, and the black dragon followed closely.

Suddenly, the silver dragon paused in the sky.

Zhao Kuo was about to strike his claws onto Hao Ren, but he suddenly realized that he was trapped.

The 640 sword energies formed the Four Gates Base Guard Array Formation!

The dense sword energies formed four square arrays in four directions.

Zhao Kuo, who was flying up to chase Hao Ren, had the middle portion of his body trapped in the center of the array!

The sword array was activated!

The 640 sword energies instantly closed!

Zhao Kuo tried to flee, but his dragon form was hundreds of meters long. Instantly, he felt great pain in his middle section!

The sword energies hacked into Zhao Kuo's dragon form while the five-elemental sword energies connected and became unbreakable!

At only mid-tier Gen-level, Hao Ren's sword array was quite weak when he forced himself to activate the 640 sword energies. Otherwise, this attack would have cut Zhao Kuo into two!

Chi Dragons were the weakest dragons, and they had no hard scales on their bodies. Thus, the sword energies all cut into Zhao Kuo's body!

Slaying the dragon!

"Roar!" Zhao Kuo roared, almost shattering the only remaining stone pillar in the arena.

"Third Uncle!" Zhao Yanzi yelled immediately, feeling hurt for Zhao Kuo.

Black blood oozed from Zhao Kuo's dragon form.

The five-elemental sword energies stabbed into Zhao Kuo's dragon form from four directions with doubled power. They buzzed and interacted with each other, almost cutting off Zhao Kuo's supply of nature essence.

Even though the watching cultivators had never experienced the sword arrays, they knew that this sword array formation was of extraordinary power.

Bang! Zhao Kuo's dragon form dropped from the sky, sending countless debris flying.

The sword array formation built by Hao Ren's 640 sword energies struck down a black dragon! The cultivators in the audience were all stunned.

Oldman Zeng of the West Ocean Dragon Palace was dumbfounded as well.

He thought Zhao Kuo's failure in the Heavenly Tribulation and the drop to Dui-level was great news for the West Ocean Dragon Palace, but he now realized that the previously insignificant Hao Ren was even more powerful than Zhao Kuo!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Two low-leveled cultivators who had been looking up at the high sky suddenly realized that their robes were gone.

While they were panicking, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili flew up into the high sky and put the robes on Hao Ren from the front and the back.

Returning to his human form, Hao Ren landed on the stone pillar in the arena with steady feet.

"Ren Yin is the winner," Qin Shaoyang stood up and said reluctantly.

He lifted his hand, and the identity token of Yi Mao which had fallen flew into his hand and instantly turned black.

"Gongzi, this is yours!" Lu Lili picked up Hao Ren's identity token from the ground in the distance and handed it to him.

Premier Xia, who had been standing beside Zhao Guang, rushed into the arena and took out a sheet of silk from his storage space and spread it across Zhao Kuo's wounded body before yelling anxiously, "Third Lord! Third Lord!"

"Grunt..." Zhao Kuo returned to his human form and spat out half a mouthful of blood.

"Third Uncle..." Zhao Yanzi rushed to Zhao Kuo's side, crying.

"Hehehe... Your third uncle can't do it..." Zhao Kuo looked at Zhao Yanzi with a forced smile.

"Third Uncle, don't die!" Zhao Yanzi picked up Zhao Kuo's rough hand while tears fell from her cheeks.

Squatting by Zhao Kuo's side, Premier Xia choked at Zhao Yanzi's words.

"Third Lord even survived the Heavenly Tribulation; how could he die of Fuma's sword array?" he thought.

"Princess, Third Lord meant that he couldn't beat Fuma," Premier Xia whispered to Zhao Yanzi.

"Oh! Oh... You meant that..." Zhao Yanzi immediately turned her gaze to Zhao Kuo and said, "Third Uncle, you are the most powerful man in my heart! Always!"

"Hehe... I wanted to teach that kid a lesson for you..."

“You don’t have to do that, Third Uncle! I can teach him a lesson myself!” Zhao Yanzi stood up abruptly.

“Hao Ren, I won’t forgive you for wounding Third Uncle this bad!”

She was about to walk to Hao Ren who was standing on the stone pillar, but Hao Ren pointed his finger at Qin Shaoyang and said coldly, “Examiner Qin, I want to challenge you!”

Wow! The audience was shocked.

Chapter 427: Black Dragon Spike

Shocked, Qin Shaoyang looked at Hao Ren and wondered if his ears were playing tricks on him.

However, Hao Ren was still pointing at him while standing on the stone pillar.

“What did you say!?” Qin Shaoyang asked while emphasizing each word, and his golden robe fluttered slightly.

He could still tolerate it when Su Han challenged his authority since she was a Qian-level cultivator and a former level 4 inspector.

However, how dare Hao Ren also challenge his authority?!

“I want to see how powerful a main examiner is,” Hao Ren said.

“Reckless!” Qin Shaoyang couldn’t bear it anymore. Standing up, he abruptly released an overwhelming aura and said, “As the main examiner, I disqualify you from the combat exam!”

“Examiner Qin, are you afraid to fight me?” Hao Ren looked at Qin Shaoyang and asked in a louder voice.

“Boo...” Hearing his words, the nearly tens of thousands of cultivators all booed.

Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu exchanged a look, wondering what Hao Ren meant by that.

Covered in blood, Zhao Kuo sat up and with the sheet of silk draped on his shoulders. He looked up at Hao Ren and thought, “Is this kid crazy after so many battles?”

Zhao Kuo couldn’t even defeat Qin Shaoyang who was a mid-tier Kun-level cultivator, let alone Hao Ren who was almost depleted of his nature essence.

Su Han frowned in confusion as she looked at Hao Ren. After each battle, her regard for him increased gradually.

Standing on the viewing platform, Qin Shaoyang’s white face turned purple instantly.

“Are you afraid... Are you afraid...” Hao Ren’s words echoed in Qin Shaoyang’s ears and resonated around the arena.

As a powerful main examiner, he was now insulted by a Gen-level cultivator!

Although the cultivation strength Hao Ren showed in the battle far surpassed Gen-level, it didn't mean that he was powerful enough to challenge the main examiner who was a Kun-level cultivator.

"Mr. Qin, this kid is too arrogant. Let's disqualify him," a deputy examiner by Qin Shaoyang's side suggested.

It was indeed outrageous for an examinee to challenge the main examiner!

"Humph!" Qin Shaoyang returned to his armchair, feeling that he didn't have to lower himself to fight a Gen-level cultivator. After all, it wouldn't reflect well on him even if he won the match.

"Examiner Qin, did you forget that you just got back your natural dharma treasure from me?" Hao Ren yelled again.

"Wow!" The cultivators in the east exam area gasped again.

Losing the natal dharma treasure was the most shameful thing for a cultivator, especially when the main examiner got back his natal dharma treasure from a Gen-level cultivator.

"You..." Qin Shaoyang felt the fury rise in his chest.

It was a slap on his face! Hao Ren's words touched Qin Shaoyang's most sensitive nerve.

After thinking about how Su Han tried to protect Hao Ren all the time and how much she disliked him, Qin Shaoyang stood up abruptly while the armchair behind him shattered into pieces.

In a golden beam, his golden weaving shuttle suddenly shot in Hao Ren's direction.

Bang!

The stone pillar was shattered into dust.

Standing on the sideline of the arena, Su Han's body shifted, and she rushed over.

However, Hao Ren was prepared. He flew up into the high sky on his sword energies the moment the stone pillar exploded.

"What? Are you trying to flee? You think too highly of yourself!" Qin Shaoyang clenched his fists in resentment. "Since you challenged me, I'll teach you a lesson so that you'll know your place!"

Bang!

Two deep holes appeared on the ground under Qin Shaoyang's feet as he stomped his feet and shot toward Hao Ren!

The cultivators in the audience all looked up, surprised and excited at the fact that Qin Shaoyang decided to fight.

On the one hand, they didn't expect the Kun-level main examiner to lower himself and fight with a Gen-level cultivator. On the other hand, they wanted to see how long this Gen-level cultivator could last in the battle!

They didn't know that Qin Shaoyang was trying to settle old and new accounts with Hao Ren in this battle.

What Qin Shaoyang hated Hao Ren the most was the fact that Su Han showed favors to Hao Ren and even gave him her rare smiles!

"Wait!"

Stepping on sword energies, Hao Ren flew up another dozen meters.

"It's too late for you to ask for mercy!" Qin Shaoyang rushed toward Hao Ren on his golden weaving shuttle.

"If I win, you must promise me one thing!" Hao Ren yelled in a loud voice.

All the cultivators in the east exam area turned their eyes toward Hao Ren.

Under the gaze of so many eyes, Qin Shaoyang had to contain his urge to hit Hao Ren. He paused to maintain his dignity and said, "What is it?"

"If I win, I will take one thing from the Dragon God Shrine!" Hao Ren locked his eyes on Qin Shaoyang. "Can you promise me that as the main examiner?"

Whoosh! All the cultivators turned their eyes toward Qin Shaoyang.

"As a main examiner, does Qin Shaoyang dare to accept such a condition? Does he have the authority to accept it?" people thought, "Choose one thing he wants from the Dragon God Shrine... What treasure will he pick?"

Although they were just watching, the cultivators were full of excitement and wanted to see if this main examiner could accept such a big bet!

"Humph!" Qin Shaoyang couldn't lose face now. "If you can defeat me, I will accept any conditions you set!"

"Ok. Let's begin," Hao Ren said coldly.

Seeing Hao Ren's calm expression, Qin Shaoyang got alerted.

'No! At Gen-level, he couldn't possibly win against me! He used tricks to defeat Zhao Kuo, and I can't fall into his traps!' At this thought, Qin Shaoyang's golden weaving shuttle flew out swiftly from beneath his feet.

The golden weaving shuttle emitted dazzling white light which was the purest metal-elemental nature essence!

Not wanting to waste time on the battle, Qin Shaoyang launched his most powerful attack!

Standing on the ground, Su Han put her hand on the handle of her longsword, ready to interrupt Qin Shaoyang's attacks at any moment.

Hao Ren was indeed impulsive in challenging Qin Shaoyang, but she wouldn't allow Qin Shaoyang to kill Hao Ren!

The golden weaving shuttle flew toward Hao Ren with an overwhelming aura.

The natal dharma treasure of a mid-tier Kun-level cultivator!

Such pressure would have crushed an ordinary Gen-level cultivator!

While all the cultivators watched with fear for him, Hao Ren suddenly took out a black sword from his necklace.

An overwhelming amount of murderous spirit came from the surface of the black sword!

This was the sword that the old dragon king, Zhao Haoran, gave Hao Ren! Black Dragon Spike!

Peak Qian-level!

Instantly, Qin Shaoyang sensed a pressure thousands of times greater than Gen-level!

He lost his balance and almost fell from the sky.

With the overwhelming murderous spirit of the Black Dragon Spike came the power of peak Qian-level!

This powerful aura permeated the entire east exam area and immobilized the low-level cultivators. It even spread to the south exam area and the north exam areas which were on the two sides of the east exam area.

Sensing the presence of a powerful master, the cultivators battling in the other arenas withdrew their dharma treasures in astonishment.

Su Han widened her beautiful eyes as she looked at Hao Ren in astonishment.

Peak Qian-level was her dream realm, and Hao Ren was there already?!

At mid-tier Kun-level, Qin Shaoyang was hundreds of times stronger than the mid-tier Gen-level, but he was nothing before the realm of peak Qian-level!

Even ten Qin Shaoyang couldn't defeat one peak Qian-level master!

Dang!

Hao Ren's Black Dragon Spike hacked into Qin Shaoyang's golden weaving shuttle.

The golden weaving shuttle was knocked back hundreds of meters away since such a dharma treasure was no match for the Black Dragon Spike which contained the essence dragon soul of Zhao Haoran!

Suddenly, Qin Shaoyang spat out a mouthful of blood. Hao Ren's attack almost cut him off from the golden weaving shuttle, his natal dharma treasure.

Holding the Black Dragon Spike with his right hand, Hao Ren turned his left hand toward the ground and exerted a slight force.

Hualala... All kinds of debris were drawn toward his feet by the suction force from his palm, and they piled up into a rock tower as high as one hundred meters.

Removing the sword energies from beneath his feet, Hao Ren landed steadily on top of the rock tower and looked down at Qin Shaoyang overbearingly.

“If you admit defeat now, I’ll spare your life!”

Each of his words resonated in the east exam area like thunder.

Bang! At the same time, the aura of the peak Qian-level was rereleased.

Crack! Crack... The chipped rocks around the rock tower were shattered into dust under this aura!

Pale-faced, Qin Shaoyang summoned back his golden weaving shuttle.

Outside of the arena, Oldman Zeng was even paler in the face.

“This Hao Ren is terrifying!” he thought.

Thinking back to the times when he messed with the East Ocean Dragon Palace and Hao Ren, Oldman Zeng had chills running down his back.

Suddenly, he felt like the most fearful thing was not being beaten back to Zhen-level by a grandmaster but looking at Hao Ren’s aura...

“Humph! You are playing tricks on me!” With his golden weaving shuttle, Qin Shaoyang flew toward Hao Ren to hit him.

“No Gen-level cultivator can instantly elevate himself to peak Qian-level. He can only achieve such illusions with certain secret elixir pills!” Qin Shaoyang thought, “I know that the West Ocean Dragon Palace has such secret elixir pills, but I didn’t expect the East Ocean Dragon Palace to have them as well!”

“You think too highly of yourself!” Hao Ren said to Qin Shaoyang.

He struck with the Black Dragon Spike while he remained standing on the rock tower!

The overwhelming murderous spirit formed a solid black beam, hitting the center of the golden weaving shuttle before pushing the golden weaving shuttle onto Qin Shaoyang’s chest!

Crack... Qin Shaoyang felt like all the bones in his body broke, and he had no strength to even block half of the attack!

Not able to move, Qin Shaoyang was pushed back by dozens of meters!

Whoosh! Dense sword energies shot out of Hao Ren’s body.

1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000... There were tens of thousands of sword energies circling Hao Ren!

Chapter 428: What I Need.....

Tens of thousands of sword energies!

Hum... Hum... The sword energies spread around Hao Ren and blinked.

The nature essence fluctuation suppressed the power of the cultivators around the arena.

If so many sword energies formed a sword array, even the Daluo Golden Immortal could not escape from it!

The low-leveled cultivators almost cried when they imagined the scenario where the sword energies trapped them.

Hua... Tens of thousands of sword energies turned their tips toward Qin Shaoyang.

Looking up at Hao Ren, Qin Shaoyang's face was now ashen.

He felt like he could get the chance to experience the feeling of being pierced by tens of thousands sword energies in the heart.

Hao Ren's right hand casually pointed forward.

The east exam area was empty since all the arenas had been turned into ruins. Having no place to hide, Qin Shaoyang couldn't flee from these tens of thousands of sword energies.

His expression was even worse than crying.

As ambassadors of the Dragon God Shrine, the inspectors could send signals for help with their tokens when they were in danger, so the nearby inspectors or masters from the Dragon God Shrine could come to their rescue. Usually, inspectors could only send such signals when they were in deadly dangers or when they couldn't get out of traps.

However, Qin Shaoyang was fighting a one vs. one battle with Hao Ren on the platform of the Dragon God Shrine, which was the home base of inspectors. It would be a disgrace for him to send out a signal for help.

Besides, he declared himself that this competitor had no limits.

Directed by Hao Ren's finger, tens of thousands of sword energies suddenly moved.

Su Han squinted and counted; there were roughly 40,000 sword energies under Hao Ren's command!

The 40,000 sword energies moved simultaneously; it was a magnificent sight.

It felt like giant mountains and seas that were made from sword energies were moving.

If the sword energies moved at high speed, they could turn Qin Shaoyang into a beehive.

Su Han gripped her longsword and thought, "I'm no match for the sword energies since my White Jade Sword isn't that top-tier."

However, Hao Ren didn't move the sword energies at high speed; instead, he lowered them meter by meter!

Standing on his golden weaving shuttle, Qin Shaoyang lowered himself from the sky one meter at a time as well.

If he fled, he would lose, but if he didn't, he was no match for the tens of thousands of sword energies!

He only hoped that the surrounding inspectors could offer help.

However, the six deputy examiners were no fools, and none of them dared to make a move against so many sword energies. As to the level 1 and level 2 inspectors who were responsible for keeping order, they were holding their breaths in fear.

The black Dragon God Shrine was also silent.

Standing on the rock tower made of debris, Hao Ren raised his hands.

The tens of thousands of sword energies pulled back meter by meter.

The overwhelming nature essence suppression decreased as that happened.

Landing on the ground, Qin Shaoyang was about to heave a sigh of relief when Hao Ren suddenly whipped down his arm.

The retreating sword energies suddenly stabbed toward Qin Shaoyang!

Each of the sword energies released a dazzling light.

All the cultivators in the area, including Su Han, couldn't open their eyes.

Boom!

The sword energies cut out a square crater with a depth of one meter, a length of 500 meters, and a width of 500 meters!

The entire east exam area shook!

In the middle of this square crater was a small piece of flat ground.

It was about the size of one square meter, and it looked like a lone island in the huge crater.

Holding his head, Qin Shaoyang squatted on the ground while his golden weaving shuttle rolled to his feet.

"Hu..." Zhao Hongyu heaved a sigh of relief.

If Hao Ren wounded or killed Qin Shaoyang, the main examiner of the east exam area, on the territory of the Dragon God Shrine, he would be in big trouble.

"Examiner Qin, did I win the competition?" Standing on the tall rock tower, Hao Ren asked casually.

Qin Shaoyang stood up, and his face was still pale.

Although Hao Ren's sword energies didn't pierce him, the violent nature essence and sharp sword blades shocked his spirit and mind, just like how an ordinary person narrowly missed a flying rocket. How could a person look good in such a situation?

At this moment, the nature essence in Qin Shaoyang's body was rushing aimlessly, and he even couldn't jump over the 50-meter ditch surrounding him.

"Will you fulfill your promise, Examiner Qin?" Hao Ren continued to ask.

Qin Shaoyang tried his best to smooth out the nature essence in his body and wanted to answer.

It was a great disgrace for him to lose to Hao Ren, and it would be more shameful if he went back on his words.

Hao Ren put the Black Dragon Spike back into his necklace and jumped down from the top of the rock tower.

Hualala... The rock tower that was piled with debris collapsed instantly.

Hao Ren walked directly to Su Han and asked, "Am I an official inspector now?"

Looking at him with her bright eyes, Su Han was at a loss for words.

Standing by Su Han and Zhao Kuo's sides, Xie Yujia and Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren in amazement.

"I can't continue with the rest of the combat exam," Hao Ren told Su Han.

"Ugh?" Su Han froze for a moment before nodding. "Ok..."

Since he defeated Qin Shaoyang in a challenge, Hao Ren was now already an official inspector, and it was not important for him to continue with the remaining exams and enter the top three.

"Please collect the thing Qin Shaoyang promised me," Hao Ren placed the identity token, 'Ren Yin 246', into Su Han's hand and said.

"What do you want?" Su Han finally regained her composure and asked.

"The thing the East Ocean Dragon Palace wants," Hao Ren said.

"That..." Su Han hesitated for half a second and said, "I can't do that, and neither can Qin Shaoyang."

Hao Ren had expected this, so he paused before saying, "Then, I want another thing from the Dragon God Shrine, Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus."

"Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus..." Su Han repeated in her mind as if she had never heard of it before.

"Uncle, Auntie, let's head back," Hao Ren said to Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu.

"Ok..." Zhao Hongyu immediately took out her River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting and spread it out.

Zhao Yanzi helped Zhao Kuo onto the painting, and the others stood on it as well.

Hua!

Under the envious stares of many cultivators, the painting carried them away.

Riding her flight dharma treasure, Zhao Hongyu was very satisfied with the fact that Hao Ren had made a great show of East Ocean's strength!

In a black secret chamber in the Dragon God Shrine, a burly cultivator faced the wall, showing his large back.

"What's the background of Ren Yin 246?" A deep voice sounded.

“He’s the Fuma of the East Ocean Dragon Palace, the Commanding General of the East Ocean, and Su Han’s assisting inspector,” one of the nine cultivators who was sitting in the secret chamber answered.

“Oh? He’s Su Han’s man?”

“Yes, Shrine Master.”

After a few seconds of consideration, this mysterious person raised his hand slightly and said, “Demote Qin Shaoyang to a level 3 inspector for acting impulsively and promote Ren Yin 246 directly to a level 3 inspector as we do with the usual top three cultivators. His performance is excellent.”

Chapter 429: Handsome Can’t Feed Him

The River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting flew out of the Dragon God Shrine and headed toward the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

Little White turned into its puppy form, and it bit Hao Ren’s heel and made a series of excited squeaky noises. Even though it was excited, it still made sounds to complain to Hao Ren about not including it in such a tense battle.

It hadn’t developed its full intelligence yet, but it was much Congminger than other pets. It knew that Qin Shaoyang was the bad guy and was happy for Hao Ren when he defeated Qin Shaoyang.

Premier Xia also threw Hao Ren an admiring look. But since he stood beside Zhao Kuo who just lost to Hao Ren, he couldn’t really praise Hao Ren at the moment.

Although it was the first time they attended the Dragon God Shrine’s general exam, Hao Ren had won the East Ocean Dragon Palace a lot of pride. Zhao Hongyu was so excited that her face was flushed.

However, she wasn’t overwhelmed by the victory. She thought for a second and asked Hao Ren, “When did you reach peak Qian-level, Ren? The black sword you used is the old dragon king’s weapon which he carries with him at all times. How come he offered it to you?”

Zhao Hongyu was wise, but she never thought that the old dragon king already passed away.

Zhao Kuo’s face was gloomy as he kept quiet.

“Auntie, I’ll explain it to you in detail when we get back to the East Ocean Dragon Palace,” Hao Ren didn’t really know how to explain this to her. However, he knew that Zhao Guang and the others would find out about Zhao Haoran sooner or later.

He fought a hard battle against Zhao Kuo to prove himself, and Zhao Kuo didn’t want to lose to the younger generation either. Therefore, the battle got more and more intense. As a result, Hao Ren’s meridians were damaged, causing the spiritual core which stored Zhao Haoran’s 1,000-year cultivation strength to leak.

Hao Ren depended on his nature essence to keep the spiritual core under control. However, since he consumed all his nature essence and tried to defeat Zhao Kuo, Zhao Haoran’s 1,000-year cultivation strength was accidentally released.

At this moment, the 1,000-year cultivation strength was dashing around in Hao Ren's body and made him feel like death was better than living.

The fact that he could still reply calmly was all because of his willpower.

"Ok..." Zhao Hongyu thought that Hao Ren must be tired after the back-to-back battles, so she didn't keep asking even though she had many more questions.

Hao Ren crossed his legs and sat down. He regulated his breath and frowned. Zhao Haoran's strength was indeed overly powerful, and he wasn't able to control it as a mid-tier Gen-level cultivator.

On the other hand, if Hao Ren were on Zhen-level, only touching this strength would have killed him!

"Humph!" Zhao Kuo snorted. His face was pale, but he wasn't actually injured that bad.

In this battle, Hao Ren showed his strength and won some prestige.

In fact, both Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo wanted to defeat each other, and Zhao Yanzi was the key here.

Zhao Kuo wanted to prove that Hao Ren was too weak, and Hao Ren tried to show that he wasn't weak at all. Deep in their hearts, what they were fighting over was Zhao Yanzi!

"Gongzi..." Lu Linlin and Lu Lili sat on Hao Ren's sides. They put their hands on Hao Ren's shoulders to help him recover.

With their help as Qian-level cultivators, Zhao Haoran's 1,000-year cultivation strength slowly got under Hao Ren's control.

Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren and then at Zhao Kuo. She thought for a bit and picked Little White up before sitting down in a corner of the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting.

Xie Yujia breathed out deeply while standing on the edge of the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting. She finally felt relieved as she looked at the clouds floating under her feet.

Each of Hao Ren's battle was alarmingly dangerous, and Xie Yujia paid attention to each of Hao Ren's movements from the side of the arena. She was undoubtedly nervous for him.

Xie Yujia was exhausted now that Hao Ren had won, and she felt like she was the one battling the entire time.

Zhen Congming sat on the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting with his back facing everyone else. He took out a piece of paper and a pencil from his storage space and started doodling.

He had always wanted to take a look at the Dragon God Shrine, but he never got the chance to.

When Hao Ren attended the Dragon God Shrine's general exam, Zhen Congming tagged along with Zhao Guang and the others. He had no interest in the battles of the 'low-leveled' cultivators except for when Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo battled. In the meantime, he had been scanning around the Dragon God Shrine the entire time.

The Dragon God Shrine could be considered as the supreme headquarters of the Dragon Tribe, and the amount of resources they possessed were even greater than the four ocean dragon palaces.

Zhen Congming stayed in the East Ocean Dragon Palace with Qiu Niu for the time being. As shameless as he was, he didn't want to take advantage of the East Ocean Dragon Palace. When he exploited the West Ocean Dragon Palace last time, he obtained a lot of stuff, but nothing was rare. He used the most precious items and made a flight dharma treasure with them.

However, the Dragon God Shrine was different. Since Zhen Congming was not a dragon cultivator in the first place, and he was not familiar with the Dragon God Shrine either, the famous Dragon God Shrine was like a mountain of treasures to him.

Zhen Congming's white paper slowly showed some complex lines. He added tons of symbols and comments, and it looked even more complicated than a mathematical reasoning problem and stricter than an architectural blueprint.

Even the most famous scientist in the world wouldn't be able to understand his drawing. However, for Zhen Congming, the challenging courses at universities, such as Linear Algebra and Advanced Mathematics, were only of the kindergarten level!

Zhen Congming was a master who could overturn the most complicated math theory and physics law in the world!

If he were to learn to program, he would be the best hacker in the world!

He calculated and restored over 600 array formations outside the Dragon God Shrine within an hour! That was ridiculous... Zhen Congming was a little arrogant, but his intelligence was the best of the best.

The River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting flew over the clouds as everybody kept quiet. They were either meditating or buried in their own thoughts.

"We are here," Zhao Hongyu said abruptly.

Hao Ren opened his eyes and found himself above the ocean already. The port of the East Ocean City was only a couple of kilometers away.

Under Lu Linlin and Lu Lili's help, the exploding nature essence in his body finally returned to the spiritual core in the Qihai Acupoint. Then, he sealed it up with force.

"Congratulations! Gongzi!" The twins stood up beside Hao Ren and said in a pleasant voice.

Although they were both at Qian-level, Zhao Haoran's 1,000-year cultivation strength was of peak Qian-level. Now that they had completed sealing that strength, they both were sweaty and tired. Their soft silky dresses were both half soaked.

Hao Ren clenched his fists and stood up. The dragon core near his dantian felt very refreshing, and he now had 178 openings.

Zhao Haoran's 1,000-year cultivation strength dashed through Hao Ren's body, and he put the spiritual core in its place slowly afterward. In fact, it was like rinsing Hao Ren's body with the nature essence of peak Qian-level, and the benefits were tremendous.

In a sense, three Qian-level cultivators battled in Hao Ren's body, and he certainly sweated more than Lu Linlin and Lu Lili.

But instead of Lu Linlin and Lu Lili's crystal-clear sweat, his sweat was black and smelly!

The twins looked at Hao Ren from the sides, not showing disgust at his stinky sweat at all.

Hao Ren looked down at the layer of dirty stuff on top of his skin, knowing that his physical condition had significantly improved again!

That was what Lu Linlin and Lu Lili congratulated him on!

"Eww, so stinky!" Zhao Yanzi sniffed the smell from Hao Ren in her sleep, and she couldn't help but complain as she held Little White in her arms.

"Hehe, please take a shower, Gongzi!" Lu Linlin pushed Hao Ren off the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting with her beautiful hands.

Hao Ren fell from over a hundred meters into the rough ocean!

Hao Ren would've cried out in a panic if it were before, but he wasn't worried at all now!

Splash!

Hao Ren fell into the ocean, and the waves he splashed up were immediately swallowed by other waves. His body was incredibly strong after being tempered by the heavenly lightning.

Hao Ren moved his legs and swam a few meters under the water. He knew how to swim because he lived by the beach, and he was way more flexible and powerful than before. With a little kick, Hao Ren moved quickly under the water like a tuna fish.

Water rinsed off the dirt on Hao Ren's skin, and it made it much easier for his pores to breath.

Then, Hao Ren took one of the two robes that were on his front and back and wore it before dashing out of the water on his sword energies

Splash!

Hao Ren was refreshed. He hopped directly onto the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting that was a few hundred meters above the ocean, and his face was no longer dirty. Instead, his clean face looked handsome under his wet hair.

The subtle salty scent of the ocean replaced the stinky smell.

"Gongzi got more handsome!" Lu Linlin took the opportunity to flatter Hao Ren. Lu Lili covered her mouth as she laughed while looking at Hao Ren in admiration.

Xie Yujia lightly smiled at Hao Ren; she didn't say anything.

"Handsome, handsome, handsome! What's the point of being handsome? Handsome can't feed him!" Zhao Yanzi shouted, but she couldn't help but glimpse at Hao Ren.

"Let's get back to the East Ocean Dragon Palace as soon as possible, Auntie. We need to talk about some important issues," Hao Ren said to Zhao Hongyu.

He circulated the fire-elemental nature essence according to the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, and it dried his soaked robe immediately.

“Ok!” Zhao Hongyu nodded. As she made a hand gesture, the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting sped up and created an energy sphere.

Splash! They dived into the ocean.

Chapter 430: Hatred

“Greetings, Dragon King!”

A dozen purple-robed elders and a dozen East Ocean’s Generals were already waiting there when Zhao Guang and the others reached the front gate.

Zhao Guo’s face had already recovered from its paleness, and he walked behind Zhao Guang quietly.

The elders were surprised to see Zhao Kuo, and the generals were thrilled to see him.

“Third Lord is back! Third Lord is back!”

The soldiers cried out from above the defense wall in excitement when they saw Zhao Kuo.

They didn’t dare shout out too loud since Zhao Guang and the elders were around, but Hao Ren still heard them.

Zhao Kuo passed through the gate after Zhao Guang with a stern look, and the Elders followed them in as well.

The generals bowed toward Zhao Kuo before they returned to their positions.

“Anything new these days?” Zhao Guang asked as he walked.

“Dragon King, everything is normal around the East Ocean City,” one of the purple-robed elders who stayed in the dragon palace answered.

Zhao Guang nodded. “You may leave now. Arrange a few places to stay for Ms. Xie, Ms. Lu, and Little Daoist Zhen.”

“Yes, sir!” The elder who was leading the way slowed down immediately.

“You must all tired. Have some rest in the dragon palace today,” Zhao Guang said to Xie Yujia and the twins.

“Ok.” Xie Yujia smiled lightly.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili looked at Hao Ren, and they followed the elder to the palace that was assigned to them after Hao Ren nodded.

Zhen Congming followed them, and Little White hopped out of Zhao Yanzi’s arm and followed Xie Yujia.

Then, Zhao Guang dismissed the dozen purple-robed elders and entered his palace with Elder Lu, Elder Sun, Zhao Kuo, Zhao Hongyu, Zhao Yanzi, Hao Ren, and Premier Xia.

The eight of them entered the palace, and Zhao Guang asked Premier Xia, who entered last, to close the door. Then, he walked to the chair in the center of the palace and sat down, facing Hao Ren.

Premier Xie walked ahead hastily to stand beside him, and Zhao Kuo and Zhao Hongyu sat on each side of Zhao Guang.

This was Zhao Guang's resting palace, so the conference lobby wasn't large. It appeared to be very intimate after the door closed.

"Please go ahead with what you wanted to say, Ren," Zhao Guang said to Hao Ren.

Hao Ren nodded and said, "First of all, I resign from my Commanding General position, and I am returning the token to Third Uncle."

He took the token out of his storage space and walked a few steps ahead, handing it to Zhao Kuo.

"Not necessary!" Zhao Kuo waved him off, "Skip this."

Hao Ren didn't push it and put the token back in his necklace. Then, he went on with what was more important. "The second thing is that I need to give this to Third Uncle."

Hao Ren took the Black Dragon Spike from his storage space and laid it in front of Zhao Kuo with both hands.

The Black Dragon Spike looked very sharp and heavy even without any nature essence inside.

"The old dragon king asked me to hand it over to you," Hao Ren added.

Hearing that, Zhao Kuo reached out and took the Black Dragon Spike.

"The third thing is," Hao Ren backed up beside Zhao Yanzi before he looked at Zhao Guang, Zhao Kuo, and Zhao Hongyu and said, "The old dragon king had passed away."

Elder Lu and Elder Sun looked utterly surprised when they heard what Hao Ren had said.

Zhao Guang was stupefied while Zhao Hongyu slightly opened her mouth.

"Ah!" Zhao Yanzi gasped, and Premier Xie looked down with sadness in his eyes. His hunchbacked body bent even lower than before.

Zhao Kuo had no facial expressions with the Black Dragon Spike in his hand.

There was a silence of three seconds.

Hao Ren gritted his teeth and stood quietly.

Zhao Kuo suddenly stood up.

He laid the Black Dragon Spike on the handles of the chair. Then, he took three steps back and kneeled to the Black Dragon Spike.

Dong...Dong...Dong... Zhao Kuo made three hard kowtows with his hands on the ground.

The marble tile was smashed into pieces, and there was blood on Zhao Kuo's forehead. He didn't use any nature essence when he kowtowed, so the pain went straight through his body.

"Dad!"

Zhao Kuo growled as tears rushed down his cheeks.

Zhao Haoran was most fond of his youngest son, Zhao Kuo, amongst his three children. One reason was that Zhao Kuo's brave and fierce personality was similar to his. Another reason was that Zhao Kuo was incredibly talented. He cultivated a lot harder than his two elder brothers.

Being a tough guy, Zhao Kuo never shed a single tear no matter how strong his enemy was nor how painful his wounds were; he didn't even surrender at the life-and-death moment when he went through the Heavenly Tribulation.

But he kept knocking on the floor with his fists at the moment as tears dropped into the crack of the tiles.

He remembered every single thing Zhao Haoran taught him about cultivation. Zhao Haoran kept an eye on Zhao Kuo's growth from a Zhen-level teenager to a peak Qian-level cultivator.

Although Zhao Haoran didn't laugh much, he always had a smile on in front of Zhao Kuo.

But since Zhao Kuo chased after the Heavenly Dragon Realm later, he concentrated heavily on cultivating and battling. The times he went to see Zhao Haoran grew fewer and fewer.

He was too ashamed of himself to see his father due to failing to break through to the Heavenly Dragon Realm. Who would've thought that he never would be able to now!

"Dad!" Zhao Kuo growled sadly as he smacked the floor with his fists. Tear covered his face.

As a matter of fact, Zhao Kuo had already sensed something was wrong when Hao Ren took the Black Dragon Spike out. But now that Hao Ren had told him the truth, there was no way he could lie to himself anymore.

Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu kneeled behind Zhao Kuo and kowtowed to the Black Dragon Spike on the chair.

Zhao Yanzi looked at the Black Dragon Spike, stupefied. Then she stepped ahead and kowtowed to it as well.

Zhao Haoran was almost 1,000 years older than her. Zhao Yanzi wasn't really close to this grandpa of hers. She was a bit scared of him when Zhao Guang took her to the States to visit him during summer vacations.

But the backbone of the East Ocean Dragon Palace was gone, and so was her one and only grandpa. Zhao Yanzi felt the emptiness in her heart.

Now that she thought about it, Zhao Haoran actually cared a lot about her. Although he seemed stern, he never blamed Zhao Yanzi when she made mistakes.

Premier Xia, Elder Lu, and Elder Sun kowtowed to the Black Dragon Spike as well.

Hao Ren also stepped forward politely to kowtow to the Black Dragon Spike.

Although Hao Ren had only met him once, he knew clearly that Zhao Haoran was a real hero! A one and only overlord!

Zhao Kuo picked himself up; his face was covered with tears.

He took three steps forward and picked up the Black Dragon Spike with one hand. Then, he stared at Hao Ren, "What did my dad say?"

His ruthless look showed that he might kill Hao Ren if he said something wrong!

Instead of calling Zhao Haoran, the old dragon king, he always addressed Zhao Haoran in the human way of speech by calling him, dad. It was obvious how close he was with his father!

"The old dragon king told me to hand this sword to you in person when you came back," answered Hao Ren.

"Hand it to me in person..." Zhao Kuo murmured.

This Black Dragon Spike was the weapon Zhao Haoran had always bought with him. During the war of the Cultivation World, Zhao Haoran defeated countless masters as the leader of the East Ocean Dragon Palace with this Black Dragon Spike, forcing the human cultivators to leave the land and move all the cultivation sects to and above Fifth Heaven.

Young dragon cultivators weren't aware of this. In fact, to avoid young dragon cultivators from causing trouble, a lot of them didn't even know about the existence of Fifth Heaven.

This was also why when Hao Ren took this Black Dragon Spike out during the Dragon Shrine's general exam, most cultivators didn't know about the history of this weapon.

Even some elders in the Dragon Tribe didn't know the legend behind the Black Dragon Spike because they hadn't even been born during the war! Zhao Haoran put his Black Dragon Spike away after the war and never used it again!

At the last moment of Zhao Haoran's life, he asked Hao Ren to hand his favorite Black Dragon Spike to Zhao Kuo. This clearly explained his intention!

He wanted Zhao Kuo to take his tremendous murderous spirit over and never lose his will!

Zhao Haoran never broke through the Heavenly Dragon Realm his entire life, and he handed this dream over to Zhao Kuo.

"Ahhhh..."

Zhao Kuo lifted his head up; he had bloodshot eyes.

He hated himself for not being able to break through the Heavenly Dragon Realm and not being able to see his father before he passed away. He also hated himself for running away from reality and leaving the East Ocean!

As the Commanding General of the East Ocean, he wasn't in the East Ocean Dragon Palace during its most critical time; they had to get his father, who didn't have many years left and already retired, to save the situation.

Hatred!

The Black Dragon Spike let out a ray of black light of the width of a bowl. It shot straight through the ceiling of the palace!

Boom!

The black light dashed out of the Dragon Palace's array formation, out of the ocean surface, and into the clouds!

The waves lifted up high into the sky as the clouds twirled around!

Zhao Yanzi looked at Zhao Kuo, scared. She had never seen him as horrifying as this.

Hasty footsteps could be heard outside the palace. The patrol soldiers saw the Dragon King's palace being damaged, so they all circled around it.

"No need to panic. We are fine!" Zhao Guang shouted.

The soldiers hastily stepped away at his voice.

Zhao Kuo looked at Hao Ren with his red eyes, "What else did my dad say?"

"Nothing else," Hao Ren shook his head. He continued after thinking for a bit, "The old Dragon King passed his 1,000-year cultivation strength to me. I think he meant to pass it on to Third uncle. Now that Third Uncle you are back...these 1,000-year cultivation strength..."

"Fool!" Zhao Kuo suddenly interrupted Hao Ren with his cussing.