ETERNAL SK 721

Chapter 721: Storm

"Hahahaha!"

Monkey clutched his stomach at the sight of that and burst into laughter, unable to contain himself any longer.

"Was that three breaths?"

"He came out as soon as he went in."

"Golden Hair, you were way too fast ... "

The Golden Lion finally realized that he was set up upon hearing the laughter of monkey and the others as he glared at them begrudgingly.

However, he could not blame others for this either – he was the one that asked for it.

The Golden Lion gazed at Night Spirit's back with a hint of fear in the depths of his eyes!

This man was way too frightening!

Earlier on in the cultivation room, Night Spirit suppressed him within a single round!

Furthermore, the Golden Lion could clearly sense that if they weren't sworn brothers, it would have been an ice-cold corpse that was stuck on the iron door!

"How is this a cub? This is a devil!"

The Golden Lion wanted to cry.

"Little Night Spirit, you've become so powerful after 20 years!"

Qing Qing was all smiles. "When you were just born, you were only the size of a palm. Although you looked fierce, you were so fun to play with!"

Night Spirit pursed his lips and smiled bashfully.

Qing Qing urged him, "Hurry, revert to your true form. Let me see just how much you've changed!"

"That's right, I haven't seen you in such a long time. I wonder how you look like now."

The spirit tiger added, "Back then, First looked through many ancient books to identify your background but he couldn't find anything at all."

Monkey looked at Night Spirit somewhat expectantly as well, waiting for the latter to revert to his true form.

Night Spirit slumped his head slightly with a hesitant expression, as though he was conflicted internally and was in pain.

Su Zimo's heart skipped a beat and he said calmly, "There's nothing to see, he's almost the same as when he was young. Don't get excited out of nothing."

In truth, Night Spirit had already grown massively after consuming the dragon egg!

Now that 20 years were gone, Su Zimo had no idea what Night Spirit looked like either.

However, when Su Zimo saw how conflicted Night Spirit was, he knew that the latter definitely had his difficulties and did not want to make things difficult for him.

Night Spirit understood Su Zimo's intentions and looked at him gratefully.

Surveying his surroundings, Su Zimo changed the topic and said with a smile, "Everyone, it's truly rare that the group of us are able to reunite in the ancient battlefield today. Let's have a drink!"

The road of cultivation was long and Tianhuang Mainland was endless – everyone had their own paths.

Some people never meet ever again after farewells, let alone 20 years later.

Now that they were reunited, the joy in their hearts was indescribable.

"That's right, there's still three months to the fight for the Phenomenon Ranking. Since it's still early, we'll drink till we're drunk tonight!" Ji Chengtian was an easygoing man as well and agreed readily.

"There's wine!"

Monkey smacked his lips and his eyes lit up.

•••

In the blink of an eye, a month passed.

The number of cultivators gathered in Myriad Phenomenon City increased.

Almost all the famous paragons of various sects and factions have arrived in Myriad Phenomenon City!

It was a storm with the gathering of countless heroes!

The arrival of every peerless paragon caused quite a stir within the city!

During this period of time, Su Zimo resided within the huge palace of Snowdrift Valley and did not leave at all. Yet, news was transmitted one after another.

Hang Qiuyu, the paragon of Sword Sect, had arrived at Myriad Phenomenon City!

20 years ago, many successors of various major sects fought Su Zimo beneath the Human Emperor's Palace and some died while others were severely injured.

There was nothing to speak of about those who died.

Some of the successors who were severely injured did not manage to recover entirely; some of them became despondent from the setback of the huge blow and became nothing more than a commoner.

Of course, there were also a few of them that underwent a metamorphosis and were reborn entirely!

Hang Qiuyu was one of them!

He was not the only one; Pang Yue of Overlord Palace and Monk Jue Chen of Diamond Monastery had arrived in Myriad Phenomenon City one after another and caused a great commotion!

The three of them were the most prominent paragons back in the past.

Indeed, the three of them gave Su Zimo immense pressure during the fight beneath the Human Emperor's Palace as well.

"It's no wonder why they're paragons,"

Within the huge palace of Snowdrift Valley, Su Zimo murmured softly and rubbed his fingertips against one another, causing a spirit crane that contained information of the three of them to disintegrate into dust.

There were many paragons that were defeated by Su Zimo previously but the three of them were the only ones who got back on their feet!

A few things were detailed clearly in the spirit crane.

20 years ago, the three of them received massive blows from the battle beneath the Human Emperor's Palace.

Yet, that became a blessing in disguise and they gained countless opportunities after their breakthroughs. They cultivated legacy phenomenons of their sects and rose again to become the number one Golden Cores of their respective sects!

Of course, during this period of time, apart from the three of them familiar faces, a few other relatively foreign paragons were made known to Su Zimo.

The fiend heir of Asura Sect, Ren Tu!

It was said that he was the most frightening successor to appear in Asura Sect after the current Asura, Yan Beichen!

He was only slightly more than a hundred years old at this point of his cultivation but his hands were filled with endless fresh blood.

Legend has it that he was haunted by over three million vengeful ghosts and the stench of blood could be smelled everywhere he passed, resembling an endless Hell!

Apart from Hang Qiuyu, Pang Yue and Monk Jue Chen, Ren Tu was also a strong contender for a top ten position on the Phenomenon Ranking!

Monk Jian Kong of Hollow Monastery!

This successor was from Hollow Monastery and cultivated a top-tier ancient phenomenon of the Buddhist monasteries, the Seven Floor Pagoda!

A pagoda was a Buddhist tower.

In the Buddhist monasteries, a Seven Floor Pagoda was of the highest grade.

Even from the ancient era, it was almost the limit for successors of Hollow Monastery to cultivate a Six Floor Pagoda; there were barely any who could cultivate a Seven Floor Pagoda.

Eventually, all of them got to the top of the Phenomenon Ranking and became the titular disciples of that generation!

Now that Monk Jian Kong entered the ancient battlefield with his Seven Floor Pagoda, his intentions could not be clearer.

Of course, everyone knew that although the Seven Floor Pagoda was strong, it was still inferior compared to the legacy phenomenon of the Human Emperor, Chaos Ocean.

Above the palace, Perfected Lord Luo Xue frowned slightly. "The fight for the Phenomenon Ranking this time round is likely to be extremely intense! Previously, any ancient phenomenon would most probably make it to the top of the list, but things are different this time round."

Ren Tu's Corpse Mountain Blood Sea and Monk Jian Kong's Seven Floor Pagoda were both among them.

"In fact, many lost ancient phenomenons are reappearing in this era! A clash as such is rare even in the ancient era!"

Perfected Lord Luo Xue mulled deeply. "You've got to be careful and not pit yourself against Di Yin recklessly."

Su Zimo had a calm expression and did not refute her.

After all, Di Yin's fame had been there for a long time.

When he was in his thirties a hundred years ago, Di Yin suppressed various paragons domineeringly in the previous Phenomenon Ranking and obtained the top spot.

In the eyes of many cultivators, although Su Zimo's rapid uprising and a few great battles have pushed his reputation up in recent years, he was still inferior to Di Yin.

At that moment, a shadow darted over.

Ji Chengtian entered the palace, panting with a grim expression as he said slowly, "Di Yin has arrived!"

Instantly, all the cultivators who were initially meditating in silence in the palace opened their eyes.

That was a name nobody could ignore!

Things in Myriad Phenomenon City had heated up completely!

Chapter 722: Di Yin, Release Him!

Su Zimo rose with an unyielding gaze.

Even he could not maintain his composure at the mention of that name!

10 years ago, he exchanged blows with Di Yin at the bottom of Dragon Burial Valley and both of them sustained slight injuries.

Furthermore, Di Yin was the only one who could match him in melee combat!

Su Zimo did not know how that person cultivated or the sorts of miraculous opportunities he had encountered to be able to temper his body to that terrifying extent!

He was even more curious about how much that man has grown after 10 years!

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

A series of figures soared into the air.

Everyone arrived at the top of the palace and looked down at Myriad Phenomenon City.

Almost at the same time, a series of figures rose in Myriad Phenomenon City.

Everyone had their eyes on Di Yin's arrival in the city!

"Roar!"

A deafening noise echoed!

A gigantic and menacing demon beast walked through the long street domineeringly and everyone in front of it gave way fearfully.

The fur on the beast's body was extremely long and it resembled a tiger in shape. It had a human's face, tiger's feet, teeth of a boar and its tail was a hundred and eight foot long. Four horns that were incomparably sharp surged into the air!

It was a primordial ferocious beast, the Tao Wu!

Many cultivators in Myriad Phenomenon City arrived mounted on their spirit beasts.

However, in the face of the Tao Wu, all the spirit beasts were docile and kept mum in fear!

An ancient remnant beast that could not dodge in time at the front was swallowed whole by the Tao Wu and fresh blood sprayed everywhere!

The owner of the ancient remnant beast turned frightfully, but he could only clench his teeth, endure things and leave.

Although fighting between cultivators was forbidden within the city, that were no restrictions on killing between demon beasts.

"This is a being of the primordial era and it is extremely violent with incredible strength!"

Unknowingly, Perfected Lord Luo Xue had arrived behind everyone and said slowly.

Su Zimo nodded.

10 years ago, the primordial ferocious beast suffered a huge loss in his hands. Although it was extremely strong, its head was pinned violently to the ground by Su Zimo but it did not die.

Now, it was clear that the primordial ferocious beast was even more terrifying than it was 10 years ago!

"I'm not his match,"

The Golden Lion shook his head with a grim expression.

The spirit tiger took a deep breath and frowned when he sensed the aura the Tao Wu gave off. "This fella is troublesome to deal with."

Monkey remained silent and merely pouted his lips, seemingly in disdain.

He had a prideful nature and would definitely not admit defeat even if he could not win the other party!

Night Spirit was the most composed among everyone present.

He looked at the Tao Wu that barged its way through the city with a cold gaze; there were no emotions in his eyes and they were like still waters!

If the Tao Wu was already so frightening, how powerful would someone who could subdue that primordial ferocious beast be?

Countless gazes in Myriad Phenomenon City were fixed on someone.

A figure sat on the back of the primordial ferocious beast.

The person did not look old and he wore purple robes. His brows extended to his temples, his eyes were shut and he had an indifferent expression that spread in all directions and suppressed the place!

He was the top of the previous Phenomenon Ranking, the number one Golden Core of Tianhuang Mainland... Di Yin!

Now that Di Yin was back in this familiar place a hundred years later, he was like an emperor that ruled over the world – nobody could stop him!

"His reputation precedes him. This man sure is frightening."

Ji Chengtian's pupils constricted as he shook his head and said somewhat dejectedly, "I don't even have the courage to strike against this man!"

Defeated before a battle!

That was how powerful a person's aura could be.

A cultivator's mental state could be affected even though they were kilometers apart!

Right from the beginning, Di Yin did not even open his eyes.

It might be because he was resting.

Or... it might be because there was nobody in Myriad Phenomenon City who was worthy of him looking at!

His simple act of sitting on the Tao Wu casually to enter the city had already brought forth immense pressure to all the cultivators in Myriad Phenomenon City!

The Nascent Souls were no exception!

Perfected Lord Luo Xue frowned slightly with a look of disbelief as she murmured, "His strength has already grown till such an extent?"

A middle-aged cultivator followed close behind Di Yin blindly.

"Perfected Lord Hun Yi?"

Perfected Lord Luo Xue's eyes flickered as she said softly, "To think that he would be here too."

Su Zimo's gaze shifted.

Behind Di Yin and Perfected Lord Hun Yi were cultivators of Chaos Essence Sect, including Nie Hao who was defeated by Lin Xuanji.

All of a sudden!

"Hmm?"

Su Zimo narrowed his gaze towards a cultivator in the Chaos Essence Sect crowd.

To be precise, it was a little young monk. His hands were bound by a shiny silver rope that restricted his spirit energy and he was being pushed forward.

That little monk was none other than Ming Zhen who was separated from Su Zimo after entering the ancient battlefield!

Although many cultivators have gathered in Myriad Phenomenon City for the past few days, there was no news of Ming Zhen.

Given Ming Zhen's capabilities, there were few people in the ancient battlefield who could suppress him.

Even if Ming Zhen could not win them, he could definitely escape far away.

To think that he would have met with Di Yin!

There were a few wounds on Ming Zhen's body with flesh that was ripped and rotten with pus blood.

It was clear that he had suffered immensely along the way!

Su Zimo's gaze turned cold.

Ming Zhen chanted sutras and studied Buddhism and Zen daily at the bottom of the Dragon Burial Valley. He was far away from mortal strife and possessed an innocent heart filled with sincerity.

Each time Su Zimo had a question, Ming Zhen would explain carefully without a single bit of annoyance.

In terms of seniority, Ming Zhen was his senior brother.

However, Ming Zhen was extremely young and Su Zimo had always regarded him as a younger brother.

When he saw the state that Ming Zhen was in, the killing intent in Su Zimo's heart surged instantly!

"Hmm?"

Di Yin sensed something and his eyes jolted wide open!

It was initially bright and sunny in Myriad Phenomenon City.

The moment Di Yin opened his eyes, a shadow shrouded over the place and the temperature dipped!

Many cultivators in Myriad Phenomenon City could not help but shudder with pounding hearts as their hairs stood on end!

Di Yin's senses were way too sharp!

He could sense Su Zimo's hostility almost instantly!

Both their gazes met in midair.

"Ah, it's Su Zimo!"

"One of them is the current number one Golden Core and the other is the legendary strongest monster incarnate in history. The two of them are about to face one another!"

Many cultivators whispered.

Both of their auras climbed continuously – neither of them was willing to express weakness!

Suddenly, Su Zimo hollered with a thunderous force, "Di Yin, release him!"

Su Zimo made use of a vocal technique from the Buddhist monasteries and his voice had the effect of resonance and awakening anyone from a state of stupor – many cultivators felt their minds rattle!

A weak-willed person might have bowed down immediately.

The entire place went into chaos!

Nobody in Myriad Phenomenon City dared to speak to Di Yin in that manner.

Even Nascent Souls had to show respect to Di Yin!

That was because Di Yin could have advanced to the Nascent Soul realm a hundred years ago!

He suppressed his cultivation intentionally and waited till this day so that he could ascend the Myriad Phenomenon Peak once more and leave his name on the Ancient Phenomenon Stele!

Furthermore, he would definitely become a top-tier Nascent Soul the moment he advanced and could suppress almost all the Perfected Lords in the ancient battlefield!

Nobody expected a face-off the moment they met one another!

Furthermore, from Su Zimo's words, it seemed as though he meant something.

Chapter 723: You're Worthy?

Boom!

Su Zimo descended from the skies and left a streak of air in his wake. He landed violently on the streets like a meteor in front of the crowd from Chaos Essence Sect.

The stone slabs beneath his feet broke apart with a series of cracks that extended outwards!

Dust billowed!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Little Fatty, Shi Jian, monkey and the others descended one after another as well and the entire ground quaked.

No matter what, they would stand by Su Zimo's side unconditionally!

Ming Zhen jolted emotionally when he caught sight of Su Zimo.

Di Yin sat on the Tao Wu's back high and above, glaring down at Su Zimo who was not far away with his lips curled into a fake smile.

Nie Hao stood out and pointed to Su Zimo, shouting, "Who are you? How dare you speak to Senior Brother Di in that manner!"

"Humph!"

Little Fatty sneered repeatedly, not willing to be seen as the weaker party. "Who the hell are you? Why are you barking here?"

"You..."

Nie Hao was interrupted by Little Fatty before he could continue, "I wonder who it was that picked a fight with others only to receive an immense beating like a dog. My, even his grandmother would be ashamed!"

"Hahahaha!"

Monkey and the others burst into laughter.

Little Fatty was good at talking – there was no way Nie Hao could be his match.

He was naturally referring to how Nie Hao was taught a lesson by Lin Xuanji at the Astral Dragon Sputum Lair.

It was indeed Nie Hao's trigger point but he could not refute it at all.

Nie Hao's face flushed scarlet when the sensed the burning gazes in the surrounding. However, he could only clench his teeth spitefully and was unable to say another word!

"Di Yin, I'll say it one more time,"

Su Zimo raised his head slightly with a cold gaze before slowly saying, "Release him!"

Di Yin had a calm expression and was unmoved. However, the mockery in his eyes intensified.

"Su Zimo, don't be reckless!"

Perfected Lord Luo Xue's voice sounded within his mind.

"Fights between cultivators are forbidden in the city. Almost everyone has been alerted to this commotion. If you act recklessly in front of such a crowd, you will definitely be killed!"

Su Zimo knew it very well.

Perfected Lord Luo Xue did not say that to frighten him, it was the truth.

If he violated the rules of Myriad Phenomenon City, even she wouldn't be able to protect him!

However, he could not sit by idly seeing that Ming Zhen was in Di Yin's hands!

"Su Zimo, remember what I told you?"

Di Yin said slowly, "I've warned you not to come into the ancient battlefield or you'll definitely die here!"

The moment he said that, a stir broke out in the crowd.

"From the sound of that, it seems like they've known one another previously."

"Yes, it seems like they've got a grudge with one another long ago. This should be interesting"

Su Zimo said coldly, "I was the one that walloped your beast previously, it has nothing to do with others. You can come with me with all you've got, I'll take it all!"

"Fufu, interesting,"

Di Yin chuckled. "You've got to have bargaining chips if you want me to release him."

"What do you want?"

"Your right hand!"

Myriad Phenomenon City went silent instantly.

Su Zimo's right hand was the legendary divine phoenix bone!

It was an utmost treasure of the universe!

A legendary mythical object!

It was a treasure that connate spirit weapons or even connate Dharmic weapons could not match!

"Fufufufu!"

Suddenly, Su Zimo laughed and remarked nonchalantly, "Di Yin, you're afraid."

"Would I be afraid of you?" Di Yin seemed to have heard the greatest joke in the world.

Su Zimo shook his head. "You wish to leave your name on the Ancient Phenomenon Stele and fight to be the top of the Phenomenon Ranking, yet, you're afraid! You do not even have the courage to fight against me!"

"Humph!"

The Tao Wu glared at Su Zimo with endless hatred in its eyes.

Back at the bottom of the Dragon Burial Valley, it was nearly killed by a single palm strike from Su Zimo – that was the greatest humiliation in its lifetime!

For the past 10 years, with Di Yin's help, it obtained many opportunities and encounters as well. As such, its strength had climbed to a whole new level along with its confidence!

The Tao Wu stomped on the ground furiously and grit its teeth. "You've got to get through me if you wish to fight my master!"

"You think you're worthy of it?"

Su Zimo swept his gaze and hollered, "Scram!"

It was deafening like the explosion of a thunderbolt!

A gigantic air current surged out of Su Zimo's mouth and almost formed a cyclone.

Caught off guard, the Tao Wu shuddered and its ears rang continuously. It lost its footing from the coil of the cyclone and fell backwards uncontrollably.

Di Yin frowned and pushed his body down to stabilize the Tao Wu!

The Tao Wu shrugged its head and snapped out of its stupor. It steadied itself and the hatred in its eyes intensified!

The crowd fell into an uproar.

The Tao Wu was a primordial ferocious beast and was one of the most terrifying and fearsome types!

Although there were around a hundred thousand paragons in Myriad Phenomenon City, there were probably less than a hundred of them who could suppress the primordial ferocious beast.

Nobody expected the beast to almost topple over because of a single shout from Su Zimo!

The Tao Wu was enraged.

Although it was a demon beast, it felt ashamed that something as such happened right in front of everyone – it had nowhere to vent the frustration in its heart!

Tao Wus were easily enraged and were the most violent.

At that moment, blood was the only thing that could quench the rage in its heart!

The Tao Wu's eyes shifted towards the few demon beasts in human form behind Su Zimo and seemed to have thought of something.

"Ow! Ow!"

It cried a few times.

Di Yin understood and nodded, saying, "Su Zimo, I'll give you another chance. You can send a spirit beast to fight against my Tao Wu. IF you can win it, I'll release him!"

"If you lose, I'll spare your right hand for now, but you'll have to hand over your Purple Thunder Manual."

Su Zimo furrowed his brows slightly.

"He sure has everything planned out. There are many spirit beasts in the city, but which of them is a match for the Tao Wu?"

"Fufu, although that monkey from the previous time was strong, it is definitely not a match for the Tao Wu!"

"On the surface, he's giving Su Zimo a chance, but in reality, that is nothing but a dead end."

The cultivators in the vicinity discussed.

The spirit tiger, Qing Qing, the Golden Lion and Little Fox who were behind Su Zimo went silent.

The spirit tiger said softly, "If I have a little more time to cultivate, I might be able to try and take on that Tao Wu. But for now, I can't win it."

"I'll do it!"

Monkey stood out.

To be fair, he did not have much confidence against the enraged Tao Wu.

However, if he entered the berserk state and triggered the mysterious power in his bloodline, he might have a chance to fight this Tao Wu to the death!

Su Zimo was hesitant.

This might be his only chance to save Ming Zhen.

He could not afford to lose!

It did not matter if he lost the Purple Thunder Manual, but monkey's life could be at stake if he lost!

"Let me do it,"

Suddenly, a calm voice sounded behind Su Zimo.

Su Zimo's heart skipped a beat and he was instantly at ease the moment he heard that voice.

It was Night Spirit!

He had almost forgotten about him!

"Su Zimo, do you agree to it?"

Di Yin pressed.

"Alright!"

Su Zimo was no longer hesitant and agreed to it readily!

"Amazing!"

Di Yin smiled gently. "Since it's a fight between spirit beasts, we'll both not interfere and let them fight to their heart's content! They'll fight to the death!"

"Are you sure?"

Su Zimo raised his brow.

Di Yin declared proudly, "A gentleman will always honor his words!"

Chapter 724: Terrifying Night Spirit

"Go, fight to your heart's content,"

Su Zimo had nothing to instruct Night Spirit.

The commotion caused here was great enough.

Almost all the cultivators in Myriad Phenomenon City were alerted to it!

Although the Nascent Souls of the super sects did not show themselves, Su Zimo was certain that they were observing everything from behind the scenes.

Su Zimo was not worried that Di Yin would renege on his words in front of everybody.

Night Spirit walked forward slowly from behind Su Zimo.

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

Instantly, countless gazes locked onto Night Spirit.

Many cultivators had puzzled expressions on their faces.

"What is that demon beast?"

"It looks skinny and frail. The Tao Wu might not even be full eating it."

"Has Su Zimo already given up?"

Compared to the mighty and gigantic Tao Wu, Night Spirit looked as minuscule as an ant at the moment – it was as though he could be crushed with a single stomp from the Tao Wu's feet!

Furthermore, Night Spirit was unassuming and nobody even noticed him previously!

He was way too ordinary.

Even the demonic qi he emanated was a faint trace that seemed as though it could be blown away by a gust of wind.

Di Yin narrowed his gaze and stared at Night Spirit for a long time.

The black-robed man truly did seem ordinary.

However, for some reason, Di Yin felt his heart race inexplicably!

He glanced sideways and whispered, "Elder Hun Yi, can you tell what's the background of that beast?"

Perfected Lord Hun Yi shook his head. "I can't."

After a moment, he continued, "However, even if it's a pure-blooded ferocious beast, it won't be a match for the Tao Wu."

Di Yin nodded in agreement. "Yes... he has a trace of essence blood from the primordial Tao Wu within his body and his physique has strengthened to a frightening degree. He can stand a chance even against the Primordial Nine Races!"

"Be careful,"

Di Yin patted the Tao Wu beneath him and rose into the air.

"Don't worry, master!"

The Tao Wu said murderously, "I'll definitely bite off this little fella's head and savor it slowly!"

Swash!

The Tao Wu transformed and its gigantic body vanished instantly. It turned into its human form and stood in front of Night Spirit with mocking eyes.

"Little fella, you had better revert to your true form or you won't get a chance to do so anymore!"

The Tao Wu snickered. "As for me, I'll be able to rip you apart using this human body!"

Everyone knew that demon beasts could take on human form, but their full strength could only be released in their true forms!

The fact that the Tao Wu was in human form and yet requested Night Spirit to revert to his true form was an indication of how much it looked down on the latter.

However, everyone felt that it was only right.

Furthermore, everything felt that even if this ordinary black-robed man reverted to his true form, he would merely struggle a little longer before his eventual death!

Night Spirit was emotionless against the Tao Wu's ridicule and his eyes suddenly turned dark!

The temperature in the voids dipped instantly.

A shuddering killing intent surged!

Swash!

Night Spirit made his move.

In a flash, he vanished from the spot.

Su Zimo's eyes lit up.

Night Spirit had not changed after 20 years.

The murderous aura around him was completely cold and was released the moment he attacked, resembling an endless night that brought forth despair!

The Tao Wu transformed into its human form.

Night Spirit was not going to mock, ridicule or even bear any thoughts of an undeserved victory.

For him, this was merely an opportunity!

Night Spirit's mind was only filled with how he could kill his enemies swifter and more efficiently!

A black shadow darted by like a phantom!

By the time the Tao Wu reacted, Night Spirit was already beside it!

It was too fast!

The speed, precision of timing and angle caused Su Zimo to feel shocked.

Di Yin's expression changed starkly!

How sharp were his eyes?

The moment Night Spirit made a move, he had already realized that the Tao Wu was in deep trouble!

Night Spirit reached out with outstretched fingers and grabbed from the side of the Tao Wu's body!

"GRAWR!"

The Tao Wu was scared out of its wits and could not help but roar when it saw that it was too late to dodge. Its tendons and bones rang and its blood qi surged as its body expanded – it had reverted to its true form right away!

That was a wise decision.

If it tried to dodge and was a step slower, it would have been turned into a corpse!

Layers of thick fur lined the Tao Wu's body.

The fur was shiny and bright, resembling a metal gauze that was stacked layer upon layer such that even supreme-grade spirit weapons could not penetrate it!

There was even less chance of its flesh being injured.

"Pfft!"

A flash of blood appeared!

Night Spirit's scratch tore through the Tao Wu's defense and ripped of a piece of flesh from its massive body!

"Howl!"

The Tao Wu howled in pain and shuddered.

Thankfully, it reacted in time and its body expanded after it reverted to its true form while his flesh turned firmer. Because of that, Night Spirit's attack deviated slightly from its original position and the Tao Wu's tendons and bones were not injured.

If it was a bit slower, its abdomen would have been torn by Night Spirit's scratch!

A wave of shock and astonishment could be heard from the crowd.

That scene had truly exceeded their expectations.

Nobody expected the primordial ferocious beast, the Tao Wu, to be the one injured the moment they fought!

"Roar!"

The Tao Wu howled in rage and twisted its body, raising the four sharp horns on its head before thrusting towards Night Spirit violently!

Its bloodline churned and the four sharp horns turned incomparably grisly, resembling burning spears!

Blood qi gushed out stream after another.

Its blood qi was intensifying!

Many cultivators had grim expressions and were secretly shocked.

The power released by the Tao Wu could even destroy the Golden Core phenomenons of most of the cultivators present!

Night Spirit had a gold gaze and did not bother to take the four incoming horns head-on.

He shuddered and his body turned extremely light all of a sudden as he pushed against the sharp horns and arrived on the head of the Tao Wu!

"Hmm?"

The Tao Wu's expression changed.

Night Spirit did not give the Tao Wu a chance to react and punched it viciously on the head like a hammer!

Boom!

There was a deafening sound.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

The jarring sound of bones cracking echoed!

All the cultivators present felt their scalps prickle and hairs stand on end when they heard the sound.

It was too ruthless!

As a primordial ferocious beast, the Tao Wu's bones were probably tougher than perfect spirit weapons!

But now, they were shattered by Night Spirit's bare hands!

"Ah!"

It was no wonder why the Tao Wu was a primordial ferocious beast. Despite its severe injuries such that its brain juice was seeping out, its body was still producing a tremendous amount of lifeforce!

The Tao Wu's eyes were bloodshot and its blood qi surged into its mind. It reached out with its massive palm and grabbed for Night Spirit at the top of its head in a deranged manner.

A single punch, that was all.

Night Spirit's figure had already disappeared.

Like a phantom, a shadow slid down the gap between the Tao Wu's neck and arrived at the bottom before striking!

The process of leaping onto the Tao Wu's head for a punch before sliding down to its throat was fluid as water without any sluggishness.

It was clean and precise!

Night Spirit stretched his hand like a dagger and thrust it into the Tao Wu's throat!

When he pulled his palm out, it was stained with blood; it seemed like he had grabbed a twitching python that was filled with blood and billowing with steam.

The Tao Wu's throat was crushed and Night Spirit had even pulled its windpipe out!

It was way too savage!

Psst! Psst!

Gasps could be heard all around.

Chapter 725: No Other Choice Than to Kill You!

Boom!

The massive body of the Tao Wu could not hold on any longer and fell onto the ground heavily, causing dust to rise everywhere. Streams of grisly blood flowed from beneath its body!

It was over.

The head of the Tao Wu was smashed apart and brain juice seeped. Its life was completely severed with its windpipe pulled out – even a deity could not save it!

Night Spirit stood silently at the side with an extremely calm expression, his body drenched in fresh blood.

It was as though he had just killed an ant, not a primordial ferocious beast!

The entire process happened too quickly.

It was especially so for Night Spirit's final two killing moves. Even Perfected Lord Hun Yi could not react to it, let alone the Golden Cores who were watching.

What was even more shocking was that Night Spirit had not reverted to his true form the entire time.

This meant that Night Spirit was not using his full strength!

Even until now, nobody knew what Night Spirit's true form was or what race he was from.

Gazing at the lifeless Tao Wu, Di Yin was silent and his expression was frighteningly grim!

"Beast, how dare you!"

"Kill him!"

The cultivators of Chaos Essence Sect were enraged and yelled one after another; some of them even withdrew their flying swords from their storage bags.

Su Zimo shielded Night Spirit behind him and glared at Di Yin alone with a scorching gaze!

This gambit was suggested by Di Yin.

He had to acknowledge it in front of everyone!

Di Yin was the top of the previous Phenomenon Ranking and was lauded as the number one Golden Core. If he reneged on his words, his reputation would be tarnished.

This was the true meaning of swallowing one's indignance.

He could only endure as he watched his spirit beast die!

Di Yin raised his hand gently.

That single action caused the air in the void to turn stale and the pressure in everyone's hearts mounted.

The noisy cultivators of Chaos Essence Sect shut their mouths instantly.

Complete silence overwhelmed the long street!

Even though it was a setback, he was still the peerless number one Perfected Being that looked down on the entire world. A single action from him was enough to suppress everything!

"Release him!"

Di Yin said slowly without any emotions.

None of the Chaos Essence Sect cultivators behind him dared to disobey his words and untied the silver rope on Ming Zhen obediently before releasing the latter.

Ming Zhen staggered and Su Zimo rushed up to support him.

"Thank you, Zimo."

Now that Su Zimo had returned to the secular world, Ming Zhen could not call him junior brother any longer.

Furthermore, their relationship was considered as a secret and outsiders did not know about it.

Ming Zhen lowered his head.

The fact that Su Zimo was dragged into this affair caused the innocent young monk to feel a sense of guilt.

Su Zimo did not say much and merely patted Ming Zhen gently on the shoulder. He withdrew a few bottles of elixirs from his storage bag and passed them over. "Take these elixirs to stabilize your condition and deal with the injuries first."

Ming Zhen nodded and received them.

Di Yin stood in the air and looked down at Su Zimo and Night Spirit with a chilling gaze.

He did not hide his killing intent at all1

Everyone could sense that Di Yin was truly enraged at the moment!

"Su Zimo, this is considered your victory,"

After a suffocating silence, Di Yin finally spoke slowly, "However, I'll use your fresh blood as a tribute for my spirit beast!"

"You, you, you and you..."

Di Yin pointed to everyone beside Su Zimo and said word by word, "I'll have all of you guys buried together with it. None of you shall escape!"

All the cultivators around looked at Su Zimo's group with pity in their eyes.

Needless to say, it was a tragedy for them to be targeted by such a terrifying existence.

"Pui!"

Monkey spat in Di Yin's direction with disdain.

"Ha!"

Little Fatty was optimistic by nature and broke into laughter while pouting his lips. "Di Yin, you are strong and I'm not your match. However, Myriad Phenomenon City has its own rules. You can't possibly attack me here, right?"

"I'll stay in the city from now on! Let's see who's afraid of whom!"

Private duels were forbidden in Myriad Phenomenon City.

Even with his torrential hatred, it was inconvenient for Di Yin to attack.

Di Yin was expressionless as he replied indifferently, "It doesn't matter, mark my words today, you will eventually leave this city. No matter where you guys end up after today in any corner of the universe, I'll definitely hunt you down relentlessly!"

The void was filled with a murderous intent when he said that!

Even the cultivators watching in the vicinity shuddered in fright, let alone Little Fatty's group.

There would be no peace in the future after being targeted by someone this terrifying!

One could barely even take a peaceful nap.

Nobody had any doubts about Di Yin's capabilities.

Throughout history, he was the only monster incarnate that inherited the legacy phenomenon of the Human Emperor!

Once he exits the ancient battlefield and advanced to the Nascent Soul realm, a Golden Core of his level would definitely be undefeated in the Nascent Soul realm as well! At that time, nobody of the same level could stop him!

With that said, Di Yin turned and flew into the distance without looking at Su Zimo's group.

"In that case, I've got no other choice but to kill you!"

Suddenly, a calm voice sounded but it shook the entire world!

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

Countless gazes of disbelief turned towards Su Zimo!

Despite Di Yin's domineering words and threat, Su Zimo could refute with a statement against the former without losing out in aura!

Su Zimo did not conceal his killing intent as well and pointed at Di Yin directly!

"You? Kill me?"

Di Yin froze as though he had heard the greatest joke in the world. He laughed with a mocking gaze while shaking his head.

"That's right,"

Su Zimo said slowly with a firm voice, "I'm going to kill you. You don't have to search in every corner of the universe, I'll do it right here in Myriad Phenomenon City!"

Di Yin threatened Little Fatty and the others.

Since that was the case, Su Zimo was going to kill this threat preemptively!

Everyone was stunned.

Fighting was forbidden in Myriad Phenomenon City and there was no chance for the two of them to engage in a battle – how could Su Zimo kill Di Yin?

Di Yin pondered for a moment and understood what Su Zimo was implying.

"You want to kill me? Sure,"

He sneered, "I'll await you at the peak of Myriad Phenomenon Peak! We'll talk about it if you're worthy to come up!"

Everyone was enlightened.

That was the only chance for them to fight!

As long as they were on the same stone step, Enigma Palace will host a fight to determine the victor and the eventual ranking of the Phenomenon Ranking.

"Frog in the well, you don't even know who you're challenging!"

By the time that voice sounded, Di Yin's figure had already disappeared at the end of the long street.

"Although Su Zimo is the strongest monster incarnate in history, isn't he way too cocky? It's not so easy ascending the Myriad Phenomenon Peak."

"That's right, even Di Yin had to stop at the 100th step a hundred years ago. We don't even know if this guy is stronger than Di Yin but he went ahead and declared that he wanted to kill the latter. That just shows his ignorance!"

"The stronger the paragons, the smaller the difference in their strengths. It's already difficult enough for them to win one another, let alone kill one another."

"He did not even manage to kill Xu Cheng of Zephyr Thunder Palace, so how is he going to kill Di Yin? What a joke!"

The surrounding cultivators dispersed and discussions could be heard faintly.

Su Zimo merely smiled nonchalantly when he heard their remarks.

No matter what, he resolved something on his mind by saving Ming Zhen today.

As for his feud with Di Yin, the outcome will naturally be revealed at the fight for the Phenomenon Ranking two months later!

Chapter 726: Start of the Phenomenon Ranking

Su Zimo's group returned to the palace of Snowdrift Valley.

Along the way, he had a vague understanding of what Ming Zhen experienced for the past few days.

As Su Zimo had expected, although they were separated, Ming Zhen's cultivation base was firm and his strength was immense. He had also made up for his lack of battle experience in the past few years.

Although he met with many ferocious beasts and ancient living beings along the way, he got out unharmed.

Ming Zhen wore simple monk robes and merely muttered a Buddhist proclamation softly each time he came across a crowd before keeping his distance – he was truly someone with no desires and at peace.

Naturally, most cultivators would not attack him for no reason as well.

During this period of time, he caught sight of cultivators taking advantage of a female cultivator and truly could not let it pass by. Because of that, he took the initiative to attack and injured someone from the fiend sects.

Su Zimo understood from Ming Zhen's description.

The fiend sect cultivator was not a nobody. If he was not wrong, that should be Shangguan Yu, the fiend heir of one of the seven fiend sects, Cloud Rain Sect!

He could be considered as an acquaintance as well.

Back beneath the Human Emperor's Palace, Shangguan Yu was nearly killed by Su Zimo and escaped with severe injuries.

To think that he would have entered the intermediate ancient battlefield 20 years later as well.

Cloud Rain Sect placed emphasis on the Dao of origin and was free from the bindings of men and women. There were no restrictions on their bodies and souls as they engaged in sexual intercourse, fusing Yin and Yang.

Unfortunately, Shangguan Yu came across Ming Zhen.

Ming Zhen had a pure heart and spent his days reciting sutras and studying Buddhism and Zen. His mind was clear and his heart was flawless.

Even if Demoness Ji and Little Fox made a move at the same time, it would be difficult to stir Ming Zhen's heart, let alone Cloud Rain Sect.

Not long after, Ming Zhen met Di Yin.

The two of them had a conflict at the bottom of the Dragon Burial Valley previously. Naturally, there was no way Di Yin would let him off.

Ming Zhen was still too inexperienced against Di Yin.

He was captured alive before he could even release his Golden Core phenomenon!

"The fight for the Golden Core Phenomenon Ranking starts two months later. Rest well and recover from your injuries first."

Su Zimo exited after settling Ming Zhen down. He gazed at a tightly shut cultivation room in the distance with a worried expression and sighed.

Xiaoning had cooped herself in the room for the past few days and had lost weight, but she refused to come out.

Su Zimo did not know how he should console her either.

The deeper one's attachments were, the harder it was to sever them.

The more pain one would feel after they were severed!

Nobody else could help Xiaoning – she was on her own.

Furthermore, Su Zimo was enduring immense pressure at the moment as well!

It was not merely because of Di Yin.

There were many hostile super sects and factions in Myriad Phenomenon City!

Zephyr Thunder Palace was bent on getting their hands on the Purple Thunder Manual and would definitely not let him off.

And now, apart from Zephyr Thunder Palace, Clear Wind Temple and Purple Firmament Sect that stood out and tested him together upon his entry into the city, nothing else had happened.

Su Zimo believed that the super sects would not let things go so easily!

Nascent Souls could attack freely in Myriad Phenomenon City.

Indirectly, that gave rise to many more variables.

That was not all.

Su Zimo had something else on his mind.

Nian Qi's whereabouts.

At the same time, Nian Qi's background involved an even more frightening faction, the god race!

Even Perfected Lord Luo Xue's expression changed starkly at the mention of the god race.

What was the reason for the god race's appearance in the ancient battlefield?

There was also Night Spirit.

Night Spirit had not shown his true form at all.

Even when he fought against the Tao Wu, he merely fought in his human form.

On the one hand, it could be interpreted such that Night Spirit could kill the Tao Wu without reverting to his true form.

On the other hand, it could also mean that Night Spirit had reservations about it!

There were many signs that caused Su Zimo to lean towards the latter.

However, what was Night Spirit concerned about?

Would he get into huge trouble if he reverted to his true form?

The culmination of many things weighed down on Su Zimo's heart.

•••

Myriad Phenomenon City entered a state of peace after Night Spirit killed the Tao Wu.

However, as time passed by, the atmosphere within the city turned increasingly repressed and tense, even suffocating – it was like the calm before the storm!

A storm was brewing!

Another 15 days passed.

Finally, a piece of news that broke the peace of Myriad Phenomenon City arrived!

The fight for the Golden Core Phenomenon Ranking was going to start in three days time!

Compared to the original timeline, it was brought forward by an entire month!

Although many cultivators discussed it, nobody knew the reason.

Three days later, morning.

At daybreak, figures sped towards the Myriad Phenomenon Peak one after another in the city.

A grand occasion like this only happened one every hundred years – nobody would miss it even if they were not taking part!

Su Zimo and the others gathered in the palace of Snowdrift Valley, prepared to leave.

The doors of a cultivation room opened with a creak.

Everyone turned towards the sound.

Unexpectedly, Xiaoning had come forth as well!

This was the first time that she had left the cultivation room during this period of time!

Her face looked paler and her cheeks and body became skinnier as well.

Yet, it seemed as though she had let go of something today and her eyes were livelier and brighter.

"Xiaoning?"

Su Zimo asked tenderly, as though he was afraid of alarming her.

Xiaoning smiled gently. "Brother, I'm fine."

Su Zimo was relieved when he saw Xiaoning's smile as he heaved a deep breath.

"Sister Xiaoning, it's great that you're alright. All of us have been worried about you during this period of time and we hoped that you would recover as soon as possible," Little Fox walked forward and wrapped around Xiaoning's arm gently.

Little Fatty, Leng Rou, Ji Chengtian and the others were relieved and had encouraging looks in their eyes.

Xiaoning's eyes were slightly red as she bowed deeply to everyone. "I've caused all of you to worry during this period of time."

"Everything will be fine now that you've overcome this,"

Ji Chengtian said warmly, "Those in the past have already left, but you have to cherish those around you so that you won't have any further regrets."

In all fairness...

The sibling relationship between Su Zimo and Xiaoning was something that everyone envied.

By this point of their cultivations, their kin had passed away a long time ago and they were almost severed from mortal ties.

The relationship between the siblings was something extremely rare in the cruel world of cultivators.

"Let's go, we'll ascend the path of the past today and check out the talents of the world!"

Su Zimo was in high spirits seeing that Xiaoning was fine. He waved and led everyone out of Snowdrift Valley towards the Myriad Phenomenon Peak.

The Myriad Phenomenon Peak was 108,000 foot tall and its peak extended into the clouds; it was difficult to see the top with one's eyes.

The mountain gave off a majestic aura that was ancient. For countless years, it witnessed the rise and fall of many paragons and the making of history.

Any cultivator would seem incomparably significant compared to the mountain!

A massive, dense crowd of cultivators gathered in midair and sped towards Myriad Phenomenon Peak.

The fight for the Phenomenon Ranking this time round was unusually intense.

Of the nine immortal sects, apart from Glass Palace that was destroyed by Su Zimo, paragons from the other eight were present!

They were either classy, graceful, cold or casual in their bearings.

Of the seven fiend sects, apart from the fiend heir of Seven Kills Sect that was killed by Su Zimo, paragons of the other six were present!

They were either menacing, murderous, bewitching or nefarious in their bearings.

Of the six Buddhist monasteries, apart from the paragon of Dapamkara Monastery, paragons of the other five were present!

They were either dignified, noble, pure or filled with the glow of Buddha in their bearings.

Chapter 727: Sixteen Perfected Lords

Before long, a dense crowd of cultivators was gathered at the Myriad Phenomenon Peak!

It was a black, massive crowd that contained at least a hundred thousand people!

Among them, Su Zimo caught sight of a few familiar faces.

The first one he noticed was Di Yin of Chaos Essence Sect!

No matter where he was, that man was bedazzling and brilliant.

The two of their gazes met in midair and sparks flew!

Di Yin smirked coldly before turning over.

Apart from Di Yin, Xu Cheng of Zephyr Thunder Palace was present as well.

Xu Cheng had a grim expression and glared at Su Zimo coldly, harrumphing to himself.

Wu Feng of Purple Firmament Sect and Duan Qingping of Clear Wind Temple were present too.

After 20 years, the aura of Hang Qiuyu from Sword Sect turned even sharper and his eyes shone with a blinding sword light!

Hang Qiuyu held immense hatred towards Su Zimo as well!

"Eh?"

Sensing something, Su Zimo turned and caught sight of another person.

The person had black hair and wore black robes. His face was pale, stoned and expressionless as he walked silently through the crowd with a sheathed long sword in his hands.

He was not fast.

It was more like a stroll as he walked step by step.

He had no followers, no sect mates and merely walked forward alone with his sword.

The reason why this man's presence could be felt from the crowd was because the edge he gave off was comparable to Hang Qiuyu's!

If Hang Qiuyu was someone whose edge and sharpness was completely exposed, this man was completely reserved!

Dugu Jian!

He was someone from one of the four great gentry clans of the North Region.

During the fight for the Vermilion Fruit in the Great Qian Ruins, despite being a stranger, this man helped Su Zimo and crippled the successor of Heavenly Piercing Sword Sect.

Dugu Jian paused in his tracks and looked over, as though he could sense Su Zimo's gaze.

Su Zimo smiled gently and gestured with a nod of his head.

Although Dugu Jian was expressionless, his eyes seemed to stir for a brief moment before he retracted his gaze and continued towards the Myriad Phenomenon Peak.

From the fiend sects, apart from the notorious Ren Tu of Asura Sect, Pang Yue of Overlord Palace was also rather prominent.

Pang Yue was a head taller than other cultivators and carried a gigantic black spear on his shoulder. He strode like a brute and was absolutely menacing with a fierce gaze!

Before long, Pang Yue caught sight of Su Zimo as well.

Surprisingly, he was not hostile towards Su Zimo and even grinned while cupping his fists from a distance.

Su Zimo returned the greeting with cupped fists as well.

Apart from the paragons, the most striking thing around the Myriad Phenomenon Peak was 16 white clouds that hovered in midair.

Above each cloud was a cultivator in a lotus position that gave off a shuddering aura!

There were 16 Nascent Souls!

Through their attires and the sect badges on their waists, the backgrounds of the 16 Nascent Souls could be seen easily.

Among them, from the nine immortal sects, apart from Glass Palace, Nascent Souls from the remaining sects – Heavenly Dipper Sect, Snowdrift Valley, Purple Firmament Sect, Chaos Essence Sect, Clear Wind Temple, Zephyr Thunder Palace, Sword Sect and Soaring Feather Sect – were here to watch the battle!

Those eight white clouds were relatively closer to one another.

Perfected Lord Luo Xue was among them.

As for the seven fiend sects, only two Nascent Souls from Asura Sect and Overlord Palace were present!

From the six Buddhist monasteries, apart from Dapamkara Monastery, Nascent Souls from the other five – Dapamkara Monastery, Hollow Monastery, Formless Monastery, Wisdom Monastery and Clear Heart Nunnery – were present!

There were a total of 15 Nascent Souls from the immortal, Buddhist and fiend sects.

On the 16th cloud, a gray-robed cultivator with fluttering robes sat. He held a feather fan and looked out of this world.

Su Zimo's gaze shifted towards Lin Xuanji who was nearby.

"That's Perfected Lord Yu Jun of Enigma Palace. His cultivation is unfathomable and he's also the host for the Golden Core Phenomenon Ranking this time round."

Suddenly, a tender voice sounded.

A fragrance wafted over and a beautiful young girl appeared beside Su Zimo. Dressed in pink, her eyes were brightly clear and she looked naive and innocent, as though she was younger than Little Fox.

Little Fatty and the others were shocked and retreated immediately. They did not dare to look over and their eyes were filled with cautiousness.

Although the girl looked harmless, she was the Pure Maiden of the fiend sects who could bewitch the masses!

Even women could fall into her trap if they were careless, let alone men.

Su Zimo glanced sideways and smiled. "You're here too."

"Of course, how can I be missing from a crowd as such?" Demoness Ji snickered.

Even without Ji Yaoxue, the relationship between them would not be superficial as well.

Back when the paragons of the immortal, Buddhist and fiend sects grouped up against Su Zimo beneath the Human Emperor's Palace, this young girl was the only one who stood by his side without any hesitation!

Su Zimo did not care about what she meant by referring to him as her tripod.

Even if he had to be her tripod, he was willing to since she chose to stand by him given those circumstances.

He did not have many friends.

No matter what, she was one of them.

"The impact of the battle beneath the Human Emperor's Palace 20 years ago was too great,"

Demoness Ji raised her chin sorrowfully, "Although previous fights for the Phenomenon Rankings were intense as well, there weren't so many famous Nascent Souls present to watch and control the situation!"

"Everything is because of you,"

"Huh?"

Su Zimo was surprised.

Initially, he thought that it was a common sight for Nascent Souls to arrive at Myriad Phenomenon City.

Demoness Ji looked at the 16 clouds in midair and said, "The Nascent Souls sitting there are not weak Sealers in their twilight years."

Su Zimo could tell that as well.

The Nascent Souls on the clouds were all filled with vitality and life – it was clear that they were in their prime.

Demoness Ji continued, "Not only that, apart from Perfected Lord Yu Jun of Enigma Palace, the remaining 15 Nascent Souls are powerful experts that are famous in parts of Tianhuang Mainland!"

"Perfected Lord Luo Xue of Snowdrift Valley, Perfected Lord Hun Yi of Chaos Essence Sect, Perfected Lord Bei Dou of Heavenly Dipper Sect... none of them are nobodies."

Su Zimo was even more puzzled as he asked, "What has their appearance here got to do with me?"

"It's because of that battle beneath the Human Emperor's Palace 20 years ago!"

Demoness Ji replied, "Don't think that it was nothing much because it was a fight between Foundation Establishment Cultivators. It caused quite a huge stir among the super sects."

"Paragons groomed by the super sects were killed and injured after that battle. I presume that the presence of these top-tier Nascent Souls is to prevent something similar from happening."

Su Zimo furrowed his brows slightly.

He had a vague feeling that things weren't as simple as that!

His spirit perception was exceptionally sharp.

On the surface, it looked like those Nascent Souls were high and above, sitting on their clouds while engaging in idle, casual conversations.

None of their gazes were locked on him.

However, he had been here for less than 15 minutes but he already sensed more than 20 spirit consciousnesses sweeping past him!

Demoness Ji said, "If this was in the past, given the way the fiend sects conducted themselves, they wouldn't have bothered sending Nascent Souls into the ancient battlefield. But now, even Asura Sect and Overlord Palace sent people here."

Sensing the worries in Su Zimo's heart, Demoness Ji chuckled. "You don't have to worry, none of them will dare to behave recklessly with Enigma Palace in charge."

"Everyone, please be silent!"

Suddenly, a voice sounded in midair. Although it was neither loud nor soft, it was transmitted to every single corner of Myriad Phenomenon City!

Chapter 728: You Are What You Think

The voice of Perfected Lord Yu Jun sounded. It seemed to possess an inexplicable pressure as the hundred thousand odd cultivators gathered around the Myriad Phenomenon Peak quietened down before long!

"The rules of Phenomenon Ranking fight are divided into two parts, the elimination battle and the eventual ranking battle. I won't elaborate on the details,"

Cultivators that could arrive in Myriad Phenomenon City were mostly paragons of the various major sects and factions.

Even if there were itinerant cultivators, they would have asked about the generic rules earlier on.

Perfected Lord Yu Jun said deeply, "I'll only emphasize on one thing. When Fairy Ling Long established the Phenomenon Ranking in the past, her intentions were not for humans to fight and kill one another! All of you must remember that!"

Indeed, the format of ascending the Myriad Phenomenon Peak would avoid a lot of needless bloodshed and injuries.

That was the cleverness of Fairy Ling Long.

In the chaotic ancient era, the death of a single paragon was an immense loss for the human race!

When Perfected Lord Yu Jun said that, he swept his gaze across Su Zimo and Di Yin – his intentions were clear.

Di Yin smirked coldly and snorted.

In his heart, Su Zimo was not worthy to be named together with him by Perfected Lord Yu Jun!

"Fufu."

On another cloud, Perfected Lord Hun Yi of Chaos Essence Sect chuckled softly. "As you've mentioned, Fellow Daoist Yu Jun, Fairy Ling Long established the Phenomenon Ranking for us humans. However..."

He paused briefly and changed the topic with a hint of killing intent, "There seems to be a demon mixed in with our human cultivators below!"

There were many demon beasts below but most of them were spirit beast mounts for the paragons and would not take part in the Phenomenon Ranking.

It was obvious who Perfected Lord Hun Yi was referring to as the demon.

He did not beat around the bush at all and all the cultivators below heard everything loud and clear.

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

Countless gazes turned around and instantly, many gazes were locked on Su Zimo!

The pressure on him intensified!

Perfected Lord Tian Ming of Zephyr Thunder Palace said coolly, "Fellow Daoist Yu Jun, when did a beast gain the rights to take part in the Phenomenon Ranking?"

"Amitabha,"

Monk Wei Fu of Diamond Monastery chanted a Buddhist proclamation and said softly, "If that is true, we must not let the demon take part in the fight for the Phenomenon Ranking!"

Monk Jue Chen of Diamond Monastery was defeated by Su Zimo 20 years ago, sowing a feud between them.

The Purple Thunder Manual was in Su Zimo's hands and Xu Cheng of Zephyr Thunder Palace was even nearly killed – there was no way Zephyr Thunder Palace would let Su Zimo off!

Now that the immortal sects, Chaos Essence Sect and Zephyr Thunder Palace, were not bothered to hide their intentions, Diamond Monastery seized the opportunity to join in!

Su Zimo furrowed his brows slightly.

He was clearer than anyone about his body.

He was a human.

However, because he cultivated the Mystic Classic of the Twelve Demon Kings of the Great Wilderness, there was an Inner Core in his chest.

There was no way he could explain that.

Previously, before Die Yue left, she did not wish for Su Zimo to continue cultivating the Mystic Classic of the Twelve Demon Kings of the Great Wilderness. It was probably because she had anticipated something as such happening to him in the future.

Perfected Lord Luo Xue frowned.

She wanted to help Su Zimo, but if he had no way of explaining or proving this, there was nothing she could do about it!

Little Fatty and the others were anxious internally.

However, they did not even have the rights to speak regarding this matter.

The situation would only get worse if they tried to explain it!

"Actually, it's really simple,"

Perfected Lord Bei Dou of Heavenly Dipper Sect smiled gently and said with an indifferent expression. "Since a demon has infiltrated the cultivators, all we have to do it kill it and everything will be settled."

Although he said everything with a relaxed tone, it was shuddering!

Little Fatty and the others felt their hearts skip a beat.

At that moment, they finally realized that the super sects and major factions in Myriad Phenomenon City did not merely want to strip away Su Zimo's rights to partake in the Phenomenon Ranking.

All of them wanted his life!

"The heavens cherish life, you are too deep in your desires to kill, fellow Daoists."

Monk Yuan Kong of Hollow Monastery sighed gently. "Buddhists are compassionate by nature. I've got a suggestion to make."

Finally, a Nascent Soul was willing to speak up for Su Zimo.

Little Fatty and the others were invigorated!

Su Zimo was expressionless.

He could not sense any benevolence in the eyes of the monk.

Monk Yuan Kong continued, "All lives are equal. Even if Patron Su is a demon, there's no need to take his life. Furthermore, he might have merely veered onto the wrong path. As long as he repents and lay down the butcher's knife, there's a chance he can return to the path of righteousness."

Perfected Lord Tian Ming of Zephyr Thunder Palace asked with a fake smile, "Reverend, how should he repent and lay down the butcher's knife?"

"All Patron Su has to do is remove the Inner Core from his body, that will do," Monk Yuan Kong said with a smile.

Little Fatty and the others were shocked when they heard that!

Devious!

Although Monk Yuan Kong seemed like he was speaking up for Su Zimo, he was even more venomous and savage!

Removal of the Inner Core will definitely lead to severe injuries!

Notwithstanding his inability to fight for the Phenomenon Ranking thereafter, how long could Su Zimo live for given that he was surrounded by enemies and cultivators that coveted his possessions?

"Hehe."

Perfected Lord Chu Yu of Overlord Palace sneered and mocked, "What a sanctimonious expression."

Su Zimo's gaze was ice cold and he said nothing.

The killing intent in his heart was already suppressed to its limits!

It was impossible if they wanted to dig out his Inner Core!

Little Fatty and the others were infuriated and cursed internally, but none of them dared to say anything.

No matter what, they were against Nascent Souls!

In Myriad Phenomenon City, Nascent Souls had absolute killing power!

"Reverend, you are wrong,"

Suddenly, a voice sounded from within the crowd.

It caused an uproar, like a rock that caused a tsunami!

Everyone below were Golden Cores.

Which Golden Core would dare to refute a Nascent Soul's words so tactlessly?!

Everyone turned towards the sound.

A young monk walked forward from behind Su Zimo.

It was Ming Zhen!

Little Fatty and the others watched with widened eyes as their jaws almost fell to the ground.

Even though they were displeased, they merely cursed in their hearts.

However, Ming Zhen actually stood out and refuted Monk Yuan Kong in front of everyone!

In reality, Little Fatty and the others did not know Ming Zhen well enough.

Ming Zhen spent his days at the bottom of the Dragon Burial Valley away from the secular world and had a pure heart.

To him, what was right was right and what was wrong was wrong.

It did not matter what was the other person's identity, sect or faction.

Be it Nascent Souls, Void Reversions or even Mahayana Patriarchs, Ming Zhen would point out their errors!

"Reverend, if you want to remove Zimo's Inner Core, it is no longer pity, but cruelty."

Ming Zhen said deeply, "Lay down the butcher's knife and you shall become Buddha instantly. The intention of that saying is for people to lay down the knife in their hands and in their hearts as well."

"However, reverend, your suggestion is not for the other party to lay down the butcher's knife, but to sever the arm which he wields the knife with!"

"When you made that suggestion, the butcher's knife in your heart has already appeared in your hands!"

"Perhaps you might not have been able to see it, but your appearance earlier on was frightening and menacing like a malevolent ghost! In Buddhism, we believe that you are what you think. Reverend, you've become a fiend!"

'Bravo!'

Su Zimo lamented internally, secretly in awe.

Every single word was perfect and pinpointed the flaws!

Those words were like sharp swords that stabbed the Dao Heart of Monk Yuan Kong!

Even the dozens of Nascent Souls present were secretly amazed and looked fixedly at Ming Zhen at the bottom with bright eyes, let alone Su Zimo!

Chapter 729: Dapamkara Monastery, Monk Yin Lu!

The Golden Cores present were shocked at Ming Zhen's boldness in standing forth to refute Nascent Souls.

Rather than refute, he was lecturing!

He was lecturing a Nascent Soul as a Golden Core!

However, the shock from Perfected Lord Yu Jun and the others was because Ming Zhen's words contained supreme wisdom!

A few accomplished monks of the Buddhist monasteries were stunned.

Monk Yuan Kong's expression turned extremely grim.

His cultivation and combat strength was far superior to Ming Zhen.

However, an argument of words was a comparison of their understanding of the obscurities in Buddhism, a comparison between their wisdom and their enlightenment towards Buddhism and Zen!

In that respect, Monk Yuan Kong had lost.

He could not refute or argue against Ming Zhen's point at all.

That was because in the depths of his heart, he was clear that he had truly harbored evil intentions and wanted to kill!

Now that Ming Xin exposed him, even his Dao Heart was shaken within a few sentences!

"Inexperienced young monk, even if you began cultivating in your mother's womb, how many sutras have you read? How many Zen mantras have you comprehended?! Do you know what compassion and cruelty are? Do you know what is good and evil?!"

Monk Yuan Kong's expression darkened as he shouted!

In fact, Monk Yuan Kong used the power of Sanskrit from the Buddhist monasteries in that shout!

Although it did not have the same might as the Daming True Sutra, he was a Nascent Soul after all and there was even a fluctuation of Dharmic power in the void that was shuddering!

All the cultivators could sense that Monk Yuan Kong was truly angered!

Caught off guard, Ming Zhen shuddered from the impact of the Sanskrit and his face turned pale.

However, there was no fear in his bright eyes as he said word by word, "There is no distinction between experience in learning. Those that arrive at the truth are the masters!"

His counter was truly impressive.

Although it was merely two sentences, they poked at Monk Yuan Kong's weakness once more!

If Little Fatty was the one who said it, that sentence would become, "Although you are old, Monk Yuan Kong, you've wasted your time living like a dog! Even I can be your master!"

The hearts of everyone in Su Zimo's group sank.

Monk Yuan Kong was lectured by a Golden Core in front of everyone to a point where he was helpless to refute – he was completely disgraced.

Right now, he was on the verge of going berserk.

Ming Zhen was bound to be killed with his rebuttal!

"You have a death wish!"

Indeed, Monk Yuan Kong's eyes widened menacingly.

Boom!

Enraged, he extended his massive palm with outstretched fingers.

Dharmic powers surged in midair and a massive hand that blanketed the skies was formed. It crushed down towards Ming Zhen on the ground and the void quaked with a shuddering might!

That was an attack of a Nascent Soul.

The Golden Cores on the ground sensed a gigantic shadow shrouding over and instantly, there was a suffocating, immense pressure!

If that was the case for the Golden Cores outside the area of effect, it was hard to imagine the type of pressure Ming Zhen was experiencing targeted by Monk Yuan Kong.

Ming Zhen grunted dully and blood oozed from the corner of his lips.

Apart from Monk Yuan Kong, there were four other Perfected Lords from the Buddhist monasteries in the air.

However, the four of them were either expressionless, lowering their heads or ignoring everything.

Although they knew that Monk Yuan Kong was bullying the other party out of his embarrassment, the other four Perfected Lords of the Buddhist monasteries had no intention of helping out.

It was truly not a wise choice to offend Monk Yuan Kong for the sake of an unknown monk.

They considered their own interests rather than what was right.

That was also the most precious thing about Ming Zhen!

This was an affair of the Buddhist monasteries. However, if even those of the Buddhist monasteries were sitting by idly, there was even less reason for the immortal and fiend sects to interfere.

Furthermore, Ming Zhen was on Su Zimo's side. The Nascent Souls from the immortal sects were gloating over his misfortune internally.

A green figure flashed past and shielded Ming Zhen, blocking half of the incoming pressure!

Su Zimo raised his head slightly and his gaze was dazzling. Killing intent spewed wildly and his black hair danced as the blood qi in his body surged. His Golden Core spun wildly – he was fully prepared for a fight!

There was no way he would sit by idly and watch Ming Zhen be suppressed nor would he be captured without putting up a fight!

Golden Core Phenomenon Ranking, Ancient Phenomenon Stele, amazing rewards? He no longer wanted them nor could he be bothered as well!

Since they were so overbearing, he would kill them with his might first!

Perfected Lord Yu Jun frowned slightly. Just as he was about to raise his hand and stop things, he sensed something.

His gaze landed not far away in the crowd and shone for a moment before he put down his hand once more.

"Amitabha!"

A flare popped up in midair accompanied by a Buddhist proclamation and stopped the gigantic hand of Dharmic power from Monk Yuan Kong.

Whoosh!

Although the flare seemed so feeble that it could be extinguished by a casual gust of wind, it blazed instantly when it made contact with Monk Yuan Kong's Dharmic power palm!

Crackle!

The flare spread and burned with Dharmic power, surging into the skies!

Monk Yuan Kong's expression changed starkly and he retracted his palm.

Even so, he was a half-step slower and a spark landed on his sleeves, burning it into ashes instantly!

The flames did not extinguish and continued blazing towards his arm!

Monk Yuan Kong's eyes shone with a cold glint and he bit the tip of his tongue, spitting out a stream of essence blood.

"Extinguish!"

He hollered and the stream of essence blood exploded in midair, forming a grisly blood mist that poured down on his arm!

Shing!

The flames on his arm were extinguished with green smoke.

Monk Yuan Kong let out a long breath of air.

If he had reacted slower, his arm might have been gone!

That split moment caused him to break out in cold sweat!

Su Zimo suppressed the killing intent in his heart momentarily when he noticed what happened.

It seemed like there was a chance for the situation to reverse from an irreconcilable state.

The Nascent Souls in midair frowned when they looked at the flare hovering in midair. Clearly, they knew the background of the flare and gazed around.

Monk Yuan Kong came to his senses gradually and scanned the place, barking with a grim expression, "Monk Yin Lu, get out!"

A young monk soared into the air from the dense crowd on the ground.

"Dapamkara Monastery!"

Little Fatty and the others pondered for a moment and recognized the sect badge on the waist of the middle-aged monk.

Prior to this, only five of the six Buddhist monasteries had arrived.

Dapamkara Monastery was missing.

In the ancient battlefield 20 years ago, there was no successor of Dapamkara Monastery as well.
Su Zimo's impression of the monastery was that it was extremely mysterious.

Ji Chengtian whispered, "Monk Yin Lu of Dapamkara Monastery is rather famous in Tianhuang Mainland and his strength is unfathomable. He is one of the top Nascent Souls and people refer to him as the monk that leads the way with a bright flame!"

Su Zimo nodded.

The move Monk Yin Lu revealed earlier on was spectacular enough.

Even Monk Yuan Kong suffered a slight loss from it!

Monk Yin Lu came close to the flare and extended his finger to tap on it gently.

As though it entered Monk Yin Lu's finger, that frightening flare vanished instantly!

"Monk Yin Lu, what's the meaning of this?!"

Monk Yuan Kong remarked coldly, "Are you going to go against me because of this young monk?!"

Monk Yin Lu smiled gently. "Fellow Daoist Yuan Kong, this young friend was not wrong. Indeed, your appearance earlier on was detestable and menacing."

"My flame was not meant to burn you, but the fiend in your heart!"

Chapter 730: Joining Dapamkara

Monk Yuan Kong looked terrible.

On the clouds, Monk Wei Fu of Diamond Monastery asked indifferently, "Monk Yin Lu, there has never been a disciple of Dapamkara Monastery that inherited its legacy and took part in the Phenomenon Ranking in all these years. You guys are nothing but an embarrassment, so what are you doing all the way here at Myriad Phenomenon City?"

"I'm here to select a disciple," Monk Yin Lu smiled gently.

In Myriad Phenomenon City, any itinerant cultivator with a stellar performance would naturally be invited by the various super sects to join them.

However, it was difficult for the Buddhist monasteries to accept disciples and their requirements were extremely stringent.

There were extremely few people who cultivated Buddhism in Tianhuang Mainland to begin with.

Even less Buddhist cultivators could pass through the various obstacles and make their way here – almost all of them came from the six Buddhist monasteries or the 108 upper sects.

"Hehe!"

Monk Yuan Kong sneered, "Dapamkara Monastery is here to choose a disciple? How laughable? Who is going to join you guys?"

Su Zimo was puzzled.

No matter what, Dapamkara Monastery was one of the six Buddhist monasteries. As a super sect, they could also be considered as a place of pilgrimage for all Buddhist cultivators in the world – why would nobody be willing to join them?

Demoness Ji explained, "The cultivation techniques and secret skills of Dapamkara Monastery are famous for being difficult to comprehend. Many wise Buddhist cultivators that joined Dapamkara Monastery end their lives without much of an accomplishment."

"Dapamkara Monastery has few disciples and is extremely isolated. Many monks spend their days sitting before the ancient Buddha accompanied by a green lantern all alone. That is something that most ordinary people cannot withstand."

Suddenly, Su Zimo realized.

It was no wonder why there were no legacy disciples of Dapamkara Monastery in the intermediate ancient battlefield as well as the elementary ancient battlefield 20 years ago.

That was most likely the most important reason!

"Of course."

Demoness Ji continued, "While the cultivation techniques of Dapamkara Monastery are obscure and cultivating them is almost impossible, if one manages to obtain the legacy, they become extremely powerful. It's no exaggeration to say that they will be supreme across the Buddhist monasteries!"

Monk Yin Lu was not troubled by Monk Yuan Kong's ridicules and merely snapped his finger with a chuckle. "I've already selected a candidate. Young friend, if you don't mind, you can join Dapamkara Monastery for your cultivation."

Monk Yin Lu was pointing towards Ming Zhen!

Monk Yuan Kong sneered mockingly, "This young monk has a glib tongue and is only good at talking. How strong can he be? Can he even obtain a spot on the Phenomenon Ranking?"

"His capabilities and strength are not important,"

Monk Yin Lu shook his head. "He has wisdom and a deep understanding and comprehension towards the teachings of Buddhism, that alone is enough. Furthermore, it's not a bad thing to have a glib tongue."

"Legend has it that Buddha was able to spit out lotuses while speaking. In fact, flowers will rain from the skies and the floor will be filled with golden lotuses with countless Buddhas appearing through the air!"

"How can this dirty-mouthed kid be compared to Buddha, how laughable! In the long run, Dapamkara Monastery's legacy is going to be lost!" Monk Wei Fu shook his head.

The other cultivators looked on with mocking expressions as well.

In their opinions, although Ming Zhen was good with his words and had a deep comprehension towards the teachings of Buddhism, what use was that?

It wasn't as though he could subdue his opponents just by relying on his mouth.

At the end of the day, overwhelming capabilities were required to subdue evil and fiends!

Di Yin was the only one in the endless crowd that frowned.

While the others did not know of Ming Zhen's background, he knew!

"Young friend, are you willing?"

Monk Yin Lu was not bothered by the gazes of outsiders and merely looked at Ming Zhen, asking with a smile.

Ming Zhen was a little lost and looked at Su Zimo beside him instinctively.

Su Zimo mulled for a moment before nodding.

Although the cultivation environment of Dapamkara Monastery was somewhat boring, it was nothing to Ming Zhen.

If Ming Zhen could adapt to life at the bottom of the Dragon Burial Valley, he would naturally feel at home in the cultivation environment of Dapamkara Monastery.

For Ming Zhen, the difficulty of the obscure cultivation techniques of Dapamkara Monastery might not be much of a problem.

Up till this point of his cultivation, all he studied were the ancient books and true sutras of Daming and Fahua Monasteries!

His foundation was something that no other Buddhist cultivator could compare against!

Furthermore, Ming Zhen was guided by the mysterious old monk at the bottom of the Dragon Burial Valley.

Of course, most importantly, it was the attitude of Monk Yin Lu towards Ming Zhen!

In that situation earlier when Monk Yuan Kong was clearly bullying a junior, the other four Buddhist monasteries chose to ignore everything. However, Monk Yin Lu of Dapamkara Monastery chose to make a move!

Ming Zhen took a deep breath, nodded and bowed to Monk Yin Lu. "I am Ming Zhen and I'm humbled by your graciousness, senior. I am willing to join Dapamkara Monastery."

"Well, well, well!"

Monk Yin Lu repeated three times in satisfaction.

Perfected Lord Yu Jun raised his head slightly as well. "Congratulations, fellow Daoist. Please take your seat."

He raised his hand gently and a wisp of mist flew out from his robes, pausing in front of Monk Yin Lu before forming a white, flawless cloud.

Monk Yuan Kong ridiculed, "Let's see what name this young monk, Ming Zhen, can make of himself in Tianhuang Mainland in the future!"

Piak! Piak!

Suddenly, Perfected Lord Hun Yi clapped and said slowly, "Everyone, the Phenomenon Ranking is about to begin. Let's settle this demon before us first!"

"That's right!"

Perfected Lord Tian Ming of Zephyr Thunder Palace said coldly as well, "We'll kill this lad first and talk about anything else later!"

"That's right,"

The Perfected Lords of Heavenly Dipper Sect, Clear Wind Temple, Hollow Monastery, Purple Firmament Sect and many other immortal and Buddhist sects nodded in agreement as they discussed.

The two Perfected Lords of the fiend sects remained silent.

Although both of them were not on the side of the immortal and Buddhist Perfected Lords' behaviors, they would not go against everyone for the sake of Su Zimo.

Monk Yin Lu frowned slightly.

There was nothing he could do about this as well.

After all, even he was unsure whether Su Zimo was a human or demon.

Su Zimo might have a shot at survival if he could prove himself to be human.

If not, he might not be able to get out of this predicament!

Su Zimo had a cold gaze and his palm moved slowly towards his storage bag.

Don't be reckless!

Suddenly, a voice sounded in Su Zimo's mind.

Lin Xuanji had arrived beside him unknowingly.

"It's not at that stage yet. This is the Myriad Phenomenon City and the Phenomenon Ranking is hosted by Enigma Palace. The decision is not up to outsiders!" Lin Xuanji shook his head gently and stopped Su Zimo with his gaze.

Right then, Perfected Lord Yu Jun surveyed his surroundings and said slowly, "If you're going to kill every single demon, are you going to the large number of spirit demons below?"

Perfected Lord Luo Xue let out a deep breath.

Perfected Lord Yu Jun of Enigma Palace was probably the only one who could salvage the current situation!

Perfected Lord Hun Yi and the others frowned.

Things would certainly be troublesome if Enigma Palace chose to stand by Su Zimo.

On the one hand, it was because of Enigma Palace's special status.

On the other hand, it was Perfected Lord Yu Jun himself.

Although cultivators of Enigma Palace rarely took part in the strifes of the cultivation world, nobody dared look down on them!

"How is that comparable?"

Monk Yuan Kong said deeply, "The demons below are all spirit beasts reared by our disciples and will not partake in the fight for the Phenomenon Ranking personally."

"That's right! Although this lad is a demon, he wishes to partake in the fight for the Phenomenon Ranking. This means that he's coveting the treasures of humans so that's reason enough for us to kill him!" Perfected Lord Tian Ming of Zephyr Thunder Palace said murderously.

Perfected Lord Hun Yi shouted with a bright gaze, "Perfected Lord Yu Jun, are you trying to stand on the side of a demon in broad daylight and pit yourself against humans? Are you going to betray our race and be a sinner of Enigma Palace?!"

Chapter 731: Famous Overnight

It was a merciless accusation of betraying humans!

Monk Yin Lu sighed gently.

That was what he was worried about.

If he had stood out earlier on, he would have received the same accusation.

Neither he nor Dapamkara Monastery could afford an accusation as such.

However, Perfected Lord Yu Jun was expressionless and composed against the pressure and questioning of the other Perfected Lords.

Enigma Palace had a special status and possessed the confidence of not being affiliated with the immortal, Buddhist and fiend sects!

"How do you know he's a demon?" Perfected Lord Yu Jun asked in reverse.

"He has an Inner Core and demonic qi will spread the moment he channels it. What else is he if not a demon?" Perfected Lord Tian Ming remarked coldly.

"Huh?"

Perfected Lord Yu Jun asked again, "He has a Golden Core that spreads spirit energy the moment he channels it and he has a double phenomenon as well. Does that not make him a cultivator?"

"You!"

Perfected Lord Tian Ming was momentarily speechless.

Monk Wei Fu pondered for a moment. "If we're uncertain, let's cancel his rights to partake in the fight for the Phenomenon Ranking first."

"Yes, that works too,"

Perfected Lord Bei Dou nodded.

At that point, Su Zimo sneered internally.

Those people wanted to strip him of his rights to partake in the Phenomenon Ranking as a second best option after realizing that Perfected Lord Yu Jun would not yield.

Perfected Lord Yu Jun said indifferently, "There's no need for that. Since nobody is sure whether this lad is a human or demon, we'll let the Myriad Phenomenon Peak tell us the answer!"

"What do you mean?" Perfected Lord Hun Yi frowned.

Perfected Lord Yu Jun pointed to the Myriad Phenomenon Peak. "This mountain possesses Dharmic power imbued by Fairy Ling Long that lasts forever! If someone of another race tries to ascend the Myriad Phenomenon Peak and challenge Fairy Ling Long's authority, they will definitely be killed mercilessly!"

"If he's a human, he will naturally have the rights to ascend the Myriad Phenomenon Peak. If he's a demon, he has no one to blame if he's killed by the Dharmic power left behind by Fairy Ling Long!"

Although his words were harsh, Su Zimo could tell that Perfected Lord Yu Jun was helping him.

What he implied was that if the other Perfected Lords had any more qualms, they would not be challenging Perfected Lord Yu Jun or Enigma Palace, but Fairy Ling Long herself!

True enough.

Perfected Lord Hun Yi snorted.

The expressions of Perfected Lord Tian Ming and the others turned grim as they exchanged glances and no longer spoke.

The short conflict between the Nascent Souls was tense and many Golden Cores below watched nervously while breaking out in cold sweat.

Unexpectedly, the predicament posed by the combined forces of many immortal and Buddhist sects almost came to fruition and Su Zimo was almost killed, but everything was resolved by a few comments from Perfected Lord Yu Jun.

Su Zimo felt relieved and the killing intent in his eyes dissipated as well.

"You've got to watch out if you want to ascend the Myriad Phenomenon Peak. No matter what, you must not make use of the power of your Inner Core and release any demonic qi. A single wisp will cause you to be killed by the Myriad Phenomenon Peak!"

Suddenly, that sentence sounded in Su Zimo's mind.

It was Perfected Lord Yu Jun using his spirit consciousness to remind Su Zimo out of goodwill and outsiders could not hear it at all.

Su Zimo glanced at Perfected Lord Yu Jun with a grateful expression.

If Perfected Lord Yu Jun had not stood out earlier on, he might have already attacked!

"Thank you,"

He glanced at Lin Xuanji beside him and expressed his thanks softly.

Perfected Lord Yu Jun was a stranger to him and his only connection to Enigma Palace was Lin Xuanji.

Su Zimo knew that Lin Xuanji was definitely the reason why Perfected Lord Yu Jun helped him.

Unexpectedly, Lin Xuanji shook his head. "It's not only because of me. Don't forget, you were acknowledged by the Human Emperor's Palace. Enigma Palace will definitely help you with that fact alone."

Suddenly, Su Zimo was enlightened.

The Human Emperor was the Dao companion of Fairy Ling Long.

The acknowledgment of the Human Emperor's Palace was equivalent to the acknowledgment of Enigma Palace.

Karma was truly something that worked in mysterious ways.

"Let the elimination battle of the Golden Core Phenomenon Ranking officially begin!"

Suddenly, Perfected Lord Yu Jun's voice sounded once more and reverberated through every single corner of Myriad Phenomenon City!

Boom!

The crowd broke into an uproar!

The cultivators partaking in the Phenomenon Ranking were naturally immensely excited; even the cultivators who were merely watching were in high spirits and emotional.

The Phenomenon Ranking this time round was going to be unusually intense.

Today, thousands of Golden Core phenomenons were going to be clashing intensely.

Many lost ancient phenomenons would reappear and light up the voids, clashing against one another with an endless brilliance!

How spectacular would that be?

It was a grand occasion for cultivators that was once in a lifetime!

Today, the most frightening and talented people in Tianhuang Mainland with the greatest potential would be selected.

These were the people who had a high chance of attaining the title of Dao Lords and Mighty Figures in the future!

Some of them might even be referred to as emperors in the future.

"Hehehe!"

Ren Tu of Asura Sect let out a creepy laughter and said coolly, "Let's see how strong are the other paragons!"

Clang! Clang!

A series of sword buzzes echoed from around Hang Qiuyu jarringly.

"I love grand occasions as such. Let's fight!" Pang Yue of Overlord Palace smacked his lips with a blazing fighting spirit.

"Amitabha, here I come!"

Monk Jue Chen of Diamond Monastery exclaimed a Buddhist proclamation and sped towards the Myriad Phenomenon Peak in a flash.

Monk Jian Kong, Dugu Jian, Xu Cheng, Duan Qingping, Wu Feng and everyone else moved one after another as well.

Di Yin glared at Su Zimo and smirked coldly before disappearing in a flash.

Ji Chengtian said, "Let's go too."

"Alright!"

Su Zimo nodded.

In their group, Lin Xuanji was a cultivator of Enigma Palace and would naturally not partake in the fight for the Phenomenon Ranking.

Although Shi Jian was a legacy disciple of Puppet Sect, his capabilities relied entirely on his puppets and he had no Golden Core phenomenon of his own. As such, he was not going to take part as well.

Xiaoning and Leng Rou were legacy disciples of Elixir Yang Sect and Thousand Crane Sect. While both of them cultivated Golden Core phenomenons, they knew that they had no shot at the Phenomenon Ranking and chose to merely watch by the sidelines.

Ming Zhen, Ji Chengtian and Little Fatty were the only ones remaining who chose to take part in the Phenomenon Ranking!

"Eh?"

In midair, Monk Yuan Kong was slightly surprised when he noticed that and chuckled. "Monk Yin Lu, that amazing disciple you've just taken in is going to attempt and ascend the Myriad Phenomenon Peak. Interesting."

Monk Wei Fu remarked indifferently, "He must have cultivated a nonsensical Golden Core phenomenon and thought that he's able to fight for the Phenomenon Ranking. In reality, he's just there to make a fool of himself."

"I estimate that he will probably not go further than the 2nd stone step!" Monk Yuan Kong said.

The Nascent Souls chuckled and were waiting to watch the show.

Monk Yin Lu was not bothered nor troubled by their mocking.

He merely gazed at Monk Yin Lu with a faint smile and instructed, "There's no need for any pressure, just try your best. It's fine even if you fail, a single ranking list won't determine your future!"

"Yes,"

Ming Zhen nodded.

Su Zimo shook his head gently with a faint smile.

He was clearer than everyone else about Ming Zhen's strength.

Monk Yuan Kong said that he wanted to see if Ming Zhen could make a name for himself in Tianhuang Mainland in the future.

There was no need for the future. It was going to happen here and now.

Ming Zhen, that unassuming young monk, was going to shock the world and become famous overnight!

Chapter 732: Four Distinct Groups

Pshew! Pshew! Pshew!

Figures flew towards the Myriad Phenomenon Peak one after another.

There were at least a hundred thousand paragons who partook in the Phenomenon Ranking this time round and they were clumped together in a spectacular sight!

However, many people were sent flying by the power of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak the moment they stepped foot on the 1st stone step!

It was even more spectacular watching the pathetic figures fly off one after another.

Exclamations could be heard everywhere.

The crowd was in an uproar.

Above the clouds, the Nascent Souls shook their heads and chuckled.

During each fight for the Phenomenon Ranking, there would always be cultivators that refused to heed warnings and attempt to ascend the Myriad Phenomenon Peak, only to meet with the same outcome.

Ancient emperors have left their marks and auras on the Myriad Phenomenon Peak – it was not so easy to ascend it!

In less than 15 minutes, more than half of the hundred thousand paragons were eliminated!

That was the elimination battle.

It was most efficient in eliminating weak cultivators.

As for the cultivators that ascended the Myriad Phenomenon Peak, the situation was different for each of them as well.

Some of them were drenched in sweat, clearly under immense pressure.

Some of them swayed as though they could be sent flying at any moment!

Some of them could not withstand it and released their Golden Core phenomenons right away!

Instantly, the power of phenomenons surged one after another on the Myriad Phenomenon Peak – the spirit energy in the surroundings was already boiling!

Some of them were resplendent, some was bedazzling, some moved the flora while some possessed the endless oceans and bright moon...

Countless Golden Core phenomenons appeared at the same time in a breathtaking manner!

Of course, everyone was clear that the cultivators who summoned their Golden Core phenomenons were the weak ones who could not endure the power of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak.

The top paragons of the Golden Core realm would not even need to use their Golden Core phenomenons to reach the lowest stone step on the Myriad Phenomenon Peak.

They could ascend just by relying on their bodies, bloodline and spirit energies!

"Eh?"

A soft exclamation could be heard above the clouds.

Monk Yuan Kong was initially waiting to see Ming Zhen make a fool of himself. Unexpectedly, Ming Zhen made it to the 2nd stone step with ease and he was not slowing down at all!

That alone was proof that Ming Zhen was much stronger than more than half of the cultivators present.

"I'm sorry to have disappointed you,"

Monk Yin Lu smiled gently.

Initially, he thought that Ming Zhen would stop at the 1st stone step as well.

To think that Ming Zhen would provide him a pleasant surprise.

Monk Yuan Kong harrumphed coldly. "That's nothing much. There's more than ten thousand cultivators remaining on the Monk Yuan Kong. We'll see if he can make it to the top 108!"

The Myriad Phenomenon Peak was 108,000 feet tall and had a total of 108 stone steps.

The gap between each stone step was a thousand feet!

It was extremely difficult to get from one stone step to the other.

The closer one was to the peak, the greater the pressure on them!

In less than an hour, there were only slightly more than ten thousand cultivators remaining on the Myriad Phenomenon Peak.

Of the ten thousand cultivators, the gap between them increased as well and they were divided into distinct groups.

Unsurprisingly, the leader was the number one Perfected Being, Di Yin!

The way Di Yin ascended the Myriad Phenomenon Peak brought forth exclamations.

He did not have to step on the stone steps of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak to push himself up. Instead, he soared into the air and sped upwards at an extremely fast speed, leaving all the other cultivators behind!

It seemed as though the power resisting from the peak had no impact on Di Yin at all.

Apart from Di Yin, the actual first group comprised of eight people – Ren Tu of Asura Sect, Xu Cheng of Zephyr Thunder Palace, Monk Jian Kong of Hollow Monastery, Dugu Jian, Hang Qiuyu of Sword Sect, Pang Yue of Overlord Palace, Monk Jue Chen of Diamond Monastery and Ming Zhen!

Many cultivators were shocked at that outcome!

Everyone expected Ren Tu, Xu Cheng, Monk Jian Kong, Hang Qiuyu, Pang Yue and Monk Jue Chen to be in the first team since they were all top-tier peerless paragons.

What nobody expected was for two unknown cultivators to make their way into the group and followed closely without any signs of falling off!

One of them was Dugu Jian from a cultivation gentry clan of the North Region.

Sword cultivators were a special type of cultivator and were known for their frightening killing strength.

Sword Sect was considered as a place of pilgrimage for all sword cultivators.

The fact that a sword cultivator from out of nowhere was able to keep pace with a legacy disciple of Sword Sect was cause for commotion.

On the Myriad Phenomenon Peak, Hang Qiuyu had an extremely sharp gaze and he glanced at Dugu Jian from time to time.

However, Dugu Jian was oblivious to it, merely advancing in silence while looking down at the long sword in his hands.

Ming Zhen was the other one that everyone was surprised to see!

Nobody expected him to be able to keep pace with two of the strongest paragons of the Buddhist monasteries!

Furthermore, Ming Zhen looked energetic and showed no signs of exhaustion!

Monk Yuan Kong looked terrible.

More than obtaining a spot on the Phenomenon Ranking...

This person had a high chance of making it into the top ten!

"Congratulations for taking in a talent, Dapamkara Monastery."

Perfected Lord Luo Xue smiled gently and congratulated with cupped fists.

Monk Yin Lu smiled. Even with his composure, he could barely contain the joy in his eyes.

"Dapamkara Monastery sure has good fortune, coming all the way to Myriad Phenomenon City to gain a freebie," The Perfected Lord of Clear Heart Nunnery said with a salty tone.

By then, the disciple of Clear Heart Nunnery had already fallen off to the third group – she was naturally disgruntled.

Monk Wei Fu raised his brow gently. "It does not matter even if he makes it to the first group for the time being. Later on, he'll have to rely on his Golden Core phenomenon to continue forward against the pressure no matter what!"

"That's right,"

Monk Yuan Kong added, "Without a strong Golden Core phenomenon to support him, everything that happens now is merely fleeting."

Monk Yin Lu did not refute.

However, he deeply anticipated deep in his heart what Ming Zhen's Golden Core phenomenon would look like.

There were clearly more cultivators in the second group.

Demoness Ji of Pure Maiden Sect, Little Fatty of Tomb Sect, Duan Qingping of Clear Wind Temple, Wu Feng of Purple Firmament Sect, Ling Han of Snowdrift Valley, Nie Hao of Chaos Essence Sect and Qin Li of Illusion Fiend Cult – there were around thirty people.

There were even more people in the third group, more than a hundred!

Cultivators of the first two groups had yet to release their Golden Core phenomenons.

However, cultivators in the third group were already getting slower in their ascension speed and showed signs of exhaustion.

Some cultivators could not endure it and already released their Golden Core phenomenons!

Ji Chengtian was in the third group.

The cultivators at the back were considered to be in the fourth group and there were hundreds of them. However, they were scattered and cultivators were repelled away from the Myriad Phenomenon Peak from time to time.

These people were at the bottom of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak and almost had no chance of obtaining a spot on the Phenomenon Ranking.

The cultivators who could leave their names on the Phenomenon Ranking were almost determined by now.

It was between the cultivators in the first three groups!

The eventual ranking would be decided after the ascension of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak was over to see which cultivators managed to ascend the most steps.

The closer they were at the peak, the further front their ranking on the Phenomenon Ranking would be!

"Eh, where is Su Zimo?"

"He has a double phenomenon and even defeated Xu Cheng of Zephyr Thunder Palace. He should be in the first group, but why don't I see him?"

A series of discussions broke out from the crowd.

"Look, he's there!"

All the cultivators looked around and before long, they found out that Su Zimo was in the fourth group. He looked unassuming, mixed in with the crowd.

"How could this be?"

"Could he really be suppressed because of his Inner Core?"

"Fufu, he asked for this. It's his own fault."

Among the crowd, some people sneered while others were worried.

Lin Xuanji squinted his eyes for a moment before exclaiming softly as he noticed something odd.

Chapter 733: Perfected

Indeed, Su Zimo was in the fourth group.

However, unlike other cultivators in the fourth group, Su Zimo's aura was stable and he looked calm, as though he was not under any pressure.

The reason why Su Zimo was relegated to the fourth group was because each time he climbed a stone step, he would linger for a long time in deep thoughts.

He would only move onto the next stone step after a while.

"What is he doing?"

Lin Xuanji rubbed his chin, puzzled.

He was not the only one, even the Nascent Souls on the clouds could not read Su Zimo's movements.

Nobody knew that while Su Zimo was contending against the pressure of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak, he was comprehending it as well!

The Myriad Phenomenon Peak had existed for countless years.

Almost all the powerful Golden Core phenomenons in history had left their marks and auras here.

That included phenomenons from the immortal, Buddhist and fiend sects!

Su Zimo was not at the impossible level such that he could comprehend the essence of those phenomenons just relying on that.

However, by experiencing the marks and auras left behind by the Golden Core phenomenons, he deepened his understanding on the Daos of the immortal, Buddhist and fiend sects!

A Golden Core phenomenon was the epitome of all spirit arts.

It contained a cultivator's understanding from the Qi Condensation to Golden Core realm. A phenomenon was only born by combining them and evolving from that point!

By comprehending those Golden Core phenomenons, Su Zimo's Golden Core also grew fuller and the three different auras of the immortal, Buddhist and fiend sects that shrouded his Golden Core grew brighter!

The Golden Core swiveled slowly, fusing fire and water, Yin and Yang, and turned flawless and pure. It was as though it was harmonizing with Heaven and Earth and the sun and moon through all eternity!

That was a true Golden Core.

That was the true perfected state!

It was an irreplaceable and precious experience.

Since Su Zimo wanted to establish a Dao, this was an opportunity he could not miss!

How difficult was it to establish a Dao?

Up till this point, Su Zimo had no clue on how he should start.

Perhaps the only way for him to identify an alternate path of cultivation available for mortals was by comprehending the obscurities of the immortal, Buddhist and fiend sects while experiencing the mysteriousness of the demon Dao!

Each time he ascended a stone step, the aura of a different Golden Core phenomenon would surge towards him.

Su Zimo closed his eyes and experienced everything carefully.

The other cultivators ascended the Myriad Phenomenon Peak for the sake of fame.

However, at that moment, Su Zimo was already beyond the point of fame when he stood on the Myriad Phenomenon Peak.

In his eyes, there was only all the living beings in the world!

In his chest, there was only the boundless Heaven and Earth!

In his heart, there was a greater ambition!

Most of the cultivators in the fourth group could only give up one after another when they saw that it was hopeless.

Su Zimo was the only one that continued in silence.

The cultivators in the third group could not endure it any longer and released their Golden Core phenomenons one after another!

Gradually, an outcome was determined among the hundred odd people of the third group.

Ji Chengtian released the legacy phenomenon of Ethereal Peak and stopped at the 25th stone step. He was drenched in sweat and completely exhausted – that was his limit!

Some of the cultivators stopped at the 20th stone step while there were some at the 26th, 27th...

There were almost one or two people on every stone step up above.

Thankfully, there was no one else at the stone step Ji Chengtian was on. That way, he could avoid a grueling fight after the elimination battle.

"Can you make it up another step?"

Suddenly, a voice sounded beside Ji Chengtian's ears.

He turned over and saw Su Zimo land on the 25th stone step with a single leap, standing beside him.

"I can't make it anymore, I'm at my limits."

Ji Chengtian wiped away the sweat on his forehead and panted slightly while smiling. "Junior Brother Su, don't worry about me. Continue advancing!"

"Yes,"

Su Zimo nodded.

Given Ji Chengtian's spot, he should be ranked around 100 on the Phenomenon Ranking if nothing went wrong.

Although it did not seem high, for Ji Chengtian, or rather for Ethereal Peak's legacy phenomenon, Ethereal Sword, it was already the best result!

There were only 108 spots on the Phenomenon Ranking.

Any cultivator that could obtain a spot was already a true paragon of the era!

At that moment, Di Yin was already at the 99th stone step!

This was where he stopped a hundred years ago.

Now that he had returned, his aura was forceful. He did not stop on the 99th stone step and soared through the air before landing on the 100th stone step!

Di Yin had cast everyone far behind!

Although the eight people in the first group were still traveling side by side, none of them summoned their Golden Core phenomenons yet.

However, the difference between them could gradually be seen as well as they rose higher.

Overlord Palace and Diamond Monastery were super sects well known for body tempering.

Pang Yue and Monk Jue Chen had robust bloodlines and their breathings were steady. Although they did not summon their Golden Core phenomenon, they looked comparatively relaxed.

The difference in physique was clear between them and Ren Tu of Asura Sect, Monk Jian Kong of Hollow Monastery, Xu Cheng of Zephyr Thunder Palace and the others.

Some of them had hurried breathings.

Some of them had sweat on their foreheads.

Once again, everyone was surprised that Ming Zhen was not inferior to Pang Yue and Monk Jue Chen in terms of physique!

Ming Zhen's expression was smooth as jade and he did not sweat at all. His breathing was still steady – it was clear that he was not at his limits!

"What's the background of that young monk? What cultivation technique did he cultivate?"

Monk Wei Fu frowned slightly.

"He must have had some encounters and opportunities,"

Perfected Lord Bei Dou said deeply, "It's still too early to come to a conclusion. Eventually, the rankings between the few of them are determined by their Golden Core phenomenons and how much power they can release!"

Even so, all the Nascent Souls present were clear that even if Ming Zhen's Golden Core phenomenon was weak, he would make it to the top 20 at least!

That was already relatively frightening.

Even legacy disciples of the various super sects might not be able to make it to the top 20!

For example, the legacy disciple of Clear Heart Nunnery and Shangguan Yu of Cloud Rain Sect were already relegated to the third group.

In the second group, some cultivators could not withstand it any longer and released their Golden Core phenomenons as well.

Little Fatty was still holding on.

If he had not undergone the baptism with the wisp of Yellow Springs fog within the Astral Dragon Sputum Lair, he would have been left behind a long time ago!

"Rise!"

The paragon of Soaring Feather Sect shouted softly.

The sound of water rushing rapidly and tides surging could be heard behind him, causing ripples to splash.

A blood-red sun was setting slowly on that long river!

The evening sun dyed the skies red in a tragically beautiful scene. Even the river surface was stained red and transformed into a blood river with a torrential blood stench!

"Look, that's the legacy phenomenon of Soaring Feather Sect!"

"The ancient phenomenon, Long River Sunset!"

A series of exclamations came from the crowd.

With the boost of his Golden Core phenomenon, the paragon of Soaring Feather Sect was invigorated. He looked much more relaxed as his speed increased and he sprinted up the peak!

"Galaxy Vortex!"

The paragon of Heavenly Dipper Sect could not withstand it any longer and released his Golden Core phenomenon as well.

Night descended instantly.

The skies above his head were lined with stars that sparkled in a bedazzling manner.

All of a sudden!

It was as though there was a magnetic force.

The stars that filled the skies began swiveling into a gigantic vortex. Countless stars collided and sparks flew everywhere, releasing a shuddering energy fluctuation!

The center of the vortex seemed as though it could destroy everything!

The paragon of Heavenly Dipper Sect howled deeply and his speed exploded!

The other paragons of the second group released their Golden Core phenomenons one after another.

Instantly, many ancient phenomenons flashed through the voids in a shocking manner!

Chapter 734: Nature Reversion

All the cultivators in the vicinity of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak felt their blood pump at the sight of that!

This was the only opportunity to witness the clash between many ancient phenomenons!

Although there were millions of cultivators in the cultivation world, only the hundred thousand of them that were in Myriad Phenomenon City would get the opportunity to witness this.

"Look, that's my Formless Monastery's legacy ancient phenomenon, the Bodhi Tree Shadow! Senior Brother Yong Ren will definitely be able to make it to the first group under that Bodhi tree!"

"Senior Sister Ling released her Golden Core phenomenon as well!"

The temperature around Ling Han of Snowdrift Valley dipped and sparkling, crystallized snowflakes fell one after another from the skies.

Although the snowflakes looked weak, each of them possessed frightening killing power!

The ancient phenomenon, Omnidirectional Snowstorm!

The pressure on the cultivators of the second group was reduced immensely after they released their Golden Core phenomenons and their speeds gradually increased.

However, things were clearer for the 17 Nascent Souls on the clouds. Although the paragons of the second group released many ancient phenomenons, it was still relatively difficult for them to catch up to the eight people of the first group!

It was true that those paragons were able to leap through several stone steps easily with the use of their Golden Core phenomenons.

However, the pressure would only increase as they got closer to the peak!

Before long, the paragons of the second group would slow down again.

Furthermore, the eight people of the first group had yet to release their Golden Core phenomenons!

The moment the eight of them released their Golden Core phenomenons, the gap between them and the cultivators of the second group would open up once more!

"Rise!"

Wu Feng of Purple Firmament Sect shouted and channeled his Golden Core to its limits. A scarlet glow enveloped his face and it gradually turned purple.

In the blink of an eye, his face was covered by a purple glow!

All of a sudden!

A purple qi floated over from the east and enveloped Wu Feng's body.

Behind him was a faint figure of an elderly figure with gray beard and hair riding on a bull. Although his appearance was blurry, he released a boundless might!

The ancient phenomenon, Eastern Purple Qi!

Purple qi was the qi of a venerable and was incomparably noble!

Wu Feng's aura exploded along with his speed as he dashed towards the first group.

"Humph!"

A cold glint flashed through the eyes of the paragon of Malevolent Earth Sect as he shouted, unwilling to be left behind.

A boundless malevolent qi spread around him and rumbled. In the blink of an eye, it transformed into a gigantic scythe!

The scythe was black as ink and resembled a fearsome weapon from deep in the Nine Hells that could reap all life!

The ancient phenomenon, Malevolent Earth Scythe!

Whoosh!

The paragon of Malevolent Earth Sect pointed forward.

The gigantic Malevolent Earth Scythe cut a pitch-black arc in midair, as though it could cleave the void into two!

The paragon of Malevolent Earth Sect sprinted along the arc that was ripped.

"Amitabha,"

The paragon of Wisdom Monastery chanted a Buddhist proclamation and his eyes shone with the light of wisdom. He conjured a unique Dharmic seal with his hands and the power of phenomenon around him surged.

Gradually, mysterious halos of light began appearing behind him, emanating a flawless saint glow!

The glow shone down on the world as though it could purify all living beings!

The ancient phenomenon, Boundless Buddha Light!

Paragons that could reach this level were all prideful.

All of them wanted to advance further and were not willing to fall behind others!

However, the eight in the first group were still far ahead in the lead.

Gradually, as time passed by and everyone got closer to the peak, the speed of Little Fatty, Demoness Ji, Ling Han, Wu Feng and the others in the second group decreased as they showed signs of exhaustion.

Before long, almost all the cultivators in the second group were at their limits.

They scattered and stood on different stone steps, unable to advance further.

"Hurry, look! There are two paragons on the same step!"

"That's right. By the looks of it, there will be a grueling battle after the elimination battle!"

There were two people on the 78th stone step.

One of them was Demoness Ji and the other was Duan Qingping of Clear Wind Temple.

Both of them panted and were exhausted.

Duan Qingping's gaze roamed around Demoness Ji's body wantonly and he gave an evil smile. "Fiend maiden, you sure are unlucky to bump into me."

"Is that so?"

Demoness Ji snickered. "If that's the case, please be gentler later on, fellow Daoist."

"Don't worry!"

Duan Qingping replied lustfully, "I'll definitely be gentle with you."

Although Duan Qingping sounded flirtatious and he had an intoxicated expression as though he was charmed, the depths of his eyes shone with a cold glint!

There were two other people in the second group that stood on the same stone step.

One of them was Little Fatty and the other was Qin Li of Illusion Fiend Cult!

The both of them exchanged glances.

Qin Li laughed sinisterly. He used his hand to slice across his own throat with a gesture and did not conceal the killing intent in his eyes at all!

Little Fatty pouted and reared his head to look upwards.

In reality, he had strength remaining but he was not confident of ascending another stone step.

Furthermore, the paragon of Wisdom Monastery stood on the next stone step!

If he failed to ascend further and ended up severely injured by the power of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak, it would be extremely embarrassing.

Little Fatty pondered for a moment but chose not to advance.

"That's interesting, we'll be able to see two fights between paragons at the very least!"

"That's right, things will be much bloodier in a battle between the paragons."

"I heard that in paragons in previous ranking battles bled and it wasn't rare for them to die on the spot as well!"

"That's only natural. All of these paragons are prideful and none of them would bow down to the other. It's only normal for them to fight to the death especially if their sects had feuds to begin with."

The cultivators watching discussed heatedly with excited faces.

Naturally, all of them wanted to witness more ranking battles.

"The positions of the paragons in the second group are almost fixed and there won't be much changes to the rankings anymore."

"Yes, the outcome has basically been decided."

"Eh?"

Suddenly, someone exclaimed and pointed to the Myriad Phenomenon Peak in shock. "Hurry, look! There's someone there!"

"That's... Su Zimo!"

Everyone was drawn in to the eight people in the first group and the countless ancient phenomenons in the second group – they had almost forgotten about Su Zimo who was taking his time down below!

"Something isn't right. He seems to be faster than before!"

"Indeed, he has gotten much faster!"

"How could this be?"

Normally, the pressure experienced by a cultivator increased the closer they were to the peak. As such, they would naturally slow down as well.

However, none of the cultivators present could figure out why Su Zimo's speed increased instead, as though he could not feel the pressure from the mountain!

What those cultivators did not know was that Su Zimo was already at perfected Golden Core realm.

He was at a new level of understanding towards his core.

He had already comprehended most of the marks and auras left behind by the ancient phenomenons on Myriad Phenomenon Peak and there were not many remaining.

Furthermore, his speed of comprehension increased as he advanced as well!

Within a short period of time, he could experience the obscurities and mysteriousness of the immortal, Buddhist and fiend Daos behind their phenomenons.

The aura around Su Zimo became increasingly pure.

It was as though he had reverted to the state of resonating with nature!

"Hmm?"

The 17 Nascent Souls on the clouds felt their hearts skip a beat when they sensed the change in Su Zimo. All of their eyes shone brightly with looks of disbelief!

Chapter 735: World Cleansing Green Lotus

What was the point of cultivating?

It was to remove the facade of things and revert to the origin of nature!

That was also the reason why cultivators of the Golden Core realm were referred to as Perfected Beings[1].

However, throughout history, there have been too few cultivators who were able to understand that level of wisdom!

It was a process of comprehension to obtain the truth and break free from the restraints of Heaven and Earth. By removing the facades and reverting to the true self, one is free from the struggles of life and death. Anybody that could comprehend that possessed supreme wisdom!

At that moment, Su Zimo was passing through an ancient path along the marks left behind by his predecessors. Eventually, he allowed the distinct auras of the immortal, Buddhist and fiend Daos in his heart to harmonize with his Golden Core perfectly and arrived at the realm of reverting to nature!

"It seems like a golden era has truly arrived in Tianhuang Mainland,"

Monk Yin Lu lamented emotionally, "It's extremely rare for a monster incarnate that has such immense fortune and wisdom to appear. To think that two of them would be born consecutively in this era. Seems like Di Yin has a match."

"Fufu."

Perfected Lord Hun Yi chuckled proudly with disdain in his eyes as he shook his head. "Indeed, that lad has great wisdom and fortune. However, he's far from comparable to Di Yin!"

"We'll talk about that when he can catch up to Di Yin's footsteps. Right now, he isn't qualified to be compared with Di Yin!"

Monk Yin Lu did not reply.

That was because... Di Yin was already at the peak at that moment!

On the peak, Di Yin stood with his hands behind his back. His figure was faintly visible through the clouds and he emanated an unparalleled dominance as he looked down on all other cultivators!

Di Yin was going to leave his name on the Ancient Phenomenon Stele – he was the true number one Perfected Being!

He was also the first to do so in a thousand years!

Although the 17 Nascent Souls present were once top cultivators that dominated in their time, none of them were able to accomplish this feat.

Di Yin shifted his gaze. When he saw Su Zimo who was advancing from the back, he could not help but snort coldly.

Clang! Clang!

Finally, someone in the first group could not withstand the pressure and released a Golden Core phenomenon!

The sound of swords buzzing reverberated relentlessly through the world.

A series of chilling sword lights appeared behind Dugu Jian. They blanketed the skies densely and tore through air!

Heavenly Encompassing Swords!

It was a Golden Core phenomenon of the Dao of the sword and was created by a Mighty Figure of the ancient era.

It was ranked 41 on the previous Phenomenon Ranking.

To think that it would possess such might when it was released by Dugu Jian!

Most sword cultivators revealed ferocity externally.

Given the situation, a cold glint flashed through Hang Qiuyu's eyes as he released a Golden Core phenomenon as well.

Pshew! Pshew! Pshew!

Sword qi streaked through the air at an extremely fast speed, leaving sword scars through the void in its wake; the void seemed to be sliced into tiny blocks!

It was the legacy phenomenon of Sword Sect, Startling Sword Qi!

Both phenomenons of the sword Dao were extremely sharp and sliced the surrounding spirit energy into tiny pieces.

Without the two of them controlling things intentionally, the two sword phenomenons showed signs of competing against one another!

Sword cultivators specialized in cultivating their ferocities.

When two sword cultivators clashed, a victor must be decided!

Hang Qiuyu and Dugu Jian supported their Golden Core phenomenons and dashed towards the 100th stone step.

Immediately after, Xu Cheng of Zephyr Thunder Palace released his Golden Core phenomenon as well.

One after another, streaks of lightning surged above his head and formed a bedazzling sea of lightning behind him!

Five divine thunderbolts shrouded around his head and protected him.

Apocalyptic Five Thunders!

"Corpse Mountain!"

Ren Tu of Asura Sect pointed forward with a cold gaze.

Before him, a series of corpses with a foul stench appeared endlessly. They stacked onto one another messily and created a massive mountain!

Ren Tu stepped on the corpse mountain emotionlessly and continued ascending!

"I heard that the corpse mountain of that Golden Core phenomenon is made from people that died in the hands of Ren Tu!"

"Ah!"

A cultivator exclaimed and chills ran down his body as he said with a trembling voice, "There's got to be millions of people there, right?"

Ren Tu's voice sounded again before he could finish.

"Blood Sea!"

Splash!

The blood that seeped out from beneath the corpse mountain grew and transformed into a boundless sea in the blink of an eye!

The sea was blood-colored and gave off a cruel aura of despair and death!

The corpse mountain floated in the sea of blood. Ren Tu stood on top of the corpse mountain with a torrential ferocity as he crossed the 100th step directly and continued ahead!

"It's the Corpse Mountain Blood Sea!"

"To think that Ren Tu would fuse them together!"

"I recall that the previous person who cultivated it to such a frightening level was an expert from Asura Sect a thousand years ago and he's this generation's Asura!"

In reality, Corpse Mountain and Blood Sea were two ancient phenomenons that were ranked extremely high in the Phenomenon Ranking.

Their might became even more frightening when they were combined as one!

A thousand years ago, the Asura, Yan Beichen, ascended to the top of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak with his Corpse Mountain Blood Sea and took the number one position.

"All eight of them are rare peerless paragons,"

Perfected Lord Luo Xue sighed gently. "Any one of them could easily take the top spot in previous Golden Core Phenomenon Rankings. To think that all of them would be gathered together in this generation!"

"Furthermore, there's an almost invincible monster incarnate above all of them... Di Yin!"

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Monk Jue Chen, Pang Yue and Monk Jian Kong released their Golden Core phenomenons one after another as well.

A golden light descended.

Monk Jue Chen seemed to be veiled by a golden shade and shone brightly.

A Seven Floor Pagoda descended with a blinding brilliance and hovered above Monk Jian Kong. It poured down with a divine light like a waterfall that protected him.

The legacy phenomenon of Hollow Monastery, Seven Floor Pagoda!

The Golden Core phenomenons were turning increasingly frightening!

Compared to Long River Sunset and Galaxy Vortex from earlier, they were at a whole different level in strength!

Countless gazes were fixed on Ming Zhen.

He was the only one who had not released his Golden Core phenomenon among the eight people.

"Fufu."

Monk Yuan Kong sneered, "It's probably because he's got some worthless Golden Core phenomenon that's useless even if he releases it. That's why he's choosing to force himself through everything."

Before he could finish his sentence, Ming Zhen conjured a hand seal with both hands and released an extremely terrifying aura!

Immediately after, a green lotus appeared behind him and hovered in midair before swiveling slowly.

Each petal was etched with obscure and complicated patterns. Slowly, the petals opened up and the green lotus blossomed!

One after another, mysterious lights spread and shone.

A fragrance wafted out from the center of the lotus platform.

The green lotus blossomed as though it could purify all the evil in this world!

The moment the green lotus blossomed, be it the Corpse Mountain Blood Sea or the Seven Floor Pagoda, the Golden Core phenomenons of the other seven people shuddered for a brief moment as though they were impacted significantly.

"What is that phenomenon?"

"That phenomenon looks a little familiar, I seem to have heard of it somewhere..."

"Ah!"

Suddenly, a few exclamations sounded one after another above the clouds.

The few Perfected Lords of the Buddhist monasteries bolted upright in shock as they glared at the green lotus behind Ming Zhen with disbelief in their eyes!

"World Cleansing Green Lotus!"

Slowly, Monk Yuan Kong uttered four words!

The crowd was in an uproar!

World Cleansing Green Lotus, the legacy phenomenon of Fahua Monastery, was a top-tier Golden Core phenomenon of the Buddhist monasteries. When cultivated to its peak, its might was even above the Seven Floor Pagoda!

[1] Literal translation is True Beings

Chapter 736: Untitled

That phenomenon was the legacy phenomenon of Fahua Monastery, a super sect that was destroyed 10,000 years ago!

It could only be comprehended by cultivating the number one secret classic of the Golden Core realm, the Mystic Dharmic Lotus Sutra.

However, the Mystic Dharmic Lotus Sutra was lost for a long time in that catastrophe 10,000 years ago.

In that catastrophe 10,000 years ago, Fahua and Daming Monasteries were destroyed and countless cultivation techniques and secret skills were lost. Even after all these years, there were still cultivators searching for those cultivation techniques and secret skills.

Nobody expected this unknown young monk to cultivate a Golden Core phenomenon that had been lost for 10,000 years!

There was a high probability that this young monk had a deep relationship with the destroyed Fahua Monastery!

Monk Yuan Kong, Monk Wei Fu and everyone else looked at Ming Zhen with a glint in their eyes, resembling hungry ferocious beasts that caught sight of a prey.

Monk Yin Lu frowned slightly with a worried expression.

A man's wealth was his own ruin by causing another's greed.

By releasing the World Cleansing Green Lotus, Ming Zhen was exposing himself to the greed of others!

As the eight people of the first group released their Golden Core phenomenons, the distance between them increased and gradually, there was a distinction between them!

Ren Tu of Asura Sect was right at the front!

He was already at the 105th stone step!

That was a rather formidable height!

In the previous Golden Core Phenomenon Ranking, Di Yin who was number one merely made it to the 99th stone step.

The fact that Ren Tu was able to reach that height meant that his strength was stronger than Di Yin a hundred years ago!

Alas...

Di Yin suppressed his cultivation for a hundred years and continued comprehending the power of the Golden Core realm. The reason for his return was to become the number one of the Phenomenon Ranking once more and suppress all other paragons!

"Ah!"

Ren Tu roared into the skies and his blood qi surged. Green veins appeared on his neck like spirit snakes and he had a menacing expression of indignance!

He wanted to ascend to the peak of the mountain!

He was indignant!

He did not wish to be inferior to others!

However, the pressure from the peak was way too terrifying.

Even climbing another stone step was almost impossible for him, let alone ascending to the peak!

Di Yin stood high and above with his hands behind his back. He gazed at the struggling Ren Tu with a faint ridicule in his eyes.

One of them was screaming from the depths of his heart.

The other was indifferent.

One stood below.

The other was at the peak of the mountain.

The difference was glaring!

It was the same below for Xu Cheng of Zephyr Thunder Palace, Monk Jian Kong, Pang Yue and the others.

It was like an emperor looking down at the masses from the top; it did not matter how the masses struggled, none of them could take down his dominance!

A series of sighs came from the crowd.

It had to be said that for those paragons, it was a tragedy that they were born in the same generation as Di Yin.

Gradually, Ren Tu lowered his head.

He was already exhausted.

His limit was at the 105th stone step!

Although the difference between him and the peak was only three stone steps, the distance between them was almost equivalent to the gap between Heaven and Earth!

All of a sudden!

Exclamations sounded from the crowd beneath.

The stone step that Ren Tu stood on quaked heavily for a brief moment.

"Hmm?"

Ren Tu glanced sideways and the killing intent in his eyes surged!

Not far from him, Xu Cheng of Zephyr Thunder Palace had managed to arrive at the 105th stone step as well using his Apocalyptic Five Thunders!

Xu Cheng panted heavily and was drenched in sweat.

A stir broke out amongst the crowd.

This meant that the two paragons would clash in the upcoming ranking battle.

Finally, there would be a showdown between the Corpse Mountain Blood Sea and Apocalyptic Five Thunders!

"Hehehe!"

Ren Tu let out an unsettling laughter that sent shivers down one's spine.

Xu Cheng merely smirked coldly against Ren Tu's killing intent without any fear!

At their level, none of them would back off from a battle unless it was against an unstoppable opponent like Di Yin!

Ren Tu wanted to kill Xu Cheng.

Xu Cheng wanted to furnish his reputation by suppressing Ren Tu!

Beneath Ren Tu and Xu Cheng was Monk Jian Kong of Hollow Monastery.

104th stone step.

That was Monk Jian Kong's limits!

He gazed up at Ren Tu and Xu Cheng above him with a boundless indignance in his eyes.

Before he entered the ancient battlefield, he wanted to challenge Di Yin.

When Di Yin ascended the peak earlier on, he realized the difference between them.

However, he felt that he was definitely within the top three of the Phenomenon Ranking.

To think that he could only be satisfied with the fourth spot right now!

"Hurry, look! There's going to be another massive battle!"

"Interesting, it's going to be a fight between the Buddhist monasteries."

A clamor broke out from the crowd again.

Monk Jian Kong turned over instinctively.

Another person had appeared on the 104th stone step.

It was the young monk called Ming Zhen!

A blossomed green lotus hovered behind Ming Zhen. It looked extremely ordinary but it gave off a frightening aura!

Monk Jian Kong's pupils constricted.

He was not bothered about this young monk prior to this.

But now, it seemed like his fourth spot on the Phenomenon Ranking was not confirmed just yet!

Ming Zhen did not even glance at Monk Jian Kong, merely looking up at the 105th stone step with a calm expression. His foot lingered for a moment before he continued forward!

"What's he doing? Is he trying to get to the next stone step?"

"There's no wonder why that's the number one mystic classic of the Golden Core realm!"

Many cultivators were dumbstruck when they noticed Ming Zhen's actions.

However, Ming Zhen merely ascended half the distance to the next stone step when he swayed and grunted before landing back on the 104th stone step again!

"Fufufu..."

Monk Jian Kong could not help but sneer, "You overestimate yourself!"

Ming Zhen clutched his chest and blood oozed out from the corner of his lips. He merely glanced at Monk Jian Kong but did not argue.

Monk Yin Lu sighed gently.

"Humph!"

Perfected Lord Luo Xue glared at Monk Yuan Kong and said coldly, "If someone had not injured this young monk earlier on by abusing his seniority, he might have already ascended to the 105th stone step!"

Many cultivators had a sudden recollection.

Prior to the fight for the Phenomenon Ranking, Monk Yuan Kong used Sanskrit to injure Ming Zhen!

Ming Zhen had ascended the Myriad Phenomenon Peak with an injury!

Two people stood on the 103th stone step beneath Monk Jian Kong and Ming Zhen as well.

Hang Qiuyu of Sword Sect and Dugu Jian of the Dugu clan!

The two great sword cultivators were going to duke it out!

This fight for the Phenomenon Ranking was way more intense than anyone had imagined.

There were already three fights alone for the ranking battle of the top ten spots!

This was rare in previous Phenomenon Rankings.

After the two of them came Pang Yue of Overlord Palace on the 102nd step.

On the 101st stone step was Monk Jue Chen of Diamond Monastery!

All eight people of the first group had made it past the 100th stone step!

"The fight for the Phenomenon Ranking this time round sure is unusually intense. To think that there are so many paragons gathered."

"Heh, it's time to place your bets! There's no doubt about who is at the top of the Phenomenon Ranking. Let's guess who will be the second, fourth, and..."

Before that cultivator completed his sentence, his gaze swept and froze on the Myriad Phenomenon Peak while his mouth fell agape gradually.

"What's wrong?" Some cultivators asked as they turned towards that person's gaze.

"We seem to have forgotten about someone..."

That cultivator could not contain the shock in his eyes.

On the Myriad Phenomenon Peak, a figure was ascending rapidly, surging into the skies surpassing one figure after another!

90th stone step.

91st stone step.

98th stone step.

Even after the 100th stone step...

The figure's speed did not show any signs of diminishing and was still advancing forward!

Chapter 737: Peak!

"That person sure is terrifying. He did not release his Golden Core phenomenon for the first 100 steps and charged through them merely relying on his physique!"

"It's said that his physique is comparable to a pure-blooded ferocious beast. Indeed, nothing was exaggerated at all!"

"That's nothing much, Di Yin only released his Golden Core phenomenon after the 100th stone step as well."

At that moment, countless gazes were fixed on that green figure on the Myriad Phenomenon Peak.

As everyone discussed, Su Zimo had already stepped foot on the 100th stone step!

Boom!

The moment he landed on that stone step, Su Zimo's eyes shone brightly as he gave a slight frown.

The pressure that came from above had increased significantly after the 100th stone step!

Even with his physique, he was feeling the strain.

Of course, that was because he did not use the power of his Inner Core.

Su Zimo estimated that if he used the power of his Inner Core and burst forth with the full strength of his blood qi, he could reach the peak of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak even without releasing his Golden Core phenomenon!

Of course, that was impractical.

Perfected Lord Yu Jun warned him that using the power of his Inner Core on the Myriad Phenomenon Peak would be courting death.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

The skies above Su Zimo's head tore repeatedly and lightning flashed. A heavy downpour rained down, turning into a torrential flood with endless meteors.

It was as though the apocalypse had descended!

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Four gigantic heavenly-piercing stone pillars stood in the floods. At the top of the stone pillars was a shell that covered the skies, etched with mysterious patterns that seemed like they contained endless secrets of the universe.

The four limbs suppressed the raging tides and the shell supported the broken skies!

The Primordial Divine Turtle had descended, rearing its head into a wild howl and a bright gaze!

This was the first time that most of the cultivators present witnessed that phenomenon personally. Their expressions changed and endless shock filled their eyes.

That primordial phenomenon had been lost for a long time.

Even the 17 Nascent Souls present had not witnessed it personally before.

"There's no wonder why it's a primordial divine being that protected the masses. To think that it would possess such a might!" Monk Yin Lu lamented.

Perfected Lord Luo Xue said deeply, "The human race will definitely prosper with the resurgence of these lost primordial phenomenons!"

Perfected Lord Hun Yi and Monk Yuan Kong merely smirked coldly with nonchalance.

Although Perfected Lord Yu Jun was expressionless, there was a hint of worry in his eyes.

While the appearance of a primordial phenomenon represented the arrival of a golden era, it could also imply that an unimaginable catastrophe was approaching!

If the human race could tide through it, they would prosper.

If they could not, there was a high chance they would be annihilated!

In the ancient era, multiple emperors rose and a supreme peerless existence that was feared throughout history such as the Human Emperor surfaced – those were the reasons that built the current state of Tianhuang Mainland.

But now that the emperors have passed on and the Human Emperor left Tianhuang Mainland a long time alone, who was going to save the human race if a catastrophe truly arrived?

"I might be worrying for nothing,"

Perfected Lord Yu Jun shook his head and smiled deprecatingly.

The pressure on Su Zimo diminished significantly after he released the Primordial Divine Turtle. He arrived at the 101st stone step and surpassed Monk Jue Chen without pausing to continue ahead!

102nd step...

103rd step!

Monk Jue Chen, Pang Yue and Hang Qiuyu could only watch as Su Zimo passed them by.

The three of them had conflicted expressions.

In the battle beneath the Human Emperor's Palace 20 years ago, the paragons of the immortal, Buddhist and fiend sects were left dead and injured. Most of them were despondent from the setback and relegated to be a part of the masses.

The three of them were the only ones that overcame their inner demons and stood up again. They advanced honorably and regained their spots as the number one disciples of their sects in the Golden Core realm!

A large part of the reason for their return was to erase the shame from their past.

They wanted to fight Su Zimo again!

However, Su Zimo did not give them that chance at all.

He surpassed them with ease on the Myriad Phenomenon Peak!

Everyone knew that Su Zimo had a double phenomenon.

Now that he was already here with a single phenomenon, where could he advance with two of them?

Could he truly match Di Yin?!

Gradually, silence filled the vicinity of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak.

All the cultivators wanted to know where Su Zimo could reach!

Di Yin stood at the top and glared down at Su Zimo expressionlessly.

"Bang!"

Su Zimo had ascended to the 105th stone step!

Xu Cheng was emotional as he glared at Su Zimo sternly with widened eyes!

Dozens of days ago, he fought against Su Zimo.

At that time, Su Zimo released a double phenomenon and fused them together to crush his Apocalyptic Five Thunders!

And now, he was already at this level with just a single Golden Core phenomenon!

This meant that the power of Su Zimo's Golden Core phenomenon had grown to yet another level within these dozens of days!

Xu Cheng's guess was both correct and incorrect.

It was true that the power of Su Zimo's Golden Core phenomenon had grown.

However, it was not during these dozens of days, but on his journey of ascending the Myriad Phenomenon Peak earlier on!

He comprehended the marks and auras left behind by ancient experts on the Myriad Phenomenon Peak and gained insight into the Daos of the immortal, Buddhist and fiend sects from the Qi Condensation, Foundation Establishment and Golden Core realm. His Golden Core phenomenon had evolved completely!

While outsiders might not be able to sense it, Su Zimo understood that change the greatest.

He stood on the 105th stone step and lingered for a moment with closed eyes.

All of a sudden!

Su Zimo opened his eyes and roared into the skies. His Golden Core swiveled and a scorching heatwave was released!

Bang! Boom! Boom!

The mountains toppled and volcanoes spewed.

Scarlet lava blanketed the floor and flames blazed for thousands of kilometers. A gigantic anaconda tunneled out from underground and soared into the skies, flapping its wings that were burned scarlet and almost transparent as it reared its head into a roar!

The Primordial Soaring Serpent!

Two primordial phenomenons had descended!

Su Zimo's aura exploded and he stomped on the ground heavily, soaring into the skies like an arrow as he crossed the 106th, 107th steps...

Boom!

In one go!

Su Zimo ascended to the peak of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak in one go relying on his double phenomenon!

Ah!

After a momentary silence, the crowd broke into exclamations.

Everything happened too quickly that many cultivators had yet to react to it.

In the blink of an eye, there was another person at the peak of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak.

The mountain was 108,000 feet tall and clouds floated around it.

Two figures stood among them, faintly visible and resembling peerless emperors that looked down on the mortal realm!

Many cultivators looked extremely excited.

Two people on the mountain peak implied that there was going to be an earthshaking fight between them in the ranking battle!

"Hais."

Perfected Lord Yu Jun sighed.

This was the outcome he was most reluctant to witness as a cultivator of Enigma Palace hosting the Phenomenon Ranking.

The loss of either of these two peerless paragons would not benefit the human race.

At the peak.

Di Yin gazed at Su Zimo who was beside him and smirked with a fake smile.

"Take a good look at this picturesque scenery, this wonderful world and the beautiful skies. Enjoy the look of reverence from the other cultivators. This might be the last things you can ever enjoy."

"Is that so?"

Su Zimo replied with an indifferent expression.

"Su Zimo, you are truly ignorant."

"Do you know what this peak of the Myriad Phenomenon Peak means for you?"

Di Yin pointed below his feet and gave an unsettling smile. "This is your death's gate! By ascending this peak, you've crossed the gates of death! Since you have a death wish, all I can do is fulfill that for you!"

Chapter 738: Ranking Battle

Su Zimo merely scoffed coldly against Di Yin's provocations.

Things between the two of them were irreconcilable and one of them was bound to die soon – it was needless to speak further!

Unlike the bottom of the mountain, Su Zimo no longer experienced any pressure from the Myriad Phenomenon Peak the moment he ascended its peak.

It was as though they had obtained the recognition of this ancient mountain.

Su Zimo turned around and surveyed his surroundings.

It was spacious at the peak of the mountain with nothing in sight except for a tall stele that was erected in the middle – there were hundreds of names etched densely on it.

As he stood before the stele, Su Zimo remained silent and his feelings were complicated.

There was joy, pride and sorrow...

Countless years have passed since the ancient times and the Phenomenon Ranking was held consistently once every hundred years. However, only these few hundred cultivators managed to ascend to the peak!

From today on, his name would also be etched on that stele and be passed down through history no matter how much time passed through rain or shine!

He ought to feel proud and elated.

The sorrow came from the fact that he could not share this joy with someone.

Without that person, he would not have had the chance to even cultivate, let alone leave his name on this Ancient Phenomenon Stele!

"It seems like I've gotten closer to you again,"

Su Zimo lowered his head before the stele and murmured with a faint smile.

Although he was still very far away from that ethereal world, he believed that he would definitely arrive there sooner or later and catch up with her footsteps!

"The two of you can condense your spirit energies and leave your names on the Ancient Phenomenon Stele."

Perfected Lord Yu Jun's voice sounded.

Su Zimo and Di Yin obeyed and left their names on the stele.

The style of the handwriting on the stele differed from person to person.

Some were pointy, some were restrained, some were coarse and firm, some were elegant with long strokes, some were sturdy and antiquated while others were wild and casual.

The bearings of their predecessors could be seen through their handwriting!

All the cultivators beneath the peak of the mountain let out envious looks.

The Golden Core Phenomenon Ranking was conducted once every hundred years.

However, the Ancient Phenomenon Stele was there for all eternity!

"Any cultivator that made it into Myriad Phenomenon City are all worthy of the term paragon!"

Right then, Perfected Lord Yu Jun said slowly, "Today's accomplishments does not translate to future glory. Everyone, you have to work hard and not slack off."

A name left behind on the Ancient Phenomenon Stele might not be proof of one's future accomplishments.

Among the several hundred cultivators, many of them died as well.

The heavens are often jealous of those who are talented.

They were bound to endure unimaginable hardship and dangers!

At the same time, there were also cultivators that became emperors without leaving their names on the Ancient Phenomenon Stele.

Nothing in the world was absolute.

Perfected Lord Yu Jun continued, "The new Phenomenon Ranking is now out with the end of the elimination battle. After a slight rest, the cultivators on the list will undergo a final ranking battle!"

The ranking battle was held at a raised platform at the foot of the mountain.

The platform was a hundred feet tall and extremely spacious with enough room for ten thousand people to stand on it at the same time.

There were a total of 18 ranking battles this time round!

Of course, what everyone was waiting for was the fight between the top ten of the Phenomenon Ranking.

The final match would be between Su Zimo and Di Yin for the top of the ranking!

After the elimination battle, cultivators on the Phenomenon Ranking had to take a short rest to recover their stamina.

In Su Zimo's group, apart from Ji Chengtian, the others – Little Fatty, Demoness Ji and Ming Zhen – had to partake in a fight against another paragon for the final ranking battle!

Little Fatty was up against Qin Li of Illusion Fiend Cult from the fiend sects.

Demoness Ji was up against Duan Qingping of Clear Wind Temple from the immortal sects.

Ming Zhen was up against Monk Jian Kong of Hollow Monastery from the Buddhist monasteries!

For cultivators to arrive on the same stone step, it was proof that the difference between the power of their phenomenons was not too great. However, power was not the only determining factor in a fight between cultivators.

It was a face-off between their techniques, spirit arts, secret skills and even experience in battle!

"Young monk, have this elixir,"

Xiaoning arrived beside Ming Zhen and handed the latter an elixir.

Ming Zhen was wounded by Monk Yuan Kong previously and ascended the Myriad Phenomenon Peak with his injuries. Xiaoning could tell that his injuries had worsened and hence the gesture.

"Take it and heal up quickly so that you can fight with your full strength."

Su Zimo nodded.

Although he had quite a number of elixirs in his storage bag, the quality and effectiveness of elixirs from Elixir Yang Sect was the best!

Ming Zhen's cultivation technique came from the Buddhist monasteries.

His recovery speed was shocking.

With that elixir and some rest, he could recover almost entirely before his battle.

"Thank you, benefactor."

Ming Zhen received the elixir and swallowed it.

The ranking battle began the moment afternoon came!

In order to prevent paragons from dying in the ranking battle, as long as any cultivator could not win and left the radius of the stone platform in time, it would be considered as a defeat.

The battle would come to an immediate end!

The first battle was for the 98th spot of the Phenomenon Ranking.

The two paragons that fought came from the upper sects.

Although it was near the end of the Phenomenon Ranking, the battle was also unusually intense. Both paragons took turns to release countless spirit arts and secret skills.

Their variations in both melee and ranged combat was endless.

Eventually, both paragons released their Golden Core phenomenons and fought till they were completely exhausted before one of them took the win with a slight lead.

All the cultivators watching below were amazed.

They were also able to benefit immensely from the fight between the paragons.

12 battles were over as time passed and evening approached.

The next match was for the 20th spot of the Phenomenon Ranking.

The two paragons were Demoness Ji and Duan Qingping!

On the stone platform, Demoness Ji bowed forward politely with her hands in front of her. She gave Duan Qingping a gentle smile as she said tenderly with watery clear eyes, "Big Brother Duan, please."

"Hmm?"

Duan Qingping froze momentarily with a lost look in his eyes.

Immediately after, he frowned and could not help but shudder with a conflicted expression on his face!

"What's wrong with Duan Qingping?"

"I didn't see Demoness Ji attack?"

Cries of surprises came from the crowd.

Su Zimo nodded silently.

Demoness Ji had gotten even better and more frightening with her bewitchment technique!

Apart from the Buddhist monasteries paragons who were clear of worldly desires, any other cultivator could be charmed by Demoness Ji if they were distracted for a moment!

"Ah! Ah! Ahhhh!"

Duan Qingping widened his eyes and glared around, howling at the top of his lungs.

"Black Wind Catastrophe!"

Pitch-black cyclones that howled furiously appeared and swarmed around Duan Qingping in a shuddering manner!

The cyclones were so powerful that any cultivator that made contact with them would be ripped apart instantly!

Duan Qingping realized that something was amiss and released his Golden Core phenomenon right away.

Unfortunately, he had already lost the first move and was bewitched.

It was difficult for him to regain his sanctity even with the release of his Golden Core phenomenon.

Demoness Ji stood at the side and glared coldly without making a move.

Like an insane, headless fly, Duan Qingping howled furiously on the stone platform as though he could not see Demoness Ji at all – he had already lost his mind completely!

"Humph!"

The Perfected Lord of Clear Wind Temple had a terrible expression when he saw that.

Given the current situation, it won't be long before Duan Qingping spent his spirit energy and exhausted himself completely without Demoness Ji even making a move!

Victory was decided.

It was an effortless victory!

Demoness Ji did not even have to release her Golden Core phenomenon!

Chapter 739: All Swords United

The next battle was for the 14th spot of the Phenomenon Ranking.

Little Fatty was up against Qin Li of Illusion Fiend Cult!

"The cultivation techniques of Illusion Fiend Cult lean on affecting one's mental state. Be careful,"

Demoness Ji reminded Little Fatty out of goodwill on her way down.

Little Fatty, Demoness Ji and even Ji Chengtian, Shi Jian and the others were from different sects. In fact, they were opposing factions of immortals between fiends and had no interactions at all.

However, the group of them now had a degree of connection with Su Zimo at the core.

"Thank you,"

Little Fatty expressed his thanks.

Little Fatty's Yellow Springs phenomenon would not have been able to reach this spot before he entered the Astral Dragon Sputum Lair.

It would have been difficult for him to be on the top 50 spot of the Phenomenon Ranking, let alone the top 20!

But now, Little Fatty was acknowledged by the Yellow Springs Diagram.

Although he had not cultivated an Essence Spirit and was still unable to make use of that Dharmic weapon from the ancient era, his Yellow Springs phenomenon underwent a complete transformation and was a far cry from before!

Two people stood on the stone platform.

Qin Li's eyes were bright and suddenly, a series of horrifying images appeared behind him.

Countless living beings were tied onto scorching iron poles and smoke steamed from their sizzling, burning flesh as they struggled and howled endlessly.

On the other side, a gigantic stone mill appeared in the void.

Millions of living beings were pulled in by the stone mill as it swiveled and crushed slowly, grounding their flesh and bones as grisly blood spilled onto the ground!

Although the blood and flesh of the living beings were crushed, their consciousness was still present.

In the blink of an eye, the splattered blood and flesh was reanimated and drawn into the stone mill to repeat the same process again, causing them to endure the same pain endlessly.

They underwent a continuous reincarnation to repeat the same cycle over and over again!

Many cultivators felt chills and mental scars when they witnessed that image!

The ancient phenomenon, Limitless Hell!

A series of images from Hell surfaced behind Qin Li in a sinister manner!

"Yellow Springs!"

Little Fatty pointed forward with a grim expression.

A surging yellow river appeared behind him with corpses and souls that floated and struggled within it.

The Yellow Springs gushed and drowned the Limitless Hell behind Qin Li directly!

Many of the living beings in the Limitless Hell obtained true relief when they entered the Yellow Springs, no longer subjected to the endless torment and suffering.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

The Limitless Hell creaked and was on the verge of collapsing.

Qin Li's expression turned frightfully pale as he bolted in retreat and managed to get out of the stone platform in time.

"Thank you for giving in!"

Little Fatty let out a deep breath and closed off his Golden Core phenomenon before grinning brightly with cupped fists.

There were only four ranking battles left after his.

The next battle was between the sword cultivators!

As the number one disciple of the Golden Core realm in Sword Sect, Hang Qiuyu naturally had to defend the glory of his sect!

The reputation of Sword Sect would definitely be affected if he was ranked below a sword cultivator of another sect or faction.

This was a battle that he could not lose!

Hang Qiuyu believed that he would not lose either!

There was no way the ancient phenomenon of Sword Sect, Startling Sword Qi, would lose to this person's Heavenly Encompassing Swords!

The two of them stood on the stone platform. Before the fight even began, the Perfected Lord of Sword Sect spoke, "Are you willing to join Sword Sect?"

Many cultivators in the vicinity let out envious looks.

Dugu Jian was already acknowledged by Sword Sect, one of the immortal sects, before he even fought Hang Qiuyu!

Sword Sect was a place of pilgrimage for all sword cultivators in the world.

Countless cultivation techniques and secret skills of the Dao of the sword in the cultivation world has been amassed by the sect throughout history – it had a wealth of knowledge.

Sword Sect was the place where every single sword cultivator dreamed of reaching.

On the stone platform, Dugu Jian was expressionless as usual even after Sword Sect's invitation and merely shook his head gently.

A stir broke out amongst the crowd.

They were rejected!

Dugu Jian rejected without hesitation towards an invitation of Sword Sect!

"Young man, let me remind you that you will only be able to comprehend the true Dao of the sword in Sword Sect!"

The Perfected Lord of Sword Sect frowned slightly and pondered for a moment before continuing, "It isn't easy for you to reach your current attainments. Since you have quite a decent potential in the Dao of the sword, I can offer you another chance."

Dugu Jian gazed at the sword in his hand and merely shook his head again.

It was as though there was nothing else in the world apart from the sword in his hand.

He did not believe in any sect or his gentry clan.

The only thing he trusted was the sword in his hand!

Dugu Jian's aura did not fit in with anyone in the vicinity and he exuded an indescribable loneliness.

He was the sort of sword cultivator that was truly frightening!

His thoughts were concise and he was not distracted by anything!

The Perfected Lord of Sword Sect was expressionless and did not say anything more.

The battle commenced.

Buzz! Buzz!

Almost at the same time.

Dugu Jian and Hang Qiuyu struck at almost the same time as two unparalleled sword lights flashed through the air! They disappeared instantly at an extremely fast speed!

Immediately after, two flashes of blood flickered.

Both of them were injured at the same time!

It was too fast!

Many cultivators could not even react in time.

The two sword beams deflected the moment they made contact and both parties were already injured.

Hang Qiuyu was struck in the right leg and Dugu Jian was struck on the left arm.

Both their wounds were extremely deep and their robes were stained red instantly!

Their injuries even possessed an extremely strong sword qi.

As such, their wounds could only recover after the sword qi was purged completely.

However, neither of them had the chance in such an intense fight where they could not afford to be distracted!

Sword cultivators had the most frightening killing power.

A single moment of distraction could result in death!

Both of them attacked once again at almost the same time.

Clang! Clang!

Their swords collided repeatedly in midair and let out the sounds of metal clashing as sparks flew everywhere.

Their figures interweaved and only separated again after three seconds.

A wave of shock and astonishment could be heard from the crowd.

Dozens of injuries had appeared on both their bodies!

Some were deep while others were superficial.

In fact, some of them revealed the white bones beneath the flesh – those bones were almost cut!

Dugu Jian could not defend against Hang Qiuyu's sword.

However, Hang Qiuyu could not defend against Dugu Jian's ferocity as well!

Both of them were drenched and their blood qi deteriorated.

If the stalemate continued, there was a chance that victory could be determined within a split second!

"Startling Sword Qi!"

Hang Qiuyu released the legacy phenomenon of Sword Sect and a patch of sword qi gathered densely behind him. It was extremely sharp and bolted in the direction of Dugu Jian!

At the same time, Hang Qiuyu bit his tongue gently and spat out a stream of essence blood that splashed onto the streaks of sword qi.

The power of his phenomenon surged intensely!

Instantly, Hang Qiuyu's expression turned extremely pale.

That was a secret skill of Sword Sect and the stream of essence blood took a huge toll on one's essence qi – that was a move that he would not have used unless it was absolutely necessary.

The entire void was sliced apart by the streaks of Startling Sword Qi!

Dugu Jian barely released his Heavenly Encompassing Swords when it was riddled with holes by the Startling Sword Qi and shattered immediately!

"He's still not leaving?"

Many cultivators frowned.

Dugu Jian no longer had any means to fight with the dispersion of his Golden Core phenomenon.

If he continued to linger on the stone platform, he would definitely be minced mercilessly by the Startling Sword Qi!

There was no hint of fear or intention of retreating in Dugu Jian's eyes as he faced the incoming sword qi. He seemed to have comprehended something at that moment of life and death and the aura around him began to transform!

The Startling Sword Qi that was pushing towards Dugu Jian started turning sluggish.

Hang Qiuyu's eyes widened in alarm and fury.

His Golden Core phenomenon was no longer in his control!

Right in front of countless gazes, the streaks of sword qi fell in front of Dugu Jian, as though they were subdued by him!

The Perfected Lord of Sword Sect yelled in shock, "All Swords United!"

Chapter 740: One Has No Competitors if He Does Not Compete!

All Swords United was a supreme and invincible phenomenon of the Dao of the sword!

It could suppress any other phenomenon of the Dao of the sword without fail!

In the past, the Sword Emperor of Tianhuang Mainland cultivated All Swords United and controlled all the swords in the world – every single sword in his path was subdued completely!

Throughout history, even for cultivators of Sword Sect, only ten people managed to cultivate All Swords United.

All ten of them ended up as top-tier experts that ruled with dominance!

On the stone platform, the power of phenomenon that belonged to Dugu Jian was initially about to disperse. However, in the blink of an eye, an even mightier power descended.

Thousands of Startling Sword Qi danced and swiveled in midair, streaking wildly with blinding streams of light in their wake. Although they were extremely sharp, they could not injure Dugu Jian at all!

In fact, just as the sword qis were about to strike Dugu Jian, they changed directions agilely and wrapped around him.

As he stood within the dense streaks of sword qi, Dugu Jian's edge shone brighter and despite the hollowness in his eyes, they resembled two sharp swords!

Hang Qiuyu's pupils constricted as he sensed danger.

"Not good!"

He was alarmed internally and released the sword escape technique of his sect without hesitation to speed out of the stone platform.

Pshew!

A bedazzling sword beam flashed instantly.

Hang Qiuyu's figure vanished from the stone platform.

The speed of his movement technique was truly startling.

Some of the super sects in the cultivation world would possess secret escape techniques.

Previously, Xu Cheng released the escape technique of Zephyr Thunder Palace, Zephyr Thunder Escape, to flee from Su Zimo's grasp.

Some of the top-tier secret escape techniques could match and even surpass the speed of Nascent Souls during the short burst!

Blood Escape which Su Zimo had cultivated was one of them as well.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Under Dugu Jian's control, thousands of Startling Sword Qi streaked through the air and pierced the location where Hang Qiuyu stood, leaving sword scars on the ground.

Victory was already decided the moment Hang Qiuyu exited the stone platform.

For paragons of that level, it was almost impossible to kill them if they were bent on escaping.

Dugu Jian leaped down from the stone platform in silence.

The Perfected Lord of Sword Sect frowned slightly and gazed at Dugu Jian's back in deep thought.

It was down to the final three ranking battles!

Next up was Monk Jian Kong and Ming Zhen.

Monk Yuan Kong looked down at Ming Zhen from above and asked all of a sudden, "Ming Zhen, where did you obtain the Mystic Dharmic Lotus Sutra?"

Ming Zhen frowned and did not reply immediately.

Although he wasn't experienced in worldly affairs, he was no fool.

Monk Wei Fu of Diamond Monastery at the side looked down with a burning gaze. He channeled a Sanskrit sound technique of the Buddhist monasteries and asked loudly, like a bell, "Ming Zhen, let me ask you, what are the five precepts of Buddhism?"

Ming Zhen said deeply with a stern expression, "No killing, no stealing, no adultery, no lies and no intoxication."

"Alright!"

Monk Wei Fu nodded. "Since you understand that you should not lie, you know that you aren't allowed to tell falsehoods and rubbish! Let me ask you, where did you obtain the Mystic Dharmic Lotus Sutra and who taught it to you?!"

Monk Yin Lu frowned.

It was obvious that Monks Wei Fu and Yuan Kong harbored designs on the Mystic Dharmic Lotus Sutra.

However, Monk Wei Fu was shrewd and brought out the five precepts of Buddhism to push Ming Zhen to a dead end before coercing the latter to reveal the secret behind the Mystic Dharmic Lotus Sutra!

Monk Wei Fu was in fact warning Ming Zhen that a monk should not lie!

Ming Zhen replied deeply with a calm expression, "Regarding the Mystic Dharmic Lotus Sutra..."

At that point, he paused suddenly.

Notwithstanding Monks Yuan Kong and Wei Fu, even the other Nascent Souls perked their ears in secret and awaited Ming Zhen's answer eagerly.

If they could obtain any useful hint or clue within his words, they might be able to find the countless cultivation techniques and secret skills left behind by Fahua Monastery!

"Hurry and speak!"

Monk Yuan Kong urged, "Where is the Mystic Dharmic Lotus Sutra?"

Ming Zhen clasped his palms and replied earnestly, "Monks should not engage in falsehoods. Regarding the Mystic Dharmic Lotus Sutra, I don't wish to talk about it."

Silence overwhelmed their surroundings.

"You... "

The faces of Monks Yuan Kong and Wei Fu froze instantly.

What did he mean that he did not wish to talk about it?

No matter how much the two of them schemed, they had not expected that reply from Ming Zhen!

Little Fox could not help but let out a stifled chuckle.

Indeed, Ming Zhen did not lie – it was just because he did not wish to speak about it.

His simple reply resolved the troubling question posed by the two Perfected Lords of the Buddhist monasteries!

"What a glib tongue indeed!"

Monk Yuan Kong said with a blackened expression, "Jian Kong, teach this young monk a lesson and show him the true capabilities of the Buddhist monasteries!"

Monk Jian Kong nodded and his gaze towards Ming Zhen turned colder.

"Young monk, defeat him!"

Ji Chengtian, Little Fatty and the others were cheering for Ming Zhen.

Su Zimo said nothing.

He was not worried about that battle.

Ming Zhen inherited the legacy of two super sects, Fahua and Daming Monasteries. At the very least, nobody on the same level could compare to him in terms of their understanding of Buddhism and their capabilities from the Buddhist monasteries!

On the stone platform.

Monk Jian Kong did not hesitate and released his Golden Core phenomenon right away.

Boom!

In midair, a gigantic Buddhist pagoda descended slowly with a terrifying might. It gave off a bright brilliance as though it could suppress all evil!

There were a total of seven floors to the pagoda and each of them was etched with dizzying Sanskrit words.

The Seven Floor Pagoda!

A pagoda was a Buddhist tower.

In the Buddhist monasteries, the Seven Floor Pagoda was utmost!

There were three levels to this legacy phenomenon of Hollow Monastery, the Three Floor, Five Floor and the strongest Seven Floor Pagoda!

Throughout history, only monks that possessed great wisdom in Buddhism could cultivate the Seven Floor Pagoda!

Monk Jian Kong assumed a lotus position and his hands shifted repeatedly to form seals. Streams of Buddha light made with spirit energy shot out from his fingertips and surged into the Seven Floor Pagoda.

The Seven Floor Pagoda shone brightly!

Ommamehum[1]!

As the Seven Floor Pagoda descended, Buddhist proclamations sounded from within. It stirred one's mind such that they would want to prostrate and pay respects unconsciously!

If that was the case for the cultivators watching in the vicinity, the pressure on Ming Zhen was imaginable.

"Amitabha!"

Ming Zhen had a calm expression and lowered his head slightly. He clasped his palms together before exclaiming a Buddhist proclamation softly!

Behind him, a green lotus surfaced and blossomed softly with a bright Buddha light that seemed as though it could cleanse the world of all evil.

The green lotus rose slowly and stopped the descent of the Seven Floor Pagoda!

Creak! Creak!

While there was no earthshaking explosion from the collision of the two great phenomenons of Buddhism, the entire stone platform creaked!

While the Seven Floor Pagoda was strong, it could not do anything to that pure and flawless green lotus.

Monk Jian Kong's eyes widened and his features began to contort as he continued imbuing with spirit energy!

Ming Zhen's palms were clasped together as he chanted Buddhist sutras softly with a lowered head.

It looked as though he was undergoing a normal day of cultivation at the bottom of the Dragon Burial Valley.

Su Zimo said softly, "Jian Kong lost."

Jian Kong desired the win too badly.

Because of that, his mental state became disadvantaged instead.

However, Ming Zhen maintained his normal composure.

To compete or not to compete.

One has no competitors if he does not compete!

The difference between them was clear!

Boom!

There was a deafening sound.

The Seven Floor Pagoda had already fallen but the green lotus was still there.

Monk Jian Kong collapsed onto the stone platform with a pale expression.

Ming Zhen rose and merely raised his head slightly to express a humble thanks before making his leave calmly.

[1] Onomatopoeia of a Buddhist proclamation