

“Let’s head out now.”

Duanmu Xingling and Huang Yanchen dissolved into two shadows and left the woods first. They disappeared in an instant.

Zhang Ruochen drew on the Genuine Qi in his body and ran after them at a speed of 50 meters per second.

He quickly caught up to them. The three kept pace with each other.

“You’re only at the Dawn State of the Black Realm, yet you can already reach a speed of 50 meters per second. Once you’ve reached the Completion of the Black Realm, you may be able to reach 70 meters per second.”

After learning about Zhang Ruochen’s immense Spiritual Power and witnessing his Practicing speed, Duanmu Xingling did not think his speed was strange anymore.

“Who would have thought. Not only does Yunwu Commandery have Zhang Tiangui, you can also be considered a prodigy of this generation.” Huang Yanchen stared at Zhang Ruochen. It was the first time she felt that he was comparable to Zhang Tiangui.

Duanmu Xingling said, “Sister Chen, do you think he’ll make it to the top ten of the Profound Board?”

“If he is willing to stay at the Completion of the Black Realm for two years, he’ll definitely make it into the top ten.” Huang Yanchen gave high praise to Zhang Ruochen.

Huang Yanchen had remained at the Completion for three years, and Duanmu Xingling had remained for two. This was not because they were unable to break into the Earth Realm, but rather they wanted to remain at the Completion for a while to consolidate their foundations.

Zhang Ruochen understood Huang Yanchen’s meaning. His Practicing speed was achieved through the use of large quantities of Pills. This forced his cultivation to higher levels.

If he did not spend enough time consolidating, his Genuine Qi would not be pure, and his Realm would not be steady. Even if he did break into the Earth Realm, it would do no good.

Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling were able to quickly reach the Completion, because they also took large quantities of Pills. However, they had been at the Completion for two to three years already. Whether in terms of their Genuine Qi or physical quality, they had been refined to the realm of perfection. They were just waiting for the Intermediate Relic Exploration Test at the start of next year.

Zhang Ruochen asked, “Is it difficult to enter the top ten of the Profound Board?”

“Of course, it’s difficult.”

Duanmu Xingling said, "The Profound Board of the 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge has a total of 1,200 members. The weakest warrior on the board has a speed of 58 meters per second."

"I can reach a maximum speed of 64 meters per second. On the Profound Board, I am ranked 368th. Sister Chen can reach 67 meters per second and is ranked 103rd."

"You don't have a chance of being in the top ten, unless you can reach 70 meters per second."

There were 36 commanderies around the Omen Ridge. How many warriors were in the Black Realm?

Yet, the Profound Board only listed the most powerful 1,200. Yunwu Commandery had only 18 people who had made it to the Board, and most of them were elders who had trained for dozens of years. It was too difficult for young people to even think of entering the Profound Board.

It could be said that each Warrior of Division Profound had the power to challenge a warrior of the Earth Realm.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Speed is only one facet of a warrior's strength. It shouldn't be the standard for entering the Profound Board."

"You're right. However, for a warrior at the Completion of the Black Realm, if they can reach a speed of 60 meters per second, do you think their martial technique or physical quality would be lacking?" Duanmu Xingling asked.

Huang Yanchen said, "A warrior at the Completion who can reach 60 meters per second could kill a similar warrior who has only reached a speed of 55 meters in just seconds."

Their words made sense, but Zhang Ruochen was not convinced. As far as he was concerned, he was confident he could kill a warrior who was faster than him.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "I've heard that Zhang Tiangui once scored third on the Profound Board. What was his fastest speed at that time?"

Huang Yanchen's eyes glittered, "Zhang Tiangui was a rare prodigy, the pride of the 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge. He is the only one to have reached third place on the Profound Board at the age of 16. When he was at the Completion of the Black Realm, he could reach a speed of 73 meters per second. This caused a commotion at the time."

Duanmu Xingling added, "The two elders ranked first and second on the Profound Board could only reach 72 meters per second. It was a pity he suddenly broke through to the Earth Realm. Otherwise, he would have had a chance of coming in first."

A prodigy like Zhang Tiangui, considered the role model for a generation, naturally did not lack for worshippers.

From their tone, Zhang Ruochen could hear their admiration for him. They were also women, so naturally they would worship the strong.

Zhang Ruochen asked again, "What about senior sister disciple Luo?"

“She is also a prodigy, and just as talented as Zhang Tiangui. She can reach a speed of 72 meters per second and ranks sixth on the Profound Board.” Duanmu Xingling answered.

“Zhang Tiangui? Senior sister disciple Luo? They are all ants to me. Who dares to compare their speed to mine?” Blackie turned as big as a lion and leaped forward. His whole body gleamed black as he turned into a dark gust and overtook the three of them.

“Such a fast cat.” Duanmu Xingling stared at Blackie as if she had discovered a new land. She had not thought Zhang Ruochen’s fat cat could reach such speeds.

“I’ll challenge you!”

Huang Yanchen could not stand being beaten by a cat. She drew on her Genuine Qi and burst out with her maximum speed. She became a blur as she ran after Blackie.

Zhang Ruochen and Duanmu Xingling smiled and shook their heads. They did not join in the chase and continued moving at their regular pace.

After an hour, Zhang Ruochen and Duanmu Xingling arrived at the barren mountains about 200 kilometers out from the Western Campus. They were surrounded on all sides by towering trees which blocked out the sky. It was as if they had entered a wild forest; there was not a trace of humanity around them.

From far away came the cry of a savage beast. A giant golden crab, the size of a water barrel, emerged from a crack in a rock and crawled towards the small river. A Green-Fire Deer was drinking next to the river. Sensing danger, it was about to run away when the giant crab opened its mouth and swallowed it whole.

Zhang Ruochen and Duanmu Xingling heard the rustling of the wind, as they passed through this patch of forest. A powerful gust of chilly wind blew in and made it difficult for them to open their eyes.

From far away, between two large mountains, there was a tiny gap. As straight as a pen, the wind whistled through it at all times of the day.

Zhang Ruochen raised his head and stared at the steep mountain valley. “Is that the entrance to the Devil Wind Valley?”

Duanmu Xingling replied, “Yes, winds blow through Devil Wind Valley year round without pause. Occasionally it even creates Wind Nature Spiritual Crystals.”

Zhang Ruochen and Duanmu Xingling walked towards Devil Wind Valley with difficulty. About half way, they ran into Huang Yanchen and Blackie.

“Which one of you won?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

Huang Yanchen held her arms in front of her chest. Her snow-white chin was raised and revealed a long neck. She was as proud as a white swan.

Blackie replied, “It is because my realm is too low. Otherwise, how could I lose to a female of the human race?”

“You’re not convinced?” Huang Yanchen glared at Blackie.

“Of course not.” Blackie replied.

Huang Yanchen’s eyes narrowed, and her face became cold. Her hand was on the handle of her sword instantly and she swung it still in its scabbard, smacking Blackie.

Blackie flew out and landed in Devil Wind Valley.

“Humankind... little girl... you and I... are... irreconcilable...”

Suddenly a wind cyclone pulled Blackie into the Valley and he disappeared without a trace. Even his screams were swallowed by the wind.

“Let’s go! We should go in too!”

Huang Yanchen used the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. She took nine steps, moving like the wind, and rushed into the valley with a whooshing sound.

“She has already reached the Beginner level of the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon!” Zhang Ruochen exclaimed.

“Sister Chen’s Genuine Qi is already Wind natured, and her physical quality is very compatible with the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon technique. She is also very talented. It’s no surprise she has already practiced to the Beginner level so quickly. However, we need to work hard so that we don’t get left too far behind.”

Duanmu Xingling and Zhang Ruochen hurried into Devil Wind Valley.

“Phff!”

Inside Devil Wind Valley, it was very cold. The wind was as sharp as a knife, scratching against their skin. Never mind Practicing, even standing steady was difficult.

The two women had strong cultivations. They took to this, like fish to water, and quickly began practicing.

It was Zhang Ruochen’s first day in Devil Wind Valley, and he had barely accustomed himself to the environment. It was all he could do to stand in the wind and not be blown away.

On the second day, Zhang Ruochen began practicing the nine paces in the wind.

On the third day, he practiced the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon to the Beginner level. Duanmu Xingling was slightly slower than him, but also made it to the Beginner level on the same day.

After Duanmu Xingling and Huang Yanchen consumed Blood Pills to recover their energy, they once again entered Devil Wind Valley to practice.

Zhang Ruochen and Blackie stayed outside and did not enter Devil Wind Valley.

Zhang Ruochen threaded a chain through the Time and Space Spinel and hung it around Blackie’s neck, “I’m going to Practice inside the Time and Space Spinel, protect it for me.”

Once he entered the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel, he took out a Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pill. He began to absorb the Pill and raise his cultivation.

After practicing in the Time and Space Spinel for six days, Zhang Ruochen had absorbed 40 Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills and filled his Qi Lake one third of the way with Genuine Qi.

I still have another 480 Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills. If I use another 130 Pills I should be able to completely fill my Qi Lake.”

Zhang Ruochen took out another Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pill and began to absorb it.

After nearly a month, Zhang Ruochen absorbed 140 Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills and filled his Qi Lake. He also reached the peak of the Dawn State of the Black Realm.

Zhang Ruochen did not plan to use the eight drops of Half-Saint’s Essence to reach the Medium State. He decided to let his Genuine Qi rest and use this time to practice the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon and Sacred Sword Skill.

Chapter 122: Being Besieged

“It’s so wasteful to practice and fill the Qi Lake by refining nearly 200 Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills.”

Although his cultivation had been improved greatly, Zhang Ruochen was not feeling good.

After all, two hundred Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills were as valuable as one million silver coins. If other warriors had known what he had done, they would have hit the ceiling.

“A Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pill is just a second-class pill and is less effective for me. It won’t have much effect, if I keep taking it.”

With 340 Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills left, Zhang Ruochen planned to go back to the Western Campus and sell them to the new students at a low price. Then he could use the earnings to buy some third-class pills.

One Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pill went for five thousand silver coins. If Zhang Ruochen offered a unit price of three thousand silver coins, students would rush to purchase, especially those students at the Initial and Mid Stages of the Black Realm, since Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills could rapidly promote their cultivation.

After making up his mind, Zhang Ruochen put the remaining 340 Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills away.

“Animal Spirits Fixing Beasts!”

Zhang Ruochen’s body was surrounded by a cloud of bright red Spiritual Blood. Two illusory images, one of a giant savage beast seven meters tall and one of a blood-red dragon with seven claws, emerged behind him.

The promotion of cultivation thickened his Spiritual Blood, thus making the elephant and dragon images more concrete and vivid, as if they could come alive.

Right now, Zhang Ruochen was like a combination of elephant and dragon, emanating a strong spirit of Martial Arts.

With his present cultivation, he could burst out a speed of 52 meters per second without activating the power of blood meridian. When he utilized his blood vessels, his speed would increase to 54 meters per second.

“It’s not bad. Let my Genuine Qi subside for some time. When my increased Genuine Qi is completely integrated with my flesh and meridians, then I can challenge the Medium State of the Black Realm.”

Zhang Ruochen had practiced within the Time and Space Spinel for more than a month, which was equivalent to a dozen days of the external world.

On coming out of the Time and Space Spinel, Zhang Ruochen felt a strong scent of a savage beast. He looked up and found a blood-red lion five meters tall standing before him.

With two huge heads and eyes bigger than Zhang Ruochen’s fist, the lion bared two rows of sharp pointy teeth which were as long as his palms. On seeing Zhang Ruochen, it let out two deafening roars, causing great pain to his eardrums.

It was a Double-Headed Blood Lion, a superior class savage beast of the second level.

Almost instantly, Zhang Ruochen took out his Flash Shinning Sword and grasped it in his hands, pointing it towards the Double-Headed Blood Lion. The edge of the sword radiated a beam of half-meter long sword radiance.

“Young man, don’t be so nervous. That’s my new flying mount.” Blackie sat on the ground, roasting a large bull shank over an open fire.

The bull leg, estimated to weigh over 100 kilograms, was more than two meters long and had already been roasted golden, giving off a rich aroma of meat.

In the distance, the corpse of an Iron Bull King lay among the fallen leaves, but a leg was missing. Obviously, it was the one Blackie was roasting.

“You tamed it? Really? A Double-Headed Blood Lion is a superior class savage beast of the second level! Its fighting capacity could compare to warriors at the Completion of the Black Realm. How could I believe it will tamely submit to you?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

Blackie answered with disdain, “Just a superior class savage beast of the second level. That’s a piece of cake. If my cultivation isn’t sealed, it is not qualified to be my meal. But now, it’s a great honor for him to be my flying mount. Isn’t that right, Xiao Shuang?”

The Blood Lion with two gigantic heads gave a slight nod and kneeled in front of Blackie.

Zhang Ruochen put his Flash Shinning Sword away and walked over to the Two-headed Blood Lion. Staring into its eyes, Zhang Ruochen released his Spiritual Power.

Moments later, Zhang Ruochen withdrew his Spiritual Power and said with a smile, “I guessed right! You recorded a beast-taming inscription onto the eyeballs of the Two-headed Blood Lion.”

To take control of a savage beast, Beast Trainers usually carved a beast-taming inscription onto their eyeballs, skin, or bone.

Having been exposed by Zhang Ruochen, Blackie was not awkward at all. "What does it matter?" he replied. "At least, it's my flying mount now. Show me if you can tame one too!"

"I won't do it the way you did," Zhang Ruochen answered. "That's too complicated. I could use my merits directly in exchange for one savage beast at the School of Martial Market. One superior class savage beast of the second level is only worthy of 200 to 500 merit points. I could even exchange one savage beast of the third level, if I want."

The giant bull leg was fully roasted, and Blackie was prepared to enjoy it slowly.

"Clash!"

Suddenly, with a sword radiance, 5 kilos of the most succulent meat was cut off. It flew up and fell into Zhang Ruochen's hands.

"I haven't eaten meat for a long time... Hmm... Such an enticing smell. Thanks!" Zhang Ruochen held the chunk of golden beef, tore off a small piece with his finger and put it into his mouth. He savored it slowly and quite enjoyed it.

Zhang Ruochen had been replacing food with Blood Pills for the last six months. Words could not describe his pleasure when he tasted barbecue again.

"Taste good, Blackie," Zhang Ruochen praised. "Your culinary skill is better than the imperial cook."

Blackie tolerated it and did not get angry. "As long as you enjoyed it." Blackie licked its lips and chose to swallow the insult.

It had no choice but to listen to Zhang Ruochen, for its fate was totally controlled by him.

Zhang Ruochen and Blackie ate up the whole bull leg, of which 10 kilos were finished by Zhang Ruochen and 100 kilos were eaten by Blackie. Such a large appetite for a man and a cat!

Actually, this was very normal. It was said that warriors at the Heaven Realm could eat one savage beast, weighing thousands of kilos for one meal. He could convert its flesh and blood into his own power.

Zhang Ruochen took the Time and Space Spinel off Blackie's neck and put it away. He stood up, stretched out and said, "I'm going to practice in Devil Wind Valley. Will you come or not?"

"No! I need to collect some herbs to refine some Pills," Blackie answered.

Zhang Ruochen was puzzled, "Why?"

"Of course, it's for you," Blackie paused and said, "If I help improve your cultivation, mine will be stronger too. I must win that arrogant Huang girl. Never have I met such an arrogant human being before."

Blackie's cultivation had all been sealed in the Yin Yang Wooden Glyph. The stronger the cultivation Zhang Ruochen had, the more seals he could unlock. As a result, Blackie's power would also improve.

Basically, Zhang Ruochen and Blackie were like two grasshoppers on a rope. Supposing Zhang Ruochen was dead, Blackie would be resealed into the Yin Yang Wooden Glyph.

“You can refine Pills?” Zhang Ruochen asked with a glimmer of a smile.

“Don’t underestimate me,” Blackie replied. “I’m well-informed and experienced with amazing abilities. Taming beasts and refining Pills are a piece of cake. I can even refine weapons, embattle, control the forces of nature, and turn stone into gold with no difficulty.”

While Zhang Ruochen was listening to Blackie boast about itself, he noticed something unusual in the forest. “Hush! Keep quiet!” He made a silent gesture to Blackie with a grim look on his face.

“Hush? What are you shushing? I also have other talents, like summoning Yin soldiers, communicating with the Moon and Sun, making ice cover thousands of miles...” Suddenly, Blackie moved its ears and shut up immediately as if it had heard some noise too.

Blackie blew cold air and the fire before them immediately went out. The unburnt branches let out a “chi chi” sound and were soon covered with a layer of white frost.

The fire was extinguished and everything went dark.

The Two-headed Blood Lion on the ground seemed to feel it too. It raised its two heads, spitting out a mouthful of blood scented air.

Zhang Ruochen closed his eyes and transferred his Genuine Qi to his ears. After a moment, he said, “We’re surrounded. There are about 2000 human warriors.”

“Zhang Ruochen, What the hell did you do? Who did you offend?” Blackie asked.

After a moment of meditation, Zhang Ruochen replied, “I see. Western Nine Prefectures all have their troops stationed in Omen Ridge, among which Square Commandery owns the most troops. Prince Huo Xing hates me very much. I assumed he would send troops from the barracks to kill me, when I left the Western Campus.”

Blackie asked, “How does he know our movements?”

“There is a kind of savage beast called Cerberus in the barracks. It can find me by following my scent.” Zhang Ruochen carried the Flash Shinning Sword and said with sharp eyes, “Get ready for a battle.”

“Why not run away?”

“We can’t escape.”

“Give me 100 Spiritual Crystals. I can use them to place a Blazed Vermilion Bird Formation,” Blackie said. “Maybe it will pose a threat to them.”

Zhang Ruochen gave Blackie 100 Spiritual Crystals without thinking.

Having the Spiritual Crystals, Blackie buried them in the ground one by one and began to carve the Inscription of Array on the ground with its paws.

It was not long before a Blazed Vermilion Bird Formation covering a radius of fifty meters was placed. The tactical formation would be activated if Genuine Qi was injected to trigger the inscriptions.

"I could only place an inferior array. Hope this will withstand the attack of this elite army." Blackie came back to Zhang Ruochen, looking quite tired.

At that moment, the sound of iron heels came from all directions. Many bronze torches lit up the night sky, forming a sea of fire in the forest, surrounding Zhang Ruochen and Blackie.

Zhang Ruochen glanced around and found they were all troops of the Square Commandery. They wore thick armor and rode savage beasts. Almost all of them were at the Dawn State of the Yellow Realm while some of them had even attained the Medium State of the Yellow Realm.

"Phhhf!"

Approximately 500 soldiers half knelt on the ground and drew their wire bows, preparing to shoot their thunder arrows towards Zhang Ruochen.

All looked well-trained, neat, and uniform. They were definitely true elites.

"Tap! Tap!"

Prince Huo Xing came to the head of the army riding a savage beast of the second level. He stared at Zhang Ruochen arrogantly and laughed. "Zhang Ruochen, I thought you have already fled?"

Zhang Ruochen scrutinized the sergeants around them coldly, and said calmly, "I waited here just to know whether or not it is you who wants to kill me."

"You waited for me on purpose? I think you're waiting for death!" Prince Huo Xing said with an ironic smile on his face.

"You thought they could kill me so easily?" A smile appeared on Zhang Ruochen's face.

Prince Huo Xing smirked and said, "Do you think you are a superior of the Heaven Realm, able to take on an entire army by himself? To tell you the truth, I have brought 2000 elites from the Fierce-Tiger Army. Never mind you, even a strong warrior of the Earth Realm could only wait for death in this situation."

Chapter 123: Superior of the Earth Realm

Zhang Ruochen released the Space Domain which covered a surrounding area of 60 square meters. His eyes were cold. He said, "Prince Huo Xing, now that you wanted to kill me again and again, I won't show you mercy anymore. Tonight, one shall stand, one shall fall."

"How dare you talk big while death is drawing near. Release the arrow!" Prince Huo Xing said in a cold voice.

The word of command was issued.

"Bang! Bang!"

A series of sounds of arrows being released from bows were heard.

100 sergeants released the first round of Thunder Arrows. Swarms of arrows flew toward Zhang Ruochen with the whistle of breaking the wind, looking like raindrops.

The first round of Thunder Arrows had not yet arrived, while the second round of arrows had already been released, and in no time, the third round followed...

Under such a well-regulated attack, even an Earth Realm warrior might have been killed.

“Swish!”

Having already reached the Dawn State of the Black Realm, Zhang Ruochen was more skilled at mastering the Space Domain. Reaching out his hands, he drew a circle in the void space.

The space around him was distorted at an angle of 180 degrees. Thunder Arrows that flew toward him all directly turned a corner and then flew back, when they were several meters away from him.

“Pfff!”

“Pfff!”

...

The Thunder Arrows shot towards the Fierce Tiger Army. Sergeants suffered a crushing defeat, as both people and horses were thrown on the ground, and screams were heard from the sergeants.

On seeing this, Prince Huo Xing was stunned. He stuttered, “Did... did he successfully practice the legendary martial technique ‘the Passage of Stars and God’? How could it be possible? Don’t shoot him with arrows. Attack him directly. I’ll give the one who kills Zhang Ruochen half a city.”

“Kill them!”

Wearing armor, the sergeants who rode on the savage beasts instantly rushed forward as if they would dismember Zhang Ruochen with several knives.

Blackie pushed his cat paws toward the ground and Genuine Qi swarmed out from them. An inscription was activated. A blaze rushed out from the ground with thunder and turned to an over-10-meter-huge firebird.

The huge firebird rushed toward the army like a rosefinch and immediately ignited the bodies of more than a dozen sergeants into flying ash.

Leaving more than a dozen empty armors on the ground, the firebird left hot temperature which burned the soil and made a “Chichi!” sound.

“Waaa!”

Another huge fire rosefinch also rushed into the army from the other direction, not only igniting the sergeants one by one, but also the whole forest.

The array was totally opened. 100 fire rosefinches rushed out from the ground one by one. They rushed toward all directions, bringing great injuries and many deaths to the Fierce Tiger Army of Prince Huo Xing.

The whole mountain ridge became a burning sea of fire.

“Your Highness, they’ve set up a powerful fire tactical formation and we’ve fallen into a trap.”

“To set up such a terrifying tactical formation, they needed at least a Third-class master, who is skilled at making array.”

...

Prince Huo Xing’s face turned deathly pale. He thought using 2,000 Fierce Tiger soldiers to attack Zhang Ruochen had no risk at all. But unexpectedly, Zhang Ruochen was a master of array, which brought great losses to the Fierce Tiger Army.

Within a quarter of an hour, at least 500 soldiers died, and large quantities of sergeants were greatly injured.

Prince Huo Xing would not have dreamed it possible that the person who set up the tactical formation was a cat, rather than Zhang Ruochen.

“Kill them! Slay them all! Haha, whoever opposes me can only have a dead end.” Blackie sat on the Double-Headed Blood Lion. It went on the rampage and trod on the soldiers, until they became a mixture of blood and mud.

Zhang Ruochen leaped into the air and stood on the back of the Blood Lion. He said, “Let’s go, we should lure them to Devil Wind Valley.”

“What? Today, my murderous feeling is so strong, how can I retreat now?” Blackie said.

Zhang Ruochen looked very serious and he said, “I can feel that a superior of the Earth Realm is coming. If we don’t go now, then we can’t leave anymore.”

Zhang Ruochen also wanted to get rid of Prince Huo Xing, a future trouble, but he could not win against a man of the Earth Realm with his capability now.

On hearing the words “the Earth Realm”, Blackie was also shocked. “Xiao Shuang, run away now,” he said.

The Double-Headed Blood Lion carried Zhang Ruochen and Blackie away, wiping out more than a dozen soldiers, and then flew toward Magic Wind Ridge as fast as it could.

After they had just left for a while, The ground fiercely shook, which looked like the earth was trembling and the mountains were swaying.

“Boom!”

An over-eight-meter-tall Single-Horned Golden Leopard dashed from the bottom of the ridge, cracking trees one by one and bringing great destructive power.

The Single-Horned Golden Leopard is a third-class savage beast, the combat power of which can compare with a warrior of the Earth Realm.

Sitting on the Single-Horned Golden Leopard, a 2.3-meter-tall man in his forties wore thick black armor weighing 250 kilograms. His arms were the size of buckets, holding an eight-meter halberd in his hands. All these made him look like the advent of Mars.

He glanced at the horrible scene of the ridge, coldly roared and said, "You're the third and fourth elite battalions of the Fierce Tiger Army. Even when you attacked the Shunjing City of Yunwu Commandery, you guys didn't suffer such a heavy loss. Now, you've lost the face of the whole Fierce Tiger Army."

Prince Huo Xing came out from the soldiers and said, "General Hong Ye, you can't blame the soldiers, but me. I didn't expect that Zhang Ruochen is a master of tactical formations, thus I was unprepared when I attacked him."

"Master of tactical formations? How could it be possible at his age?" General Hong Ye's face turned a little softer, when he saw Prince Huo Xing.

General Hong Ye clearly knew the effect that a master, who was skilled at tactical formations had on the battlefield. Sometimes, they could even turn the tables.

Prince Huo Xing's face clouded. He said, "General Hong Ye, you don't know Zhang Ruochen. Young as he is, his Spiritual Power is extremely high. Now it's already 29 classes. With his Spiritual Power, he totally has the ability to become a third-class master of tactical formations. His existence absolutely is a huge threat to Square Commandery."

General Hong Ye was also stunned. It was amazing for a boy in his teens to own the Spiritual Power of 29 classes. His face turned serious and he said, "Is he dead?"

Prince Huo Xing's face became a bit darker. "He's escaped!" he said.

General Hong Ye looked at the traces on the ground and stared in the direction that Zhang Ruochen and Blackie had left. "He can't escape," he said.

"Rumble! Rumble!"

General Hong Ye rode on the Single-Horned Golden Leopard. He dashed towards the direction of Magic Wind Ridge. It would be a great credit for him to kill Zhang Ruochen, therefore, how could he let this opportunity go?

Prince Huo Xing gathered the soldiers that were not injured. There were about 1,000 people. All of them also ran after Zhang Ruochen along the same direction as General Hong Ye.

The Double-Headed Blood Lion moved very fast, but how could it compare with a third-class savage beast, the Single-Horned Golden Leopard? General Hong Ye caught up to Zhang Ruochen and Blackie very quickly.

"Damn it! They're catching up now!" Blackie anxiously said.

Zhang Ruochen looked ahead, finding that they had already arrived at the bottom of Magic Valley of the Wind. And it would only take a moment to rush into the valley.

But the one, who chased after them, was a general of the Earth Realm. Would he give them a moment?

“Fight!”

Zhang Ruochen took a war bow out from the Time and Space Spinel. Then he put three purple Thunder Arrows on the string at the same time and shot them out.

“Boom!”

Three Thunder Arrows flew towards the head, heart, and the Single-Horned Golden Leopard of General Hong Ye respectively. All of them were very accurate.

General Hong Ye wore a smile of contempt. He even did not elude them. Two Thunder Arrows that flew to his head and heart hit against the thick armor, giving out two loud bangs caused by the crash of metal, and then flew out.

The Thunder Arrow that flew toward the Single-Horned Golden Leopard was bitten by it and then swallowed into its belly.

Seeing this, Zhang Ruochen’s facial expression changed a little. He used his whole strength to shoot those three arrows. A normal warrior of the Completion of the Black Realm could not resist them, but before a warrior of the Earth Realm, they were so weak and vulnerable.

“Little boy, your shooting is very good, but it’s a pity that you don’t have enough power.” General Hong Ye gave a loud laugh.

Seeing that the Double-Headed Blood Lion was going to rush into the valley, General Hong Ye had pursued at 60 meters away, 50 meters, 40 meters, 30 meters...

When there were just 20 meters between them, General Hong Ye flew from the back of the Single-Horned Golden Leopard. He held a halberd of eight meters in his hands, piercing toward Zhang Ruochen’s back with great power.

“This is it!”

Before the halberd of General Hong Ye fell on his body, Zhang Ruochen already felt pain throughout his whole body. The sharp strength tore his clothes into ash.

Zhang Ruochen still kept calm. He stretched out his hands and pulled forward.

Looking at the action of Zhang Ruochen, General Hong Ye, who pierced him with his halberd, wore a smile of contempt. He thought Zhang Ruochen was too innocent to resist his halberd with his hands.

While what happened next made him change his face.

The halberd aimed to pierce Zhang Ruochen slowly turned its direction and flew out from his left side.

Avoiding the halberd saved Zhang Ruochen some time.

The Double-Headed Blood Lion carried Zhang Ruochen and Blackie to Magic Valley of the Wind at a fast speed.

“How could this be? What martial technique has he practiced?”

Staring at Zhang Ruochen’s back, General Hong Ye clenched his teeth, feeling very incredulous.

“He must die!”

Just confounded for a moment, General Hong Ye’s eyes became very determined again. He mounted the Single-Horned Golden Leopard, chasing after them into the valley.

“Little boy, now that you’ve escaped into the valley, there’s only one way for you to choose—death...” General Hong Ye stood on the Single-Horned Golden Leopard and looked at Zhang Ruochen, who had already stopped.

Suddenly, his facial expression became serious. Staring at two beautiful young girls not far away, he said, “Who are you?”

Duanmu Xingling’s charming face gave an enchanting smile and her breasts gently vibrated. She bared her snow-white teeth in a grin and said, “How dare you ask me who we are? It’s me that should know who you are. You really have the nerve to hunt a disciple of the School of the Martial Market!”

Duanmu Xingling was really beautiful, enchanting, and moving. Even General Hong Ye was struck for a while when he saw her. He never expected to meet such a stunning beauty in the wilderness.

“Listen to her tone, she must be a disciple of the School of the Martial Market too.”

“Who cares about whether she is a disciple of the School of the Martial Market. In the Omen Ridge, even if I raped her, how could the School of the Martial Market know about it? At most, I would sell her in the black market after I raped her.”

“Once she was sold in the black market, she would become a whore or a slave of the market. No matter how noble she is, she would never be able to escape from the market.”

“If I could sleep with her, even if my life was shortened by 10 years, it would be a good thing too.”

Then, General Hong Ye stared at Huang Yanchen, a stunned look showed in his eyes again. He was wild with joy, thinking, “God treats me so well that I could meet two fairy beauties just by hunting Zhang Ruochen.”

He could enjoy them first and then sell them on the black market. There was no doubt that he could make a lot of money.

General Hong Ye could see that Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling were at the cultivation of the Black Realm. They could not beat him.

But he did not know that they were Warriors of Division Profound. He would not have been so optimistic had he known that.

Seeing his dirty expression, Huang Yanchen felt extremely disgusted and hateful. She said, “Men are all the same. No matter how high their cultivation is, they still can not change their nature.”

Standing not far away from them, Zhang Ruochen slightly frowned, when hearing Huang Yanchen’s words.

Chapter 124 The Killing Female Devil

“Clash!”

Huang Yanchen took out a royal blue combat sword. She shook her arm and activated the inscription on the sword where strands of invincible Sword Breath had revealed. It turned into a wind blade and swung towards General Hong Ye.

Dozens of wind blades struck the General's armor. There was a banging sound and a white scratch appeared on his armor.

"The 11 Layers of Dark Armor." Huang Yanchen squinted her eyes and stared at General Hong Ye's armor.

One layer of the Black Heavy Armour weighed 53 kilograms while 11 layers weighed 583 kilograms.

Ordinary sergeants could only wear one layer.

Only masters of the Earth Realm would dare to wear 10 or more layers.

General Hong Ye was shocked by her move. He didn't dare to look down on her, as she had activated a dozen Sword Breath of the wind blades with a mere shake of the sword.

No ordinary warrior of the Black Realm would be able to acquire such technique.

"Perhaps she is one of the characters of the Profound Board?" General Hong Ye wondered.

Huang Yanchen said coldly, "Your 11 layers of the Dark Armour are not going to save your life. Even 20 layers could not save you!"

General Hong Ye composed himself and asked, "Young lady, may I know your name?"

"Huang Yanchen, School of the Martial Market," she responded.

"Huang Yanchen, ranking 103rd on the Profound Board." General Hong Ye was surprised. He had never expected to encounter a warrior of the Division Profound.

Suddenly, Huang Yanchen wielded the Blue Crystal Sword and played the Wind Driver Nine Steps. When she made the first step one meter high off the ground, she had dashed ten meters forward. The second step, she was two meters off the ground and dashed out 20-odd meters. When she made the third step, she had already reached his head.

Both of her arms held the sword tight and transferred her Genuine Qi into the blade. She had activated 33 inscriptions carved on the blade. She dragged out a seven-meter-long sapphire sword radiance and swung the sword downwards.

General Hong Ye didn't have any other choice but to swing his halberd and defend himself.

"Boom!"

The power of the Blue Crystal Sword was surprisingly strong. It caused his arms to turn numb. The halberd in his hand was about to fall.

When Huang Yanchen noticed that General Hong Ye had blocked her sword, she instantly changed the move and swung another sword down towards his neck.

Although General Hong Ye was the top fighter at the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm, his speed couldn't match with Huang Yanchen's. His arms were still numb and he wasn't able to keep her second sword off.

"Bang!"

The royal blue combat sword hit General Hong Ye's neck brutally, causing him to fall down from his Single-Horned Golden Leopard.

He rolled over on the ground before crawling back up. There was fear in his eyes. He touched his neck slowly and found that his 11 layers of Dark Armour had been pierced, leaving a long and bloody wound on his neck. Huang Yanchen was only one step away from killing him.

How was this warrior of the Division Profound so horrifying?

Ordinary warriors of the Division Profound obtained the ability to confront with warriors at the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm. Not to mention Huang Yanchen was ranked around 100th on the Profound Board, her ability no doubt frightened him to death.

"Miss Huang, I suggest you stay out of the hatred between Square Commandery and Zhang Ruochen." After discovering how strong she was, his attitude had turned soft.

Huang Yanchen carried her sword and walked towards General Hong Ye. She asked, "Did you just threaten me with Square Commandery?"

"I do not dare to confront with you." General Hong Ye quickly explained.

"It's been a while since I've fought with a warrior of the Earth Realm. How can I let you go so easily? How about this? If you can withstand 10 of my moves, you can walk away." Huang Yanchen proposed.

"Deal!"

General Hong Ye wasn't a weak warrior. He thrust against the ground, jumped up high and stood on the back of the Single-Horned Golden Leopard.

He had to fight her with the help of the Single-Horned Golden Leopard's power. If he could defeat her, he would be able to turn the situation around.

Huang Yanchen stood up straight. She didn't stop General Hong Ye from using the power of the Single-Horned Golden Leopard and dashed towards him.

"Broken Cloud Halberd!"

General Hong Ye displayed a low-class Spiritual martial technique. Both of his arms swung the halberd with the power of his entire body and pierced towards Huang Yanchen who was rushing towards him.

Huang Yanchen turned around and instantly moved three steps aside. Then, she struck the sword towards General Hong Ye's head at her fastest speed.

He released a palm and escaped the fighting sword from Huang Yanchen who was attacking from the side.

"Swish!"

A hurricane vortex formed, about 33 meters away. It completely enclosed General Hong Ye and the Single-Horned Golden Leopard.

Seven or eight shadows of Huang Yanchen appeared at the same time as she beveled and pierced.

The vortex disappeared. Huang Yanchen flew down from the Single-Horned Golden Leopard without looking at General Hong Ye behind her. She retreated the royal blue combat sword to its scabbard and sneeringly said, "Such a loser!"

General Hong Ye sat on the back of the Single-Horned Golden Leopard with the long halberd in his hand, not moving an inch.

"Who!"

A strong wind blew over General Hong Ye. His head fell from his neck like a ball. It didn't fall to the ground but rather was carried outside the Devil Wind Valley by the wind, leaving a small drop of blood on the ground.

Meanwhile, Prince Huo Xing had brought thousands of acute Fierce-Tiger Army sergeants to Devil Wind Valley.

"My report, Your Highness: Zhang Ruochen has escaped to Devil Wind Valley. General Hong Ye has chased after him." A sergeant knelt down in front of Prince Huo Xing and reported what he had seen.

"Haha! Fleeing into Devil Wind Valley, Zhang Ruochen has surely set himself a trap. He has no chance of surviving. I'm sure General Hong Ye has already killed him." Prince Huo Xing laughed.

Just then, a bloody head blown by the wind from Devil Wind Valley reached Prince Huo Xing's arms.

Prince Huo Xing lifted the head and looked at it. He was frightened and almost fainted.

"General... Hong... Hong Ye..."

Prince Huo Xing's hands trembled. He dropped the head to the ground. His mind was empty. He couldn't imagine who had killed such a powerful General as Hong Ye.

No matter how strong Zhang Ruochen was, it was impossible that he could have killed a warrior of the Earth Realm.

"Prince Huo Xing, do you dare to fight with me alone?" Zhang Ruochen walked out from Devil Wind Valley gradually. He stood on the hillside, looking down at Prince Huo Xing.

Prince Huo Xing eventually awoke from the shock of seeing General Hong Ye's head. He responded coldly, "Zhang Ruochen, I have a thousand Fierce-Tiger Army sergeants here with me. Once we attack, we will cut you to pieces. Why would I want to fight with you alone?"

Prince Huo Xing clearly knew in his mind that he was far from being Zhang Ruochen's opponent. It would be impossible for him to defeat Zhang Ruochen without the help of his army.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head slightly and said, "Well, you have your Fierce-Tiger Army, I also have help!"

Looking at the head of General Hong Ye on the ground, Prince Huo Xing was frightened to death. He asked softly, "Zhang Ruochen, who is your help?"

Duanmu Xingling and Huang Yanchen walked out from the Devil Wind Valley. Huang Yanchen stood on the back of the Single-Horned Golden Leopard with a sense of coldness.

"Huo Xing, you arranged an army and attacked students of the School without authorization. Do you have any idea what kind of punishment you're going to receive?" Duanmu Xingling said.

Duanmu Xingling and Huang Yanchen owed Zhang Ruochen a massive favor. It was inevitable they would show up and handle Prince Huo Xing for him at such a prime moment.

Looking at Duanmu Xingling and Huang Yanchen, Prince Huo Xing now understood what was going on.

The two female devils were both warriors of the Division Profound. Their cultivations were unfathomable; they must have killed General Hong Ye.

Yet, he couldn't figure out how Zhang Ruochen, a prince from the inferior commandery, could acquire their attainment; that they had even killed a warrior of the Earth Realm for him?

Although Prince Huo Xing was scared, he wasn't afraid of them. He saluted and said, "Huo Xing greets both senior sister apprentices. This is resentment between Zhang Ruochen and me. I hope you will not intervene. I'm assuming the two of you wouldn't want to offend Square Commandery, would you?"

Huang Yanchen sneered and said, "Can you believe Square Commandery threatened me twice today? How dare you. Do you really think I won't kill you? Even Square Commandery Prince can do nothing to me!"

Prince Huo Xing didn't know Huang Yanchen's status. If they were in Western Campus he would be scared of her.

Yet, a thousand Fierce-Tiger Army troops were backing him up. He wasn't worried Huang Yanchen would kill him.

Prince Huo Xing stood up straight and said with confidence, "Square Commandery is classified as a medium level commandery. Even 10 from Yunwu Commandery, wouldn't be strong enough to fight with us. Even warriors of the Martial Arts legends of the Heaven Realm have to revise before fighting with Square Commandery, not to mention Warrior of Division Profound."

Having listened to this, Huang Yanchen was even more irritated. She released her sword, rushed towards Prince Huo Xing and claimed, "Since you have such confidence in your Square Commandery, I can't wait to kill you and see what they are going to do to me!"

Seeing the coldness in her eyes, Prince Huo Xing's heart started to beat quickly. He said, "Senior sister apprentice Huang, I suggest you reconsider it. It's not worth offending the prince of a medium level commandery for a prince of an inferior commandery."

Prince Huo Xing assumed Huang Yanchen didn't dare to kill him and therefore, kept provoking her. However, this was a massive mistake. He could have never imagined that Huang Yanchen was the princess of Qianshui Commandery.

Huang Yanchen was an explosive person. She was completely enraged by these three threats from a prince from a mere medium level commandery.

“Whew!”

Huang Yanchen’s sword had already pierced through Prince Huo Xing’s heart and left a hole in his body. Yet, none of the thousand Fierce-Tiger Army troops could have recognized the shadow of the sword.

“You... How dare you...”

Prince Huo Xing could not believe Huang Yanchen dared to kill him.

“Boom!”

Prince Huo Xing’s body fell to the ground heavily from the back of the savage beast.

“How dare you kill my prince! My army, let’s kill this female devil!” A warrior at the Medium State of the Black Realm yelled. He charged towards Huang Yanchen.

The man, who led the army to fight with Huang Yanchen, was Zhao Guanglie, the fourth camp Vice Battalion Commander of the Fierce-Tiger Army.

“Clash!”

Huang Yanchen swung a clean sword towards Zhao Guanglie. His bloody head went flying. In a mere second, he had turned into a headless body and fallen into the pool of blood.

Chapter 125: Small Success

“The Floating Cloud Sword Song!”

Huang Yanchen swung her arms and slashed out a 10-meter long Sword Breath. With just one swing, the bodies of 20 sergeants were torn apart. There were numerous deaths.

Her power was so magnificent; it scared the rest of the army. No one dared to move a step forward.

They clearly knew that if a warrior of the Division Profound was irritated, she could destroy the entire thousand man army. Knowing how powerful Huang Yanchen was, they would surely get themselves killed if they moved forward.

She wiped the blood onto her sleeves and retreated the sword back to its scabbard. She said, “Pass my message along to Square Commandery Prince. If he wants revenge for Prince Huo Xing, he can come find me, Huang Yanchen anytime!”

She then walked towards Zhang Ruochen, straightened her back and said, “Zhang Ruochen, if the Square Commandery seeks revenge, I’ll handle it for you so as to return you a favor. Yet, you still owe me a favor for saving you last time. If you can give me a space treasure, we’ll be settled!”

Huang Yanchen couldn’t stop thinking about the space treasure.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Do you think killing Prince Huo Xing resolved everything? Square Commandery Prince will no doubt blame me for the death of his son. They will then use this as an excuse and start a war with Yunwu Commandery within six months. You'll see!"

The sergeants of the Square Commandery took the head of General Hong Ye and the body of Prince Huo Xing away nicely. After an hour, all the sergeants had left Devil Wind Valley.

The scent of blood lingered in the air.

...

Two weeks later.

The Palace of Square Commandery.

Square Commandery Prince walked down from his seat. Staring at the body of Prince Huo Xing, he looked pale and sad. He grasped his fists tightly, exploded a forceful momentum from his body and shattered all the porcelain in the Palace.

"Bang! Bang!"

The ground was covered with pieces of porcelain.

"What a bastard! How dare such a warrior of the Division Profound kill my son! I will cleanse her clan!"

The Square Commandery Prince groaned, "Go investigate now! I need a clear and detailed report of Huang Yanchen. After the investigation, kill her entire clan. No one in her family can remain alive!"

"Your Majesty, we can't do that..."

An elderly man wearing a purple golden crown rushed into the palace and saluted to the Square Commandery Prince.

Square Commandery Prince sneered, "Why not?"

The old man looked awkward. He murmured, "Huang Yanchen is the Sixth Princess of the Qianshui Commandery with a magnificent talent. Qianshui Commandery Prince is very fond of her!"

"Qianshui Commandery!"

The countenance of Square Commandery Prince froze, as if ice cold water poured over his head. He calmed down in a short while.

The Qianshui Commandery was a superior class commandery that was 10 times stronger than the Square Commandery.

Although Square Commandery dominated in Western Nine Prefectures, once they offended Qianshui Commandery, death would be the only way out.

The elderly man put on a cunning smile and said, "Your Majesty, even though we can do nothing to Huang Yanchen, we can use this as an excuse to attack Yunwu Commandery. We simply make an announcement saying Prince Huo Xing has been killed by Zhang Ruochen. If Yunwu Commandery Prince

doesn't hand over the killer as well as compensate us with 80 million silver coins, we will declare war on them."

Square Commandery Prince thought deeply about what the elderly said and started considering if his idea was feasible.

He was Commandery Prince and had lost his child. Such sorrow was incomparable to the importance of conquering their territory.

"Will Yunwu Commandery Prince handover Zhang Ruochen? Will he compensate us with 80 million silver coins?" Square Commandery Prince whispered to himself.

The elderly smiled faintly and continued, "The interior of the Yunwu Commandery is not harmonious. Most of them support Zhang Tiangui, the Seventh Prince. They see Zhang Ruochen, the Ninth Prince as a threat and don't want him to be fully developed."

"If Yunwu Commandery Prince is willing to give us Zhang Ruochen and 80 million silver coins, that proves how weak and incompetent he is. At the same time, 80 million silver coins are surely going to consume their power to a large extent. Once we get the 80 million silver coins, it'll be an easy task to conquer Yunwu Commandery.

"Yet, if Yunwu Commandery Prince insists on protecting Zhang Ruochen, we just need to place our army on the border and march towards Yunwu Commandery. The interior will no doubt blame everything on Zhang Ruochen and Yunwu Commandery Prince and think they've brought a disaster to Yunwu Commandery. When Yunwu Commandery becomes a mess, our attack will be as easy as taking money from a pocket."

The Square Commandery Prince nodded and said, "Okay. Let's do it. Now send Yunwu Commandery Prince a gauntlet. If he doesn't hand over the killer and compensates us, we will destroy Yunwu Commandery at the beginning of the new year."

...

Zhang Ruochen could have guessed the turmoil between Yunwu Commandery and Square Commandery. Yet, it didn't bother him too much. He gave his full attention to practicing the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon in Devil Wind Valley.

The conflicts between Yunwu Commandery and Square Commandery had long been emerging. The death of Prince Huo Xing was just a trigger point. Even if Prince Huo Xing hadn't been killed, Square Commandery Prince would have found some other excuses to declare war on Yunwu Commandery.

The most important thing for Zhang Ruochen now was to keep elevating his cultivation like Huang Yanchen. She could scare a thousand sergeants away with her excellent ability.

If she had broken through to the Earth Realm, she would be capable of fighting her way out even if she was surrounded by a troop of 10 thousand sergeants.

Only warriors with strong capability were able to take control of a situation like that.

There were two more weeks until the quarterly assessment. Zhang Ruochen had already practiced the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon to a Small Success.

The next day, Huang Yanchen had also made it to the Small Success.

Five days later, even though Duanmu Xingling was the last one to reach the Small Success, she still made it through.

Duanmu Xingling scrutinized Zhang Ruochen. She bit her lips and said coldly, "Sister Chen and I have spent more time practicing than you. We have also obtained a higher cultivation than you. How did you reach the Small Success of the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon ahead of us? Have you hidden a secret or trick from us?"

"Perhaps I have a stronger Spiritual Power. That is why I have made it faster than you two." Zhang Ruochen smiled. Then he asked, "Senior sister apprentice Duanmu, now that you have reached the Small Success, how fast can you explode?"

Duanmu Xingling smiled pleasantly and replied, "The Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon is indeed a fabulous martial technique. I can explode 67 meters per second. Sister Chen, what about you?"

"69 meters per second."

Huang Yanchen touched her chin slightly, smiled and said, "If I could go to the black market and buy a drop of Sacred Liquid, maybe I could reach 70 meters per second. But, as students of the School of the Martial Market, it is better if we keep a distance from the black market. I'll let my father know and ask him to send the Sacred Liquid to the School."

"I feel like my ability has greatly increased since cultivating the Shadow of Royal Wind Dragon. I want to go to challenge other warriors of the Division Profound and upgrade my ranking. Sister Chen, are you interested in going?" Duanmu Xingling asked.

"Of course, I'm going!" Huang Yanchen's hands were already touching her sword. She couldn't wait to show other warriors how powerful she was.

Huang Yanchen thought that the higher ranking on the Profound Board, the more prestigious she was.

After the two women left, Zhang Ruochen brought Blackie back to the Western Campus and gathered Zhang Shaochu and Liu Chengfeng together.

He stared at these two people sitting opposite him and said, "There is something that I want you two to help me with."

It didn't matter what Zhang Ruochen wanted them to do. Liu Chengfeng stood up, smacked his chest and claimed, "My Ninth Prince, just tell me, anything you want. If I am capable of doing it, I'll make sure it's done well."

Zhang Ruochen nodded. He took out the 10 bottles of pills and placed them in front of Zhang Shaochu and Liu Chengfeng.

"Here you go. 10 bottles of Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills, altogether 340 pills. I need you to sell them to freshmen. How much should I charge?"

Seeing the 10 bottles of Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills before him, Liu Chengfeng was shocked. He calculated for a short while and said, "The market price for one Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pill outside the

School is five thousand silver coins. Students in Western Campus need to spend four merits in exchange for one pill. If we sell it at a price of 3,500 silver coins per pill, I'm sure it will attract numerous students."

Zhang Shaochu added, "The quarterly assessment will be in 10 days. Everyone is striving to elevate their cultivation. Even if we sell them at 3,800 silver coins, they will still come and buy from us."

Zhang Ruochen said, "It doesn't matter how much you guys set for each pill. I only want three thousand silver coins for each pill. You can share the rest of the profit. But, you will have to sell them all within 10 days."

Zhang Shaochu and Liu Chengfeng were extremely excited to hear this.

That would be at least two hundred thousand in profit if they sold them all. No doubt they were excited. It would be stupid, if they refused to do so.

"Don't you worry, my dear Ninth Prince. I assure you I'll sell all the pills within three days!" Liu Chengfeng said with confidence.

Zhang Shaochu also promised Zhang Ruochen that he would sell all the pills in three days. The immense profit had surely become their motivation.

Zhang Ruochen thought it over. He took out more 300 bottles, with amounts of first-class and second-class pills in it. There were pills for increasing cultivation, some for healing, and some for detoxification.

"Please sell these for me as well. I don't care how much you guys sell them for, because I'm not going to take advantage of you. I'll take 70% of the silver coins, you guys take the rest."

Looking at the numerous bottles of pills, Zhang Shaochu became exciting. Even his fat body started bouncing. "Such countless pills could make him extremely wealthy."

Yet, Liu Chengfeng remained relatively calm. He said, "The class of these pills is not high enough. Plus, the students in the Western Campus are all masters of the Black Realm. The demand for these pills is not high. I would say it's not going to be profitable selling on the Western Campus."

There was a woman's voice outside his room, "Zhang Ruochen, I'll sell them for you."

Zi Qian pushed the door open, walked into the room, and looked at Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen nodded as if something was bothering him. He left the room with Zi Qian and arrived at an empty area. He asked, "How can you sell them?"

She walked in front. Without turning around, she responded, "The black market."

Zhang Ruochen remembered Zi Qian's identity all of a sudden and said, "Oh yes! How could I forget you're one of the assassins of the black market! Of course, you can sell all these pills on the black market."

Zi Qian was a tiny woman with a curvy body. She stared at Zhang Ruochen with her long eyebrows glittering and smiled. "Don't you worry that I'll take possession of all the silver coins after selling the pills?"

“If you dare to take my silver coins, I’ll chase after you to get it back even if you hide on the other side of the world.” Zhang Ruochen laughed and asked, “Anyway, why are you going back to the black market?”

Zhang Ruochen could tell that Zi Qian was heading back to the black market, so she decided to sell the pills for him on her way.

Zi Qian responded, “I have already finished refining the five drops of Half-Saint Liquid I bought from the black market last time. I’m planning to buy some more. Are you interested?”

Chapter 126: Blood-Condensed Nine Swords

Zhang Ruochen was definitely interested in Half-Saint’s Essence.

Only internal students of the School of the Martial Market could gain the Half-Saint’s Essence. They did this by exchanging their merits.

Even if external students obtained merits, they were not allowed to exchange it for the Half-Saint’s Essence. They could only receive it when the School distributed it quarterly every year.

If the external students were eager to get the Half-Saint’s Essence, they had to spend plenty of silver coins and buy it from the black market.

The Black Market was absolutely dangerous. If the external students didn’t know the right person to lead the way, there was a high possibility that they could be ripped off by vicious people and lose both the money and their lives.

However, Zi Qian was an exception as she was a black market assassin. There was no one better than her to buy the Half-Saint’s Essence on the black market.

Zhang Ruochen stared at Zi Qian and asked, “You have already refined five drops of the Half-Saint’s Essence. This is why your cultivation has increased so much in such a short period of time. Anyway, how much does one drop of the Half-Saint’s Essence cost in the black market?”

Zi Qian had always spoken the truth in front of Zhang Ruochen. She responded, “If an outsider buys it from the black market, they charge at least four hundred thousand silver coins for one drop. However, we, as the Hades Department, have our own sources. It only costs us two hundred thousand silver coins for one drop, less than half the going rate.”

Zhang Ruochen nodded and handed the three hundred bottles of pills to Zi Qian.

Shortly after, Zhang Ruochen took out hundreds of Genuine Martial Arms and gave them to Zi Qian as well. He said, “Please, sell all the pills and Genuine Martial Arms on the black market and use the silver coins to buy the Half-Saint’s Essence as much as you can. It would be even better if you could buy the Sacred Liquid.”

“Okay! I’ll be back in three days. Wait for my good news.” Zi Qian glanced at Zhang Ruochen quickly and deeply. She moved 10 steps forward, stopped all of a sudden, turned around and smiled at Zhang Ruochen. “Let’s split the silver coins after selling the pills and Genuine Martial Arms? 3:7 ratio?”

Zhang Ruochen knew that Zi Qian loved possessing silver coins and Spiritual Crystal and didn't too bother about the split. He smiled and nodded, "Haha! Deal!"

"Clash!"

Zi Qian turned into a beautiful purple shadow, left the Western Campus, and disappeared instantly into the mountains of Omen Ridge.

When Zhang Ruochen made his way back to Dragon Martial Temple, he entered the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel and got ready to break through the Medium State of the Black Realm.

He took out eight drops of the Half-Saint's Essence and placed them in a row in front of him.

"Ten more days until the quarterly assessment. That's equal to one month here in the Time and Space Spinel. I should have enough time to break through to the Medium State of the Black Realm."

Zhang Ruochen took the first drop of Half-Saint's Essence. An Icing air appeared in his stomach as if it was piercing to his bones. It followed the Meridians and flowed throughout every corner of his body.

This was not the first time Zhang Ruochen had taken the Essence and thus he managed to adjust his body with it shortly. In three and a half days, he had refined one drop.

Then, he started refining the second drop, the third drop...

When he finished refining the seventh drop of the Half-Saint's Essence, he finally broke through the realm and reached the Medium State of the Black Realm.

Suddenly, there was a loud bang in his body. The capacity of his Qi Lake had enlarged 13 times more while the 36 Meridians in his body were also expanding. The Genuine Qi inside the Meridians flowed even faster and it gave off a sound, as if a torrent of water was rushing down from the mountains.

After breaking through the realm, Zhang Ruochen took the eighth drop of the Half-Saint's Essence down and refined it in three days.

With the help of the eighth drop of the Half-Saint's Essence, Zhang Ruochen's realm was fully consolidated.

"I wonder how fast my speed is now that I've reached the Medium State of the Black Realm!" Zhang Ruochen could feel that his cultivation had greatly increased.

No matter the power or the speed, it had reached a much higher level.

When he had first cultivated the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon at the Small Success, he could dash out 57 meters per second at his fastest.

And now?

"Whew!"

He was blasting as fast as he could in Dragon Martial Temple, as if he was a strong wind. If other warriors at the Medium State of the Black Realm were here, they would probably be unable to recognize his shadow at such a speed.

After sprinting 10 laps around Dragon Martial Temple, Zhang Ruochen finally stopped. He let out an excited gasp and said, "I can reach 58 meters per second without using the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon or activating the blood Meridians. Yet, if I utilize both the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon and activate the Blood Meridians, I can explode to 62 meters per second."

The speed of the masters of the Profound Board who ranked relatively low dashed out around 60 meters per second.

Although Zhang Ruochen had never fought with any of Warriors of the Division Profound, he had confidence that he could confront with those who were fairly weaker. He could even defeat them.

It could be said that Zhang Ruochen had the elementary power to confront with the warriors of the Earth Realm.

With his current ability, even if he couldn't have defeated General Hong Ye, he could at least have stayed alive in the fight, without having to ask for Huang Yanchen's help.

"When I reach the Medium State of the Black Realm, I can demonstrate the 'Animal Spirits Fixing Arms'. Let me see what kind of soldiers I'm capable of agglomerating!"

Zhang Ruochen stood in the middle of the Palace and activated the Spiritual Blood in his body. A strand of Spiritual Blood flooded out from his pores. It covered 10 meters of space around him, as if it was a large piece of blood cloud.

An illusory image of nine combat swords appeared in the blood cloud, floating in nine different directions from Zhang Ruochen and displaying powerful Sword Breath.

"Why are there nine swords?"

Normally when warriors reached the Medium State of the Black Realm, they were all able to utilize the "Animal Spirits Fixing Arms" and a spiritual arm would appear.

As for Zhang Ruochen, he could condense nine Blood Swords at the same time. No one had even heard of or experienced this before.

Zhang Ruochen withdrew the Spiritual Blood back into his body and closed himself off in contemplation. He whispered to himself, "Perhaps I've opened up all the 36 Meridians of the Scripture of Emperor Ming's Emphyrean? Is that why such a vision appeared?"

Anyhow, being able to condense nine Blood Swords was absolutely beneficial to Zhang Ruochen.

Yet, if such shocking news spread to other people, Zhang Ruochen would be in great danger again.

"I should try not to use the power of the Blood Meridians in the future," he thought.

Tomorrow was the quarterly assessment. Zhang Ruochen was pressure free. With his current ability, it would be a relatively easy task for him to acquire the title of No.1 freshman among the four campuses.

Zhang Ruochen was heading to Zi Qian to get the Half-Saint's Essence.

When he first arrived at the woman's dormitory, he caused a splash.

“Look! That is our No.1 freshman of the Western Campus. It’s said that his Spiritual Power has reached level 29 and he is seen as the No.1 Genius of Spiritual Power in the history of the School of the Martial Market!” An 18-year-old female student screamed excitedly, as if Zhang Ruochen had insulted her.

Another pretty senior sister apprentice at the Completion of the Black Realm looked at Zhang Ruochen and said, “Rumor has it if he has chosen to specialize in Spiritual Power, there is a 50% chance for him to become a Saint of Spiritual Power.”

Every Saint was considered superior and worshipped by countless warriors. Its apprentices were all over the commandery. Most of the warriors had no chance of ever meeting a Saint and yet, Zhang Ruochen had half a chance of becoming one. Knowing how strong and talented he was, how could the female students stay calm when they saw him?

“I want to make babies with him!” A fairly beautiful young woman said with passion.

Zhang Ruochen was surrounded by a group of female students. He could hardly move an inch. Some of the women even wanted to kiss him. Fortunately, he was fast enough to dodge from them. Otherwise, his face would be full of lip prints.

The female students were loud enough to catch Zi Qian’s attention. Seeing Zhang Ruochen had been blocked in the lounge, Zi Qian jumped down next to him and pulled him out of the crowd.

“Let’s go to somewhere quiet,” she whispered.

Zhang Ruochen clearly understood that the Half-Saint’s Essence was an important matter. He said, “Let’s go to Dragon Martial Temple. Both senior sister apprentice Huang and senior sister apprentice Duanmu are not there. No one will see or hear us.”

Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian made their way back to Dragon Martial Temple and arrived at Yellow No.1.

Zhang Ruochen closed the door and asked, “Junior sister apprentice Zi, have you bought the Half-Saint’s Essence for me with the silver coins?”

Zi Qian responded, “I’ve sold the pills and Genuine Martial Arms you gave me and received 5,800,000 silver coins. Since we agreed on the 3:7 ratio for the profit, you get 4,060,000 and I get 1,740,000 silver coins. I bought you 20 drops of the Half-Saint’s Essence with your silver coins and there are still 60 thousand silver coins. Do you still want them?”

What she meant was that if Zhang Ruochen didn’t want the 60 thousand silver coins, she would keep them.

Zhang Ruochen responded, “Since it’s my money, of course, I want it!”

Zi Qian gave him a nasty look. She took out the 60 thousand silver coins and 20 bottles and placed them on the table.

Zhang Ruochen opened one of the jade bottles and a herbal scent wafted through the air. It was the scent of the Half-Saint’s Essence.

He put away the Half-Saint’s Essence and silver coins. He lifted up his head, looked at Zi Qian and asked with sincerity, “Junior sister apprentice Zi, can you leave the Hades Department in the future?”

Zi Qian's countenance turned pale. She didn't dare look him in the eye. She responded, "You don't understand how powerful the Hades Department is. If I left the Hades Department, they would have me killed within 10 days."

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"Moreover, I'm not a Prince or Princesses. I don't have a powerful background or the support of family. If I didn't kill for them, I wouldn't have money to buy resources for my cultivation."

Zhang Ruochen understood her difficulty and stopped persuading her to leave.

"If you encounter any problems or difficulties in the future, come to find me! I'll be more than happy to help!" Zhang Ruochen said.

"Hmmm..."

Zi Qian nodded slightly and said, "One more thing. Do you know that Square Commandery and Yunwu Commandery are about to start a war?"

Zhang Ruochen crinkled his eyebrows and asked, "Is it because of the death of Prince Huo Xing?"

"Did you really get the Prince killed? You've made a huge mistake this time! It's not news that Square Commandery wants to conquer Yunwu Commandery. They just need an excuse and you've just offered them a good one!"

Zi Qian thought for a while and said, "If you wanted to kill Prince Huo Xing, I could have done it for you! Why did you have to do it yourself?"

Zhang Ruochen looked dignified and said, "Since he's dead, there's no point arguing about it."

Zi Qian continued, "Square Commandery Prince is using the death of Prince Huo Xing to force Yunwu Commandery Prince to hand you over. They are also asking for 80 million silver coins as compensation. Yunwu Commandery Prince no doubt insists he won't do it. Square Commandery has started arranging the army and station towards the border. By early next year, they will attack the Yunwu Commandery."

"How about the interior of the Yunwu Commandery?" Zhang Ruochen asked instantly.

Zi Qian replied, "It's said that the Queen and Minister Xue would prefer to hand you over so as to subdue Square Commandery. Yet, Yunwu Commandery Prince and the generals in the army disagree. The interior of Yunwu Commandery is a mess and it is not favorable for you!"

Chapter 127: The Freshmen's Competition

Zhang Ruochen never worried about the war between Yunwu Commandery and Square Commandery, as they had been fighting for years. Yunwu Commandery would have been annexed if it was too weak.

His only concern now was his mother, Concubine Lin.

The Queen would never let Concubine Lin get off easy.

“If I become the internal student of the School of the Martial Market, I can bring my family here and receive protection from the School. I have to accomplish it as soon as possible!” Zhang Ruochen was determined to become the internal disciple of the School as fast as he could.

Zi Qian was about to leave. When she opened the door, she saw Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling walking inside.

It seemed that Huang Yanchen was in good mood and was smiling. On seeing Zi Qian, however, her smile disappeared immediately.

She took out her combat sword, made a loud and swift sound. In the splendid light of her sword, she shouted in a low voice, “Zhang Ruochen, you perverted thief! How dare you shame the reputation of Dragon Martial Temple again and again! I must kill you today!”

“Whew!”

Whirlwinds formed around Huang Yanchen’s body which allowed her to leave the ground with both feet. She slashed, and cleft a Sword Breath more than 10 meters long.

Zhang Ruochen was slightly astonished. He grabbed Zi Qian’s shoulder and, in a second, displayed the Flying Dragon’s Shadow on Wind. His body shifted transversely immediately and he avoided the sharp Sword Breath just in time.

“Boom!”

Four pillars were chopped off, turning the just-built penthouse into ruins again.

“Meow!”

Blackie climbed out of the ruins and his body was covered with ash and dust. It was squashed by the bricks and he went dizzy. It took him a long time to become sober.

When he found out it was Huang Yanchen, who caused all these, he gnashed his teeth in anger and was about to wage a life-and-death struggle with her. Fortunately, Zhang Ruochen stopped him.

“You are so good at hiding. Now, take this!”

With her face grim, Huang Yanchen took up her combat sword and was ready to slash again.

Zhang Ruochen hid Zi Qian behind him and said calmly, “Huang Yanchen, why can’t we talk about it peacefully?”

Huang Yanchen stared at Zi Qian for a while, and then looked at Zhang Ruochen again. She asked, “Who authorized you to bring other students into Dragon Martial Temple?”

“I have something to discuss with Senior Sister Apprentice Zi, so I brought her to Yellow No.1. I don’t see how it bothers you,” said Zhang Ruochen.

“Why did you close the door if you were simply discussing things? What are you hiding?” Huang Yanchen suddenly realized it was really none of her business when she was just about to say the above words.

“Yeah, why should I be angry if it has nothing to do with me?”

Duanmu Xingling walked up to her immediately. She stopped her and said, “Sister Chen, we have something more important to do now. We’ll settle this tiny matter with them later.”

Huang Yanchen was given an out, so she put away her sword immediately. She sneered, “I’ll let you go as the quarterly assessment is taking place tomorrow. Since Junior Sister Apprentice Zi is here as well, you two, come with me to Earth No.1. I have something to tell you both.”

Zhang Ruochen looked at the ruins, shook his head slightly, and followed behind her.

Arriving at Earth No.1, Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling sat in the front, while Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian sat on the left and right side separately.

Huang Yanchen sipped the just-brewed Saussurea iced tea and said, “As you may know, tomorrow’s quarterly assessment will be divided into two rounds. The first round is the competition among the freshmen from the four campuses, while the second round is about the quarterly ranking inside our Western Campus.”

“This year, it’s our campus’ turn to host the competition. Since you two are the top two among all the freshmen in our campus, your performances tomorrow will determine whether our campus can win or not.”

“Zhang Ruochen, I know that your cultivation is outstanding. But don’t let down your guard. There are also many top masters in the other three campuses. Perhaps, some of them are even stronger than you.”

Duanmu Xingling nodded and said, “The Eastern Campus is the strongest among all. They won almost every competition every year. There is also a top master in their campus this year, whose name is Dugu Lin. His cultivation has already reached the Final State of the Black Realm.”

“Not long ago, Dugu Lin defeated Hua Xueyi, the top 10 master in the Eastern Campus, which earned him fame.”

“All the presbyters believe that he is capable of making it into the top 50 on the Profound Board. Now, an ordinary warrior in the Completion of the Black Realm is no match for him.”

“This time, his main target will be you. He so badly wants to defeat you, the number one Spiritual Power genius in the history of the School of the Martial Market, in front of everyone.”

Huang Yanchen continued, “Both the Southern Campus and the Northern Campus have a freshman in the Final State of the Black Realm. They might be a little weaker than Dugu Lin, but you can’t take a casual attitude.”

“Zhang Ruochen, your talent might be above theirs, but you have just broken into the Dawn State of the Black Realm, which is two realms away from theirs. Thus, it’s really hard to predict the result.”

Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling did not know that Zhang Ruochen had already broken into the Medium State of the Black Realm yesterday. They thought he was still in the Dawn State of the Black Realm.

Zhang Ruochen did not tell them because they did not ask. Since it was just the Medium State, there was nothing to show off in the first place.

Huang Yanchen stared at Zi Qian and asked, "Junior Sister Apprentice Zi, you are in the Final State of the Black Realm, aren't you?"

Zi Qian nodded slightly and replied, "I have just broken into it not long ago."

Under normal circumstances, it would take Zi Qian another half a year to have the chance to break into the Final State of the Black Realm. Yet, in order to be well-prepared for the quarterly assessment, she bought a fourth-class pill from the black market with a huge amount of money. With the help of the pill, she broke into the realm earlier.

Of course, the reason why she could afford the pill was that she killed over 100 examinees at the first-round test three months ago. Hence, she received millions of silver coins.

She could have never afforded a fourth-class pill in the past.

Huang Yanchen nodded and said, "You are slightly inferior compared to Dugu Lin, but very close to other freshmen from the Northern Campus and the Southern Campus. I assume that you can at least get into the top five."

"Even if Dugu Lin won first place, we are still very likely to get the overall number one with you two in the top five list."

Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling continued to explain some matters that needed paying attention to. They did not finish until dark.

After accompanying Zi Qian home, Zhang Ruochen went to find Zhang Shaochu and Liu Chengfeng.

They had already sold out the 340 Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills. Zhang Ruochen did not ask them how much they had earned, but merely took away his share, which was 3,000 silver coins per pill.

It was 1,020,000 silver coins!

Before he left, he drew Zhang Shaochu aside and gave him five drops of Half-Saint's Essence.

Zhang Shaochu was extremely touched and his eyes were full of tears, but he declined them.

"It's not a big deal. I can get more if I want to. If I can win first place this time, I will get another 10 drops of Half-Saint's Essence. It's my pleasure to give them to you, my fourth brother," said a smiling Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen knew that Zhang Shaochu had a quite good talent. However, he was not outstanding at all in the School of the Martial Market, where all the geniuses gathered.

Only by using the Half-Saint's Essence could he improve his physical quality, make bigger progress in his practice, and become a stronger warrior.

"My ninth brother... Thank you."

Holding the five bottles of Half-Saint's Essence tightly, Zhang Shaochu was very happy and touched, as he clearly knew the value of each drop of the liquid.

These five bottles of Half-Saint's Essence could be sold for up to 2,000,000 silver coins in the black market. No one would give him such valuable things for free except his ninth brother.

Then, Zhang Ruochen took out the Death Scythe and handed it to Zhang Shaochu. He said, "This is a fifth-class Genuine Martial Treasure. You can have it from now on!"

Zhang Ruochen slightly patted Zhang Shaochu's shoulder and left. Then, he returned to Dragon Martial Temple.

The next day, when the sky had only just brightened, a loud sound of the bell could be heard in the Western Campus.

The bell rang nine times in a row.

All the students of Western Campus gathered in the drill ground. There were over 800 people and every one of them was wearing a white martial robe, standing there in high spirits.

The standing order was arranged according to their ranking. The number one student, Luo Shuihan, was standing in the first place of the first row. Huang Yanchen, Duanmu Xingling, Tuo Muzi, and others were standing successively.

After defeating Feng Zhilin, Zhang Ruochen, ranked 184th, was standing in the middle among all the students.

Shortly after, the array of Western Campus' boundary was opened.

The freshmen from the other three campuses stepped into the drill ground of Western Campus following Deputy Headmaster.

There were also some senior students who came along, with no more than 10 from each campus. Each of them was a top superior and most of them were Warriors of Division Profound. They were full of heroic spirit.

Among the freshmen from the Eastern Campus, there was one in his twenties. He suddenly burst into laughter and said, "Rumor has it that women are outperforming men in the Western Campus. Now I find it very true. Western Campus' men are too disappointing."

Warriors' hearing was all very sensitive, so many students of the Western Campus heard his ridicule.

It was okay for the female students, but not for the men. They felt a sense of humiliation, so everyone exposed an angry look.

There was a male student called Chi Ming sea, who ranked top 10 and was a warrior in the Medium State of the Black Realm. He said coldly, "You are standing in Western Campus' territory. Watch your words!"

That student laughed again and said, "But what I said is the mere truth! Please take a look, everybody. The 100 students who are standing in the front are the top 100 of Western Campus. At least 70 of them

are women while only 20 of them are men. Now let's look at the last 300 students at the back. There are only about 10 women there. But over 200 of them are men!

"What does it indicate? It tells us that Western Campus doesn't lack men at all, and yet, most of them are cowards. They make no attempt to make progress, so their rankings are low. It's very funny!"

Chapter 128: Dugu Lin

Chi Minghai was irritated thoroughly and rushed out. "Who did you say make no attempt to make progress? Do you dare to fight against me?"

That freshman from Eastern Campus sneered, and looking with the corner of his eyes, said, "Your cultivation is too weak. You are not qualified to fight against me."

Hearing that, the female students in Western Campus got indignant, with anger on their faces, and thought that the freshman was too arrogant.

Chi Minghai was at least among the top 10 of the freshmen in Western Campus, but he had been insulted. Was that not an embarrassment for the Western Campus?

"Clash!"

Chi Minghai was at the end of his forbearance and he pulled out his two-meter Zi Yan war knife.

He held the handle of his sword and transferred Genuine Qi into the sword, pulling out a long sword light. He swiped towards that freshman of Eastern Campus.

The freshman chuckled as if he was waiting for Chi Minghai's attack.

"Good!"

The freshman immediately straightened out a finger and condensed his pure Genuine Qi to his fingertip.

All of a sudden, a column of Sword Breath flew out from his fingertip.

"Boom!"

The Sword Breath knocked against Chi Minghai's sword and made a loud noise. The Zi Yan war knife was flung away.

Chi Minghai's arms were shocked into numbness, and he felt like his five fingers were broken.

Suddenly, he was dazzled by a human shadow passing through. The freshman had kicked one foot on Chi Minghai's chest before he could even respond.

"Slap!"

The sound of a bone fracture was sent out loudly!

Chi Minghai was spitting blood, and after being catapulted out like a broken kite, lain on the ground without any power to stand up.

Looking at Chi Minghai who was lying on the ground, the freshman shook his head. "I thought that the male students in Western Campus were just inferior, so they were not as good as the female students. However, given what happened right now, I realize that they can't even think, and they are too impulsive!"

All the students from Western Campus were astonished by the fact that Chi Minghai, a top 10 student among the freshmen, was seriously injured by his opponent with just two strikes.

Were all the freshmen of Eastern Campus so strong?

Western Campus lost a master before the freshman joint contest had begun, and its morale was greatly reduced. Shocked by that freshman's power, all the freshmen of Western Campus became upset.

One of them said angrily, "You are so vicious. Today is the Four Campus New Student's Martial Competition, but you hurt him seriously. How can he join the competition?"

That freshman jeered, "Everybody saw it clearly. It was he who attacked me first and I fought back. Can you blame me? He was too impulsive, so I just taught him a lesson. For him, that is also a good thing."

The Deputy Headmaster and several seniors did not intervene, they just stood by and watched.

It was not a bad thing if a freshman could put down the morale of Western Campus.

Liu Chengfeng shouted, "It's not great for the top freshman of Eastern Campus to defeat a freshman of the Western Campus. Does he have the ability to defeat the top freshman of Western Campus?"

"What? He is the top freshmen of Eastern Campus?"

"It is Dugu Lin, who is the top freshman of Eastern Campus. No wonder he's so powerful."

"Dugu Lin is powerful, but our top freshman, Zhang Ruochen, is not bad."

"Zhang Ruochen's talent must be higher than Dugu Lin's. But his cultivation is still too weak, so he can't beat Dugu Lin."

"That's right! Zhang Ruochen is too young! If he practices for two more years, he perhaps will defeat him easily. But right now, he can't."

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The handsome Dugu Lin stood with his hands crossed behind his back and laughed. "I have heard there was a great genius in the Western Campus. Unfortunately, there has been no opportunity to see. Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, do you dare to fight against me?"

So arrogant, it was a provocation.

At that moment, everyone gazed toward Zhang Ruochen.

Some were worried, but others were eager to see Zhang Ruochen attack and suppress his arrogance and vent that male students' spleen.

“Ninth brother, Chi Minghai was so impetuous that he landed into Dugu Lin’s trap and got a serious injury. You shouldn’t act on impulse like him. Dugu Lin is invincible in the four campuses as his cultivation has reached the peak of the Final State of the Black Realm. If you lose at his hands, the morale of the Western Campus would be completely ruined!”

Everyone was able to realize that Dugu Lin planned to sap the Western Campus’s morale before the joint contest had even begun.

He attempted to thoroughly ruin the Western Campus’ morale by forcing Zhang Ruochen to fight against him.

All the truth was clear, but Zhang Ruochen had no choice. If he refused, the whole Western Campus would be regarded as cowards by the other three campuses.

Zhang Ruochen walked out among the crowd with a smile on his face and stood in front of Dugu Lin. “Elder brother Dugu, you deserve to be a young outstanding figure. It’s said that you defeated a master of the top 10 of the Eastern Campus not long ago. It is really admirable.”

Hearing Zhang Ruochen call himself junior fellow apprentice, the students of the Western Campus became unhappy and thought that he brought the Western Campus shame.

Because, in the School of the Martial Market, the stronger one was “elder brother”, while the weaker one was “junior fellow apprentice”.

And they did not call the other elder brother unless there was a huge gap between their age and they had to show respect.

However, in the face of Dugu Lin’s provocation, Zhang Ruochen not only called him elder brother, but also spoke so highly of him. What Zhang Ruochen had done made students of the Western Campus consider him a coward and think he had led the Western Campus to disgrace.

Even Huang Yanchen clenched her fists out of anger, and wanted to give him a hard beating.

Seeing that, Duanmu Xingling quickly grasped her sleeve and said, “Sister Chen, calm down and just wait for the show! As the saying goes, the bigger they are, the harder they fall.”

Huang Yanchen hummed coldly and stared at Zhang Ruochen. She thought that if Zhang Ruochen could not help the school to earn face, then she must kick him out of Dragon Martial Temple.

The freshmen of the Eastern Campus all began to laugh when they heard Zhang Ruochen call Dugu Lin elder brother.

One of them sneered, “The top freshman really knows the trends of the times. I like people like that.”

“Whosoever understands the times is a great man. Haha!”

“I heard that the freshmen’s comprehensive quality of Western Campus ranked second. It’s a strong enemy of our Eastern Campus. Now, my worries are completely unnecessary,” laughed Xun Guihai, the top master of Eastern Campus.

And he also was a Warrior of Division Profound and ranked 14th on the Profound Board.

Aside from Luo Shuihan, the other external disciple of the schools of the four campuses could not defeat him.

Looking at Zhang Ruochen, Dugu Lin said with a smirk, "I'm four years older than junior fellow apprentice Zhang. It's only right and proper that he calls me elder brother. But why is that funny?"

Zhang Ruochen said, "Young people call older people elder brothers, which is the respect of young people for the elderly. Now, when young people want to be elder brother, what should they do?"

Dugu Lin laughed, "Of course, beat older people through their own strength..."

All of sudden, Dugu Lin realized what he really meant, and asked seriously, "Do you want to be an elder brother?"

Zhang Ruochen said, "To practice Martial Arts, one needs to keep working and outperform predecessors while respecting them. Am I right, elder brother Dugu?"

"OK! If you have the ability to defeat me, I am willing to call you elder brother."

Dugu Lin was confident about his cultivation, but he did not underestimate Zhang Ruochen, so he reached the best fighting state by operating Genuine Qi inside his body.

Zhang Ruochen said, "If you can withstand one single strike of mine, I'm willing to give in. We both fight for the honor of our campuses. I will unleash first!"

After that, Dugu Lin saw Zhang Ruochen, who stood 33 meters away, become two human shadows and dash toward him.

"So fast!"

Dugu Lin's countenance changed and he condensed fire Genuine Qi to his palms. He opened his arms and attacked toward the two shadows with his fire palms.

"Dragon Shape and Elephant Shadow!"

The two shadows released palms and the sound broke out of the Dragon and Elephant Roaring Together.

The left Zhang Ruochen unleashed the Dragon Claw Hand, while the right released the Elephant Palm.

"Bang! Bang!"

Dugu Lin had his arms broken with the sound of bones breaking when he received Zhang Ruochen's two palms. He stepped back 10 meters and spat out blood.

Zhang Ruochen retreated his palms and looked at Dugu Lin whose arms drooped. "Elder brother Dugu, are we going to continue?"

His arms were fractured, and half of his body was numb with pain. He had no strength to fight.

Everyone in the Eastern Campus was rather shocked, and as their smiles disappeared, they were speechless for a long time.

Dugu Lin was defeated by only one single strike.

Xun Guihai hummed cold, "Zhang Ruochen, you attacked so hard! You have broken his arms, how is he going to take part in the joint competition?"

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Xun Guihai and answered with the words Dugu Lin had said, "Elder brother Dugu should get through some setbacks. For him, that is also a good thing."

Everyone in Western Campus was excited and cheered.

"He unleashed hard when he attacked Chi Minghai, didn't he?"

"You're only allowed to attack, but don't allow us to fight back?"

"Everyone witnessed what happened? It's a fair battle. Dugu Lin was a coward and weaker than elder brother Zhang."

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Xun Guihai gazed coldly and showed the powerful momentum of Martial Arts. He glared at the students of the Western Campus, and finally, he looked toward Zhang Ruochen.

"Xun Guihai, lose the game, but don't lose face, do you want to try?" Huang Yanchen was also very happy as Zhang Ruochen eventually gave vent to the Western Campus' anger and let the Eastern Campus see the strength of the Western Campus.

Xun Guihai calmed down and said, "Huang Yanchen, I know about your power upgrade and that you rank 31st on the Profound Board, yet, you still can't defeat me. We can compete with each other in the Intermediate Relic Exploration Test in two months."

"I am waiting!" Huang Yanchen touched her chin and sneered.

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Chapter 129: To Be No.1 Freshman

Dugu Lin appeared to be quite despondent, this was his first ever failure and it was made even worse by it being so miserable a loss.

Out of all of his contemporary, while growing up, he was the most talented and invincible warrior, which inevitably resulted in his proud and arrogant character.

He hadn't understood that there would eventually be someone to beat him, until he had been defeated by Zhang Ruochen. After that, no one would dare to claim that they were the best of the young generation.

"I failed! Elder brother... Zhang..." Dugu Lin said with disappointment, lips trembling, while complicated emotions filled his eyes.

Zhang Ruochen noticed that Dugu Li had been demoralized. He said, "Dugu Lin, although I'm the winner today, it doesn't mean that you cannot beat me in the future, does it?"

Dugu Lin was rekindling his fighting spirit and it was as if he had two fires burning in his eyes. He said, "Thank you for your guidance, elder brother Zhang. However, I wonder what percentage of your power did you use just now?"

"100%." Zhang Ruochen responded.

"I see!" Dugu Lin's complexion immediately improved. Then, he turned and left.

Actually, Zhang Ruochen had used only 70% of his power. Yet, in order to avoid insulting Dugu Lin's pride, he lied and said that he had used his full power during the fight.

Sometimes a white lie could serve as a kind encouragement. Zhang Ruochen and Dugu Lin didn't have a vendetta against each other and they were both fighting for the honor of their colleges.

Since Dugu Lin had badly beaten Chi Minghai, a master from Western Campus, which lowered their morale badly. Zhang Ruochen then, naturally, hit him where he was seriously wounded so as to destroy a master of Eastern Campus, to cripple its morale in return.

Though Dugu Lin could recover, by taking some healing pills, in a short period of time, it was impossible for him to participate in the Four Campus New Student's Martial Competition today.

From a distance, Duanmu Xingling was staring at Zhang Ruochen with an astonishment that quickly fled from her starry eyes. She said, "His cultivation has greatly increased, in such a short time. He must have reached the Medium State of the Black Realm and gained quite an amazing power."

"With his present strength, he is equal to those post-ranking warriors of Division Profound," Huang Yanchen said.

Duanmu Xingling also nodded and wrinkling her beautiful eyes with a smile that teased the corners of her mouth. However, nobody knew what she was really thinking about.

Deputy headmasters, from the three campuses, looked at each other in helplessness. They all knew that first place had already been confirmed, even before the Four Campus New Student's Martial Competition started.

Such occasion hardly ever happened.

Eastern campus had sustained too many losses though. They were meant to defeat the morale of Western Campus and yet, they had paid for it by losing their No.1 freshman.

Deputy Headmaster of Eastern Campus was experiencing too much regret to even cry. If he could have predicted this result, he would have prevented Dugu Lin from fighting with Zhang Ruochen in time.

The Lord of Western Campus smiled contentedly. The more he looked at Zhang Ruochen, the more satisfaction he felt. At the same time, he deeply regretted not having Zhang Ruochen as his own disciple, which was an indeed pity for him.

The Lord of Western Campus looked serious. He combined his Genuine Qi with his voice and announced, "The Four Campus New Student's Martial Competition begins now!"

Enhanced with his Genuine Qi, his voice reverberated through the whole Western Campus and lingered on the mountains for a long time.

Deputy Headmaster Qing Hua began to read out the rules of the competition.

Each campus had sent 120 freshmen to participate in the competition, where they had been divided into 120 groups.

The No.1 freshmen from each of the four-campus were divided into group one; the second freshmen of the four-campus were divided into group two, and so on until the 120th freshmen were in group 120.

From group 11 to 120, the first place could get three points, second place two points, third place one point and the fourth place had no point.

As for the top 10 groups, there were 40 people in total who would be ranked in order.

The freshmen who ranked in the top five would win 80, 70, 60, 50, 40 points respectively with the rank descending, while the sixth one would gain 39 points, the seventh 38 points... the 40th five points.

At the end, all of the points the students had scored will be accumulated and sorted according to their campus. The college that acquires the highest points will become the first of the comprehensive strength for the freshmen this year.

It was obvious that the real battle was taking place among the top ten freshmen from each campus. The points in between were also the greatest.

No matter in the School of the Martial or in the world of Martial Arts, the top masters had always possessed the decisive factors. That was why The School of the Martial had arranged the points in such way.

There was a total number of 118 freshmen from Western Campus that had joined the competition. The two missing were Prince Huo Xing and Chi Minghai, the first was deceased and the second badly hurt.

Eastern Campus had a similar situation happen, where they also had 118 students joining the competition. Dugu Lin, who was once the No.1 freshman had been seriously injured and was unable to join the martial arts competition. As a result, the No.2 freshman from Eastern Campus that replaced Dugu Lin had become the No.1 freshman.

The other two campuses also had some special circumstances in which only 118 students were chosen to take part in this event.

There were 10 martial competition platforms stood solemnly on the drill ground of Western Campus. Each platform was four meters high and 10 meters long and 10 meters wide. Every side of the platform was carved with the Inscription of Array and once a warrior made a hit on one of the platforms, the Inscription of Array would activate and form a protective light mask.

Martial competitions proceeded on the 10 platforms, all at the same time.

The battle progressed very quickly and was over by noon.

Without the shadow of a doubt, Zhang Ruochen had become the No.1 freshman of the four campuses, contributing 80 points to Western Campus. No one could withstand any of his moves among the competing freshmen.

The result was predicted even before the start of the contest. Therefore, no one was surprised when it came to a talent like Zhang Ruochen. It would take the School of the Martial Market years to foster a warrior like him.

Zi Qian, who had beaten the No.1 freshman of the Eastern and Northern Campus, did so under her cultivation of the Final State of the Black Realm. She had undoubtedly become the biggest surprise for Western Campus. By contributing 60 points to Western Campus score, she ranked third in the competition.

Western Campus, with a total score of 539 points, became the champion of the comprehensive strength of the freshmen this year.

The Southern Campus ranked second.

Although losing Gudu Lin, the No.1 freshman of Eastern Campus, they still showed their strong strength and won the third place in the competition with only a slight gap behind the Southern Campus.

Northern Campus ranked last.

The No.1 freshman was rewarded with 10 drops of Half-Saint's Essence.

The second received nine drops of Half-Saint's Essence.

So on and so forth...

Until the 10th got just one drop of Half-Saint's Essence.

Zhang Ruochen wasn't overjoyed about ranking first of all the freshmen, among all four campuses.

His real target was actually the next quarterly assessment of Western Campus. Only by ranking in the top 10 of Western Campus could he participate in the Intermediate Relic Exploration Test, which would be held in two months.

In the middle-level heritage, not only did warriors have the opportunity to find ancient treasures but also to receive the most brutal exercise which was definitely an important experience that could not be missed.

Tuo Muzi had been waiting for years to join the Intermediate Relic Exploration Test. He had been suppressing his Realm instead of breaking into the Earth Realm. He was not the only one who was longing for the test. Luo Shuihan, Huang Yanchen, and Duanmu Xingling were also waiting for this once-in-a-decade opportunity, which meant that if they missed it this time, they would have to wait for another 10 years.

It was impossible for Zhang Ruochen to wait for another ten years. He had to enter the Middle-Level Heritage and participate in the exploration test, in two months.

The students from the other three campuses did not leave because they were interested in West Campus' quarterly assessment. They wondered what level of strength the top masters of Western Campus indeed had.

Rules for the quarterly assessment:

Each student from Western Campus had a ranking. A lower ranking student could challenge a higher ranking student, and they had two chances to defeat them.

If they succeeded, the challenger would obtain a new ranking.

If the challenger failed, he or she would still maintain their original rank.

This took place on the 10 challenge coliseums where students could challenge their chosen opponent freely.

Liu Chengfeng was the first one to step up onto one of the challenge platforms. He stood in the middle of the coliseum and said, "I'm going to challenge the 764th."

Liu Chengfeng was originally ranked 809th. Since his cultivation had elevated to the Mid Stage of the Black Realm, he chose a slightly conservative position for his first challenge.

Xie Xuan, who ranked 764th at Western Campus, was a young man with a cultivation of Advanced Stage of the Black Realm and one level more advanced than Liu Chengfeng.

After fighting with more than 20 moves in a row, Liu Chengfeng beat Xie Xuan with one movement of a sword technique from the low-class of Spiritual.

"Challenge successful. Liu Chengfeng becomes 764th of Western Campus and replaces Xie Xuan. Xie Xuan drops down a place to 765th." A presbyter standing by the challenge coliseum announced.

Since Xie Xuan had dropped a rank, students who ranked lower than him all automatically dropped too.

Liu Chengfeng had another chance to challenge, but he did not use it immediately. Instead, he intended to observe the others' competitions and eventually pick out the new opponent.

Everyone had only two chances to challenge another and they needed to be used with caution.

On the 10 challenging platforms, an endless stream of students were challenging their higher ranked peers.

Before the assessment, they had carefully learned about each student and were aware of whom was best to challenge.

Of course, the most exciting battles involved the top 10 students. As everybody knew, the Intermediate Relic Exploration Test was just around the corner, so all of the students were trying to squeeze into the top ten.

The students who ranked 11th to 50th were the most competitive in particular. They were almost all at the peak of their Completion of the Black Realm and had no significant difference in cultivation with each other. It meant that they would soon have the opportunity to be one of the top 10 students, with some good luck.

A young man carrying two swords stepped onto a challenging platform. He stood straight with an indifferent expression on his face and said, "I'm going to challenge Jin Yueming, who ranks 10th."

The crowd of onlookers recognized this man.

"He is Mo Qinglong."

"Mo Qinglong ranked 47th in the last quarterly assessment. How dare he challenge Jin Yueming after only three months? Jin Yueming can no doubt beat him with three moves at most. Wait and see."

A woman who looked to be 20-years-old walked out of the crowd.

She sneered coldly and leaped up onto the challenge platform with just a strike of her legs. She stood opposite of Mo Qinglong as she said, "Mo Qinglong, how dare you challenge me? Could it be that you've practiced the Double-Sword Deer-Killing Tactic into Small Success?"

The Double-Sword Deer-Killing Tactic was a mid-class martial technique of the Spiritual Stage, which could be practiced only by those warriors whose Spiritual Power had reached level 20 or above. It was a fairly powerful martial technique.

Mo Qinglong pulled his swords out of the sheathes on his back. He held them in his hands and only provided a brief answer, "This battle will answer your question."

Chapter 130: The Top Ten Masters from Western Campus

"Alright, show me how good you are!"

Jin Yueming's eyes were solemn and her fingers were curled into claws. A soft golden light moved across the skin on her arms.

She was over two meters tall and even stronger than many of the men. Her arms, from which tendons protruded, were as thick as the opening of a bowl.

"Boom!"

She struck out with her golden claws and grabbed Mo Qinglong around the neck.

Mo Qinglong moved much faster than Jin Yueming, even though he was far shorter than her. He threw himself sideways in order to escape the attack of her golden claw.

He slightly turned his left arm outward, aiming the point of his swords backward and struck out towards Jin Yueming's waist.

Jin Yueming's arms came down and caught the tip of his swords between her palms.

Her palms and the sword tips clashed together, producing a shower of sparks and creating a cacophonous boom.

Surprisingly, Jin Yueming had not been injured from blocking the swords with only her bare palms. Her palms were like made of iron.

“How dare you challenge me with such weak strength, Mo Qinglong? You are still too far!” Jin sneered at him coldly.

“Is that so? Then let me show you the power of my Successful martial technique, Double Swords Killing the Deer.” Mo pulled back his swords and adopted a strange pose, with his feet slightly apart and his hands holding the swords one behind another.

“You have practiced your Double Swords Killing the Deer to the Successful stage?” Jin could hardly believe it, staring at him wide-eyed.

How could the mid-class martial technique of the Spiritual Stage be so easily practiced to reach the level of Success like this?

“Clash!”

Mo Qinglong held a sword in each hand and began to spin rapidly, the spinning swords made a whistling sound. It was as if he had turned into a rapidly spinning windmill.

The swords flashed, and sword shadows danced everywhere.

“Bang! Bang!”

Jin Yueming could only withstand three of his attacks before being thrown to the ground. It was fortunate for her that she had strong defensive powers and could avoid being seriously injured.

Mo Qinglong’s feet landed on the ground. With a swish, he pointed his swords at Jin’s head and said, “You have been defeated!”

“Boom!”

The disciples standing off to the side of the stage all cheered for Mo Qinglong and called out his name loudly.

It was the male disciples who called out the loudest. After all, their status would be higher if there was one more male disciple added to the list of the top ten masters from the Western Campus.

“Unbelievable! Mo Qinglong has just defeated Jin Yueming!”

“Did you hear that Mo had practiced his Double Swords Killing the Deer to the Success level? It is a mid-class martial technique of the Spiritual Stage. Only five people have successfully practiced it in the Western Campus, and Mo Qinglong is the sixth one.”

Zhang Ruochen stood off the stage and nodded in appreciation, “Not bad. Mo Qinglong has practiced his sword comprehension to the Intermediate Stage of the Sword Following the Mind.”

Suddenly, Zhang sensed a delicate fragrance. Turning, he saw Duanmu Xingling, who, at some point, had silently come to his side. This had attracted jealous gazes from all around him.

Someone whispered secretly, “The relationship between senior sister apprentice Duanmu and Zhang Ruochen is, indeed, unusual. I heard that they have already lived together...”

“Zhang Ruochen has such an extraordinary talent. It’s understandable that senior sister apprentice Duanmu fell in love with him. Duanmu has been my goddess all the time. How wonderful it would be if I could live with her someday! I would like to sacrifice ten years of my life for just one day of living with her.”

Duanmu Xingling had a slim figure and she looked like she was only 13 or 14 years old. She had milk-white skin and long jet-black hair. Folding her arms in front of her chest, she stared at Mo Qinglong on the stage and said, “Mo Qinglong has even practiced the mid-class martial technique of the Spiritual Stage to the Success level. He can definitely enter into the top ten list, or even has the opportunity to compete to be one of the top five. Zhang Ruochen, you have practiced to the Medium State of the Black Realm, right?”

“I made the breakthrough the other day... ouch! Why did you pinch me?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

Duanmu tightened her two slim fingers that were pinching Zhang’s waist and said, “Why didn’t you tell me last night the good news? You had me worried all night.”

“What are you worried about?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

“It worries me that Western Campus won’t win the first position in the comprehensive ranking of new students. Did you think I worried about you?”

Duanmu loosened her grip and pulled back her hand, a sunny smile flickering across her lovely face, “Given your strength, you should be able to enter the top ten in the Western Campus, do you want to try?”

Imitating Duanmu Xingling, Zhang Ruochen crossed his arms over his chest and wore a faint smile, “I’m going to watch first and then decide who I will challenge.”

“You may be unfamiliar with the top ten masters from the Western Campus. I can tell you a bit.” Duanmu Xingling said, “The top five masters are Luo Shuihan, Huang Yanchen, Tuo Muzi, Ju Hailan, and I. Except for Ju, the rest of us are all Warriors of the Division Profound.”

“Seven years ago, Ju Hailan ranked first among the new students from the Western Campus. Actually, he had pretty much the same strength as those who ranked last on the Profound Board. But, he was unlucky, his failure in attaining ten consecutive wins in the Coliseum of the Martial Market made him unable to be a Warrior of the Division Profound.”

“Given your ability, you’re still some distance from the Warriors of the Division Profound. You won’t be able to defeat us five. The other five warriors you can challenge are Cai Chen, Sikong Shu, Xue Qingchuan, Liu Ning, and Mo Qinglong, who are ranked six to 10 respectively.”

“You just watched the fight between Mo Qinglong and Jin Yueming. He had practiced the mid-class martial technique of the Spiritual Stage, which makes his power as destructive as Ju Hailan’s. He will absolutely rank higher on the list.”

Slightly nodding, Zhang Ruochen stared at Mo Qinglong, who carried his swords on his back, and said, “I think his cultivation must be much better than what we saw. Just now when he fought with Jin Yueming, he seemed to partially hide his strength. He may be even stronger than what you imagine.”

“Really? Did you notice something?” Duanmu Xingling asked.

Zhang answered, “His Spiritual Power must have reached level 22. What’s more, he uses two swords. It’s much more difficult for him to manipulate double swords to the Intermediate Stage of Sword Following the Mind than it is to manipulate a single one. So, his achievements in sword comprehension are on par with yours. He will soon obtain the Advanced Stage of Sword Following the Mind. If he also hid his real speed and power, then his real strength would also be comparable to yours.”

Hearing these words, Duanmu Xingling’s face turned serious. She said, “Has he always hidden his true strength? If he challenges me, I will certainly make him show his real strength.”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, “There must be some reason for him to hide his power. It will push him into the eye of the storm if he challenges you. Thus, I guess that he will stay low-key instead of challenging you.”

“If he had chosen to be low-key, why did he challenge Jin Yueming?” Duanmu Xingling asked.

Zhang Ruochen answered, “Because, he wanted to enter the Middle-level Heritage.”

Suddenly Duanmu figured it out. “I see,” she said.

Duanmu firmly believed in Zhang Ruochen’s insights and began to be vigilant about Mo Qinglong, whom she now regarded as a potential rival.

Just then, a light flashed across Duanmu’s eyes. She looked at the challenging platform and smiled, “Your old sweetheart is on the platform now, Zhang Ruochen.”

Duanmu Xingling was talking about was Zi Qian.

Zi Qian stepped onto the challenging platform. She had a slender figure and a comely face.

All of a sudden it became silent around the platform, on which stood a beauty in white. All of the ones standing around stared at her, she was so gorgeous, it was as if she was a fairy from a painting.

Disciples from the other three campuses also talked about her, amazed voices lingered all around.

“I’ve only heard about the three beauties of the Western Campus, all of whom are Warriors of the Division Profound. Nobody could defeat them from the Western Campus. But, I didn’t know there was a new student as beautiful as the Three Beauties.”

“She ranks second among the new students from Western Campus. Don’t underestimate her strength. Who do you think she is going to challenge?”

“Maybe someone ranking among the top one hundred. Given her ability, she is able to defeat a warrior at the Completion of the Black Realm.”

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Zhang Ruochen was also a little curious about whom Zi Qian would challenge.

Zi Qian stood calmly on the platform. She said, “I challenge senior sister apprentice Liu Ning, who ranks ninth.”

Everyone was surprised.

A new student dreamed to challenge one of the top ten masters?

Zhang Ruochen was slightly surprised as well. But, he knew that Zi Qian was by no means someone to be considered reckless. Now that she had challenged Liu Ning, she must be pretty confident about her own strength.

“How bold she is to challenge Liu Ning. Liu Ning ranked second among the new students five years ago. She was a new student in the same year as Huang Yanchen. Without Huang, she would have ranked first in that year.” Duanmu said to Zhang Ruochen, “Your old sweetheart will definitely lose.”

Zhang Ruochen asked, “What are Liu Ning’s disadvantages?”

Duanmu Xingling thought for a moment and said, “If you must talk about her disadvantages, she is like me, in that her speed is a bit lacking.”

In fact, Duanmu Xingling was already very fast. However, once compared with those warriors ranking among the top of the Profound Board, she had an obvious disadvantage in speed.

That’s why she ranked far lower than Huang Yanchen on the Profound Board.

After Practicing the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, Duanmu Xingling’s disadvantages in speed were made up for. This had allowed her to march forward on the Profound Board and she now ranked 88.

Zhang Ruochen said, “Considering Liu Ning’s lack of speed, Zi Qian might have the opportunity to win.”

As Zhang Ruochen conversed with Duanmu Xingling, Liu Ning had begun her fight with Zi Qian.

Although Zi Qian was only in the Final State of the Black Realm, she boasted a rather high speed of 57 meters per second.

Although Liu Ning had practiced to the peak of the Completion of the Black Realm, she had a speed of merely 54 meters per second, much slower than Zi Qian.

Liu Ning’s advantage was the strength of her power. With only the first wave of her Genuine Qi, she forced Zi Qian to back up. It looked like Zi Qian would be defeated very quickly.

“If you think that you can beat me by being faster, then you’re wrong! I rank ninth in the Western Campus by my own strength!” Liu Ning sneered.

Steadying her steps, Zi Qian brushed her hands down over her robe and revealed 36 needles in her hands.

She pushed her Genuine Qi to her palms and outwards. The 36 needles hovered in the air between her palms.

Her arms moved forward. Pushed by her Genuine Qi, the needles all flew towards Liu Ning with a flash of silver light.

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