

Facing Zhang Ruochen without speaking, Zi Qian stared at him coldly with her clear and beautiful eyes.

Zhang Ruochen frowned and said, "Maybe I didn't consider enough beforehand. I thought that you wouldn't mind..."

"Save it!"

With her lips pressed together, Zi Qian put away her sword and continued, "If you were anyone else, I would definitely kill you. But since you've saved me twice, I'll let it go. What's more... I do mind!"

Indeed, Zi Qian had made her point rather clear. She was telling Zhang Ruochen that she did mind if other men saw her body, but she would not mind if it was him.

However, Zhang Ruochen did not get her implication. He smiled breezily and replied. "Are we still friends?"

"No one wants to be your friend. I'm a killer from the black market while you are a genius of the School of the Martial Market. We are totally incompatible, and we will become enemies one day," said Zi Qian coldly.

Zhang Ruochen still did not get her meaning. Suddenly, he thought of another issue and asked seriously, "Who unsealed the Purgatory of the Red River?"

Zi Qian also turned serious and replied. "The power within the black market is very complicated. It includes the killers' organizations like the Hades Department, schools of some heretics, chambers of Commerce made up of businessmen from the black market, the Female Warriors' League made up of prostitutes, and so on. The black market represents the dark side of the world that has countless forces—even I can't list all of them."

"Every organization is a member of the black market. They are independent of one another, interdependent on one another, and hostile to one another."

"Each of them may send spies to the School of the Martial Market and those spies must keep their identities strictly confidential. So I really have no idea who unleashed the seal of the Purgatory of the Red River."

Zhang Ruochen looked even more interrogative and confused. He asked, "Then why did the heretics from the black market force you to the corner of rock cave?"

Zi Qian said, "You've heard of the Fourth Level Dragon Cave, haven't you?"

"No. What is that place?" asked Zhang Ruochen with doubt.

"What? How can you not know?" Zi Qian responded in surprise, "So you've never been to the Fourth Level Dragon Cave since entering the Chikong Secret Mansion?"

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and answered, "I was secluding myself for refining."

Everyone who went to the Chikong Secret Mansion was making the best use of their time to search for treasures, and yet, he spent most of his time refining.

What was the point of coming to the Chikong Secret Mansion if he only secluded himself for refining?

Zi Qian gave Zhang Ruochen a cold stare and said, "The Fourth Level Dragon Cave was once the Four-wing Earth Dragon's nest, and it was also the major battlefield of the war between humans and savage beasts. Many treasures were left there. So after entering the Chikong Secret Mansion, many students rush to the Fourth Level Dragon Cave to search for the treasures."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "How many of them have found the treasures now?"

Zi Qian shook her head slightly and answered, "It's not easy to find these treasures at all. The Four-wing Earth Dragon is known as the Saint of the savage beasts, so it left a huge amount of Spiritual Qi in the Fourth Level Dragon Cave, which gives birth to many powerful underground savage beasts. It's very dangerous there. Therefore, no one dares to go inside, so we can only search at the boundary of the Fourth Level Dragon Cave."

Zhang Ruochen sighed slightly and said, "You guys are over-ambitious. No doubt it's hard to find the treasures left by a Saint. Why don't you go to some places where the Half-Saints fell? Maybe you can find more treasures there."

"Really?"

Zi Qian took out three Three Leaf Holy Clovers from the Spatial Ring and said complacently, "I found these Three Leaf Holy Clovers at the boundary of the Fourth Level Dragon Cave. You can't find this treasure anywhere else... Wait! How come you have so many... so many Three Leaf Holy Clovers..."

Zhang Ruochen took out an entire jade box full of 98 Three Leaf Holy Clovers and opened it right in front of Zi Qian.

A fragrance of medicine emanated from within it.

Zi Qian's jaw dropped when she saw the box. She clenched her beautiful fingers together, held her breath, and asked, "Where did you collect all these Three Leaf Holy Clovers?"

Zhang Ruochen closed the box and put it away. He said, "The entire Chikong Secret Mansion is full of treasures. Not merely the Fourth Level Dragon Cave is the sanctum to find them."

Seeing Zhang Ruochen so proud of himself, Zi Qian was a little displeased. After considering, she took out a palm-sized vessel and grabbed it with her hand.

It looked similar to a dagger, but slightly different. There were some meticulous lines carved on the surface, making three bulges. The entire ware was very weird.

"I found this eighth-level Genuine Martial Arm at the boundary of the Fourth Level Dragon Cave. There are altogether 59 inscriptions on it. I was hunted down by Tu Yun and others because they found me with it."

Zi Qian furrowed her long black eyebrows and said with a slight sigh, "But I still don't know what it is used for. It looks like neither a Genuine Martial Arms for attacking nor for defense."

Zhang Ruochen stared at the weird eighth-level Genuine Martial Arm with delight. He said, "I'll exchange something for it!"

"With what?" Zi Qian looked up and stared at him.

Zhang Ruochen took out the box with the Three Leaf Holy Clovers again and said, "With 20 Three Leaf Holy Clovers."

"20 Three Leaf Holy Clovers?" Zi Qian was a little desirous.

20 Three Leaf Holy Clovers would allow her to break through to the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm or even the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm in a short period of time.

A weird Genuine Martial Arm meant nothing to her. Hence, it would be a great deal for her to exchange it for some Three Leaf Holy Clovers, which could improve her ability.

20 Three Leaf Holy Clovers could be sold for 10,000 Spiritual Crystals in the black market, which was equal to hundreds of thousands of silver coins.

Zi Qian did not rush to respond. She thought about it for a while and bargained with him. "30!"

"There you go!"

Without hesitation, Zhang Ruochen took out 30 Three Leaf Holy Clovers and handed them to Zi Qian for that weird eighth-level Genuine Martial Arms.

Holding the eighth-level Genuine Martial Arms in his hand, Zhang Ruochen fondled it carefully. Then, he transferred his Genuine Qi into it and kept feeling the scent of this Genuine Martial Arms.

This was the first time that Zi Qian ever saw Zhang Ruochen so infatuated with something. She suddenly felt that it was a losing proposition for her.

"Zhang Ruochen, do you know its real use?" asked Zi Qian tentatively.

Zhang Ruochen nodded and told her the truth. "This is a key refined by a dragon horn. What's more, this dragon horn throws off the most genuine dragon Qi. Thus, it must have been cut off from a dragon of a Saint's level. Only the Four-wing Earth Dragon was in the Realm of Saints in the entire Omen Ridge."

"What you're saying is that this is a dragon horn from the Four-winged Earth Dragon?" Zi Qian widened her beautiful eyes and stared at the weird eighth-level Genuine Martial Arms, wanting to steal it back.

That was a dragon horn of a Saint dragon! It could be sold at a sky-high price in the black market.

Zi Qian was not reconciled and said, "Zhang Ruochen, this is the first time I find you to be a shameless person. How can you offer only 30 Three Leaf Holy Clovers in exchange for my dragon horn?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled slightly and replied. "That is how business works. It was consensual. Don't worry! The dragon horn is actually a key to a certain door. If I find the door, I will definitely take you along to search for the Four-winged Earth Dragon's treasures. I won't mistreat you!"

“Zhang Ruochen, why are you two being so soppy? What are you talking about?” A soft voice shouted from a distance.

The voice was like thunder, shaking the air of the entire underground world.

A moment passed.

Turning into a graceful shadow, Huang Yanchen flew over to them on a storm using the Step of the Royal Wind Dragon.

Seeing Huang Yanchen suddenly appear, Zhang Ruochen did not hide the dragon horn. He said magnanimously, “I was two meters away from my junior sister apprentice Zi, how could we be soppy?”

Huang Yanchen landed. With her long gown trailing along the ground and her fine jaw raised, she walked towards Zhang Ruochen. She sneered and said, “You said that you wouldn’t mistreat her. Why would you say that if you had done nothing indecent?”

Zhang Ruochen was speechless.

Huang Yanchen glanced at Zi Qian and noticed the oversized gown on her tiny body. She changed color and said, “Zhang Ruochen, how dare you quibble with me? Although our engagement is fake, it is still an engagement, and everyone knows that you are my fiance now. How dare you disgrace me by hooking up with other girls?”

Zhang Ruochen replied. “If you think that I disgraced you, you can ask the Qianshui Commandery Prince to call the engagement off now. I’m completely fine with that!”

Huang Yanchen gave an arrogant look and said, “When I said I’ll cancel it in three years, I’ll cancel it in three years. I’m as good as my word. By the way, what’s in your hand?”

Zhang Ruochen was disappointed by her refusal.

Zhang Ruochen did not want to keep the dragon horn a secret from Huang Yanchen. After all, he could not pocket the treasure of the Four-winged Earth Dragon alone. He answered, “As far as I’m concerned, this is a dragon horn of the Four-winged Earth Dragon.”

“A dragon horn of the Four-winged Earth Dragon?”

Huang Yanchen was surprised with delight. She stretched her beautiful hand out toward Zhang Ruochen and said, “I’ll keep this important treasure for you. Since I’m more powerful, I can keep it safer.”

Zhang Ruochen would never give it to Huang Yanchen. He shook his head and laughed. “My senior sister apprentice Huang, do you really believe that you are more powerful than me?”

Huang Yanchen’s eyes became even brighter. She replied. “It seems like you want to exchange blows with me! Fine! If you can block my attack without being hurt, you can keep the dragon horn yourself. But if you can’t block it, you must hand it over to me.”

She did not ask for Zhang Ruochen’s opinion at all. In a second, a fierce storm formed around her body, turning into a huge tornado. Strong power gathered around her.

After entering the Chikong Secret Mansion, Huang Yanchen also improved her cultivation greatly.

She did not simply reach the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm, but rather, she was about to break into Mid Stage of the Earth Realm.

The strong wind power covered over 333 meters, making a loud whistling noise.

Suddenly, Huang Yanchen threw a punch. Her speed was as fast as lightning, and it came in front of Zhang Ruochen in no time.

Standing firmly in the storm, Zhang Ruochen slightly smiled and struck out four times at a very high speed.

The four punches integrated together and turned into one palmprint. It became four times stronger than before.

“Boom!”

Two powerful forces clashed together, resulting in an ear-splitting sound.

Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen flew backward under the clash. It was a draw.

Chapter 172: Refusal to Break off the Engagement

Backing away 30 meters, Zhang Ruochen stood on his tiptoes and re-balanced his body.

Huang Yanchen also retreated 30 meters backward and landed lightly just like a petal.

Staring at Zhang Ruochen again, her beautiful face looked quite surprised, and she asked, “How could your strength be so powerful? Have you reached the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm?”

After all, Huang Yanchen’s combat forces could be comparable to the top 10 superior on the Profound Board. When she was in the Completion of the Black Realm, she practiced the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon first and then refined one drop of Sacred Liquid.

Now she had entered the Earth Realm and was about to break into Mid Stage of the Earth Realm.

Thus, she could also be regarded as one of the strongest among all of the warriors of the Earth Realm. However, even with such advantages, their fight had ended in a draw.

Given this, she suspected that Zhang Ruochen could only be this powerful if he had attained the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.

By reaching the Ultimate Realm, it meant practicing one realm higher than the other warriors.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and answered, “Not yet.”

“That’s impossible!”

Huang Yanchen fixed her gaze on him and said, “Then you must have entered the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm. Otherwise, it couldn’t be done.”

Zhang Ruochen neither confirmed nor denied it, but said, “Senior sister apprentice Huang, since I have held up against your sword technique, I will keep the dragon horn. Is that okay with you?”

Because Zhang Ruochen did not deny it, Huang Yanchen became more convinced of her conjecture and thought that he could have already reached the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm.

“This is not a small matter. Once it spreads, it will definitely cause a stir and lead Zhang Ruochen to his death.”

Since there was an outsider present, she stopped questioning Zhang Ruochen.

In her eyes, Zi Qian was a stranger and, thus, she could not allow her to know some secrets.

Huang Yanchen then brought the topic back to the dragon horn and stared at Zhang Ruochen with less haughtiness but more coolness. She asked, “You can keep the dragon horn, but do you know its purpose?”

Zhang Ruochen answered, “I think it must be a key to an important place. Perhaps it’s in the Chikong Secret Mansion.”

Huang Yanchen shook her head and said, “No.”

“Why not?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

Zhang Ruochen felt as if Huang Yanchen knew something.

Huang Yanchen glanced at Zi Qian coldly and said, “Junior sister apprentice Zi, I’m going to have an important talk with Zhang Ruochen. Could you please give us some privacy?”

Zi Qian glanced at Zhang Ruochen and turned around immediately without saying a word. She walked away out of sight.

Seeing Zi Qian had walked far away, Huang Yanchen was quite pleased and nodded with satisfaction. She said to Zhang Ruochen, “It was 500 years ago, Qianshui Commandery also joined the war against the Four-winged Earth Dragon. On the secret scroll of the Royal Family, some unknown things were recorded about that battle, and the dragon horn is one of those things.”

“According to what the secret scroll of the Royal Family recorded, when the Terran Army killed the Four-winged Earth Dragon 500 years ago, they found a dragon horn from its body with which they opened the gate of the Fourth Level Dragon Cave in the Chikong Secret Mansion and plundered nearly 90% of the treasures.”

“That dragon horn mentioned before is still kept in the Treasure-house of the Royal Family in Qianshui Commandery.”

Zhang Ruochen squinted his eyes and said, “There should be a pair of dragon horns. I know that one could open the gate of the Fourth Level Dragon Cave, but what’s the purpose of another dragon horn?”

“The Four-winged Earth Dragon used its two dragon horns to refine keys, which showed the great importance it attached to these two places.”

“Thus, there must be another sanctum somewhere at the same level as the Fourth Level Dragon Cave.”

Thinking of this, Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen blurted out almost at the same time. “Underwater Dragon Palace!”

Within the area of Omen Ridge, there were two middle-level heritages built by the Four-winged Earth Dragon—the Chikong Secret Mansion, and the Underwater Dragon Palace.

Located at the bottom of the Tongming River, the Underwater Dragon Palace was more dangerous than the Chikong Secret Mansion, so far, no one could open the gate of the Dragon Palace.

Only warriors below the level of the Heaven Realm could survive the array attack and enter into the boundary of the Dragon Palace to seek treasures.

In the Four-winged Earth Dragon's eyes, warriors whose cultivation was lower than the Heaven Realm were as weak as ants, and they were not taken into account when the Four-winged Earth Dragon was setting up an array to protect its Dragon Palace.

Even if warriors below the Heaven Realm were sheltered from the array and advanced to the boundary of the Underwater Dragon Palace, they were still confronted with all kinds of dangers. Supposing that 10 warriors went inside, only two or three of them could come out alive.

Hence 90% of the treasure in the Fourth Level Dragon Cave was taken away. The students of the Chikong Secret Mansion had also searched for the remainder for hundreds of years.

But 99% of the treasure in the Underwater Dragon Palace had not been plundered and was still locked inside the Dragon Palace.

After all, that was the Dragon Palace of the Four-winged Earth Dragon, a lair for a savage beast at the Saint level. It was hard to imagine how many valuable things existed there.

No wonder why Huang Yanchen sent Zi Qian away. She would be able to guess that this dragon horn was likely to be the key to open the Underwater Dragon Palace.

Huang Yanchen said with her arms folded on her chest, "Don't let anyone know about this, including your father, the Yunwu Commandery Prince and my father, the Qianshui Commandery Prince. The Royal Family has too many sons. If all of them know the secret and go to unlock the Underwater Dragon Palace, how much could we obtain in the end?"

Zhang Ruochen nodded and said, "It's better to keep fewer people knowing about it. If the news spreads, the consequences would be horrific. But with just only the two of us, could we steal all the treasure in the Underwater Dragon Palace?"

Zhang Ruochen cast his eyes on Zi Qian in the distance and wanted to bring her along. After all, it was Zi Qian who had found the dragon horn. She deserved a share.

Huang Yanchen looked dignified and said, "Only warriors below the Heaven Realm can withstand the array in the Underwater Dragon Palace. Of course, the stronger cultivation you possess, the higher chance of survival you will have. Don't worry about it. We could discuss it when we enter the Internal School of the School of the Martial Market."

Suddenly, Huang Yanchen stared at Zhang Ruochen with a wide smile and a very complicated look on her face.

Zhang Ruochen was puzzled and asked, "Why are you looking at me?"

Huang Yanchen smiled and said, "You have attained the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm, haven't you?"

"Right." Zhang Ruochen responded frankly.

He was not a timid and deceptive man that did not dare to admit the truth.

Since it was a fact, he admitted it candidly.

Huang Yanchen gasped and her eyes lit up immediately. There was an unspeakable joy in her heart, as if she had found her loving treasure.

Arriving at the Ultimate Realm meant that he had practiced one higher realm than other warriors.

"What a high talent he has to be able to accomplish this!"

Huang Yanchen asked, "What's your fastest burst of speed currently?"

"Currently 75 meters per second," Zhang Ruochen answered.

Huang Yanchen nearly suffocated but still said coldly, "With your present cultivation, you could become No.1 on the Profound Board in Omen Ridge. You even have a chance to break into the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm."

She could not imagine how terrifying it would be if Zhang Ruochen reached the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.

Huang Yanchen was a normal woman who also adored geniuses with great talents.

In the past, she thought that Zhang Tiangui had amazing talents and regarded him as a target. But now, she found that her fiancé beside her was more outstanding than Zhang Tiangui because he had more astonishing gifts.

In her eyes, Zhang Tiangui lagged far behind Zhang Ruochen.

"I'd better not break off this engagement in three years. If I do, other women would be overjoyed and benefit a lot." Huang Yanchen touched her chin lightly with her beautiful fingers and thought this with a bright smile in her eyes.

"Now that they were engaged, there was no reason to regret it."

Certainly, she would not tell Zhang Ruochen her thoughts for she had to maintain a noble and cool temperament in front of him.

Huang Yanchen glanced at Zhang Ruochen and said, "I can give you a helping hand if you want to challenge the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm. If you need any practice resources or even the Sacred Liquid, just tell me and I can get some for you. Of course, there's no free lunch. You'll have to make it up to me in the future. After all, we have only made a fake engagement and we're not so familiar with each other."

Zhang Ruochen looked at Huang Yanchen with a smile. For the first time, he thought that senior sister apprentice Huang was a good person that he could make friends with, despite her hot temper.

Of course, they could make friends only when they broke off their engagement in three years.

Suddenly, Huang Yanchen looked terribly grave and added, "One more thing I forget to remind you of—the Chikong Secret Mansion has become quite dangerous now. Not only are the heretics from the black market escaping, but also a bloodsucking monster has been coming out. I decide to put an early end to my Intermediate Relic Exploration Test and leave the Chikong Secret Mansion right away."

As soon as Huang Yanchen finished speaking, Zi Qian, standing in the distance, suddenly screamed out as if she was under attack.

With a quick response, Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen displayed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon almost simultaneously and dashed toward Zi Qian, dissolving into two black shadows.

Chapter 173: The Prisoners of Heresy

Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen rushed towards Zi Qian at their fastest speed.

They still arrived too late. Zi Qian was nowhere to be found: All they could see was a dark mist with a radius of around 300 meters.

"Who the hell are you people?"

Zhang Ruochen drew his Snow Dragon Sword and glared at the mist cloud.

Thanks to his strong Spiritual Power, he could sense the position of their enemies.

In the distance, he heard the sound of footsteps echoing from the dark, misty miasma.

Many warriors in shabby clothes emerged from the mist. Some were old warriors in their seventies, some were bearded, middle-aged male warriors, and some were female warriors.

More than 70 of them emerged from the mist. Though their clothes were shabby and they looked particularly down on their luck, their gazes were sharp and utterly murderous. Each one of them was a first class warrior.

An old man with grey hair stood beside Zi Qian, tightly clutching her shoulder.

His five fingers dug into Zi Qian like iron nails, leaving five bleeding cuts in her shoulder.

Zi Qian locked eyes with Zhang Ruochen. She bit down on her lip and shook her head, signaling for Zhang Ruochen to flee.

Zhang Ruochen noticed Zi Qian's unspoken plea, but didn't run away.

If he fled, what would become of Zi Qian?

A young, white-clad man with two swords sheathed behind his back walked out of the crowd. He bowed towards Huang Yanchen with clasped hands. "Greetings, senior sister apprentice Huang and senior brother apprentice Zhang," he said.

Huang Yanchen stared coldly at the young man. "Mo Qinglong," she said, "who would have thought you were the spy from the black market? You hid well."

This young man was none other than Mo Qinglong, the seventh-ranked student on Western Campus.

Zhang Ruochen had observed Mo Qinglong's battles during the quarterly assessment of Western Campus.

At the time, Zhang Ruochen had perceived Mo Qinglong's hidden strength and concluded he was a simply a young superior who preferred not to reveal his true power.

He would never have guessed that Mo Qinglong was a spy.

Mo Qinglong shook his head. "No," he said to Huang Yanchen, "We're not from the black market."

"We are from the Moon Worship Demonic Sect."

Excepting the black market heretics, many prisoners in the Chikong Secret Mansion were disciples from the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. The remaining prisoners were mostly harmless stragglers.

Huang Yanchen's gaze hardened. She stared at the countless prisoners lined up behind Mo Qinglong, seeing them in a new light: It seemed they were all masters of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect.

The Moon Worship Demonic Sect was far worse than the Black Market.

"We have nothing against the Moon Worship Demonic Sect," Zhang Ruochen said, "if you want to leave, we won't stop you. What's the point of capturing junior sister apprentice Zi?"

Mo Qinglong gave Zhang a hard look. "These prisoners have been held here for many years." He replied. "They have neither weapons or armor, and captivity has caused their physical quality to weaken. Even if they rushed out of Chikong Secret Mansion en-masse, they would still be re-captured by the masters from the School of the Martial Market. In short, there's only one way left for us."

Mo Qinglong fixed his gaze on Huang Yanchen. "We need your help if we're going to escape this place safely," he said.

"I'm afraid there's nothing I can do for you." Huang Yanchen replied.

Mo Qinglong shook his head. "You are the princess of Qianshui Prefecture," he said. "If we hold you hostage, the masters of the Martial Market School will have to yield to our demands." He smirked. "Senior sister apprentice Huang, would you like to save junior sister apprentice Zi? If you agree to be our hostage and help us flee, we will release her right away."

Huang Yanchen briefly glanced at Zi Qian. "We aren't friends." She replied. "I don't care if you kill her."

Mo Qinglong considered for a while before shifted his gaze to Zhang Ruochen. "Senior brother apprentice Zhang; are you just going to stand by and watch as we kill your friend?" he asked.

Zhang Ruochen squinted. "What makes you think we're friends?" he asked.

Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian were actually very close, but few people knew this.

"How did Mo Qinglong learn about them?"

“This Zhang Ruochen is quite something.” Mo Qinglong thought. “He can perceive the slightest flaws in an enemy’s words or actions. No wonder Lady Saint asked me to pay special attention to him.”

This was why Lady Saint’s plan involved Huang Yanchen’s capture by the Moon Worship Demonic Cult.

Before entering the Chikong Secret Mansion, Mo Qinglong received a secret letter from Lady Saint.

Lady Saint’s letter mentioned that by capturing Huang Yanchen and holding her hostage, they could rescue the prisoners from Chikong Secret Mansion without being hunted down by the warriors of the Martial Market School.

Mo Qinglong didn’t know Lady’s Saint true identity, but he was sure she was secretly part of the Martial Market School.

Mo Qinglong calmed himself, trying not to let Zhang Ruochen unsettle him. “Senior brother apprentice Zhang,” he continued, “if you can persuade senior sister apprentice Huang to be our hostage, we will release junior sister apprentice Zi. Furthermore, once we leave Omen Ridge, we will immediately let senior sister apprentice Huang go free. You have my word.”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head. “I don’t think I can persuade her,” he said.

Mo Qinglong sighed. “We aren’t like the black market,” He replied. “Once we make a promise, believe me, we’ll definitely keep it. Besides, there are many masters among us. If we fight seriously, you may not be able to escape.”

“Why are you wasting time talking to them? Let’s kill this chick right now so we can capture Princess Yanchen.”

The grey-haired old man clutching Zi Qian’s shoulder raised his arm to smack the top of her head, a cruel luster in his eyes.

He put all his strength into the blow, seemingly intending to smash Zi Qian’s head open.

Zhang Ruochen’s expression changed. He instantly released his Space Domain, extending it out to cover 90 meters.

Pure Jade Genuine Qi poured from Zhang Ruochen’s palms and merged with the Space Domain, manifesting the power of Space Freezing. The grey-haired old man’s arm stopped in mid-air.

The old man had only cultivated to the Completion of the Black Realm, hence he simply couldn’t break the suppressing effect of the Space Domain.

“Swish!”

Zhang Ruochen channeled Genuine Qi through the meridians of his legs. He took a single step forward and transformed into a shadow. He dashed towards Zi Qian with the speed of the wind, intending to carry her away.

“Heh Heh! You’re too young to steal from us, boy!”

A big, bald, two-meter tall fellow sprang forward and landed on Zhang Ruochen's right side. He channeled the last dregs of his Genuine Qi through his fists and punched at the small of Zhang Ruochen's back.

The big bald fellow was a chief of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. He'd cultivated to the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm by practicing a strong exercise called "the Great King Kong Martial Classic".

Whenever he channeled Genuine Qi, his skin would glow with a golden hue, as if his body had been cast in copper gold.

Zhang Ruochen used one hand to pull Zi Qian free and the other to swing his sword towards the big bald fellow.

"Swish!"

A 10-meter arc of icy-cold Sword Breath flew from his sword, a white line that cut the big bald fellow's torso.

"Crunch!"

The razor-sharp Sword Breath slashed open the big bald fellow's chest, leaving a bloody, foot-long gash and even severing some ribs.

The big bald fellow flew back and hit the ground, blood pouring from his chest wound.

"They can't beat us all! Let's take them down together!"

Han Sanfu stood among the heretical masters with a tranquil face, a gaze cold as ice and a body like a mountain. He practically gave off strong Martial Arts aura.

He was a chief of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect, greatly esteemed among his disciples, who had cultivated to the Completion of the Earth Realm.

Every word from Han Sanfu's lips burst forth like thunder and resonated in Zhang Ruochen's ears. His words made Zhang Ruochen recoil and strained his meridians, particularly the Blood Meridian, to the breaking point.

Upon hearing Han Sanfu's orders, 12 masters from the Moon Worship Demonic Sect all attacked Zhang Ruochen at once.

Zhang Ruochen pulled out the War Map Luo Shuihan had given him. He unfurled the Map and poured a continuous stream of Genuine Qi into it.

The surface of the War Map started to glow blood red light.

"Boom!"

Over 10 giant Leopard-headed Blood Bats flew out of the War Map. They swooped towards the 12 Moon Worship Demonic Sect masters on flapping wings, baring their sharp, bloody teeth.

Chapter 174: The Devil Was Born

“Phhhf!”

Over 40 Leopard-headed Blood Bats, who each possessed the strength of the Completion of the Black Realm, blocked the way of the 12 heresy masters.

Zhang Ruochen said to Zi Qian, “Leave the Chikong Secret Mansion now and inform the Deputy Headmasters who are waiting outside. Ask them to come in to suppress the prisoners of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect and Black Market.”

Looking at Zhang Ruochen with great emotion, Zi Qian took out The Wings of Wind and activated the carved inscriptions using the stimulation of her Genuine Qi.

A huge pair of light wings grew on Zi Qian’s back and she fled into the distance.

Although she also came from Black Market, she did not like those prisoners at all and, thus, she would notify those Deputy Headmasters outside without any hesitation.

“Still want to run away?”

Among the heresy prisoners, a vixen rushed out from the crowd and caught up with Zi Qian using wide steps that were faster than Zi Qian’s Wings of Wind.

At the moment, Huang Yanchen and Zhang Ruochen had killed five prisoners one after another.

However, there were a lot of heresy prisoners who were all top Martial Arts masters, hence Huang Yanchen and Zhang Ruochen were soon surrounded by them with no way to escape.

“Zhang Ruochen, move closer to me.”

Huang Yanchen took out a half-meter-long Black Diagram. She unfolded the diagram, from which a black Inscription of Array suddenly came out and formed into an enormous array that covered the ground.

“Boom!”

The array rotated at a high speed and the Spiritual Qi in the air condensed into numerous sharp gale blades.

“Phht!”

Those heresy prisoners screamed as they fell while another was sent out. Shortly after, more than 10 prisoners had to escape from the array because they had suffered severe blade traumas.

The Battle Formation that Huang Yanchen displayed was very powerful. Under her control, all of the heresy prisoners were retreating over 30 meters away.

“Windy Soul-Breaking Formation!”

Han Sanfu walked to the edge of the array and gazed at Huang Yanchen, who was in the middle of it, and said, “You deserve to be called the Princess of the Qianshui Commandery! With this array’s protection, normal warriors who have reached the Completion of the Earth Realm can do nothing to harm you in the short run.”

“Do you want to experience the power of the Windy Soul-Breaking Formation?” asked Huang Yanchen indifferently with great pride.

Standing by Huang Yanchen, Zhang Ruochen stared at the man who was standing on the edge of the array. His gut told him that the man seemed mighty and by no means an Earth Realm Completion warrior.

Han Sanfu sneered. He put his hands together and a crackling sound broke out from his body. Purple flashes of thunder and lightning gushed out from his body, shrouding him in the center.

Suddenly, the heresy prisoners all revealed an expression of fear on their faces, and they ran away as quickly as they could.

Centered on Han Sanfu’s body, an area with a 10-meter radius was completely covered by thunder and bolts of lightning, turning into a huge thunder ball.

“Spiritual-ruin Palm!”

A palm that he created directly split the earth’s surface into pieces with countless thunder and lightning coming down from his arm.

A wide crack split open and spread toward the Windy Soul-Breaking Formation.

When Zhang Ruochen heard the three words “Spiritual-ruin Palm”, he had not yet realized what a big deal that was.

The Spiritual-ruin Palm, one of the 72 skills of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect, was classified as a martial technique of the Inferior-Class at Ghost Level.

Han Sanfu was able to practice to Spiritual-ruin Palm, which meant that he definitely had a high status in Moon Worship Demonic Sect and had also obtained a superhuman talent. His strength must have been more powerful than that of a Completion of the Earth Realm warrior.

Zhang Ruochen surmised that Han Sanfu had only practiced the Spiritual-ruin Palm to the Beginner Level, let alone to the Small Success. Yet, that was enough to handle the Windy Soul-Breaking Formation.

As Han Sanfu wielded the Spiritual-ruin Palm, Zhang Ruochen activated The Wings of Wind at once and flew away into the distance at 100 meters per second, picking up Huang Yanchen by her slender waist with one arm.

“Boom!”

The Windy Soul-Breaking Formation was broken by the Spiritual-ruin Palm and the ground became fragmented, collapsing toward the bottom.

Looking down from mid-air, you could see a huge 10-meter-long palm that appeared where the Windy Soul-Breaking Formation broke and formed a deep depression, which looked like a giant that was heavily patting on the ground had left his print.

The moment that Han Sanfu was about to chase Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen, a strong smell of blood suddenly floated in from the distance.

Mo Qinglong sniffed the air and said in confusion, "Where is this blood smell coming from?"

Just then, a bloody cloud gathered in the distance and quickly sped to a hundred meters away, above the heresy prisoners.

Within the blood cloud stood a bloody, but beautiful, woman.

She had crimson eyes, a gown covered in blood, and a golden glow floating above her head. As she slightly moved her lips, two long fangs were revealed.

"After absorbing your blood, I should be able to reach the Heaven Realm," Lu Han said remorselessly.

Mo Qinglong's face changed. "Is she the blood-sucking monster?"

"I'm not a monster, I am a Half-Saint."

A strident roar came from Lu Han's mouth as she careened into the prisoners and gripped Mo Qinglong's neck and bit it.

"Whomp, whomp!"

Bearing the pain from his neck, Mo Qinglong pulled out a pair of swords and stabbed toward both Lu Han's abdomen and neck at once.

"Bang! Bang!"

A layer of a golden halo shimmered on Lu Han's abdomen and neck, emitting a circle of Saint Power ripples, which easily blocked Mo Qinglong's double swords.

It was the Half-Saint's Light that defended her body, which was more mighty than Mo Qinglong's power.

Mo Qinglong counterattacked on and on, but it did not have any effect—he simply could not touch a single hair on Lu Han.

It did not take long before Mo Qinglong's arms finally drooped down. Then, he stayed still and his body became withered.

The blood in his body was sucked dry by Lu Han and he turned into a dried corpse.

The prisoners of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect were nearly scared to death upon seeing this.

It sent a chill up Han Sanfu's spine. He stared in surprise at this pretty woman with the long tusks. Mo Qinglong had been sucked dry, leaving behind only skin and bones, before Han Sanfu could even help him.

...

Holding Huang Yanchen's slender waist in his arms, Zhang Ruochen constantly injected his Genuine Qi into the Wings of Wind and fled toward the distance quickly. Her body was soft and emitting a faint fragrance.

If the disciples of the School of the Martial Market could see this now, they would be crazily jealous of it.

Utilizing the Wings of Wind, Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen soon flew to the gate of the Chikong Secret Mansion and landed back on the ground.

“It’s strange. Why didn’t he catch up to us with his strong cultivation?” Huang Yanchen’s face grew solemn.

“Is that man Han Sanfu?” asked Zhang Ruochen.

Huang Yanchen nodded and said, “In the entire 36 Commanderies of Omen Ridge, only Han Sanfu has practiced the Spiritual-ruin Palm. He has a special status in the Moon Worship Demonic Sect and used to be the Heresy Chief of the Moon Commandery with a great reputation.”

Zhang Ruochen said, “If he had chased us, we wouldn’t have been able to escape, even with the help of the Wings of Wind, unless he encountered some big trouble and had no energy left to deal with us.”

Zhang Ruochen had intended to collect Half-Saint’s Light from Lu Han. However, those runaways from Black Market and Moon Worship Demonic Sect disrupted his plan.

Staying in the Chikong Secret Mansion might make them the targets of the prisoners of Black Market and Moon Worship Demonic Sect.

“Why haven’t you let me go?” Huang Yanchen gazed coldly at Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen found himself still holding Huang Yanchen in his arms. He had been thinking about the threat of the heresy prisoners and totally forgot that they had returned back to the ground.

He immediately let go of Huang Yanchen and said without embarrassment, “We must leave the Chikong Secret Mansion as soon as possible because it is too dangerous!”

The moment that they walked out through the gate, they saw Zi Qian, who was carrying her sword, along with Duanmu Xingling and Blackie.

Standing opposite them was the vixen of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect.

She was a one-eyed woman with a metal sheet covering the other eye, and her face was grisly with scars.

Her name was Qin Mu, a top master of heresy, with a cultivation that reached the Dawn State of the Earth Realm.

Qin Mu had been hunting Zi Qian down, but outside of the Chikong Secret Mansion, she had gotten blocked by Duanmu Xingling and Blackie.

They had been confronting each other for a long time before Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen arrived.

Duanmu Xingling smiled to Qin Mu who was standing opposite, and said, “Qin Mu, although your cultivation has reached the Dawn State of the Earth Realm, you’ve been detained at the Chikong Secret Mansion for six years. How much of your strength still remains? If I were you, I would have escaped.”

Qin Mu looked at Duanmu Xingling and the big black cat, then shifted toward Huang Yanchen and Zhang Ruochen.

If Qin Mu fought with any one of them alone, they would not resist three of her strikes.

However, each of them possessed a Genuine Martial Arms, so she was not certain that she could defeat them.

Qin Mu clenched her teeth and glared at Zhang Ruochen, saying, "How did you escape from Han Sanfu's grip?"

In fact, Zhang Ruochen did not intend to be an enemy of a stronger warrior who had reached the Dawn State of the Earth Realm either. All of them were probably still no match for Qin Mu.

Zhang Ruochen said, "They must have encountered big trouble, you'd better go back and give them a hand."

Qin Mu did not doubt Zhang Ruochen's words because Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen should not have escaped from Han Sanfu unless he had come across other stronger warriors.

"Clash!"

Qin Mu dashed out from the gate of the Chikong Secret Mansion and disappeared in the hazy misty of miasma.

Looking at Qin Mu's departure, Duanmu Xingling's eyes revealed a hint of amazement. Then, she walked over to Zhang Ruochen and grinned. "What happened to those heresy prisoners?"

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "I don't know. But there are only three possibilities. First, prisoners of Black Market. Second, the underground savage beast. Third, that blood-sucking monster. I think that they would most likely encounter the last one."

"Why?" asked Duanmu Xingling.

Zhang Ruochen answered, "That blood-sucking monster can smell human beings and savage beasts' breath. The more people that gather together, the stronger the breath will be, which easily attracts her."

"No matter what, we must leave the Chikong Secret Mansion right now," said Huang Yanchen solemnly.

Zhang Ruochen, Huang Yanchen, Duanmu Xingling, Blackie, and Zi Qian escaped at high speed from the underground to the ground again.

Meanwhile, the Chikong Secret Mansion was another story. More than 70 heresy masters died and turned into dry corpses, except for the runaway, Han Sanfu.

After sucking the blood of those heresy masters, Lu Han finally reached the Heaven Realm. Her black hair completely turned red as her body emitted glaring blood lights. She walked toward the Chikong Secret Mansion step by step.

Chapter 175: Returning to the Western Campus

Deep in Omen Ridge, there was a giant chasm that stretched for thousands of meters long. It emitted a constant stream of poisonous miasma which had polluted thousands of miles of the surrounding area, resulting in a dead zone.

This was the entrance of the Chikong Secret Mansion.

Zhang Ruo Chen and others had just emerged from under the ground and did not have time to report what happened in the underground to the Deputy Headmaster.

Suddenly, there was a long and wheezing noise from underground.

A man, whose entire body was wrapped by lightning, flew out from the chasm and jumped tens of meters up in the air.

It was Han Sanfu.

He had activated a thunderbolt Sacred Mark, his Genuine Qi was imbued with the power of thunder. Thus, when he circulated his Genuine Qi with all his power, he was able to summon thunderbolt power.

Han Sanfu was once the Chief of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect of the Moon Commandery and ruled over all the disciples in the commandery. He was an imposing man. But now, he seemed in a difficult position. He was wounded heavily and had at least five wounds on his body.

A look of panic crossed his face. After escaping from the chasm, he immediately rushed to the east.

“Han Sanfu, do you really think that you can escape from the Chikong Secret Mansion again?”

The silver robed Deputy Headmaster of Eastern Campus sat cross-legged to the east. Seeing Han Sanfu who was rushing towards him, he showed a cold smile. Then, he suddenly stood up and struck out a palm towards Han Sanfu.

Although Han Sanfu was powerful, after all, he remained as a warrior at the Completion of the Earth Realm while the cultivation of Deputy Headmaster of the Eastern Campus was in the Heaven Realm. Very quickly he blocked Han Sanfu down.

The other three Deputy Headmasters were about to lend their hands to subdue Han Sanfu when another, even louder ear-piercing cry came from the chasm. Even the ground shook slightly this time.

Threads of Spiritual Blood rose from the ground and converted into a blood cloud.

Within the blood cloud, there was a long human-shaped shadow, emitting a terrifying power.

A closer look revealed that within blood cloud, there actually stood a bloody but beautiful woman. The woman's hair was long, dripping with blood and her skin was crystal clear; she looked as if she was carved out of white jade.

Seeing this beautiful woman rushing out from the chasm, Deputy Headmasters stunned for a moment.

Northern Deputy Headmaster recognized the woman's face and asked, “Lu Han, is that you?”

As a reply to the question the bloody haired woman dissolved into a streak of blood and flew towards Northern Deputy Headmaster, letting out an ear-splitting laugh. "Such a rich aroma of blood, he must be delicious!"

"Be careful, Deputy Headmaster Jing Hong. She has been possessed by Half-Saint's Light and has turned into an evil blood-drinking creature."

Western and Southern Deputy Headmasters both struck out towards the woman with their unique martial techniques at the same time.

The destructive power of a battle between warriors of the Heaven Realm was terrifying. Even a single streak of Sword Breath was strong enough to kill a warrior of the Earth Realm.

Zhang Ruochen and others quickly retreated to a distance.

Shortly after, the battle finished.

Han Sanfu was captured by Eastern Deputy Headmaster and once again, locked into the Chikong Secret Mansion.

However, Lu Han escaped. Even with all three of Deputy Headmasters working together, they could not stop her.

Since she was protected by Half-Saint's Light, the attack of three Deputy Headmasters was not able to do any harm to her.

As Lu Han had already reached the Heaven Realm, her speed was astounding. Dissolving into a streak of blood, she flew into the boundless expanse of Omen Ridge.

Western and Northern Deputy Headmasters immediately gave chase while Eastern Deputy Headmaster rushed back to the School of the Martial Market to notify more masters in order to work together to defeat Lu Han.

Southern Deputy Headmaster who entered the Chikong Secret Mansion was left behind. He subdued the escaped prisoners and locked them up again.

Students who entered the Chikong Secret Mansion eventually returned to ground. First 40 people entered the Mansion but only 24 made it out alive. Nearly half of them were dead.

Some were killed by the underground savage beasts, while others died fighting over the treasures.

The spy who released Black Market prisoners was also discovered. It turned out that he was Wang Kun, the second-best student of the Northern Campus. He who ranked 99th on the Profound Board was a powerful prodigy.

Southern Deputy Headmaster personally executed Wang Kun and removed his head. The rest of the body was thrown into the chasm and smashed to smithereens.

The School of the Martial Market would never treat spies with mercy. Once they were discovered, all would be executed.

Out of the top 10 students of the Western Campus, seven survived including Luo Shuihan, Huang Yanchen, Duanmu Xingling, Tuo Muzi, Zhang Ruochen, Si Kongshu, and Zi Qian.

The Intermediate Relic Exploration exam had come to an end. Each person had greatly increased their cultivations and also received large amounts of valuable cultivation resources.

As long as they refined and absorbed these cultivation resources, their martial cultivation would increase by leaps and bounds. Moreover, once they had entered the Internal School, they would be able to quickly become masters.

Furthermore, they were all the best of the best. Now that they had passed the Intermediate Relic Exploration exam, they would receive further training and gain special attention from the School.

Under the escort of the Southern Deputy Headmaster, Zhang Ruochen and others returned to Western Campus.

Luo Shuihan, Huang Yanchen, Duanmu Xingling, Tuo Muzi, and Si Kongshu had all entered the Earth Realm and became the internal students. They stayed at Western Campus for three days before receiving the summons from the Internal School. Leaving Western Campus, they were officially becoming a part of the Internal Academy.

Of the entire Dragon Martial Temple, only Zhang Ruochen remained.

Dragon Martial Temple was unusually peaceful. He did not hear Duanmu Xingling's laughter and did not have to worry about Huang Yanchen's scolding.

Zhang Ruochen secluded himself for refinement. He wanted to refine the cultivation resources gained from the Chikong Secret Mansion so as to increase his cultivation.

Sitting cross-legged in the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel, Zhang Ruochen took out a third of a meter long jade box and placed it in front of him.

Opening the box, a rich wave of Saint Power and medicinal scents wafted out.

There were 68 Three Leaf Holy Clovers. Each contained a powerful medicinal nature. For a warrior at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm, one was probably enough to break into a new realm.

Zhang Ruochen was not rushing to refine all the Three Leaf Holy Clover at once, instead, he refined one per day and spent the rest of his time to practice the Dragon and Elephant Palm.

He did not want to just refine the Three Leaf Holy Clover, he also wanted to absorb the medicinal power and make its power his own.

After a fortnight, Zhang Ruochen had refined 15 Three Leaf Holy Clovers that his cultivation had increased again. The Genuine Qi in his Qi Lake had reached about 60%, which was as twice as much compared to last month's.

Increasing his cultivation was actually a secondary goal.

More importantly, the elevation of Zhang Ruochen's physical quality.

Zhang Ruochen could now reach the speed of 77 meters per second. In terms of speed, he was now far ahead of No.1 of the Profound Board.

However, his goal was not to be No.1 on the Profound Board but to reach the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.

Achieving 81 meters per second was the threshold for reaching the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.

It seemed that Zhang Ruochen was not far from reaching the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm. In reality, he still had a long way to go. It was possible that he might never reach the Ultimate Realm.

“Given my current rate of cultivation, when I reach the peak of the Completion of the Black Realm, I could only reach the speed of 79 meters per second. I won’t be able to break into the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.”

Zhang Ruochen held a book in his hands that was a meter long and half a meter thick.

During Late Antiquity, all prodigies of the Black Realm who reached or surpassed the speed of 75 meters per second had been recorded in this book.

Speaking of Late Antiquity, it referred to the period between 10,000 years and 500 years ago.

Over Late Antiquity, no one had ever reached the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm in Kunlun’s Field. Nine prodigies had reached the speed of 80 meters per second, 78 reached 79 meters per second, 760 reached 78 meters per second...

Everything had been clearly recorded in the book. There was a total number of 750,000 names recorded where each of them had a remarkable story to tell.

The top prodigy of the 36 commanderies, Zhang Tiangui, only reached 73 meters per second in the Black Realm.

It could be said that all of the 750,000 geniuses who were listed in the book were more talented than Zhang Tiangui.

However, out of all the prodigies, not even one managed to reach the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.

What was particularly remarkable were the nine prodigies who reached 80 meters per second. They were even more dazzling and admirable than Zhang Ruochen in the Black Realm, but even so, they all failed. None of the prodigies succeeded.

Zhang Ruochen closed the thick book and sighed. “In the thousands of years of Late Antiquity, there were so many prodigies, and even more if we were to consider the recent Ages, but how many were able to reach the Ultimate Realm?”

Zhang Ruochen was very aware of how difficult it would be to reach the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm, but once he succeeded, he would be able to summon the Chord of Gods for the second time and would greatly benefit from it.

“Perhaps there were people who reached the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm but were not recorded in this book. Kunlun’s field is vast, and even if the Martial School has a long reach, they still wouldn’t be able to record every piece of information about a warrior. At least, the Martial School has no record of me reaching the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm.”

Zhang Ruochen gradually regained his confidence. His gaze showed nothing but strong determination.

Just because others didn’t achieve it, it didn’t mean he couldn’t.

“Zhang Ruochen, Deputy Headmaster Qing Hua wants to see you.” Blackie’s voice floated into the Time and Space Spinel.

“Deputy Headmaster Qing Hua is back! I wonder how it went chasing Lu Han?” Zhang Ruochen was very interested in Lu Han’s incident. He immediately left the Time and Space Spinel and welcomed the Deputy Headmaster.

Chapter 176: The Hopes of the Deputy Headmaster

When Deputy Headmaster Qing Hua saw Zhang Ruochen approaching, her previously turbulent gaze flashed clear. She laughed in a husky voice. “Zhang Ruochen, you’ve gained a lot in this Intermediate Relic Exploration! You’ve reached the Completion of the Black Realm, right?”

Zhang Ruochen bowed slightly to Qing Hua and responded courteously, “Yes, I have indeed reached the Completion of the Black Realm.”

The Deputy Headmaster nodded and looked at him with admiration.

She was very pleased with Zhang Ruochen. Not only did he possess strong Spiritual Power, his talents in Martial Arts were more outstanding than another young genius. His accomplishments in the future would surely surpass hers.

Qing Hua asked, “It’s been almost six months since you came to the Western Campus, right?”

“Yes,” Zhang Ruochen replied.

Her gaze became serious. She said, “Not even half a year, and you’ve gone from the Initial Stage to the Completion of the Black Realm. Your progress might be too fast!”

Zhang Ruochen understood what Qing Hua meant. If he increased his cultivation too quickly, his foundation would be weak. Martial Arts was a long and slow journey, and if his foundation was unstable, it would hurt his future development.

Qing Hua had very high expectations for Zhang Ruochen, and she did not wish to see him fail because of this. She spoke with sincerity, “At the beginning of your cultivation, practice resources play a massive role. A normal prodigy will be able to progress at a fast speed if he receives sufficient resources.”

“30 years ago, there was a top prodigy at the Western Campus. At the age of 12, he had reached the Black Realm and the Earth Realm when he was 13. At 15, he reached the Completion of the Earth Realm.

He shocked all 36 commanderies in Omen Ridge. At the time, many of the Elders praised him and believed that he was capable of reaching the Half-Saint's Realm, or even of becoming a Saint."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "What happened to him?"

The Deputy Headmaster sighed and shook her head. "He practiced so quickly that his foundation wasn't solid. His later cultivation was exceedingly slow. After the age of 15, he spent another 15 years before reaching the Heaven Realm."

"His peers have long left him behind. He still remains a warrior at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm. It is not even certain whether he can even reach the Completion of the Heaven Realm, let alone become a Half-Saint, "

Zhang Ruochen could feel the Deputy Headmaster's regret. It was a deep disappointment.

The Deputy Headmaster's gaze landed once again on Zhang Ruochen. "So, don't rush breaking through to the Earth Realm. Stay at the Completion of the Black Realm for a couple of years. Refine the Genuine Qi in your body and increase its purity. At the same time, you will need to train your body; make yourself as tough as a rock. Only with a solid foundation will you walk far in Martial Arts."

The Deputy Headmaster did not know that Zhang Ruochen possessed the Time and Space Spinel. She thought Zhang Ruochen had only practiced for half a year, so she was very concerned about his future.

In reality, using the power of the Time and Space Spinel, Zhang Ruochen had already been practicing in the Black Realm for a year.

Of course, what the Deputy Headmaster said made sense. Zhang Ruochen did not plan to rush into the Earth Realm. He wanted to refine his body and use this opportunity to break into the Ultimate Realm of the Earth Realm.

Zhang Ruochen gave himself a year. If he was unable to reach the Ultimate Realm in a year, then he would have to break into the Earth Realm.

The younger the student, the faster the cultivation.

Zhang Ruochen had already wasted 16 years of time. He was already 17. He had no more time to waste.

"A year in the outside world would be three years in the Time and Space Spinel. Three years should be enough to solidify my foundations," Zhang Ruochen thought.

If he was unable to break into the Ultimate Realm in three years, then he never would. There would be no point in wasting anymore time.

The Deputy Headmaster smiled, "Zhang Ruochen, I have high hopes for you. I hope that you will be ranked first on the Profound Board in two years and crush Zhang Tiangui, the No.1 prodigy of the Yuntai Suzerain. Do you think you can do this?"

"I won't let you down."

Of course, Zhang Ruochen had confidence. Even if he went to the Coliseum of the Martial Market right now, he was sure that he would rank first on the Profound Board.

However, after experiencing a few assassination attempts, Zhang Ruochen could see the situation clearly. He was no longer the son of Emperor Ming. Rather, he was the prince of an inferior commandery.

If he appeared too talented, jealousy would arise. Some people would do anything to kill him in the cradle.

It was better for him to keep a low profile.

If it was not necessary, he did not want to compete for a ranking on the Profound Board.

The Deputy Headmaster continued. "If you were able to rank first on the Profound Board, you would be awarded a large amount of silver. Once you reached the Earth Realm, you would be able to use this money to purchase practice resources so that you could also progress quickly through the Earth Realm."

"Of course, it is difficult to become first on the Profound Board. Even Zhang Tianguai ranks third, while Luo Shuihan ranks second. They are both one step away!"

Zhang Ruochen was confused. "I thought senior sister apprentice Luo was ranked sixth on the Profound Board. When did she become second?" he asked.

The Deputy Headmaster replied, "Right before the Intermediate Relic Exploration Test, Luo Shuihan secretly battled Wang Tong, who was second on the Profound Board. After a thousand strikes, she defeated Wang Tong. Less than 10 people know about this as the Luo family has demanded that the news is kept secret."

Zhang Ruochen asked again, "If she could defeat Wang Tong, why didn't she challenge Yan Lixuan, who was first?"

"It would have been impossible to succeed."

The Deputy Headmaster shook her head. "Yan Lixuan is far more powerful than Wang Tong. He has been first on the Profound Board for 20 years, and no one has been able to take him down. If Luo Shuihan hadn't broken into the Earth Realm and continued Practicing in the Black Realm for three more years, she might have had a chance to defeat Yan Lixuan. But she couldn't wait that long. Also, she has no need to be ranked first."

Luo Shuihan also did not want to linger in the Black Realm for too long.

The Deputy Headmaster smiled. She said, "Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling also had participated in some secret battles. Because some powers are secretly supporting them, their results were not announced. They have the prowess of the top ten on the Profound Board. Some say your generation is the pride of the Western Campus. I hope that your future accomplishments do not stop merely at the Heaven Realm."

Zhang Ruochen was very curious. "Senior sister apprentice Duanmu also has powers supporting her?" he asked.

The Deputy Headmaster smiled again. "Luo Shuihan, Huang Yanchen, and Duanmu Xingling are known as the three female devils of the Western Campus. Even the presbyters of the Western Campus cannot control them. It is not simply because of their talents, but because strong forces support them. Thus,

they can get away with anything, and no one dares to cross them. They could even break someone's leg, and that person would never dare to report it to the presbyter."

"Luo Shuihan is supported by the Saint-led Luo family. The Luo family Saint is Luo Xu, who was Western Campus' first prodigy. Not only did he establish the Luo family, but he continues to live to this day. Who would dare cross a family that has a Saint as its head? Of course, the Luo's family power is not within the 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge. You cannot imagine the strength of the Luo family right now."

"Huang Yanchen also has a great power supporting her. She isn't simply the Commandery Princess of the Qianshui Commandery. There are many princes and princesses in the Qianshui Commandery, so why is Huang Yanchen special? Mostly because of her mother's family, who holds great power. Even the Qianshui Commandery Prince himself maintains the throne with the power of her mother's family."

"Do you know why Huang Yanchen came to the Martial School in Omen Ridge to practice rather than the School in the Qianshui Commandery? Because the head of the School of the Martial Market in the Omen Ridge is her mother's brother, her uncle. With this level of connection, who would dare to actually battle her in the School in the Omen Ridge?"

"As for Duanmu Xingling, her situation is a bit special. I know she was brought to the Western Campus by a disciple of a Half-Saint who wanted her to learn at the School of the Martial Market. They wanted to use the strong competitive environment at the School of the Martial Market to better train her.

Zhang Ruochen had always thought that he was fairly close to them. Now, he realized that he actually knew very little about them.

Perhaps, in their eyes, Zhang Ruochen was not yet qualified to enter their social circle. So they had neglected to tell him everything.

The Deputy Headmaster smiled. She said, "Zhang Ruochen, your engagement with Huang Yanchen will bring you endless advantages in the future, but it will also bring you endless trouble."

Zhang Ruochen frowned a little. "Why do you say that?"

"Once you enter the Internal Academy you will see how many people chase after Huang Yanchen. An endless stream of people will wish to challenge you, and they will not stop until you are either defeated or dead."

The Deputy Headmaster continued, "What I've told you today, you should keep to yourself. If word gets out, it will do you no good."

"I understand," Zhang Ruochen replied.

The Deputy Headmaster paused, then said, "You're now the top master in the Western Campus, and by rights, you should live in Room One of Titled Heaven. Also, two other people are moving into the Dragon Palace. You will need to look after them. Zi Qian, Yao Qingtong, come in!"

Zi Qian and Yao Qingtong walked in and raised their hands in salute. "Greetings Deputy Headmaster, well-met elder brother."

Of course, Zi Qian had the right to enter the Dragon Palace. She had already entered the Dawn State of the Black Realm when she joined the School, and she had passed the first obstacle on the third floor of the Wu Tower.

Yao Qingtong was a freshman like Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian. She was also at the Dawn State when she entered the School and she also passed the first obstacle on the third floor of the Wu Tower. She was not more talented than Zi Qian, although her cultivation had already reached the Final State of the Black Realm.

The Deputy Headmaster said, "Zi Qian, you will live in Room One of Titled Earth. Yao Qingtong, you will live in Room One of Titled Black. I hope you will improve quickly and become warriors of the Profound Division within a year."

The Deputy Headmaster glanced at Zhang Ruochen. "As the elder here, are you not going to welcome your new junior sister apprentices with gifts?"

Chapter 177: The Devil Martial City

Being an elder brother wasn't easy, particularly when it came to giving welcoming gifts.

Zhang Ruochen smiled slightly. He took out the Wings of Wind and the Beast Bone Bow, giving them to Yao Qingtong and Zi Qian respectively.

Both The Wings of Wind and Beast Bone Bow were Yue Linchong's treasures.

Lu Han had killed Yue Linchong, and yet Zhang Ruochen was the one to loot these treasures from his corpse.

The Wings of Wind were worth 500 merit points, which equaled 500,000 silver coins; it was definitely a valuable treasure.

The Beast Bone Bow was made from the backbone of a Fourth-Class savage beast. This bow qualified as a sixth-level Genuine Martial Armament and was roughly equal in value to The Wings of Wind.

Since Zi Qian and Zhang Ruochen were close friends, she accepted the Beast Bone Bow without any formality.

Yao Qingtong looked shy in contrast. Zhang Ruochen's welcoming gift was so valuable in her eyes that she felt embarrassed to accept it.

Zi Qian pressed the Wings of Wind into Yao Qingtong's hands. "Junior sister apprentice Yao," she said, "don't be embarrassed on your elder brother's account. He's never short on minor cultivation resources like these."

"If that's so, Qingtong will accept this gift. Thank you, elder brother Zhang!" Yao Qingtong replied, clutching The Wings of Wind tightly in her arms.

With The Wings of Wind, she could easily escape from any run-ins with warriors of the Earth Realm.

Zhang Ruochen stared at Zi Qian and smiled. He didn't see the Wings of Wind or Beast Bone Bow as valuable treasures.

Time flew by. Zi Qian and Yao stayed at Dragon Martial Temple for a whole month.

While one month passed for people on the outside, three months passed for Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen spent most of those three months in seclusion refining. He'd refined 15 Three Leaf Holy Clovers, bringing his martial cultivation to the peak of the Completion of the Black Realm.

His Qi Lake was chock-full of Pure Jade Genuine Qi. If he stopped breaking through into new realms, his Genuine Qi capacity would never grow any further.

The Qi Lake between his glabellas had grown incomparably massive—as massive as a real lake. His Genuine Qi surged within this boundless ocean.

“Although my Genuine Qi capacity has reached the pinnacle of the Black Realm, I must continue refining my Genuine Qi to enhance its purity.”

Zhang Ruochen could now dash at speeds of up to 79 meters per second—his fastest record yet.

“If I want to break through into the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm, I'll need to focus on two aspects in order to succeed. First, I must refine my Genuine Qi and physical body. Second, I must successfully master Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon.”

Zhang Ruochen estimated that if he successfully mastered Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, his top speed would increase to 80 meters per second.

If he could enhance his body's physical quality while purifying Genuine Qi at the same time, he had a fairly high chance of breaking through into the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.

Zhang Ruochen took time out from his practice to participate in a quarterly assessment two weeks ago. To no one's surprise, he became the No. 1 student on Western Campus.

From now on he would receive 10 drops of Half-Saint's Essence every quarter. This was one of the benefits of the No. 1s of four campuses enjoyed.

As before, Zhang Ruochen entered Divine Power Palace on a monthly basis to practice his Spiritual Power. However, this did not significantly enhance his abilities.

It seemed that he had reached a bottleneck that made it hard to elevate his strength further. For the time being, he would need to keep accumulating experiences and refinements in order to build a solid foundation for his skills. Once he broke through into new realms, his power would be like a dragon surfacing from the deep sea and ascending to the heavens.

During this period of time, he also practiced with the Master-Verifying and defensive Inscriptions of Space.

The defensive Inscription of Space was divided into three main categories—The Inscription of Shield-shapes”, The Inscription of Enclosure-shapes, and “Inscription of Formation-shapes”. These inscription types could be continuously divided into dozens of different sub-categories.

Once Zhang Ruochen successfully engraved these inscriptions, his Spatial Ring would serve both as a storage Ring and a defensive Genuine Martial Arms.

Zhang Ruochen spent a whole month practicing inside his Time and Space Spinel. After using up hundreds—no, thousands of Spiritual Papers, he finally managed to engrave the Master-Verifying Inscription of Space.

With another day's work, Zhang Ruochen engraved both the eight fundamental Inscriptions of Space and the Master-Verifying Inscription of Space onto his storage bracelet, refining a brand new spatial storage treasure.

“Boom!”

Zhang Ruochen let a drop of his blood drip onto the surface of the storage bracelet.

The blood drop flashed with light. The Master-Verifying Inscription of Space absorbed Zhang Ruochen's blood and turned into a thin, ruby-red line.

The master verification was successful.

From now on, no one but Zhang Ruochen would be able to open the storage bracelet, even if they stole it from him.

“After adding the Master-Verifying Inscription, the value of my space storage bracelet has doubled at least.” With a satisfied look on his face, Zhang Ruochen continued to practice with his Warding Inscriptions.

After completing Intermediate Relic Exploration Test, Zhang Ruochen went through a year's worth of practice in the Time and Space Spinel over the course of four months.

During this year he made significant improvements. Though he could only increase his speed to 79 meters per second in short bursts, he had greatly increased his fighting force and learned to use the Genuine Qi in his body more precisely.

One day, Zi Qian came to Heaven No.1 in search of Zhang Ruochen. “Elder brother,” she said, “I'm heading to Coliseum of the Martial Market in Devil Martial City to challenge Warriors of Division Profound. Want to join me?”

“Devil Martial City...”

Zhang Ruochen was already planning to visit Devil Martial City in order to look for a brilliant weapon refiner that could fix his broken Abyss Ancient Sword.

The Abyss Ancient Sword was an 800-year-old weapon gifted to him by Princess Chi Yao. Though the sword was broken, Zhang Ruochen wanted to continue using it so he could access the inscriptions carved on the blade.

He would be able to perform the most exquisite sword techniques using the Abyss Ancient Sword.

He couldn't find any capable weapon refiners in Yunwu Prefecture, so he hoped to have better luck in Devil Martial City.

Devil Martial City was the largest city among the 36 prefectures of Omen Ridge, a community filled with secretive, hidden masters. Perhaps there would be some weapon refiners among them who could fix his valuable sword.

Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian rode the Snowflake Eagle, a Third-Class lower level savage bird. They left Western Campus and flew towards Devil Martial City.

The Snowflake Eagle's strength was comparable to a warrior at Mid Stage of the Earth Realm. When it spread its wings, the Eagle had a wingspan more than 20 meters long, its feathers shiny and white as snow. At its fastest speed, it could reach up to 90 meters per second.

Zhang Ruochen hadn't purchased this Snowflake Eagle from the School of the Martial Market with his merit points: Blackie himself had subdued this savage beast in the midst of Omen Ridge.

Blackie's ability had greatly increased in step with Zhang Ruochen's cultivation. When he entered his war form, his body would grow as large as a brute elephant. Even a warrior at the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm could not match him.

Currently, Blackie had shrunk to a fist-sized lump resting on Zhang Ruochen's shoulder. He was burying his nose in a book about inscriptions for refining weapons.

Blackie closed the book, stood up straight and raised his head high. "Zhang Ruochen, could I trouble you to pass me your broken sword? I might be able to fix it for you!" he said, completely serious in tone.

"You know weapon refinement?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

"Am I not the King of Slaughter? Nothing lies beyond my grasp!"

Zhang Ruochen fell into deep thought. After a time, he took out the four-foot broken sword and handed it to Blackie.

Blackie's round eyes glittered as he caught a glimpse of the Abyss Ancient Sword.

Wrapping their claws around the sword handle, Blackie jumped off Zhang Ruochen's shoulder and landed on the Snowflake Eagle's back.

"Woosh!"

Blackie raised the Abyss Ancient Sword and swung it around, sending wisps of Sword Breath flying up towards the sky as he let out a mighty roar.

Blackie had attained some surprisingly high-level sword techniques.

"My word, Zhang Ruochen! This sword is quite remarkable!"

Blackie stopped flailing around and brandished the heavy sword with his two claws. "Not only are there fundamental inscriptions carved on this sword," he said, "but also inscriptions of medium stage and superior level. I fear you'll need a fifth-level weapon refiner at the minimum to re-infuse these particular inscription carvings! For that matter, you'll only be able to access the fundamental and medium stage inscriptions; the superior level inscription is right out!"

Even though an inscription had been etched onto the ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms, it was merely an elementary inscription. There were no medium level inscriptions.

Only soldiers who had surpassed the need for Genuine Martial Arms could possess medium and superior level inscriptions.

“So, can you infuse it?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

“I can certainly try.” Blackie replied. “With my current strength, I can only recharge 66 of the fundamental inscriptions on this sword.” Once these 66 fundamental inscriptions have been restored, the power of this broken sword should be equal to a Ninth-Class Genuine Martial Arms.”

Zi Qian, listening off to the side, was taken aback by Blackie’s words. “Could this broken sword really match a Ninth-Level Genuine Martial Arms?” she asked.

Every ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms was worth more than 10 million silver coins. There were but three of these items in the whole of Yunwu Prefecture—two of them belonged to the Royal Family, to be assigned to their soldiers defending the country.

Most martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm used seventh-level Genuine Martial Arms. Only a select few owned ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms.

Blackie stared at Zi Qian. “It’s merely a ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms,” he said disdainfully. “Why raise such a fuss?”

Zhang Ruochen had become very anxious about finding other master weapon refiners. If Blackie could fix the Abyss Ancient Sword by himself, that would be a great help.

For the time being, Zhang Ruochen handed the Abyss Ancient Sword to Blackie, trusting that he would return the sword after fixing it.

Although Zhang Ruochen had solved his sword problem, he still wanted to visit Devil Martial City.

Devil Martial City was built on the lofty mountain peaks of Omen Ridge. No country laid claim to it, as it was a city built by a multitude of Suzerains, associations and powerful figures.

Devil Martial City was originally constructed by the movers and shakers of Omen Ridge as a trading center for warriors.

Afterward, the 36 Prefectures rose to prominence and trained up more and more warriors, which led to an endless series of super Suzerains appearing around Omen Ridge.

All the warriors from different commanderies joined the Martial Market School while still paying respect to their Suzerains. This arrangement transformed a mere frontier trading outpost into a bustling center of commerce. Over time, the outpost gradually expanded into a proper city.

Besides the School of the Martial Market, there were two Fourth-Class Powers, five Fifth-Class Powers, 12 Sixth-Class Powers and 36 Seventh-Class Powers in the Omen Ridge region.

If there were any Heaven realm martial arts legends among these factions and powers, they were probably only “Seventh-Class powers” at best.

As for the inferior commanderies like Yunwu Commandery, they could be classified as “Sixth-Class Powers”. Medium level commanderies like Square Commandery were more or less “Fifth-Class Powers”.

These commanderies needed the power of Half-Saint leadership to at least be count as “Fourth-Class Powers”.

Despite the power held by the School of the Martial Market, they weren’t strong enough to rule Omen Ridge themselves. There were two Fourth-Class Powers with the strength that rivaled the School.

These two Fourth-Class Powers were Yuntai Suzerain and Tai Qing Palace.

The School of the Martial Market, Yuntai Suzerain, and Tai Qing Palace comprised the three most powerful parties in Omen Ridge. Except for these groups, only organizations that hid in the dark could challenge them were organizations like Black Market and Moon Worship Demonic Sect.

The Internal School of the Martial Market was built in Devil Martial City. Once warriors became inner disciples there, they were allowed to bring their family to Devil Martial City and become citizens.

Moreover, Yuntai Suzerain and Tai Qing Palace had also established themselves in Devil Martial City, giving rise to a three-way power struggle between them and the School of the Martial Market.

Since Devil Martial City was full of many hidden masters, Young Geniuses would periodically emerge from the new generations of the populace. This city was the premier location for warriors from all 36 commanderies to meet.

Chapter 178: Tianyue Tower

The Snowflake Eagle flew over towering mountains covered in trees. Unsure of how far they had flown, Zhang Ruochen stood up on the back of the eagle and finally glimpsed Devil Martial City beside a green lake.

Devil Martial City was constructed magnificently. Watchtowers and array towers protruded from the city walls, which were built from rows of stone blocks five meters in depth.

Once the wall’s Defender Array was activated, it would shield Devil Martial City from harm even against a full assault from the savage beasts of Omen Ridge.

Entering Devil Martial City, they saw warriors dressed in differing varieties of clothes who hailed from all the major commanderies. These warriors had made their way to Omen Ridge from distant locales out of a thirst for adventure. They brought along treasures acquired during their adventures to sell in Devil Martial City, exchanging them for the resources they needed for their practice.

There was a 30 years old werewolf, bare-chested and covered from head to toe in fur. He carried a massive battle-axe and rode a Silver Dragon-lion, a second-level savage beast that swaggered down the broad street.

Behind the werewolf marched dozens of warrior servants whose cultivation had reached the Yellow Realm. They followed the werewolf from a respectful distance, gazing upon the half-man, half-wolf with awe.

A pair of young women entered through the city gates, identical twins with combat swords slung over their shoulders. They wore the robes of students from the Yuntai Suzerain, distinguished by the cloud-wisps embroidered on the collars.

They both led two colorful savage birds down the street. As Internal students of the Yuntai Suzerain, they seemed to attract the attention of numerous warriors.

Everyone was extremely respectful towards the disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain and gave way to them.

Entrepreneurs shouted from their stalls on both sides of the street, loudly promoting their own goods:

“I’ve got Spiritual Doses fresh from Broken Moon Peak! Only 500 silver coins each!”

“Behold, the Heaven Deficient Sword! A fourth-level Genuine Martial Arms with 15 inscriptions carved on the blade,” a 50-year-old skinny man said, staring eagerly at Zhang Ruochen. “For just 35,000 silver coins, this can be yours! Come and take a look, young hero! If it’s not the right blade for you, get it for your girlfriend!” He brandished the white-hued combat sword in his hand, giving Zhang Ruochen a hopeful look.

Zhang Ruochen snorted and shook his head. Tugging on the reigns of the Snowflake Eagle, he led Zi Qian and Blackie towards the Coliseum of the Martial Market.

The skinny man let out a long, disappointed sigh and continued loudly peddling his wares.

“Elder brother!”

“Ninth brother!”

Zhang Ruochen suddenly heard two people yelling behind him.

Zhang Ruochen turned around and saw the far-off figures of Liu Chengfeng and Zhang Shaochu sprinting in his direction.

They had also come to Devil Martial City.

When Liu Chengfeng and Zhang Shaochu saw Zhang Ruochen’s face, their joy and excitement quickened their steps.

“Elder brother, I thought you’d secluded yourself to break through into the Earth Realm! What are you doing here in Devil Martial City? If I hadn’t spotted senior sister apprentice Zi by your side, I never would have believed my own eyes!” Liu Chengfeng said, laughing.

Liu Chengfeng’s present martial cultivation was greatly improved. He had already reached the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm.

Zhang Shaochu, whose cultivation had also reached the Final State of the Black Realm, chuckled and said, “I told you it was my ninth brother. How could I fail to recognize him?”

Zhang Ruochen smiled. “Why are you two here?” he asked.

“The Fourth Prince and I came here to buy some Pills and pay my father a visit.” Liu Chengfeng replied. “Once again, thank you so much for saving my father’s life. He’s been praising you to the moon and back; he even told me to learn from your example.”

Liu Chengfeng’s father, Liu Chuanshen, was once the Manager of the Martial Market Bank in Yunwu Commandery.

“It was no trouble at all,” Zhang Ruochen said.

Liu Chengfeng was slightly surprised. “Elder brother, senior sister apprentice Zi; are you guys going to the Coliseum of the Martial Market?” he asked.

“She is,” Zhang Ruochen replied. “She wanted to visit the Coliseum of the Martial Market and fight for a spot on the Profound Board. I’m just tagging along with her; I may buy some practice resources to bring back with me.”

Zhang Shaochu’s expression betrayed his disappointment. “Ninth brother,” he said, “if you try for a spot on the Profound Board, I’m sure you’ll get into the top 200 with your ability. It’s such a pity you’re not going to compete!”

“With elder brother’s ability, he could get into the top 10 ranks on the Profound Board without breaking a sweat,” Liu Chengfeng said with a chuckle.

Liu Chengfeng didn’t actually believe Zhang Ruochen could make into the top 10 of the Profound Board. He said this just to display his goodwill.

Zhang Ruochen was currently the first ranked warrior on the Western Campus. As long as Liu Chengfeng stuck close to him, he could do as he pleased on the Western Campus without repercussions.

“Since elder brother and sister Zi are here in Devil Martial City, let’s go grab a meal at Tianyue Tower!” Liu Chengfeng went on to say, “My treat!”

Zhang Shaochu’s eyes twinkled with mirth. “The food at the Tianyue Tower is crazy expensive!” he pointed out. “It’s said that the cost of one meal is expensive enough to bankrupt a warrior at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm. It seems you have money to burn today, Brother Liu.”

“To treat elder brother and sister Zi to a meal is a pleasure worth every coin!” Liu Chengfeng said with a smile.

Generally speaking, warriors didn’t need to eat ordinary food; they could satiate their bodies with Blood Pills alone.

However, the food at Tianyue Tower was far from ordinary.

Every ingredient in their meals was very expensive, greatly beneficial for warriors and impossible to enjoy anywhere else. Furthermore, the environment of Tianyue Tower was magnificent, containing a plethora of quiet gardens, luxury palaces, and flying Pavilions.

Many warriors had emptied their purses just to enjoy a nice meal and bottle of fine wine in Tianyue Tower.

Like Zhang Shaochu said, a single Tianyue Tower meal was costly enough to bankrupt an ordinary warrior. Therefore, most of the warriors who dined at Tianyue Tower were either Martial Arts superiors or geniuses from a powerful background.

“Tianyue Tower is no mere restaurant; it is one of the 12 Sixth-class Powers in Omen Ridge. The Mansion Master of Tianyue Tower is a particularly talented figure who attracts many Martial Arts superiors. There are even some martial arts legends from the Heaven Realm who work for Tianyue Tower.”

Liu Chengfeng regaled Zhang Ruochen with the background of Tianyue Tower as they made their way there.

“Incredible! How could a simple restaurant become a Sixth-class Power? I wonder what the Mansion Master of the Tianyue Tower is like?” Zhang Ruochen thought.

To be classified as a Sixth-class Power in the Martial World, Tianyue Tower was definitively strong enough to contend with inferior Commandery such as Yunwu. Without a doubt, it was a powerful association.

“Hey, shopkeeper; are there any tables open at the Sky-approaching Pavilion?” Liu Chengfeng asked.

The shopkeeper of Tianyue Tower glanced over at Liu Chengfeng. He noticed he was wearing the robe of an external student from the School of the Martial Market and smiled. “There’s one table left,” he said with a chuckle, “however, you’ll need to pay 4,000 silver coins in advance to dine at the Sky-approaching Pavilion.”

“Understood!”

Obviously, this was not Liu Chengfeng’s first time dining at Tianyue Tower. He quickly took out four Spiritual Crystals and handed them to the shopkeeper.

The shopkeeper tucked away the four Spiritual Crystals and gave instructions to one of the armor-clad warriors. “Lead the mounts of these young heroes to the savage beast stables; make sure they’re settled in.”

After that, the shopkeeper handed four silver number tokens over to Liu Chengfeng. “With these numbered tokens, you can ride the Yellow Stage Flying Boat of Tianyue Tower to the Sky-approaching Pavilion,” he said.

The Sky-approaching Pavilion was built by Tianyue Tower so that customers could dine while drifting through the skies of Devil Martial City. Since it floated 400 meters above the ground, restaurant guests needed to ride a flying boat up to the Sky-approaching Pavilion.

The restaurant guests boarded the Flying Boat of the Yellow Stage, an aerial vessel only a dozen or so meters long. It was a seventh-level Genuine Martial Arm directly controlled by a Martial Arts superior of the Earth Realm.

“With just 4,000 silver coins, we can be chauffeured around by a warrior of the Earth Realm. This is so worth it!” Zhang Shaochu said excitedly.

Zhang Ruochen rose to his feet aboard the Flying Boat of the Yellow Stage and looked up towards the Sky-approaching Pavilion floating in the sky.

It was a three-story loft of glass that drifted through the air, supported underneath by a giant array 100-meters in diameter.

From a distance, the Sky-approaching Pavilion seemed to be shrouded in a hazy mist. Cranes fluttered around the Pavilion as if it was the abode of immortal fairies.

They heard the faint sound of string and woodwind instruments echoing down from the Sky-approaching Pavilion, music as pleasing to the ears as the celestial melodies of heaven.

One could not deny the power and influence of Tianyue Tower. The Sky-approaching Pavilion alone was a ninth-level Genuine Martial Arm that could ferry hundreds of people in flight across the sky.

The Yellow Stage Flying Boat pulled up next to the stone stairs on the first level of the Sky-approaching Pavilion.

Liu Chengfeng, Zhang Ruochen, Zi Qian and Zhang Shaochu disembarked from the flying boat and walked up the stairs.

A pretty young lady in a palace outfit walked out and welcomed them to the Sky-approaching Pavilion. "My apologies, young heroes," she said, leading the four of them to an empty table. "We have a full house on the second and third floors. This is the only open dining table here on the first floor. Of course, meals here are half the price they would be on the second floor."

It became clear that higher status folks sat on the upper floors and spent more money.

Zhang Ruochen didn't seem to care. He took a seat near the window and scanned his surroundings, taking in the environment of the Sky-approaching Pavilion.

20 odd warriors were seated on the first floor, most of them youngsters. Some were dressed extravagantly, while some wore their Martial Arts robe uniforms. Every one of them looked lively. They were all Martial Arts masters; none of them had cultivated to a point below the Black Realm.

Eight beautiful young women wearing colorful, fluttering dresses danced in the center of the first floor. They had fair features, shapely bodies and snow-white skin. Their beauty was the stuff of fairy tales.

When Liu Chengfeng noticed Zhang Ruochen staring at the eight dancing beauties, he leaned in close. "They are called 'eating companions' and all of them are virgins," he whispered, "They were handpicked by the Martial Arts masters of Tianyue Tower from every city in the 36 commanderies. Each day Tianyue Tower selects eight unique beauties and offers them to the warriors as 'eating companions'."

"What do you mean by 'eating companion'?" Zhang Shaochu asked out of curiosity.

"Ha-ha! Obviously, it means they sleep with the warriors!" Liu Chengfeng said with a laugh. "What's the matter? Feeling tempted, Your Highness?"

The eight dancing women were all undoubtedly great beauties, carefully selected by the Tianyue Pavilion before being sent to the Devil Martial City. Naturally, Zhang Shaochu was completely captivated by these women; he even looked like he was going to drool.

Liu Chengfeng knew that by indulging Zhang Shaochu he could curry favor with Zhang Ruochen. "Later this evening," he went on to say, "the Sky-approaching Pavilion will auction off the 'first night' of all eight 'eating companions'. If you bid high enough, perhaps you could purchase one of them. Of course, the price for their first night is unbelievably high. If you don't have at least a couple hundred thousand silver coins, don't even think about claiming one of them."

When Zhang Shaochu heard Liu Chengfeng list the price, the blaze in his eyes flickered and died. "That's way too expensive!" he said.

Zhang Shaochu suddenly turned towards Zhang Ruochen. "Ninth brother." He pitifully moaned. "You have to help your Fourth Brother. I have neither queen nor concubine; how can you stand to see me spend the rest of my life alone...?"

Zhang Ruochen barely registered Zhang Shaochu's words. Staring off into the distance, he noticed two familiar silhouettes.

Far across the restaurant floor, Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan were drinking, laughing, and having fun with other external students from the Yuntai Suzerain. They seemed to be discussing several recent events.

Chapter 179: The Dispute

"Rumor has it that a female devil appeared in the Omen Ridge who facilitated her cultivation by absorbing blood. She is absolutely vicious with a powerful cultivation. I wonder where she comes from," said one of the external students of the Yuntai Suzerain. She looked about 20.

Lin Chenyu sneered and said, "Do you mean the monster who escaped from the Chikong Secret Mansion?"

Lin Chenyu was a handsome guy with fine features, but he was fairly pale. He had no Adam's apple on his neck, and his voice was very high-pitched. He sounded like a woman.

Another female disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain said, "Yeah! That's her! They say the School of the Martial Market has sent 10 masters to take her down and yet, she still manages to escape."

"Two weeks ago, the Sword Suzerain was exterminated overnight. The only thing left was 800 desiccated corpses. All of their blood had been drained. Even Sword Master Yunkai Mountain was badly injured and hid in the Devil Martial City."

Lin Ningshan who was sitting next to Lin Chenyu was shocked and said, "The Sword Suzerain is an enormous Seventh-Class power. Master Yunkai Mountain is a martial arts legend of the Heaven Realm who is famous among the Omen Ridge. How is it possible that the monster is stronger than Yunkai Mountain?"

While Zhang Ruochen enrolled in the School of the Martial Market, Lin Ningshan had also registered at the Yuntai Suzerain. Her cultivation had reached the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm. She had improved significantly.

Zhang Shaochu followed Zhang Ruochen's eyes and looked over. There he saw Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan.

In fact, he knew that his ninth brother had liked Lin Ningshan ever since he was little. However, Lin Ningshan looked down on him. She was engaged to Zhang Tiangui, the Seventh Prince.

"That must really hurt his feelings!" Zhang Shaochu stared at Zhang Ruochen and could guess what was going on in his mind.

He thought Zhang Ruochen was still in love with Lin Ningshan. Therefore, he said with concern, "My ninth brother, Lin Ningshan isn't worth your love! Moreover, Commandery Princess Yanchen is a hundred times better than her. She is not a good match for you!"

"Oh?"

Zhang Ruochen had recovered, and he asked, "What are you talking about?"

Zhang Shaochu said, "I said that you should let things go!"

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and laughed. "I'm just listening to their discussion about the monster that absorbs blood for cultivation."

He never expected that Lu Han would turn into such a powerful creature, able to escape under the joint attack of the 10 masters of the School of the Martial Market. She had even destroyed a seventh-class Suzerain on her own.

If she kept developing, it was going to be a disaster.

However, Zhang Ruochen had only reached the Completion of the Black Realm. His martial cultivation was far less than hers. Even if he possessed the blood of the Golden Cloud Half-Saint, it would be impossible for him to recover the Half-Saint's Light.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "My fourth brother, what else did you say just now?"

Zhang Shaochu realized that Zhang Ruochen really was not thinking about Lin Ningshan, and he was relieved. He squinted and laughed. "My ninth brother, I beg you to bid on a 'eating accompany' for me so that I won't be lonely for the rest of my life."

"You're over-reacting!" Zhang Ruochen said.

Zhang Shaochu leaned towards Zhang Ruochen immediately. He cried out loud and said, "Last time we returned to the Yunwu City, my mother gave me an order. She said that if I didn't bring a princess or a concubine with me next time when I go back, she would disown me. Ruochen, you know I'm not as handsome as you and that my talent isn't as good as yours. The junior and senior sister apprentices in the School all despise me. You are the only one who can help me. Please, my ninth brother, I just want to fulfill my duty as a son. Thus, I want to bid on a 'eating accompany'."

Zi Qian stared at Zhang Shaochu and said coldly, "Shameless!"

"Senior sister apprentice Zi, I mean what I say." Zhang Shaochu responded.

Zhang Ruochen let out a sigh. "If I help you to bid on one of the 'eating accompany', are you sure you want to marry her?"

Zhang Shaochu quickly glanced at the eight pretties who were dancing. He said seriously, "I swear to God..."

"No, that's enough! We're brothers. If you really wanted to get married, how can I not help you?" Zhang Ruochen said.

Zhang Shaochu was excited at what Zhang Ruochen had said. He grabbed Zhang Ruochen's arms so tightly and tears were all over his face.

Zhang Ruochen looked towards the eight elegant women and asked, "Which one do you like?"

Zhang Shaochu responded. "Anyone."

"How can you be so casual? You need the 'the best eating accompany' to match your status as the Fourth Prince," Liu Chengfeng said.

"It would be amazing if I could have 'the best eating accompany'." Zhang Shaochu grinned, drooling.

The so-called 'the best eating accompany' referred to the most standout beauty among the eight women in terms of appearance and dancing skills. She was surely one in a million.

Undoubtedly, countless people would want to bid on 'the best eating accompany', driving the bidding price at auction unimaginably high.

At the moment, the disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain sitting apart and discussing another matter.

One of the disciples poured a drink for Lin Chenyu with a flattering expression. She laughed and said, "Elder brother Lin, I've heard that you are going to the Coliseum of the Martial Market later this afternoon to fight for a spot on the Profound Board. I hereby wish you a victory, with a ten-win streak, so that you become a Warrior of Division Profound."

Another disciple chuckled. "Elder brother Lin had a nine-win streak last time. He was only one step away from being a Warrior of Division Profound. Since his cultivation has improved recently, getting a ten-win streak will not be a difficult task."

"Once he has a ten-win streak, he will receive one million silver coins as a reward. I'm so jealous!"

Watching everyone fawning over her brother put a pleasant look on Lin Ningshan's beautiful face. She said, "Of course, my brother has already cultivated to the seventh-level of the 'Yuntai Classics.' Even if he challenges the top five of the Profound Board, he still has a great opportunity for success, let alone becoming a Warrior of Division Profound."

The four external students of the Yuntai Suzerain were all shocked at what Lin Ningshan had said. They could not believe that Lin Chenyu had already reached the seventh-level of the Yuntai Classics in the Black Realm. Only very few warriors in the external school of the Yuntai Suzerain were able to do it.

Zhang Shaochu had never liked neither Lin Chenyu nor Lin Ningshan. When he saw that the disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain were all sucking up to Lin Chenyu, he was irritated and sneered. He said, "How is it

amazing being one of the Warriors of Division Profound? My ninth brother is going to challenge the top ten masters of the Profound Board!”

Zhang Shaochu’s words had displeased the disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain. They quickly looked over at him.

One of the external students of the Yuntai Suzerain realized that it was a fatty being boastful. He felt that he had been scorned and murmured, “Who is boasting over there? Doesn’t he know that elder brother Lin is the prodigy who ranks eighth among the external school of Yuntai Suzerain?”

Zhang Shaochu looked back with contempt. He responded. “The eighth prodigy? He is just someone’s neutered pet dog.”

Every one the disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain was aware that Lin Chenyu was a servant of Zhang Tiangui. Yet, no one dared to admit it, not to mention saying it out loud.

“You’ve got some nerve! How dare you humiliate elder brother Lin? I’ll cut off your tongue as punishment!” said Hua Jiuhan, an external student of the Yuntai Suzerain whose cultivation had reached the Final State of the Black Realm.

Hua Jiuhan surely knew that Lin Chenyu was Zhang Tiangui’s servant. Therefore, he invited Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan to dine at Tianyue Tower and gave all his effort to fawning over Lin Chenyu.

Since someone was offending Lin Chenyu, he had to step up.

Lin Chenyu put his hand on Hua Jiuhan’s shoulder. He lifted up his drink, stood up calmly and laughed. “I never expected to see the Fourth Prince in the Sky-Approaching Pavilion. Cousin, we haven’t seen each other for ages. Shall we have a drink together?”

Zi Qian glanced at Lin Chenyu and noticed that he looked familiar.

She thought carefully, and something came up in her mind. She finally remembered that Lin Chenyu had once spent a large amount of money hiring killers from the Hades Department to assassinate Zhang Ruochen.

She could not believe that Lin Chenyu was Zhang Ruochen’s cousin.

“Should I remind him?”

While Zi Qian was lost in thought, Zhang Ruochen stood up. He gazed at Lin Chenyu and said faintly, “Drinking? I’m not interested.”

Hua Jiuhan laughed coldly and said, “Elder brother Lin invites you for a drink, and you dare refuse. I guess the students of the School of the Martial Market have always ignored us, the students of the Yuntai Suzerain!”

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Hua Jiuhan. He thought for a while and responded. “Fine. If you insist.”

Zhang Ruochen was standing seven feet away. He pointed his finger. The glass on the table next to Lin Chenyu flew up in the air steadily.

The next second, the glass flew across the seven foot distance and dropped into Zhang Ruochen's hand. Not one drop had spilled.

Zhang Ruochen tossed back the glass right away. He waved his arm, and the glass flew back to the table.

Most of the people who were dining on the first floor of the Sky-Approaching Pavilion were shocked at this.

"Telekinesis!" A pretty girl screamed from far away.

Only warriors who had cultivated the Sword Following the Heart to the advanced stage were able to perform telekinesis. Not a lot of warriors could reach such a realm, even if they had cultivated to the Earth Realm.

Zhang Ruochen's technique had just totally astonished the external students of the Yuntai Suzerain. No one dared to say a word.

"My cousin Ruochen, it's only been a year since we last saw each other. I can't believe that your martial cultivation has reached such a powerful level. You indeed amazed me. However, I don't understand. Why haven't you become a Warrior of Division Profound?" Lin Chenyu asked.

Liu Chengfeng responded. "The Ninth Prince is the number one master of our Western Campus. He is famous among the commanderies. Do you think he cares about the fame of the Profound Board?"

"He is Zhang Ruochen, the number one master of the Western Campus, as well as the Ninth Prince of the Yunwu Commandery."

Everyone was suddenly enlightened.

Chapter 180: Zhang Ruochen's Morality

Although Zhang Ruochen had never been to the devil Martial City, many of the young warriors there had heard of his name.

It was not because of his magnificent talent, but rather his engagement with Huang Yanchen that had caused quite a stir in Devil Martial city.

The geniuses in 36 commanderies of the omen Ridge emerged in an endless stream. In the Devil Martial City, there were dozens of young masters whose reputation were more prominent than Zhang Ruochen's.

If there really was a ranking, Zhang Ruochen probably could not even get into the top 100.

Even if he had defeated the princes of every commandery in Qianshui Commandery, everyone knew that all of them were in the same realm, so Zhang Ruochen could be the winner. If there were a real fight, who would care if you were in the same realm?

Even though you were invincible in the same realm, other people's cultivations were much higher and their practicing rates were also faster. There would be of no use even if you were unmatched in the same realm.

Besides, the distance between Qianshui Commandery and Devil Martial City was far. Everyone only knew that Zhang Ruochen had defeated all the princes in the same realm, but they did not know the process of the fight. It was only natural that they would not think highly of Zhang Ruochen.

Hence, the real reason that made Zhang Ruochen famous was that he became Commandery Princess Yanchen's fiancé, which made a lot of people jealous and envious.

"With Zhang Ruochen's strength, if he really goes to Coliseum of the Martial Market, there should be no difficulty for him to make it into top 200 on the Profound Board."

"That's not necessarily true. It is said that his cultivation is not that high. There are just more than 20 young warriors who can make it into top 200 on the Profound Board, not all of them can get a rank."

"If he really has that strength, I'm afraid he would have gone to the Coliseum of the martial market to compete for the profound board long ago. Why hasn't he done that yet?" Hua Jiuhan asked.

Everyone nodded, thinking that Hua Jiuhan made a point.

"His engagement with the Commandery Princess Yanchen in Qianshui Commandery has caused quite a stir in the Devil Martial city at that time. Everybody thinks that he doesn't deserve Princess Yanchen of Qianshui Commandery."

"Although Zhang Ruochen is outstanding, he is not as talented as the Ten Prodigies of Omen Ridge. Indeed, he is not a fine match for Commandery Princess Yanchen. When the Ten Prodigies of Omen Ridge were his age, they had all reached the level of the Earth Realm."

"It is said that two of the Ten Prodigies of Omen Ridge have declared, if Zhang Ruochen dares to enter the Devil Martial City, they will never let him leave in one piece."

After knowing Zhang Ruochen's identity, the whole sky-approaching Pavilion clamors. They stared at Zhang Ruochen strangely. There was admiration, jealousy, and regret in their eyes.

Lin Ningshan was looking at Zhang Ruochen too. Only one year had passed, the sick boy she once looked down on had turned into a handsome man, who had also become the top master in the Western Campus of School of the martial market. He even got engaged to the Princess Yanchen of Qianshui Commandery.

She was already regretting it, thinking that she should not have treated Zhang Ruochen like that before.

Otherwise, she would be the one who would get engaged to Zhang Ruochen now.

Although Lin Ningshan had engaged to Zhang Tiangui, she was not appreciated by him at all. She only saw him once afar off. In his eyes, she was just a dispensable woman.

What everyone did not know was that at this very moment, Huang Yanchen was in the sky-approaching Pavilion, sitting in a private room on the third floor.

More than a dozen of young geniuses were in the room; there were handsome men and beautiful women. Every one of them was famous and outstanding in the Devil Martial City, with both powerful background and strong personal strength.

A very beautiful woman was sitting next to Huang Yanchen, who was about the same age as her. She had a royal blue long hair, snow-white skin with delicate features and long, fine eyelashes. Her beauty could even rival Huang Yanchen's.

Her name was Chen Xier, Huang Yanchen's cousin who was only one month younger than her.

Chen Xier heard the comments from downstairs. She narrowed her eyes and said with a smile, "Yanchen, now that Zhang Ruochen is in Sky-approaching Pavilion, why not invite him up here and let me meet him?"

As a child, Chen Xier liked to compete with Huang Yanchen. When Huang Yanchen was five and wearing elegant clothes, she wanted that too; Huang Yanchen used the fourth-level Genuine Martial Arm at the age of nine, she would then use the fifth-level; Huang Yanchen entered the School of the Martial Market to practice, she went there, too, even getting directly into the Internal School.

She wanted to outdo Huang Yanchen in everything, only then she would be satisfied.

Now that Huang Yanchen had a fiance, she decided to find one for herself too, a much better one.

Huang Yanchen naturally knew Chen Xier's personality and did not want to involve Zhang Ruochen into this mutual competition. She said, "When he enters the internal of the School of the Martial Market, you will have a lot of chances to meet him. There's no hurry."

Chen Xier replied in a soft voice like a spoiled child. "But I just want to see my future brother-in-law now, and I am really curious. How did he manage to impress Your Majesty, a woman with so much pride and arrogance?"

Xun Guihai who sat opposite Chen Xier, hummed in a cold tone. "Xier, I advise you not to meet him, when you do, you will be very much disappointed."

Xun Guihai's cultivation had reached the level of the Earth realm and became an internal student in the School of the marital market.

Huang Yanchen's gaze turned cold, staring at Xun Guihai and said, "I'm afraid you are not qualified to judge Zhang Ruochen."

Xun Guihai said, "Commandery Princess Yanchen, you must not be fooled by Zhang Ruochen' sweet talk. As far as I know, Zhang Ruochen's personality is quite bad, and his relationships with female students in Western campus are pretty ambiguous. And, he decides to engage with your Majesty only because he wants support from the Qianshui Commandery to resist the annexation of the Square Commandery. Your Majesty, he is using you."

There was an odd change in everyone's expression in the private room.

None of them had met Zhang Ruochen before, they only knew that Zhang Ruochen had some talent for practice, but they totally had no idea what kind of person he was.

After hearing Xun Guihai's statement, everyone felt a sense of waste for Huang Yanchen.

With such beauty and outstanding talent, Commandery Princess Yanchen could find a man 10 times or 100 times better than Zhang Ruochen and it would be a piece of cake.

Xun Guihai smiled and said, "and, I hear that Zhang Ruochen used to be quite fond of his cousin. It's a pity that his cousin disapproved of him because of his bad personality."

"Xun Guihai, you do hear quite a lot about him!" Huang Yanchen sneered.

Xun Guihai did not want to irritate Huang Yanchen and quickly added on, "Commandery Princess Yanchen, I'm saying this for your own good, just so you can see the true color of Zhang Ruochen. His talent in practice is not bad, but not unparalleled; at least the Ten Prodigies of Omen Ridge are more outstanding than he is."

Chen Xier noticed that Huang Yanchen was about to get angry, and said instantly, "Xun Guihai, can you shut up? Zhang Ruochen is my cousin's fiance now, even if he does something wrong, it's not for you to judge."

Xun Guihai did not dare to offend Chen Xier and apologized to Huang Yanchen immediately. He said, "Your Majesty, I spoke hastily, please forgive me."

Xun Guihai just finished speaking, on the first floor of the Sky-approaching Pavilion, there was an overwhelming noise.

Chen Xier asked, "What happened down there?"

Upon hearing Chen Xier's instruction, a maid quickly walked out of the private room.

A moment later, the maid returned to the private room and said, "Dear honorable guests, there is an auction for the eight eating accompany beauties going on downstairs."

Every woman in the private room had a disdainful look on their faces, showing their contempt for such behavior of Tianyue Palace.

With a strange light in their eyes, those male prodigies all itched to have a go. If it were not for maintaining their images in front of Huang Yanchen and Chen Xier, some of them definitely would like to buy an eating accompanies beauty at vast expense just to spend one night in the Tianyue Palace.

Huang Yanchen frowned slightly and said, "Isn't this just about the auction for eight eating accompany beauties, why does it cause such a big star?"

That maid hesitated and said, "Because the top genius from the Western Campus of the School of the martial market is competing for the best eating accompany beauty with Ximen Guanren from Yuntai Suzerain, and the price has gone up to 1.5 million silver coins."

Upon hearing the maid's word, everyone in the private room showed a gloating smile. They all turned to look at Huang Yanchen.

Huang Yanchen's face was as cold as frost and said, "Pardon me? Who is competing for the best eating accompany beauty with Ximen Guanren tonight?"

That maid became even timider. She answered carefully, "The top genius from the Western Campus of the School of the Martial Market, Zhang Ruochen."

Xun Guihai was overjoyed at the news. He laughed and said, "Now everyone should believe what I say!"

“How dare Zhang Ruochen! He has already been engaged with the Commandery Princess Yanchen, but still acts absurdly. Commandery Princess Yanchen, I would like to teach the profligate a lesson.” A man with a golden purple crown and a folding fan in his hand stood up and said with a sense of outrage.

This man is Zuo Lengxuan, 28 years old. He ranked 34th in the internal of the School of the Martial Market and his cultivation was at the level of the final state of the Earth Realm. He stood a good chance to reach the level of the completion of the Earth Realm before 30.

In the Devil Martial City, only those who had reached the level of the completion of the Earth realm in the Devil Martial City, only those who had reached the level of completion.

If not, he would just be an ordinary warrior.

Another warrior whose talent was not any less than Zuo Lengxuan stood up and said, “Just one word from you, Your Majesty, and I will cut off his legs and arms right away.”

Huang Yanchen was certainly very angry. She clutched both hands tightly. She wanted to go downstairs to break Zhang Ruochen’s legs so badly.

That guy was really a terrible person. He was indeed a real pervert.

However, Huang Yanchen held back her feelings and did not want Chen Xier to laugh at her. She tried to be calm and said, “No hurry, I want to see just how high he can raise the price?”

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Tonight, the best eating accompany beauty in the sky-approaching pavilion was a 17 years old woman. She was wearing a red silk robe over her slim figure. With her pink cheeks as well as crystal, glittering lips, she was a one-in-a-million beauty.

She was also a half-human from the half-peacock human, so she had a colorful pair of wings on her back. It was said that she was also a talented warrior with her cultivation reaching the level of the Dawn state of the yellow realm.

Her martial cultivation was not high, but she had an elegant appearance and the graceful movements as a dancer. She was a very feminine woman and lots of men wanted to make her their own.

In the beginning, many men participated in the bidding, but when the price went over one million silver coins, there were only Zhang Ruochen and Ximen Guanren from the Yuntai Suzerain stayed in the bidding.

One million silver coins were a huge wealth, even for the Earth Realm warrior. It could buy a lot of practice resources. No one wanted to spend so much silver coins for a woman.

Zhang Ruochen joined this because he wanted to buy a Crown Princess for Zhang Shaochu.

Zhang Ruochen continued to bid when the price exceeded one million silver coins was because one million was no different from two million to him.

He only needed to sell one space bracelet in order to get large quantities of silver coins.

He had no lack of money!

“1.8 million silver coins.” Zhang Ruochen offered a price.

Ximen Guanren continued calmly and said, “Two million silver coins.”

Ximen Guanren was the top master among external students of the Yuntai Suzerain and ranked 13th on the Profound Board. Moreover, he was the grandson of one of the Vice Lord’s in the Yuntai Suzerain, so he was not lacking money either.

Ximen Guanren, Lin Chenyu, and Lin Ningshan were sitting at the same table. They were also one of the guests invited by Hua Jiuhan.

“Brother, forget about it! It’s not worth to spend two million silver coins to buy a woman.” Zhang Shaochu said in a low voice.

Liu Chengfeng who was sitting next to him shook his head and said, “Your Highness, it’s too late to give up! Now it is not as simple as competing for the best eating accompany beauty. It is about the game between the eldest brothers from the Western Campus of the School of the Martial Market and the Yuntai Suzerain. If he gives up right now, that is to tell others that our School of the martial market is not as good as the Yuntai Suzerain. Our students in the Western Campus won’t be able to face the ones in the Yuntai Suzerain in the future.”

Zhang Ruochen smiled slightly and said, “Brother, doesn’t worry, there are just a few silver coins. It’s no big deal.”

Zhang Ruochen did not want to bargain with Ximen Guanren anymore, and he was determined to buy that best eating accompany beauty as fast as possible. So he offered a sky-high price and said, “Four million silver coins.”

“Bam!”

The whole sky-approaching pavilion went into an uproar. Everyone was deeply shocked.

Zhang Ruochen went so far as to double the price. With such high price, it was enough to buy one thousand women, let alone one.

Ximen Guanren went silent for a long time and did not follow in the end. After all, he did not have much money, only about one million silver coins. If he were to spend two million silver coins to buy the best eating accompanies beauty, he would need to borrow some money.

It was not hard for him to borrow a few hundred thousand silver coins. But he needed a few million silver coins, which were not a small sum.

Ximen Guanren spared Lin Chenyu a glance, shook his head slightly and said apologetically, “I can’t raise the price anymore!”

Lin Chenyu nodded his head gently, showing his understanding.

Afterward, Lin Chenyu stood up, walked toward Zhang Ruochen and said with a smile, “About one year apart, I didn’t expect you to become such a playboy. I can’t believe you spend four million silver coins just for an eating accompany beauty. I am impressed. What will Commandery Princess Yanchen think of this if she knows?”

Everyone believed that Zhang Ruochen was engaged to Huang Yanchen, so their relationship was definitely intimate.

But only Zhang Ruochen knew that his engagement with Huang Yanchen was temporary, so they could solve their own trouble. It was impossible for them to really be together in the future.

Therefore, Zhang Ruochen seemed quite relaxed and responded with a confident smile. "You can rest assured, even if Commandery Princess Yanchen knows this, she will never have any objections."