

**Chapter 231: Come out with honors**

24 days had been passed outside while in the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel more than two months had passed.

The practicing of Body of the False God had been unprecedentedly smooth. It was perfect and beyond Zhang Ruochen's expectation.

In his last lifetime, Zhang Ruochen never practiced the Body of False God. After all, in the last lifetime, he had had no need to plunder the Sacrifice Power because his identity had been as a noble. It had been easy to obtain any resource he wanted.

Zhang Ruochen was ecstatic about his success.

In order to practice the Body of the False God, his Martial Soul had blended 63 drops of Half-Saint's Blood and three blades of God Habitat Grass. His present Martial Soul surpassed that of Completion of Heaven Realm warriors.

When he released his Martial Soul, everything inside the royal palace emerged in his mind. It was so real.

"Unexpectedly, there are four myths of martial arts of the Heaven Realm. Sure enough, the Royal Family was not being superficial."

Zhang Ruochen could feel four strong breathes in the royal palace. They came from deep inside the Mount Emperor and were more powerful than that of the Yunwu Commandery Prince.

He took back his Martial Soul. He didn't want to alarm the four myths of martial arts. Their Spiritual Power surpassed the twentieth level and their perceptual skills were strong. If Zhang Ruochen got too close to them, they might discover him.

"If now I control the Spiritual Qi of heaven and earth with my Martial Soul, one strike of 'weapon of thunderbolt' will kill that heresy siren."

Zhang Ruochen sat cross-legged on the ground. The most powerful breath exuded from his body and a huge golden aura floated above his head. He was like a god sitting in the center of heaven and earth.

A Martial Soul was the soul of a warrior. Now that Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul was stronger, his Spiritual Determination would be more powerful too.

Zhang Ruochen could now dominate an ordinary Martial Arts master of the Earth Stage with only a gaze, just by wielding his Martial Soul Power.

In fact, the Body of the False God referred to his Martial Soul rather than his mortal body.

WAAA!

When he received the Martial Soul the strong breath which had wafted around outside him converged back into his body immediately, like tidewater, and then disappeared.

After withdrawing his strong momentum, Zhang Ruochen appeared quite reserved.

As long as he didn't release his Martial Soul intentionally, no one would perceive his changes

"My martial cultivation has increased as expected. But to break the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm I still need sacrifice power."

Zhang Ruochen stood up and left the internal space of Time and Space Spinel. He headed towards The Jade Palace.

"The Ninth Prince has finished secluding himself for refining!"

Two young maidservants rushed to tell Concubine Lin the news.

Zhang Ruochen arrived at Concubine Lin's room and greeted his mother, "How are you, mom?"

To his surprise, Huang Yanchen was boiling tea for Concubine Lin elegantly and sitting leisurely next to her. It looked like a beautiful picture.

Zhang Ruochen was amazed that senior sister apprentice Huang, who had a such short fuse could be so gentle and quiet. She was thoroughly showing the Royal Family's temperament.

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Huang Yanchen poured hot tea into a cup and then offered it to Zhang Ruochen with two hands.

He was astonished to see her being so gentle. He took the cup and sipped the tea.

Swallowing the hot tea, he felt extremely comfortable. All his meridians and Blood Meridians opened thoroughly and his every pore breathed.

"Good tea!"

He closed his eyes and his mind became clear. He could feel the Genuine Qi in his body flowing more quickly.

The tea's effect was not so good for a warrior.

But to common people like Concubine Lin, this tea was more beneficial than any lucid mushroom or ginseng.

Moreover, the mild efficacy of this tea was wonderful for an average person. If it was drank regularly, it could make him or her reach the Yellow Realm or prolong their life-span.

Huang Yanchen said melodiously with a smile, "I specially sent people to bring me back 15 kilograms of this tea, 'White River Leaves'. It will be enough for Concubine Lin for ten years."

Zhang Ruochen put the cup on the table and said with a smile, "I didn't know that senior sister apprentice Huang was a master in tea ceremony...before."

“Why do you still call Yanchen as senior sister apprentice? Commandery Princess Yanchen is a gentle lady with a gorgeous face and aristocratic status. You are extremely lucky that she loves you! If you don’t treat her well later, I will punish you,” said Concubine Lin unhappily.

Concubine Lin liked Huang Yanchen more and more each time she met with her. She thought she was a fairy, perfect as a jade and had no shortcomings. She sometimes thought she was dreaming to have such a beautiful and elegant daughter-in-law and then couldn’t help smiling herself awake.

Zhang Ruochen said, “Mother, let me reassure you that I have a good relationship with Commandery Princess Yanchen.”

Glancing at Zhang Ruochen, Huang Yanchen said softly to Concubine Lin, “Shall I be going, your Grace?”

“Chen-er, see Commandery Princess off.” Concubine Lin glared at her son with unhappiness because of his bad manners.

Zhang Ruochen stood up quickly and bowed to Huang Yanchen, “This way please, Your Majesty.”

Huang Yanchen arched her eyebrows at him and then left the room.

When they had walked out of the Jade Palace, Zhang Ruochen said seriously, “Senior sister apprentice Huang, did you mean it?”

Huang Yanchen stood in the snow wearing a white silk robe with a Bordeaux red cloak. It made her fair face appear even more like crystal.

Huang Yanchen stared at Zhang Ruochen with her two big royal blue eyes and said coldly, “Of course I meant it.”

“But we agreed that our engagement was fake...” said Zhang Ruochen. He shook his head in confusion.

“Zhang Ruochen, are you joking? I am the Commandery Princess of Qianshui Commandery, the same as you are the prince of Yunwu Commandery. How could our engagement be fake?” said Huang Yanchen. She was serious too.

Zhang Ruochen was speechless. He looked at Huang Yanchen for a moment, then said, “Senior sister apprentice, you shouldn’t break your promise.”

Huang Yanchen raised her chin, exposing her white neck and said, “Did you fall in love with Duanmu Xingling? So you want to break off the engagement with me?”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, “It’s got nothing to do with senior sister apprentice Duanmu.”

“If you don’t like her, why did you say you were her boyfriend?” Huang Yanchen asked angrily.

“You mean my other identity, Chen Ruo?” replied Zhang Ruochen.

Huang Yanchen bit her lips tightly and said coldly, “I never knew she was so good at disguises. She even tried to seduce her sister’s fiance. She was never really my sister. But now she is an enemy!”

Looking at the serious expression on her face, Zhang Ruochen sighed. He had never expected this to happen.

He intended to explain it, but realized that the more he explained, the more suspicious she was.

He really didn't understand women.

It was not incidental that he had died under Princess Chi Yao's hands in his last lifetime. Maybe he had hurt her somehow so she finally killed him with a sword.

But trying his best to think back, he couldn't find when he had offended Princess Chi Yao.

Why do I spend so much time trying to figure out what they are thinking?

He remembered Emperor Ming's advice: never divert your attention from Martial Arts' Practice. He pulled himself together.

Zhang Ruochen didn't go back to the Jade Palace but instead towards the Imperial Ancestral Temple.

Tomorrow there would be a Ceremony of Worship in the Imperial Ancestral Temple.

It was natural to investigate here in advance. He was planning to capture the sacrifice power tomorrow.

The Imperial Ancestral Temple had started to arrange the Ceremony of Worship half a month ago.

On the ancient stone-altar outside the Temple piled millions of sheep and cattle oblations, including several savage beasts.

Yunwu Commandery had a population of a hundred million and treated Martial Arts as its fundament. They were preparing for a grand Ceremony.

Thousands of warriors, eunuchs, and maidservants were busying around the altar.

They all greeted him as he entered the Imperial Ancestral Temple.

Zhang Tiangui spoke behind him.

"Ninth brother, the Ceremony of Worship will be held tomorrow. Why are you here tonight?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled and replied, "Seventh brother, why are you here?"

In addition to Zhang Tiangui was Han Qiu, they had been walking side by side in the distance.

Lin Chenyu followed them and bowed his waist. His eyes were gloomy and no one could figure out what he was thinking.

All three were top Martial Artists. They left no footprints when they passed.

Zhang Tiangui said, "I will host the Ceremony of Worship this year following father's command. You should have opportunities like this when you get older."

Gazing at Zhang Ruochen's face, Han Qiu showed a curious expression. With a smile, she said, "I heard that the Ninth Prince's sword techniques are preeminent and that even the disciple of a Half-Saint, Qing Chibai, lost to you. Could you please show us your talent today?"

Zhang Ruochen boasted a great reputation among the younger generation, especially his attainments in sword techniques and Spiritual Power. He ranked first among his peers.

If his martial cultivation was high enough, the first genius title, which Zhang Tiangui bore, would one day belong to Zhang Ruochen.

As a sword technique master, Han Qiu's sword technique was at the peak of Sword Following the Mind too. Her sword techniques ranked third among the young generation in the Omen Ridge's 36 commanderies.

Of course, she wanted to challenge Zhang Ruochen's sword techniques.

If she could defeat Zhang Ruochen, would it mean that her sword techniques were better than Qing Chibai's?

Zhang Tiangui practiced palm techniques mainly, rather than sword techniques. Even though he was First Genius, he was not outstanding at sword techniques.

Chapter 232: Gods Manifested

Zhang Ruochen had revealed his true strength at the Coliseum of the Martial Market. Zhang Tiangui must have figured out that he was the so-called Chen Ruo.

"That meant that the fact that he had reached the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword was also known, right?"

Lin Ningshan was the only person who had witnessed Chen Ruo performing the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword. Even though she told Zhang Tiangui and Lin Chenyu about it afterwards, neither of them believed her.

After all, according to legend, only Half-Saints could reach that realm.

They both thought that because her cultivation was so low, she had overestimated Chen Ruo's performance.

She was like an ant, who saw an elephant as a mountain.

Lin Chenyu sneered at Zhang Ruochen's nonchalance and said, "Zhang Ruochen, the lady in front of you is senior sister apprentice Han Qiu, daughter of the Master of the Yuntai Suzerain. Her sword technique had already advanced to an incredible realm. You should be flattered that she even invited you to a sword contest! Don't you dare refuse! I know you boast about your remarkable sword technique, yet there is no limit to skill in the martial arts. I bet you won't even be able to withstand ten of her movements."

Han Qiu frowned slightly and said with a cold tone, "I'm challenging Zhang Ruochen to a sword fight. You're merely a servant, how dare you speak to me like that?"

"Please forgive me, senior sister apprentice!" Lin Chenyu begged.

Deathly pale, he immediately went down on his knees and touched his chest to the ground.

For Han Qiu, Lin Chenyu was just a servant of Zhang Tiangui. Zhang Ruochen on the other hand was the young genius who was able to surpass Qing Chibai in sword technique. There truly was a world of difference between them.

Han Qiu was willing to make peace with Zhang Ruochen through the sword fight, but she would never treat Lin Chenyu as an equal.

For the most part, Han Qiu was unaware of the conflict between Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Tiangui. She treated him as Zhang Tiangui's talented younger brother.

Han Qiu stared at Lin Chenyu and said with contempt in her voice, "I am not your senior sister apprentice! Such irresponsible remarks must be punished. Cut out your tongue, or I'll do it myself."

Lin Chenyu turned to Zhang Tiangui for help with panic in his eyes.

He had suffered castration before, and lost an arm. It would be far too horrible to lose his tongue as well.

"Junior sister apprentice Han, Lin Chenyu is the older male cousin of Zhang Ruochen," Zhang Tiangui said.

"Ah, I see!"

Han Qiu was quite surprised. She only knew that Lin Chenyu was Zhang Tiangui's servant, and unaware of his other identities. She never paid much attention to him.

Zhang Tiangui had made Zhang Ruochen's cousin his servant. Perhaps their bond was only superficial.

Han Qiu ignored Lin Chenyu. She looked at Zhang Ruochen and decided to explain, "Ninth Prince, please don't mistake my intentions. I sincerely hope to trade experience with you, that is why I challenged you to a sword fight."

"All right, it's just a sword fight. No big deal," Zhang Ruochen said.

Han Qiu was delighted that she finally had the opportunity to compete with another master of sword technique.

She wondered what realm he had reached.

With snowflakes whirling in the air, the whole world had turned into an endless expanse of white.

The royal guards, eunuchs and maidservants on duty all stopped and gazed at Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu, who were standing facing each other in the snow.

They were all very excited. Being able to witness a sword fight between two masters of the Martial Arts was quite rare.

"I've heard that the Ninth Prince excels at sword technique. I wonder which realm has he cultivated to?" someone said.

"His Highness must have risen above most warriors. His strength is surely beyond our imagination!" said another.

“Yet his rival is the beloved daughter of the Master of the Yuntai Suzerain! Is His Highness sure of victory?” a third asked.

“The Yuntai Suzerain is the shrine of Martial Arts. Even our Majesty used to be its disciple. Lady Han’s sword technique must be brilliant. I think the Ninth Prince has little chance of winning!” said a fourth.

With his left hand behind his back, Zhang Ruochen reached out with his right hand with incredible speed. His two fingers perfectly grasped a snowflake floating in the air.

The snowflake was delicate and crystal clear, giving off a thin mist of Icing Air.

The snowflake between Zhang Ruochen’s fingers did not thaw.

“SWISH!”

He continuously reached out with his arm, creating dozens of shadows.

When he was finished he had strung together 108 snowflakes and coagulated them into a glittering and translucent sword, which he now held in his hand.

Everyone watching gasped in amazement.

The movement of Coagulating Snow into Sword was a great secret.

Only warriors who had reached the Peak of Sword Following the Mind could make flowers or grass into swords. Even snowflakes could congeal and create a sword, just as Zhang Ruochen had done.

“Awesome!” Han Qiu exclaimed.

Witnessing Zhang Ruochen’s technique, Han Qiu instantly stretched out two delicate fingers. While continuously waving her arms, she too had soon coagulated a sword out of snowflakes.

But her sword was only comprised of 72 snowflakes.

That was the best she could achieve!

Zhang Ruochen waved his snow sword and released his Genuine Qi. His Sword Breath flurried the snow on the ground, which flew up into the air creating a Sword Breath swirl.

Han Qiu watched Zhang Ruochen standing in the flying snow. She shook her head and said, “Let’s call this off. I can’t match you in sword technique.”

“SWISH!”

Her snow sword cracked, 72 snowflakes separated from each other and fell to the ground.

Zhang Ruochen withdrew his Genuine Qi and threw down his snow sword, scattering the snowflakes.

Han Qiu gazed at his back sheepishly and said in a clear voice, “Your sword technique is brilliant, Your Highness. I hope we can challenge each other again when we return to Devil Martial City.”

“You have an excellent sword technique as well. You place among the top talents in the younger generation. Now, I must leave,” Zhang Ruochen said.

Han Qiu was indeed an accomplished swordswoman. She had reached the Peak Realm of Sword Following the Mind at a very young age, comparable to the Half-Saint's disciple Qing Chibai.

As Zhang Ruochen left, a look of appreciation crossed Han Qiu's face. "With such remarkable talent, he will be unparalleled in our generation within five years, at the most," she said.

Zhang Tiangui watched her expression with murder in his eyes.

"I really hate Zhang Ruochen! I used to consider him to be a nobody. Who would have thought that he could reach such a high realm! Luckily, his cultivation is still underdeveloped. It shouldn't be difficult to put an end to him with some sneaky tricks." Zhang Tiangui had made up his mind.

The Ceremony of Worship was held on the Winter Solstice.

There is one thing that is very important for a commandery.

And that is the Ceremony of Worship.

Apart from commanderies, all suzerains, families, cities and towns regarded the importance of the worship ceremony very highly.

It was the only time when people could communicate with the gods.

It was also only through this ceremony that human beings could open their Sacred Mark, begin their Practice, and finally become warriors.

Those who failed to open their Sacred Mark were unable to absorb Spiritual Qi.

For a commandery, the national ceremony of sacrifice was especially important. It could dictate a commanderies rise and fall. Depending on the grandure of the ceremony, the gods would grant their people more, and higher class, Sacred Marks.

An increased amount of warriors made a commandery stronger.

The national sacrifice ceremony in the Yunwu Commandery was only medium-sized. In the eyes of its warriors, it was quite a magnificent spectacle.

Nearly everyone living in Yunwu City gathered in the Imperial Ancestral Temple, where oceans of people spread as far as the eye could see.

The sacrifice was tremendously sacred. Even the evil warriors were afraid to sabotage the ceremony and offend the gods, for fear of divine retribution.

The Ceremony of Worship this year was hosted by the Seventh Prince Zhang Tiangui. He represented his father, which told people that the Yunwu Commandery Prince was most likely going to make him the crown prince.

It was an unprecedentedly grand occasion, on which over a hundred thousand calves and lambs, as well as thousands of giant savage beasts, were offered to the gods.

The Minister said a prayer after the bells had rung out.



Afterwards Zhang Tiangui led the civil officials and military officers to the altar and held his head high, as if he had already become the next Yunwu Commandery Prince.

Zhang Tiangui stood on the elevated altar and searched for Zhang Ruochen in the crowd, but he was nowhere to be found. Feeling arrogant, he thought he had stolen the scene. And that was why Zhang Ruochen refused to attend the ceremony.

Zhang Tiangui used his Genuine Qi to make his voice loud and clear, "This Ceremony of Worship will now begin."

Shell trumpets and bugles on the altar created a powerful sound, various other instruments joined in the chorus.

Armored soldiers began to sacrifice the animals, pouring their blood into the altar and presenting it to the gods.

The altar was fueled by the blood, ancient inscriptions arose into the air.

"SWOOSH!"

A huge column of blood rushed upwards toward the sky from the altar and broke through the clouds, as if it was heading towards the vast void of space.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ruochen was sitting cross-legged at the center of an imperial palace.

His Martial Soul materialized, it was gloriously radiant.

"Transform!" he called out.

His Martial Soul suddenly transformed into a God's Shadow with blood-red armor. The Martial Soul then flew out of the palace and hovered above the Imperial Ancestral Temple.

Before Zhang Ruochen had practiced the Body of the False God, ordinary people could not see his Martial Soul. Things were different now. Even those who knew nothing about martial arts could see his illusory image.

But it required him to reveal the Body of the False God of his own volition. If he did not, his Martial Soul would remain unidentifiable.

The God's Shadow kept growing and expanded to become one hundred and twenty feet in height, with eyes like two scorching suns. It bent its head down and looked at the crowd beneath, creating a terrifying atmosphere.

It looked like the shadow of a real god revealing itself to the human world.

Someone saw the God's Shadow above and shouted with excitement, "God Manifestation! God Manifestation!"

Everyone looked up at the giant shadow in the heavens.

"The God!"

"Kneel!"

Nearly everyone in Yunwu City went down on their knees and groveled before the God's Shadow in the sky with excitement and piety.

There had been a few God Manifestations in Kunlun's Field, but they were few and far between. They usually only happened during first-class sacrifice ceremonies.

Where there was a God Manifestation, there was also a God's blessing. This miracle assured people living in the region that the gods were watching over them.

Not only poor people, but also strong warriors and officials were thrilled and excited. A God Manifestation had occurred in the Yunwu Commandery. What a true honor!

"A God reveals himself when I'm hosting the Ceremony of Worship? Could this be an omen of my future success?" Zhang Tiangui thought to himself.

Immensely excited, he instantly knelt down on the ground like the others before the Body of the False God. He shouted, "God bless the Yunwu Commandery! I am mortal Zhang Tiangui worshipping before our Master!"

Following the Seventh Prince, the Minister, the Marshal, the generals and other officials all went down on their knees and worshiped the God Manifestation. They hoped that the God would see their piety and grant them a blessing.

A God's blessing could have a great impact on the rest of your life, no matter how small it was.

Even the Queen, high above the masses, stood up from her gold-phoenix seat and walked down. She pulled up her dress, knelt down on the ground, and showed her reverence to the God's Shadow.

### **Chapter 233: Breaking Through Two Realms Consecutively**

A Gods manifestation was not to be taken lightly. It was considered a miracle.

The God's Shadow in the sky above was such a grand display that even the highly respected, stronger warriors of the Heaven Realm in Yunwu City were shocked. They all rushed to the Imperial Ancestral Temple.

They could not see past the ruse and believed that the gods were indeed manifesting themselves.

After all, Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul was more powerful than that of other warriors in the Completion of the Heaven Realm. Since normal warriors in the Heaven Realm had not yet practiced their Martial Soul, how could they see through Zhang Ruochen's manifestation?

Besides, he had accomplished the Body of the False God so he could easily fool warriors in the Heaven Realm.

The giant God's Shadow began to absorb the sacrifice power just like in the scene of Spirit Conquering Mountains and Rivers.

The God's Shadow drew a deep breath, as if it had come alive. One percent of the blood light at the altar converged and flowed towards it.

Sacrifice power was so powerful that warriors were unable to absorb it at all. Zhang Ruochen however, was proficient in secret, ancient techniques. He could assimilate sacrifice power by using Body of the False God.

When the sacrifice power entered into his Body of the False God, it was transformed into Genuine Qi. It flowed into his body through his Vessel of Spirit, between his Martial Soul and Qi sea.

Zhang Ruochen was worried that his Qi sea would not be able to withstand the strong sacrifice power.

After all, it was only meant to be absorbed by gods.

When the Genuine Qi, full of sacrifice power, poured into Zhang Ruochen's Qi sea it lit up many God's Marks on his Qi sea wall. There was a deafening god Brahma sound.

Zhang Ruochen had reached the Ultimate Realm and also drew Chord of Gods twice. That firmly activated the God's Mark on his Qi sea wall.

God's Mark could unexpectedly come to life under the great impact of sacrifice power.

All kinds of strange God's Shadows were suspended in the air above his Genuine Qi sea.

They were Bodies of the False God.

When the Bodies of the False God appeared, the Martial Soul suspended above the Imperial Ancestral Temple also gave out a god Brahma sound. The absorption speed of the sacrifice power increased tenfold.

One percent of the Spiritual Blood at the altar flowed into the Body of the False God.

A strong surge of sacrifice power poured into Zhang Ruochen's body and helped him break through new realms. He instantly reached the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm, and the space of his Qi sea expanded fifteen times its previous size.

His martial cultivation kept improving greatly and he began to challenge the next realm, the Dawn State of the Earth Realm.

"I never thought that the God's Mark in my Qi sea would activate and assist in assimilating the sacrifice power so greatly. I don't think my Qi Lake will burst under the protection of God's Mark, but will my body be able to bear it?"

Breaking through into new realms was a good thing, and your body will withstand greater pressure at higher levels. Sacrifice power was still pouring into his body.

"How long can the meridians inside me endure this?"

"The Sacrifice power is extremely powerful!" He had intended to absorb one percent of the sacrifice power to break through to the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm or the Dawn State of the Earth Realm.

Absorbing sacrifice power at this speed, however, would fill normal warriors in the Completion of the Earth Realm with that much Genuine Qi in less than an hour.

“What should I do with all this sacrifice power?”

He found a bright spot suspended above his Qi sea among all the Bodies of the False God.

That bright spot was shaped like a sword.

Heart of the Sword.

Zhang Ruochen had just broken into the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword. His Heart of the Sword was as small as a grain of rice.

“Maybe I could use Heart of the Sword to help me absorb the sacrifice power.”

He already felt his glabella dilatating, as though his Qi Lake was about to change. That meant he was about to break into the Dawn State of the Earth Realm.

He must act quickly.

While controlling Heart of the Sword with his Spiritual Power, he started to absorb the Genuine Qi from the sacrifice power.

“Heart of the Sword did absorb sacrifice power...”

It brought him some relief. He then began to wonder why.

Sacrifice power was comprised of two powers, Power of Pray and Power of Animal Spirits.

Power of Animal Spirits came from the blood of the slaughtered bulls, sheep and savage beasts, and turned into Spiritual Blood driven by the altar array and became a means of opening the Door of Heaven.

Power of Pray was the main body which represented the faith and willpower of all the people in the Yunwu Commandery over the year.

It was terrifyingly powerful. It seemed as though his Martial Soul had taken in one percent of the sacrifice power, but actually most of it had entered into the Door of Heaven while a little was transformed by Vessel of Spirit and absorbed into his Qi sea.

What Heart of the Sword absorbed was Power of Pray whereas Zhang Ruochen absorbed the Power of Animal Spirits.

There were tens of thousands of people in Yunwu Commandery helping Zhang Ruochen improve Sword Comprehension right now. The growth rate of Heart of the Sword had accelerated.

The more sacrifice power he absorbed, the more people there would be to help him improve his Sword Comprehension.

“Bam!”

Zhang Ruochen’s Martial Arts Realm broke through to the Dawn State of the Earth Realm.

Turbulent Genuine Qi surged towards all his Meridians and entered his blood, muscles, bones, internal organs, skin and hair. Not only did his cultivation improve, but also his physical quality as well.

His Heart of the Sword had started out the size of a grain of rice. Now it had doubled in size in an hour, and the outline of a sword could be seen clearly.

That would normally take three years of hard practice to achieve.

He had taken a huge step forward in the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword, and was no longer at the Beginner level.

The ceremony of Worship was coming to an end.

Zhang Ruochen withdrew his Martial Soul and began to refine intumescent Genuine Qi inside his body.

He broke through two realms consecutively within an hour and his Genuine Qi had expanded a hundred times.

The Genuine Qi Zhang Ruochen had practiced before was just one percent of what he now possessed.

Since too much Genuine Qi had been gained and outmatched his power, it was quite hard to control. Just a little carelessness would cause him to be possessed by the Devil.

Had it not been for his mighty Spiritual Power and Martial Soul, he would have lost control of his furious Genuine Qi.

“Qing Spiritual Fire Sky!”

With his eyes closed, he referred to the operating mode of the third level recorded in the Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Emphyrean. He gathered the Genuine Qi in his body to run slowly with 36 Meridians.

Genuine Qi would become more docile every time it finished a large circle of vital energy in Meridians.

To begin with, Zhang Ruochen had to operate his Genuine Qi very slowly. As his ability to control Genuine Qi strengthened, the speed with which he could run the Genuine Qi could be gradually increased.

After 100 circulations, the blustering Genuine Qi inside his body finally calmed down.

“Finally, my improved realm is temporarily stable now. But I think it may take at least a month to accumulate and consolidate my cultivation, if I want to keep my body in optimum condition.”

Zhang Ruochen exhaled deeply and raised his arm slightly. A massive burst of Genuine Qi surged out from his palms.

Each wisp of Genuine Qi was like a flame, emitting an enormous amount of heat.

“Since I have broken through two realms, I think I could defeat masters at the same level of Young Lord of Poisonous Spider, even if I don’t use my Sword Comprehension of Heart Integrated into Sword and power of space. My combat ability will definitely improve when I have full control over my Genuine Qi, and reach a point where I can use it as I please.”

Zhang Ruochen was quite pleased with his new cultivation. He stood up and opened the palace gate.

He dissolved into a Shadow and disappeared as he moved.

He was quickly outside the Imperial Ancestral Temple.

“My current speed is 180 meters per second. If I can bring out my best, I think I could increase that to 200 meters per second by using Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon.” Zhang Ruochen smiled, he was quite satisfied with his speed.

Normal warriors in the Completion of the Earth Realm could reach a speed of 100 to 120 meters per second.

Though he was in the Dawn State of the Earth Realm, he could attain a speed of 200 meters per second. With his current cultivation, even ten warriors in the Completion of the Earth Realm were no match for him.

Except, of course, for the Three-realm Fighting Geniuses like Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and Zi Yinyang. They were not normal warriors.

The Ultimate Realm of the Earth Realm had to be reached at the speed of sound.

The speed of sound was not constant, but variable at about 340 meters per second. It fluctuated under different circumstances.

Not even a normal warrior at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm could reach the speed of sound.

Reaching the speed of sound was as difficult for a warrior of the Earth Realm as climbing up into the sky.

But Zhang Ruochen was not a normal warrior. His starting point was destined to be higher than others when he reached the Ultimate Realm for the first time. It was raised once again when he reached the Ultimate Realm for the second time.

In truth, warriors of the Earth Realm could never reach the speed of sound.

Zhang Ruochen had already broken through two more realms than other warriors. Naturally, it was easier for him to challenge the Ultimate Realm of the Earth Realm.

All things are difficult before they become easy. You feel more relaxed than others and can even achieve great success when you do your best from the beginning.

That can be applied to other things besides practicing Martial Arts.

Six hours had passed since the end of Ceremony of Worship. There were still many warriors kneeling on the ground outside the Imperial Ancestral Temple.

People were beginning to leave and discuss the gods manifestation.

Zhang Ruochen was listening to them talk, and a faint smile flickered across his lips.

“Where did you go, Zhang Ruochen? Didn’t you attend the Ceremony of Worship?” Huang Yanchen approached him, followed by an old woman and an elderly man.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head slightly and answered, “I had something to deal with so I missed the sacrifice. What happened?”

He focused his attention on the two elderly people. He felt an intense force surrounding them, as if two huge mountains were moving towards him.

He was sure that they must be myths of martial arts in the Heaven Realm, and thought that the Qianshui Commandery deserved to be a superior class commandery. It had arranged for two warriors in the Heaven Realm to protect Huang Yanchen, that was impossible for an inferior commandery.

Huang Yanchen had a solemn look on her face, "This year's Ceremony of Worship was extraordinary, the Gods had manifested! It has never happened in the history of the Qianshui Commandery. You missed quite a miracle. I don't think you'll see anything like it again in your life!"

Huang Yanchen was very proud to have seen the gods manifestation during her lifetime, compared to Zhang Ruochen who had missed it.

"Oh!"

Zhang Ruochen smiled faintly and said, "Gods manifestation! Sounds interesting. So did you get the god's blessings?"

### **Chapter 234: Mission**

Huang Yanchen frowned. She said with doubt in her eyes, "There is no good fortune from the gods. I assume it is because of the small sacrifice from the Yunwu Commandery, and it was not approved."

"The sacrifice in the Qianshui Commandery is 100 times bigger than that in the Yunwu Commandery. There are tens of millions of cattle and sheep, and hundreds of thousands of savage beasts for the oblations. The Spiritual Blood they emanate is enough to cover the surrounding area within a thousand miles."

"With such sacrifice in the Yunwu Commandery, it's amazing that the god's manifestation appeared at all. Do you still want good fortune from the gods?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled, "Since there was no good fortune from the gods, what's the harm in missing the god's manifestation?"

"You..." Huang Chenyan said.

The god's manifestation was a very sacred occasion. He was not taking it seriously at all, which made her angry. She did not want to talk about it with him anymore.

Huang Yanchen looked at Zhang Ruochen contemptuously and said, "You've recently secluded yourself for refinement. I guess there are a lot of things that you don't know."

"What has happened in Yunwu City while I was in seclusion?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

Huang Yanchen said arrogantly, "The School of the Martial Market has sent six silver gowned Elders to the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce. They united with the Yuntai Suzerain, wiped out the headquarters of the Black Market and killed more than 5,000 Evil Warriors and captured more than 3,000, inflicting

heavy losses on the Black Market. Other powers in the Black Market were almost completely annihilated except for the Hades Department and the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce itself.”

Zhang Ruochen was shocked that the School of the Martial Market had sent six silver gowned Elders. They were Martial Arts masters in the Heaven Realm. They must have been very angry.

“What about the Moon Worship Demonic Sect?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

Huang Yanchen replied, “Except for the headquarters of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect, which has yet to be found, every gang of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect in Yunwu Commandery has almost been wiped out. Without them, the Moon Worship Demonic Sect has lost its power in the Yunwu Commandery. It won’t be restored for decades.”

“The payback on the Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect has ended. It’s a pity that Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and Hua Minggong escaped. If I had caught them, I would have ripped them to pieces.”

Huang Yanchen’s five fingers were claw-shaped, exposing long fingernails. She hated the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce very much.

Huang Yanchen held back her anger. She said, “I’m going back to Devil Martial City, what about you?”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, “I will stay in Yunwu City and return in a month.”

Since Zhang Ruochen had just broken through the Martial Arts Realm, he didn’t intend to go back to the School of the Martial Market so soon. He wished to strengthen his realm in Yunwu City and spent more time with his family.

There would be little time to come back in the future.

Huang Yanchen said, “Well! I have killed lots of Evil Warriors to exchange for merits when I get back to Devil Martial City. When I get the merits, I can exchange them for more practice resources. I have to increase my realm as soon as possible.”

The next day, students from the School of the Martial Market and disciples from the Yuntai Suzerain were starting to leave the Yunwu Commandery.

Although Zhang Ruochen missed this big war and had lost the chance to earn more merits, he had no regrets. His cultivation had reached the Dawn State of the Earth Realm. That was something to be happy about!

After having breakfast with Concubine Lin, Zhang Ruochen saw Zhang Tiangui walking towards him as he walked out the palace.

Seeing Zhang Ruochen, Zhang Tiangui smiled and called out, “Ninth brother, what a coincidence. I was just about to come find you.”

“What do you want to find me for?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

Zhang Tiangui replied, “It’s not me who is looking for you, but rather my father. Follow me to the Sunglow Palace!”



Zhang Ruochen looked at Zhang Tiangui seriously. Although he thought that the smile on Zhang Tiangui's face was fake, he didn't think he would try and trick him in the palace. So, he followed him to the Sunglow Palace.

The Yunwu Commandery Prince was sitting above the Sunglow Palace wearing a golden gown. He had bright piercing eyes with Dragon and Tiger Breath around his body. It seemed that his martial cultivation had improved.

"Your Majesty!"

Everyone below saluted the Yunwu Commandery Prince.

The Yunwu Commandery Prince nodded and said, "The Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect have been defeated, but there are still Evil Warriors left. For the safety and stability of the Yunwu Commandery, those Evil Warriors must be wiped out completely. Last night, the Seventh Prince learned of Evil Warriors hiding in the Qinghe Castle, 150 kilometers away from Yunwu City."

"The Evil Warriors are very powerful. Among them are masters in the Completion of the Earth Realm. I have decided that the Seventh Prince and General Chihan shall lead 10,000 soldiers with 3,000 crossbows to wipe them out. What do you think?"

General Chihan went down on one knee and said, "Yes, Your Majesty."

Zhang Tiangui walked out, bowed before the Yunwu Commandery Prince and said, "Father, I just received a message from a junior fellow apprentice in the Yuntai Suzerain. The chief director Hua Minggong from the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce in the Yunwu Commandery has been found. Hua Minggong is a master in the Heaven Realm. Only I can defeat him. As for the Qinghe Castle, I suggest that the Ninth brother and General Chihan be sent to wipe them out."

The Yunwu Commandery Prince thought for a moment and nodded, "Hua Minggong is a myth of martial arts in the Heaven Realm. It is said that he was injured by the silver gowned Elder of the School of the Martial Market. Now is the time to attack. If we let him go, we may never find him again. I'm worried you won't be able to kill him by yourself, let Wan Chengchong go with you. You stand a much better chance if you two work together."

Every myth of martial arts in the Heaven Realm had extremely high cultivation and were very difficult to kill.

In order to kill a warrior in the Heaven Realm, you needed at least three warriors in the Heaven Realm working together. Or, one of the warriors in the Heaven Realm had to be over 10 times more powerful than their opponent.

The Yunwu Commandery Prince sent both Zhang Tiangui and Wan Chengchong to deal with Hua Minggong after careful consideration.

The Commandery Prince stared at Zhang Ruochen and asked, "Ninth son, would you like to go with General Chihan and attack Qinghe Castle?"

Zhang Ruochen had a bad feeling about this. It did not seem like a coincidence. Zhang Tiangui just happened to know there were Evil Warriors hiding in the Qinghe Castle, and also Hua Minggong's whereabouts? It all seemed a little too convenient.

It felt like Zhang Tiangui had wanted to send Zhang Ruochen and General Chihan to the Qinghe Castle all along.

"Ninth brother, the warriors in the Qinghe Castle are just a motley crew. The most powerful one of the Evil Warriors is in the Completion of the Earth Realm. Are you afraid? You can rest assured that even if there was any danger, General Chihan is with you, and is powerful enough to protect you," Zhang Tiangui said with a smile.

General Chihan had a beard, a thick, powerful back and broad shoulders. His cultivation had reached the Completion of the Earth Realm. He was a brave warrior in the army of the Yunwu Commandery, and was qualified to be one of the top 10 masters.

He struck his chest and said with a rough voice, "Ninth Prince, you can indeed rest assured. When we are at the Qinghe Castle, you can stay at the back and keep the troops in battle formation. I will burn the Qinghe Castle to the ground." "You will get the credit for killing the Evil Warriors. You can bring it to the School of the Martial Market and exchange it for a lot of merits."

In General Chihan's opinion, Zhang Ruochen was only a teenager who had never seen a major battle. It would be normal for him to be afraid.

But, he was a prince.

Even if they defeated the Qinghe Castle, the credit would belong to the Ninth Prince.

General Chihan knew that he couldn't count on the Ninth Prince to help suppress the Qinghe Castle. He could just stand there and receive all the credit.

After all, the Ninth Prince was still young and could not be compared to the Seventh Prince. The Seventh Prince had managed to kill a myth of martial arts in the Heaven Realm alone, and deserved to be the pride of the Yunwu Commandery. Along with being the top genius among the 36 commanderies in the Omen.

Although Zhang Ruochen felt that something was wrong, he was not afraid at all. With his current strength, he could match an ordinary myth of martial arts in the Heaven Realm.

Zhang Ruochen smiled, "In that case, I will go to the Qinghe Castle with you General Chihan."

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen had agreed, Zhang Tiangui smiled cunningly to himself.

After walking out of the palace, Zhang Ruochen and General Chihan rode on two savage beasts toward the barracks outside Yunwu City.

One hour later, General Chihan had gathered 10,000 cavalry and rushed toward the Qinghe Castle.

General Chihan rode on a red tiger 1,7 meters high. With thick armor on his body, he was an impressive sight. He was at the front of the army with a black Wolf's Fang Mace, which weighed 800 kilograms.

Zhang Ruochen was sitting in an elegant carriage, which was in the middle of the army and very well protected.

In the carriage, Zhang Ruochen was sitting on a soft mattress with a stove beside him. It was very comfortable.

“General Chihan is treating me like a genius prince and thinks that I’m here to steal the credit for this attack,” Zhang Ruochen thought with a forced smile.

General Chihan had indeed misunderstood things. In his opinion, he could defeat the Evil Warriors in the Qinghe Castle by himself. The Yunwu Commandery Prince had sent the Ninth Prince with him, obviously to let him take the credit and exchange it for merits in the School of the Martial Market.

His mission was to attack the Qinghe Castle and protect the Ninth Prince.

So, he treated him as a rich man’s son and protected him very well. He was so afraid that the Ninth Prince would get hurt by the Evil Warrior.

Qinghe Castle was 150 kilometers away from Yunwu City. With the speed of the cavalry, they reached it in two hours and surrounded it.

Qinghe Castle was a medium sized castle, with an area of 160,000 square meters and a wall 10 meters high.

Qinghe Castle was a stronghold for the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce.

Most of the goods of the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce were transported from all over the country to Qinghe Castle. Then they were sent to the black market in Yunwu City to trade.

After escaping from Yunwu City, Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and Hua Minggong immediately rushed to the Qinghe Castle. They prepared to move the goods stockpiled in castle and flee.

However, the army of the Yunwu Commandery had surrounded the castle before they could get away.

Zhang Tiangui knew that Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and Hua Minggong were at the Qinghe Castle, that’s why he sent Zhang Ruochen to attack it. His plan was to have them kill Zhang Ruochen.

### **Chapter 235: Blood Sprayed Everywhere**

The proprietor of Qinghe Castle was Zhao Jian. He was a senior figure in the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce.

When he stood on the wall and saw the soldiers outside, he became frightened. He rushed into the castle immediately and reported the news of the attack from the imperial court to Hua Minggong, who was recovering from an injury.

Hua Minggong had been injured by two silver gowned Elders from the School of the Martial Market five days ago, in a battle that had occurred in the headquarters of the Black Market. He had just recovered.

Hearing the news, Hua Minggong's face darkened. He said as if he was talking to himself, "Hum! They arrived quickly. Did you see if it was Wan Chengchong or Zhang Tiangui leading the army?"

Zhao Jian shook his head and said, "Neither of them. It was Jin Chihan, the seventh figure of the army in the Yunwu Commandery."

"What? The Yunwu Commandery Prince doesn't think very much of me! I can't believe they sent Jin Chihan to attack Qinghe Castle. Haha!" Hua Minggong felt relieved and said, "How many soldiers does he have?"

"There are at least 10,000, and they are all elite," Zhao Jian replied.

Hua Minggong sneered coldly and said, "The goods in the castle have almost been transferred away. I'm leaving today, and I will give the Yunwu Commandery Prince a present before I do. I will also let him know that this won't end well if he chooses to proceed with this attack."

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider walked in the room and said with a smile, "Father, you are right. Jin Chihan seeks his own death by coming to Qinghe Castle. Zhao Jian, you go and open the gate. Let him in."

"Yes."

Seeing Hua Minggong and Young Lord of Poisonous Spider so confident, Zhao Jian's fear vanished. Instead, he now had a treacherous smile on his face and walked toward the top of the city gate.

Standing above the city gate, Zhao Jian gave the order to raise the white flag. He stared at General Chihan in the distance and said, "General Chihan, please don't attack us. We surrender."

"Open the gate quickly. Let General Chihan in."

"Bam!"

Pushed by 24 warriors, the gate slowly opened.

General Chihan smiled coldly 2.5 kilometers away, "They are indeed a motley crew. As soon as I surround Qinghe Castle, they surrender. They crumble easily!"

Zhang Ruo Chen reminded him, "General, be careful. There must be a Defender Array set up in the castle. If you enter, and the Evil Warriors unlock the array, you will be in a very disadvantageous position."

General Chihan was a veteran and knew the power of the Defender Array very well. He nodded and said, "Indeed. We have to stay alert."

General Chihan stared at Zhao Jian who was standing above the city gate. He shouted, "If you destroy the four array towers on the city wall, I will accept your surrender. Otherwise, my only choice will be to attack."

Zhao Jian looked at Young Lord of Poisonous Spider standing in the distance.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider smiled wickedly and nodded to him.

In Young Lord of Poisonous Spider's opinion, it was easy to kill Jin Chihan and the 10,000 soldiers even without the array.

Besides, he couldn't stay in Qinghe Castle anyway. It was better the array be destroyed, so it wouldn't fall into the hands of the imperial court of the Yunwu Commandery. It cost quite a lot to deploy a Defender Array.

"Bam!"

"Bam!"

With four loud bangs, the four arrays outside Qinghe Castle collapsed into piles of rubble.

When General Chihan saw that the array towers were destroyed, he laughed out loud. He swung his arm and said, "Red Electric Battalion and Red Wind Battalion, come with me to Qinghe Castle. Let's exterminate the Evil Warriors."

General Chihan brought two Battalions, almost 4,000 soldiers, and marched toward Qinghe Castle with great strength and vigor.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ruochen was sitting in the carriage. He frowned slightly and talked to himself, "They destroyed their four arrays. Did I overthink this?"

General Chihan led the army forwards. As soon as they reached the castle, the city gate was shut with a bang.

"Haha! Jin Chihan, you are too stupid. Did you really think I would surrender?" Zhao Jian smiled.

From all sides of the Qinghe Castle, hundreds of Evil Warriors in purple gowns rushed out. They were all the top evil masters and surrounded General Chihan and his 4,000 soldiers.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and Hua Minggong walked out from the castle and stood on the stone table. They stared at General Chihan down below with a smile.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider said, "General Chihan, the Yunwu Commandery Prince sent you to Qinghe Castle to seek your doom. Why do you serve the imperial court? You should join the Poisonous Spider Club. With your strength, you will be treated like royalty."

Seeing Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and Hua Minggong, General Chihan looked pale and knew he had walked into a trap.

Not only did he fall into Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and Hua Minggong's trap, but also the Seventh Prince's trap. He did not understand why the Seventh Prince had set him up.

One myth of martial arts could easily kill an army of 10,000 soldiers. Not only was Hua Minggong a warrior in the Heaven Realm, Young Lord of Poisonous Spider also had the strength to fight with warriors in the Heaven Realm.

It seemed that everyone was against him.

General Chihan didn't surrender. He clenched his teeth, lifted the pitch-black Wolf's Fang Mace and shouted, "Brothers, fight!"

“Stubborn man!”

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider lost his patience. He pulled out his machete and infused his Genuine Qi into it.

The inscription on the machete was fully activated. Two beams of light two meters high rushed out towards the army.

“SWISH”

With only one strike, dozens of soldiers were torn apart. The blood colored the ground beneath them red.

In front of a master like Young Lord of Poisonous Spider, it did not matter how large your army was. 10,000 soldiers or even 100,000 soldiers would not be able to stop him.

When Young Lord of Poisonous Spider attacked, Zhao Jian jumped off the city wall. He struck out a palm and 10 soldiers flew into the air.

Zhao Jian’s cultivation had reached the Completion of the Earth Realm. He started to kill the soldiers in front of him and none of them could withstand his attack.

Soon there were corpses everywhere.

He rushed to General Chihan and engaged him.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider looked at the thousands of soldiers before him. He revealed a cruel smile, “A group of ants want to attack Qinghe Castle? This is a joke...”

Suddenly, there was a loud and distinct roar from outside the wall. The piercing sound echoed through the entire castle.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider’s eyes narrowed as he looked outside the wall, “Is there a master in the army?”

“Bam!”

The city gate of Qinghe Castle was made of refined iron, half a meter thick. But it was shattered into pieces by one, powerful Sword Breath.

The broken pieces of the city gate flew toward the Evil Warriors under the control of the attacker’s Genuine Qi.

“Bang! Bang!”

17 Evil Warriors’ bodies were penetrated and flew into the air. The blood was splattered everywhere. They all died instantly.

Zhang Ruochen held the Abyss Ancient Sword in his hand and walked through the city gate. He stared at Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and said, “Hua Qingshan, we meet again!”

When the city gate was shut, Zhang Ruochen knew that something was wrong. So he made his way to the castle right away.

Outside the wall, the shouting of soldiers and the sound of drums could be clearly heard. The remaining 6,000 soldiers formed an attack and rushed toward Qinghe Castle.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider saw that Zhang Ruochen had entered the castle. He was shocked, then laughed out loud and said, "Zhang Ruochen, there's a way to reach heaven, yet you decide to break into hell."

"Did I?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled, "I'd like to see whose heaven and hell it is."

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider hummed coldly. He had a serious expression in his eyes and said, "This time, you won't be able to escape!"

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider jumped up into the air more than 30 meters, and swooped down rapidly. Using his speed, he swung toward Zhang Ruochen's head with his knife.

The bright knife light extended more than 10 meters in front of him, like a brilliant moon falling from the sky.

"Swish!"

Zhang Ruochen moved his body slightly and vanished from where he stood.

"What?" Young Lord of Poisonous Spider was shocked. He did not expect Zhang Ruochen's speed to be so great.

"Bam!"

The ground shook when Young Lord of Poisonous Spider struck it with his knife, leaving a mark 100 meters long and three meters deep.

The destructive power far outmatched what a normal warrior could produce, astonishing everyone.

"You are too slow!"

Zhang Ruochen spoke behind Young Lord of Poisonous Spider.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider's expression changed. When he was about to turn and strike again, Zhang Ruochen had already struck out a palm at his back.

"BOOM!"

The powerful palm knocked Young Lord of Poisonous Spider to the ground like a brick. He rolled 30 meters and demolished a wall.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider flew awkwardly into the air from the ruins and fell to the ground again. He tore off his now shabby coat, exposing a set of silver armor.

With the protection of the armor, he survived the palm from Zhang Ruochen. He was only slightly injured.

The armour on his body was called Silver Armour with Snake Scale, which was a level six Genuine Martial Arms. It was made from overlapping silver scales.

“Zhang Ruochen, I once looked down upon you. It’s no surprise you wish to fight me, your cultivation has had a great breakthrough.”

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider stared at Zhang Ruochen with rays of green light in his eyes. Then they turned completely green, making him look very monstrous.

The Soul-absorbing Eye.

This was a martial technique in the mid-class of the Spiritual Stage. Generally, only warriors in the Heaven Realm could practice it successfully. Although Young Lord of Poisonous Spider practiced the Soul-absorbing Eye, he did not do so successfully.

Zhang Ruochen’s Spiritual Power was very powerful. You could not expect to hurt him if you had not succeeded in practicing the Soul-absorbing Eye.

Zhang Ruochen merely ignored his Soul-absorbing Eye. He rushed at Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and attacked with his sword.

“Sacred Plenilune Sword.”

The Sacred Sword Skill was just a low-class of Spiritual sword technique. However, when Zhang Ruochen reached the level of Heart Integrated into Sword, he practiced the Sacred Sword Skill to the Perfection of Martial Arts.

The Perfection of Martial Arts was a very advanced realm.

Once a martial technique reached the Perfection of Martial Arts, its power would be increased exponentially.

Even the sword technique of a low-class of Spiritual could have the same power as the sword technique of the mid-class of Spiritual Stage.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider never thought that the Soul-absorbing Eye would have so little effect. He quickly had to hold up his knife and defend against Zhang Ruochen’s attack.

Zhang Ruochen’s sword technique was excellent and ingenious, he could not withstand it.

The Abyss Ancient Sword merely twisted slightly and avoided the machete in his hand. It struck Young Lord of Poisonous Spider’s waist.

“PUFF!”

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider was cut into two pieces. Even the Silver Armour with Snake Scale could not withstand the Abyss Ancient Sword.

A young top evil master was killed by Zhang Ruochen’s sword, the blood splashed everywhere.

**Chapter 236: Fierce Fighting between Warriors in the Heaven Realm**



Although Young Lord of Poisonous Spider had not yet reached the Completion of the Earth Realm, he was a real “Three Tricks Genius”. He was able to withstand dozens of attacks from weaker warriors in the Heaven Realm. Otherwise, he would not have the title as one of the seven young masters in the black market.

However, a top young master had just been killed by Zhang Ruochen, and cut into two pieces. Even if he took a Five-Class Pill, he could not be revived.

“Young master was... killed!”

The Evil Warriors in the Poisonous Spider Club all stared at Zhang Ruochen with surprise and fear in their eyes. It was like they were looking at a myth of martial arts in the Heaven Realm.

General Chihan was astonished too. He did not expect that the young Ninth Prince’s martial cultivation could be so terrifying. There was not much difference in martial cultivation between him and the Seventh Prince.

Hua Minggong’s anger came to a boil. He let out an ear-splitting roar and swooped toward Young Lord of Poisonous Spider’s body. He held up half of the body.

“Qingshan, Qingshan...” Hua Minggong cried out.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider was Hua Minggong’s only son, and a top genius too. Hua Minggong loved him very much and held him in his arms.

He could not accept the fact that his only son had been killed by a teenager. He felt great anger and grief.

Hua Qingshan had a very strong life force. Although he was cut into two pieces, he was still alive. He said with a trembling voice, “Fa... father, av... avenge me...”

Then Hua Qingshan truly died.

Although a warrior in the Earth Realm had a strong body, it still had its limits.

A warrior in the Heaven Realm who had practiced into the Martial Soul successfully could, despite the fact that he was cut into two pieces, seal his Blood Meridian with Genuine Qi and form an independent blood circulation in the upper part of the body. He could live for half a month if he had a powerful life force and enough body control ability.

If he could find a Spiritual Dose within that half a month, it would be easy for him to live for several decades.

There was a huge disparity between the warrior who had practiced into the Martial Soul and the one who did not.

Hua Qingshan put down Young Lord of Poisonous Spider’s body. He stared at Zhang Ruochen mercilessly with his cold eyes and roared, “Give me back my son’s life!”

Zhang Ruochen looked relaxed and said, “If you can kill me, go ahead!”

It was very normal to kill for revenge in the Martial Arts circle.

Although Hua Qingshan was a myth of martial arts in the Heaven Realm, Zhang Ruochen felt no fear at all. He could see through Hua Qingshan's martial cultivation, and it was at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm.

There were seven stages in the Heaven Realm: the Initial Stage, the Middle Stage, the Advanced Stage, the Dawn State, the Medium State, the Final State and finally, the Completion.

The warrior with a cultivation at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm could be the top figure in the Martial Arts circle in Yunwu Commandery. He would be a myth in the eyes of an ordinary warrior.

However, Hua Minggong was injured badly. If he could muster even half of his strength, it would be incredible.

Zhang Ruochen's opponent was a myth of martial arts and was superior to warriors in the Earth Realm in many respects, and was definitely a dangerous figure. He dared not look down on Hua Minggong at all.

It would seem that there was only one realm of difference between the Completion of the Earth Realm and the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm, but it is not that simple.

Hua Minggong suddenly stamped on the ground with his two feet, and a stroke of powerful Genuine Qi gushed out from his body and poured out in all directions.

Impacted by the Genuine Qi wave, the nearest hundreds of soldiers were all injured severely and spat blood out of their mouths. Half of them fell down on the ground and were not able to stand up.

General Chihan had already killed Zhao Jian, the master of the Qinghe Castle. He was holding the Wolf's Fangs Mace and sitting on the back of the Savage Giant Red Tiger as he rushed toward Zhang Ruochen and said, "Ninth Prince, Hua Minggong is a myth of martial arts. We are no match for him. You go first and I will hold him off."

Hua Minggong laughed darkly and kicked his legs against the ground, making a big hole half a meter deep. He dashed out suddenly and picked up the Savage Giant Red Tiger and General Chihan with one hand.

"Go away!"

Hua Minggong's Genuine Qi was like the flow of water and carried great power. He threw the Savage Giant Red Tiger and General Chihan who together weighed 5000 kilograms.

"Bam!"

The Savage Giant Red Tiger and General Chihan were thrown outside the wall of the Qinghe Castle.

A master in the Completion of the Earth Realm was like a child in front of Hua Minggong. They had no chance to resist and were easily thrown aside.

"Bam! Bam!"

Hua Minggong reached out his arms and grabbed two soldiers, holding them above his head. He used his Genuine Qi power to crush their bodies.

With his only son dead, Hua Minggong went insane and wanted only to kill.

“Zhang Ruochen, give me your life!”

What kind of evil cultivation did Hua Minggong practice? When he activated his Genuine Qi to the extreme, the skin all over his body turned black and his hair turned white. He was like a demon.

“Green Devil Hand!”

Hua Minggong wore a pair of black metal gloves. Under the prompting of Genuine Qi, the Inscription of Light Series on the gloves was activated and formed two beams of cold, dark light.

One paw struck out and formed 12 paw prints, giving out a clapping sound.

Zhang Ruochen stood upright in place and swung his sword 12 times at the 12 paw prints, which created a series of crashing sounds.

The gloves and the Abyss Ancient Sword clashed together violently, with sparks flying off in all directions. Genuine Qi formed ripples of energy in the air.

Hua Minggong’s speed reached 220 meters per second. He was like a ghost shadow, spinning around Zhang Ruochen. He struck out countless handprints.

Zhang Ruochen went through his paces and three human phantoms appeared. It was like a man with three heads and six arms. He swung a three-handed sword and turned Hua Minggong’s attack into nothing.

Reaching the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword, Zhang Ruochen’s sword technique was at a very high level. No one could break the defense of his sword technique unless there was a huge gap between their cultivation.

Hua Minggong’s fastest speed was actually 280 meters per second. He was injured badly, so his speed was affected greatly.

That was fortunate for Zhang Ruochen, otherwise he would not have been able to deal with him so easily.

“Sacred Sky-piercing Sword!”

When Zhang Ruochen initiated the attack, all of his Genuine Qi was gathered into the sword like a long rainbow. It penetrated layers of illusory images and thrust at Hua Minggong.

“Your sword doesn’t even have a tip, and you want to hurt me?” Hua Minggong smiled coldly.

Hua Minggong changed his expression quickly and saw that there were inscriptions rushing out of the break of the Abyss Ancient Sword. They gathered together and formed an illusory sword tip.

The power that a level nine Genuine Martial Arms had was very terrifying, and Zhang Ruochen had superb sword technique. The point of the sword stabbed toward Hua Minggong.

Hua Minggong was forced to strike out another move, “The Dark Handy Devil”, attacking the Abyss Ancient Sword’s tip.

“BOOM!”

Hua Minggong fell back 13 steps and had a pain in the palm of his hand. His level seven Genuine Martial Arms “Black Golden Gloves” split, and there was a drop of blood coming out of the crack.

“A level nine Genuine Martial Arms! Boy, you really are hiding a big secret.”

The pain in his hand helped Hua Minggong stay clear-headed. He no longer lost his mind to hatred and gradually regained his senses.

He was now injured badly and could not muster even half of his power. He would suffer greatly if he fought with Zhang Ruochen.

Besides, Zhang Ruochen had the advantage of soldiers and held in his hand a level nine Genuine Martial Arms. He dominated him completely.

If the fight continued, he might fail and die at the hands of a teenager.

Hua Minggong was an important figure who had been famous for dozens of years. He was well renowned in the Yunwu Commandery, and was as well known as Mount Taishan and the North Star. Even if he were to die in a fight, he would not die at the hands of a teenager. That would be a great insult.

There was no hurry to seek revenge.

When he was fully healed, it would be easy to kill Zhang Ruochen.

“Zhang Ruochen, I’ll let you live a few more days.”

Hua Minggong clenched his teeth and put Hua Qingshan’s body into the Spatial Ring. He kicked his legs, flew hundreds of meters and landed on the top of the city wall in Qinghe Castle.

That Spatial Ring once belonged to Huang Yanchen. It was taken from her by Hua Minggong.

“Still want to run away?”

Zhang Ruochen displayed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, demonstrating the speed of 200 meters per second. Both of his feet stood on void space. Every step he took was hundreds of meters apart.

Judging from what Hua Minggong had said before, “You are hiding a big secret”, Hua Minggong already knew that Zhang Ruochen could control the space power.

Hua Minggong and Young Lord of Poisonous Spider did not let this secret out because they were confident that they could capture him and find out the secret of the space power by questioning him.

But now Young Lord of Poisonous Spider was dead, and Hua Minggong was injured badly. He might not keep it a secret much longer.

There were lots of masters in the Poisonous Spider Club. Hua Minggong was just the chief director of Yunwu Commandery in the Poisonous Spider Club.

The other 35 commanderies each had a chief director. The martial cultivation of some were above Hua Minggong.

If the Poisonous Spider Club knew about Zhang Ruochen's secret, it would be a disaster. So he could not let Hua Minggong get away.

There was a big river outside the Qinghe Castle that was more than 70 meters wide. The current was swift, with waves rising up five meters high.

Hua Minggong rushed out of Qinghe Castle and regulated all of his Genuine Qi. It ran to both of his legs through the Meridians. He dropped into the river and stepped on the waves. He dashed out again and reached the opposite side of the river.

There was a sound of breaking wind behind Hua Minggong before he could take a break.

Zhang Ruochen stepped into the void space and chased after him with a speed not much slower than him.

"Damn! I never expected that he would have reached such a Realm, I looked down on him before!" Hua Minggong rushed into the dense forest without stopping for a rest.

"My god! Do my eyes deceive me? Hua Minggong is a warrior in the Heaven Realm, he is a myth, and he is running away from the Ninth Prince," a soldier was standing outside Qinghe Castle and watched in open-mouthed surprise at the two masters chasing after each other in the distance.

"The Ninth Prince conceals his cultivation and is an unparalleled hero with his talent, no less than the Seventh Prince.

"I think the Ninth Prince is more talented than the Seventh Prince. And the Ninth Prince has only been practicing for two years."

...

General Chihan scolded loudly and said, "Both of the princes are talented. You bastards, stop talking nonsense, watch what you say."

In the distance, the two figures had turned into two black dots.

General Chihan looked serious and said to himself, "The Ninth Prince dares to try to kill Hua Minggong? I have to report this to His Majesty."

Chapter 237: Miles to Kill

The Winter Solstice had just passed. It was the coldest time of the year, bringing snowfall to the Yunwu Commandery. It was snowing everywhere and everything was covered by a vast expanse of white snow.

Zhang Ruochen had traveled almost 16 thousand miles in four days and nights, chasing after Hua Minggong from the Qinghe Castle to the Lin'an County in the northern region of the Yunwu Commandery.

They fought three times on the road. Zhang Ruochen had the upper hand in almost every battle, with Hua Minggong being the loser, running away with his tails between his legs.

However, Hua Minggong could go faster than Zhang Ruochen and thus, he was able to escape from Zhang Ruochen every time.

They fought even harder than they had before as they approached the Lin'an County, as if the world had been turned upside down. The battle on the ice river was so intense that even the icing cold was melted by the Genuine Qi.

Hua Minggong had managed to get away from Zhang Ruochen once again. There was no sign of him anywhere.

Yet, Zhang Ruochen could catch up with Hua Minggong again and again as he had the Martial Soul.

He would be able to detect where Hua Minggong was by releasing the Martial Soul as long as Hua Minggong was still within a hundred kilometer.

Undoubtedly, Hua Minggong did not know that Zhang Ruochen had acquired the Martial Soul. So, every time he fled, he would try not to leave any trace, thinking he could get rid of Zhang Ruochen.

However, no matter how careful he was, Zhang Ruochen could find him in a single day. Therefore, a fight was inevitable.

Hua Minggong was already wounded and yet, he did not have a chance to heal as Zhang Ruochen was chasing him down. He was hoping to kill Zhang Ruochen by using his unique technique at first. However, every time when they fought, Zhang Ruochen only suffered minor injuries while his condition of an injury worsened, eventually slowing him down.

"He escaped again! Lin'an County is the last county in the northern region of the Yunwu Commandery. Very soon he will enter the Square Commandery's border. Could it be that he wanted to seek help from the Poisonous Spider Club there?"

Zhang Ruochen felt his heart sank. He looked off in the direction where Hua Minggong escaped and chased after him.

Although Hua Minggong was a warrior of the Heaven Realm, unlike Zhang Ruochen who was young and possessed a strong Spiritual Power and vigorous Spiritual Blood, he was an aged man. Zhang Ruochen would not feel tired even if he went on 10 days without any rest.

He was old!

After trekking miles to escape, Hua Minggong felt that his speed was gradually declining along with his serious injuries.

He knew that he could not afford to fight Zhang Ruochen again. He would have nowhere to escape.

"Damn it! If I carry the Red Spider Vessel with me, I would have easily escaped." Hua Minggong's hair was disheveled and the rest of his body was covered with blood. He had at least 10 sword scars on his body.

Originally, the Poisonous Spider Club had two Red Spider Vessels in the Yunwu Commandery. However, the two Red Spider Vessel had been shipped to the Square Commandery while carrying a large number of goods.

Since he lost the Red Spider Vessel, and there were not any ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms with him, how could he stand up to Zhang Ruochen's power?

As a prestigious martial arts legend in the Heaven Realm, he could not help but feel a sense of despair while he was fleeing for his life.

Luckily, he made it to the Lin'an County before Zhang Ruochen could catch up. If he kept going north, he would enter the territory of the Square Commandery.

The Royal Family of the Square Commandery was on good terms with the Poisonous Spider Club. Therefore, the headquarter of the Poisonous Spider Club was built near the Square Commandery.

Only the senior officials knew about this secret.

Entering the Square Commandery would mean entering the territory of the Poisonous Spider Club. This time, Zhang Ruochen would be the one who had to flee.

"Once I'm fully healed, I will tear that bastard into pieces!"

Then, Hua Minggong rushed into the Lin'an County Town.

He remembered there was a hidden stronghold in the Lin'an County Town. So, he planned to visit the stronghold in order to make contact with the Poisonous Spider Club, hoping their masters who were currently in the Square Commandery could provide immediate help.

This stronghold was not a huge one, only dozens of members were based here.

When the club members saw Hua Minggong, they were welcoming him as if an ordinary citizen had met the emperor. They all went out to offer greetings and politely led him into the stronghold.

Hua Minggong asked, "Who's the person in charge here?"

An elderly who had reached the Dawn State of the Black Realm walked out, bowed to Hua Minggong and said, "Report to the chairman, I'm Li Chuan, the principal of this stronghold."

Hua Minggong wasted no time in giving an order and said, "Take my token and head over to the Hugestone City' stronghold in the Square Commandery now. Ask Mu Qing to send the Red Spider Vessel for help. Also, tell him that if he agrees to help, he can at least get a ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms in return."

Hugestone City was the nearest large-scale stronghold less than 500 kilometers away from the Lin'an County Town. If Mu Qing rode on a savage bird, he would be able to reach Hua Minggong within two hours.

Mu Qing was a senior official of the Poisonous Spider Club whose cultivation had reached the Heaven Realm. He was responsible for all matters of the southern border of the Square Commandery.

The relationship between Hua Minggong and Mu Qing was not as good as it seemed. However, Hua Minggong believed that if he traded a ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms with Mu Qing, he would definitely rush to rescue him.

In the black market, there was no true friends, only interests.

If there were no interests, even if he was a warrior with a powerful background, he would not risk his life to help.

The elderly who called Li Chuan was surprised by Hua Minggong's words. He wondered who had such power to put the chairman in such a difficult position. Could it be that the Yunwu Commandery Prince was assassinating him in person?

He did not dare to question any further. After taking the token, he rode on the savage bird, flew out of the Lin'an County Town and rushed toward the border.

Hua Minggong could, of course, go to Hugestone City in person. However, he was afraid that he would be caught up by Zhang Ruochen before reaching the City.

"I wonder how Zhang Ruochen could find me every time I escape. It seems that it's easier for him to look for me when I went into the forest with fewer people around while it took him some time if I hid in the populated cities. I just hope that he won't be able to find me before Mu Qing arrives."

Gritting his teeth, Hua Minggong thought about how he was a martial arts legend and yet being chased miles by a young man. What would other think of him if such news spread out? That thought left him feeling utterly humiliated and disgraced.

Of course, Hua Minggong knew that now was not the time to be worrying about how to save his reputation but rather how to save his own life.

As long as he could hold out until Mu Qing arrived, then, that would be the death of Zhang Ruochen.

"If all else fails, I have no choice but to use the Forbidden Art." Hua Minggong's hands were clenched tightly into fists, showing determination.

...

Shortly after, Zhang Ruochen also arrived at the Lin'an County Town.

Lin'an County was just a small county on the border of the Yunwu Commandery. It had been suffering from the chaos caused by the ongoing war, where most parts of the county laid in ruins.

A year ago, the Lin'an County Town was conquered by the Square Commandery. Almost all citizens in the county were kidnapped and sold into slavery to the Square Commandery.

The wealth in the county was also robbed, turning it into a dead city.

Later on, when Zhang Ruochen had engaged to Huang Yanchen, the Yunwu Commandery had received support from the Qianshui Commandery to put pressure on the Square Commandery.



The Square Commandery Prince was forced to return more than 20 counties, including the Lin'an County Town, to the Yunwu Commandery together with a large sum of money as compensation. And yet, these counties had fallen into disuse and became more deserted than before.

Walking on the street in the Lin'an County Town, there were only a few people could be seen wandering around, looking pale and skinny as if they had not been eating for days.

During the winter, many people in the Yunwu City of the Yunwu Commandery would die of cold and hunger, let alone such small county on the border.

The citizens who suffered from cold and hunger were all staring at Zhang Ruochen with pleading eyes as he walked past them. Then, they quickly shifted their gazes as they did not dare to look directly at him.

Since they were captured and enslaved by the Square Commandery, they had been through enough bullying and were scarred for life. Of course, they would not dare to offend Zhang Ruochen, who looked like someone from a noble family.

Zhang Ruochen looked off into the direction of one of the alleys. He saw a little girl with thin, shabby clothes kneeling down on the snow and crying loudly. She was shaking a woman as hard as she could with her thin arms.

"Mum... wake up... please wake up... mum..." The little girl was crying while nudging the woman's body.

Zhang Ruochen walked over and looked at the woman. He noticed that the woman's face was completely covered with frost and her body was stiff. Apparently, she had died of cold last night.

It seemed that this woman took the little girl in her arms and used her own body heat to keep her daughter warm throughout the night. Otherwise, the little girl would be frozen to death as well.

"Brother, please... please help me wake my mother up..." The little girl who was about three or four years old stared at Zhang Ruochen with tears in her big, round eyes. Her voice was full of despair.

Zhang Ruochen was in a hurry at first as he wanted to kill Hua Minggong as soon as possible. And yet, when he gazed into the little girl's pure, clear eyes, he felt much calmer.

He suddenly realized, "Why does my killing desire become so strong these days? Is it because I have absorbed a large amount of sacrifice power that it affects my pure intention for Martial Arts?"

The power of sacrifice contained the Power of Pray of countless people, built from the spirit and will of thousands of human beings. For the gods, it was easy to consume the spirit and will of those people.

However, Zhang Ruochen was only a human warrior. Surely, he would be affected by the sacrifice power and thus deviated his pure intention for Martial Arts.

Should I kill Hua Minggong?

"Of course, I should."

However, the killing desire in Zhang Ruochen's heart was so strong that he could no longer think straight. If he could not clear his head in time, the killing desire would continue to rise and soon after, he would become obsessed and eventually turned himself into a killing monster who had lost his sanity.

“Luckily, my Spiritual Power is strong enough to suppress the sacrifice power temporarily. After killing Hua Minggong, I have to seclude myself for some time to clear my mind.”

Zhang Ruochen took off his jacket, squat down and placed it on the little girl’s body and said, “Your mum has passed away. She won’t wake up anymore. You have to become a stronger person and live a better life, that’s how you can survive in such cold weather when you grow up.”

Zhang Ruochen had to admit that he was not someone who knew how to tell a lie. He did not even know how to comfort or lie to a kid.

To hear such words coming from Zhang Ruochen made the little girl cried even louder. She said, “No! No... my mum will wake up. She will wake up! You’re a liar... go away... you go away now!”

Not knowing what to do, Zhang Ruochen shook his head slightly and planned to leave. Suddenly, his came to a stop. Taking out 10 Blood Pills, he placed them in the little girl’s hand and said, “If you’re hungry, eat one!”

There were too many people in the world who needed help and yet, Zhang Ruochen’s ability was limited. He could only give so much.

After stopping down for the little girl, Zhang Ruochen had to leave and continue to look for Hua Minggong.

Hua Minggong was hiding in the Lin’an County Town and Zhang Ruochen had already detected his exact location. Soon after, he would be able to find him.

Zhang Ruochen found it weird that Hua Minggong stopped running away and wondered what he was planning in secret.

An undue delay might bring more twists and turns. So, he must kill him as soon as possible in order to spare himself the troubles which would arise later.

His mind was still set on killing but there were subtle changes in his mindset that certainly helped to calm himself down.

Chapter 238: Silver Needles Stabbing Veins, Fire Pills Burning Blood

Arriving at the front door of the Poisonous Spider Club’ stronghold, Zhang Ruochen looked over at the tiny courtyard in front of him. He could clearly sense the presence of Hua Minggong.

“This is it!”

He walked to the main door of the courtyard. Standing 10-feet away, he raised his arm and bent his fingers into a fist.

Immediately, his Genuine Qi surged out of his palm, formed a transparent Qi pillar and hit the door.

“Bang!”

The main door of the stronghold was directly shattered into pieces.

Tens of Evil Warriors who ambushed behind the main door had all been sent flying off to the side by the powerful Genuine Qi. They fell to the ground everywhere, spreading all across the place.

The broken wood pieces left puncture wounds on every Evil Warrior's body. Some people's brains were punctured and some were hit in the stomach... half of them died on the spot while the other half were seriously injured.

Without sparing a glance for any of the Evil Warriors lying on the ground, Zhang Ruochen strode forward and entered the stronghold, heading directly to the inner courtyard.

He then saw Hua Minggong who was in the middle of recuperating.

Hua Minggong was sitting cross-legged on the ground with his palms pressed together. A Genuine Qi hood with a diameter of 10-feet was covering him as he sat in the center of it.

The Genuine Qi looked like light mist wrapped around his body.

Hua Minggong had already stopped healing the moment Zhang Ruochen entered the stronghold. He opened his eyes and said coldly, "Zhang Ruochen, you catch me up again! I thought I didn't leave any trace. Tell me, how did you find me?"

Zhang Ruochen surely could not tell him his secret about Martial Soul. He responded faintly, "Hua Minggong, stop trying to buy yourself some time. I wouldn't give you a chance to escape today!"

Hua Minggong stood up and yelled, "If this is the case, one shall stand and one shall fall. Let's fight!"

There was a huge stone mill beside him, weighing at least a few thousand kilograms.

He lifted the stone mill up with one hand and rotated his arm twice before throwing it at Zhang Ruochen.

At the same time, Hua Minggong immediately turned around and fled. He did not plan to fight with Zhang Ruochen from the very beginning.

"Boom!"

Zhang Ruochen launched a palm strike that shattered the stone mill and hurried after Hua Minggong.

"Still trying to run? Stop here right now!"

Zhang Ruochen released the Space Domain that covered a space of 500 meters in radius, displaying the power of "Space Freezing".

Hua Minggong who had fled a hundred meter away suddenly felt that the space around him was completely frozen. His body, as if being sealed in the icing cold, became extremely difficult for him to move.

Since the pressure exerted on his body was getting stronger, he could only use the power of Blood Meridian and slammed into the void space as hard as possible.

"Snap!"

The space had been torn apart and Hua Minggong regained his freedom.

However, Zhang Ruochen had already caught up in the brief moment when he was being sealed. He immediately launched a palm strike toward Hua Minggong.

“Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth!”

Hua Minggong’s eyes turned red and his Spiritual Blood started to swirl around rapidly. He stepped on a crimson Blood Wave, spun around and delivered a fist strike at the same time.

“Earth-shaking Fist.”

A stirring of powerful Genuine Qi wave radiating out as both fist and palm clashed together.

Hua Minggong coughed and spat out a mouthful of blood as he staggered backward.

Zhang Ruochen landed on the ground but he did not hesitate even for a moment before dashing forward again. The Spiritual Blood surging wildly in his Meridians rushed toward his arm as he advanced, causing rumbling sounds to echo out. Then, he unleashed another palm strike.

“Elephant Galloping.”

The intense power in Zhang Ruochen’s palm formed a massive translucent palm print before his hand, letting out a loud whizzing sound.

Hua Minggong could feel the mountain-toppling, sea-draining force of the palm print even before it reached him. It was as if he would be blown away anytime soon.

Knowing this would be a tough battle, Hua Minggong’s eyes shone with intense rage as he shot both fists forward with all the strength he could muster.

“BOOM!”

The massive force sent Hua Minggong flying through the air, falling 10-feet away. His arms were in great pain and it felt like his bones had broken.

“Damnit! If I still have my Black Golden Gloves on, you would never be able to defeat me!”

The fist technique Hua Minggong practiced could only unleash its full power with the help of Black Golden Gloves. And yet, his Black Golden Gloves was struck and shattered by the Abyss Ancient Sword long ago.

“Kid, you leave me no choice but to use the Forbidden Art.”

Rising to his feet, Hua Minggong then took out an eight-and-a-half-feet long silver needle and stuck them into the eight major Meridians in his body.

At the same time, he took out a red Pill, popped it into his mouth and quickly swallowed it down.

In the briefest of moments, he seemed like he had recovered from his injuries. The flow rate of the Genuine Qi in his body had also doubled up.

The skin on his body had turned completely black. His red eyes were ice cold, almost as if a poisonous snake itself were staring at Zhang Ruochen.

“Silver Needles Stabbing Veins, Fire Pills Burning Blood.”

Zhang Ruochen frowned and said, “By using the Forbidden Art to stimulate the Meridians and burn your blood, I’m afraid you will die 20 years earlier than you should.”

“So what? If I don’t use this Forbidden Art, I don’t even have a chance to fight.” Hua Minggong responded.

“Indeed.”

Zhang Ruochen nodded and subsequently took out the Abyss Ancient Sword. His expression turned serious as he knew that the current Hua Minggong should not be underestimated, preparing himself for a fierce battle.

As for Hua Minggong, since he had applied the Silver Needles Stabbing Veins, he had already returned to his heyday. Moreover, he took the Fire Elixir which could burn the blood in his body, making him much more powerful than his state in the heyday.

It could be said that Hua Minggong was now in the actual state of a Heaven Realm’s warrior.

Of course, there was a time limit for using the Forbidden Art. If he could not kill Zhang Ruochen within two hours, the power of Silver Needles Stabbing Veins and Fire Pills Burning Blood would eventually disappear. By that time, he would become very weak, offering a chance for Zhang Ruochen to slaughter him freely.

However, Zhang Ruochen had a feeling that Hua Minggong was trying to delay the fight. Therefore, he did not want to waste any more time but to kill him as fast as he could in order to avoid any changes.

“Zhang Ruochen, it’s time for you to experience my real power.”

Hua Minggong laughed out loud. He flew forward at a top speed of 280 meters per second and appeared in front of Zhang Ruochen just as soon as his voice rang out in the air.

“Earth-shaking Fist.”

The powerful fist strike unleashed was accompanied by a strong gust of wind.

Since Hua Minggong’ speed was too fast, Zhang Ruochen did not have enough time to dodge the attack. He could only block his fist strike with his sword.

“BOOM!”

A massive outpouring power from the sword surged toward Zhang Ruochen’s arm and sent him flying through the air.

Hua Minggong immediately launched the second and the third fist strike even before he could land on the ground. He did not spare a chance for Zhang Ruochen to retaliate by delivering 49 fist strikes in a row, completing an entire series of fist technique.

“BOOM!”

Zhang Ruochen was sent flying backward and had no idea how far he went. All the houses and buildings on the street were knocked to the ground. His hair, body, and face were covered in dust and ash, looking unkempt and messy.

Luckily, Zhang Ruochen was not wounded as he was protected by the Space Domain as well as clad in the Ice-fire Kylin Armour. He just looked a bit rough and disheveled.

After sending out 49 fist strikes, Hua Minggong paused for a moment for recovery.

While Hua Minggong was resting, Zhang Ruochen took advantage of the opportunity to attack. He thrust up from the ground, flew up into the air and activated the Genuine Qi in his body before slashing his sword down.

“Hoo...”

As soon as Hua Minggong lifted his head up, he could only see a dazzling sword light descended from midair, like a river composed by a wisp of Sword Breath.

He spread his arms wide to condense the Genuine Qi at his palms. He brought his hands together, hoping to catch Zhang Ruochen’s sword with bare-hands and surprisingly, he did it.

“Bang!”

The ground beneath Hua Minggong shook violently. Then, it cracked in all directions and eventually split apart, causing a muddy wave to sweep over the ground, rushing off to the sides.

The smoke and dust slowly dispersed.

The area within 10-meters radius had sunk almost one meter below the ground, forming a massive hole.

“Kid, is this what you’ve got? I can catch your ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms with bare-hands. If I were to have a ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms with me, I will be able to kill you with one hit.”

Hua Minggong chuckled. Still holding the sword with both hands, he leaped into the air and hovered directly above Zhang Ruochen. Then, he slammed his foot down.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head gently. He released his hands from the sword’s handle all of a sudden and let the sword fell to the ground. At the same time, he swung an arm toward the void space.

“Space Crack!”

Hua Minggong’s expression flickered as he felt a sense of imminent danger. However, he could not figure out where it came from.

“PHEW!”

Suddenly, the void space in front of Hua Minggong vibrated faintly, and tiny cracks began to appear. Then the cracks joined together and transformed into a three-feet-long crack.

There was a chaos between the cracks.

A strong, devastating suction force poured out from the crack. Even with a cultivation level at the Heaven Realm, Hua Minggong was not able to resist it.

The Space Crack was like a massive mouth of void space, swallowing Hua Minggong's head down within seconds.

“BOOM!”

A headless body fell off from the midair. Fresh blood was seen pouring from the neck, giving off nauseating smells.

Zhang Ruochen stretched out his arms. The Abyss Ancient Sword, who was held by Hua Minggong, quivered in between his hands before it shot up into the air and eventually fell into Zhang Ruochen's hands.

“The power of the Space Crack is indeed magnificent. Even the warrior of the Heaven Realm couldn't stand up to its power. I wonder how powerful it's going to be if I were to practice the Space Collapse.”

Zhang Ruochen looked at the dead body on the floor. He crouched down and removed the Spatial Ring from Hua Minggong's finger.

The Spatial Ring was filled with treasure. Other than Pills and Genuine Martial Arms, he stored a large number of Spiritual Crystals and some silver coins.

The classes of Pills and Genuine Martial Arms were not high, he only had a third-class pill and a sixth-level Genuine Martial Arms at best. In terms of a warrior of the Heaven Realm, he was too poor.

However, the number of Spiritual Crystal he owned had surprised Zhang Ruochen. With more than 9,200 crystals, they could certainly be piled up into a small crystal hill. On top of that, there was also some good-quality medium level Spiritual Crystal and some high-grade Spiritual Crystal. These crystals definitely worth more than 10 million silver coins, which could be considered as a small fortune.

Why did Hua Minggong carry such a large amount of Spiritual Crystal with him?

It should be noted that almost every warrior would convert Spiritual Crystal into silver coins and deposit them into the Martial Market Bank.

Most of the Evil Warriors in the black market, too, would usually have another identification so that they were able to deposit their assets into the Martial Market Bank instead of carrying it around all the time.

In fact, the black market had also established their own Bank. However, the black market had many internal conflicts and divisions, therefore, their Bank could not be compared to the Martial Market Bank. They were often closed down due to bankruptcy.

As a result, the Evil Warriors of the black market mostly preferred to store their wealth in the Martial Market Bank instead.

Although it was risky, they did not need to worry about the bankruptcy of the Martial Market Bank. It was also very convenient for them to withdraw money as every county was sure to have a branch of the Martial Market Bank.

Of course, once the Martial Market Bank discovered their real identity, their accounts would be blocked and their assets in the Bank would be frozen.

## Chapter 239: Dragon-imprisoned Lightning Palm

Zhang Ruochen threw the dead body of the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider out of the Storage Ring, dropping it on the ground.

The Young Lord of Poisonous Spider's body was wrapped in the Icing cold. Obviously, Hua Minggong wanted to bring him back to his hometown and bury his body there. It was a pity that his dead body carried no value to Zhang Ruochen and thus he did not want to keep it in the Storage Ring.

By killing Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and Hua Minggong, Zhang Ruochen would surely receive a large number of merit points.

With the extensive intelligence system of the Martial Market Bank, they could easily find out that they were killed by Zhang Ruochen. Therefore, Zhang Ruochen did not need to bring their bodies back to prove it.

"Judging by the greedy and selfish nature of the Evil Warriors in the black market, I'm sure both Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and Hua Minggong didn't tell anyone about my power of manipulating the space. Now that they are dead, I don't need to worry about whether or not the news would be leaked out." Zhang Ruochen felt much more relieved as he did not want anyone to find out that space and time were his best-kept secret.

As if sensing something ahead, Zhang Ruochen suddenly turned his head and looked up at the sky. He saw a red dot flying toward him.

Rumbling sounds rang out in the sky above.

As the sound became louder and louder, the air seemed to vibrate as well.

The sound drew the attention of the Lin'an County Town's citizens. They all rushed out of their houses and looked up at the sky.

A massive red battleship over 70-feet could be seen flying from the north. It was made of pure iron and steel, making it truly looked like the ship of gods.

There were nine arrays floating at the bottom of the battleship. The arrays kept rotating within themselves, forming chains of inscriptions.

"Red Spider Vessel!"

"Just as I thought. Hua Minggong was really trying to buy some time while waiting for help. Luckily, I've killed him one step ahead. Otherwise, they would have me surrounded with no way out." Zhang Ruochen said with a gloomy expression on his face.

It was too late to leave now!

He knew that today's fierce battle was inevitable.

If they were to fight in the Lin'an County, this small county would be razed to the ground under the power of the Red Spider Vessel, resulting in countless casualties.



Without any hesitation, Zhang Ruochen unleashed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. In a flash, he had already rushed out of the county and sped toward the ice river in the distance.

The people on the battleship had already sensed the presence of Zhang Ruochen from earlier. At the same moment that he left the Lin'an County Town, the Red Spider Vessel had also shifted direction to chase after Zhang Ruochen.

The Red Spider Vessel that had reached the speed of sound soon caught up with him.

Zhang Ruochen stopped running and stood next to the ice river, adjusting himself to an optimal state. He seemed exceptionally calm while the Genuine Qi in his body began to blend in with the Spiritual Qi between heaven and earth.

The Red Spider Vessel almost looked like a huge monster floating above Zhang Ruochen's head in the void space. It was so massive that it shielded one-third of the sky, casting a huge shadow on the ground.

On the deck of the Red Spider Vessel stood a Purple-gowned Elder who was chubby and had long grey eyebrows, who appeared to be full of vigor. Smiling faintly, he looked at Zhang Ruochen who stood underneath and said, "You are quite fast, kid. Are you an internal student of the School of the Martial Market?"

Mu Qing had witnessed how Zhang Ruochen unleashed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon earlier from afar. He burst out with incredible speed, moving at 200 meters per second.

A youngster who could reach such a high level of speed was surely the best of the best.

Zhang Ruochen replied, "Why should I tell you?"

The Purple-gowned Elder laughed coldly and said, "My name is Mu Qing, the principal of the Poisonous Spider Club in the southern border of the Square Commandery. I've received the signal from Hua Minggong seeking help and immediately rushed over. Where is Hua Minggong now?"

Zhang Ruochen answered, "Guess he's on the way to the netherworld."

"You killed him?" Eyes wide, the Purple-gowned Elder stared down at Zhang Ruochen intensely as if his pupils were about to emit lightning.

Zhang Ruochen said, "You're too late."

Mu Qing was not as furious as Zhang Ruochen imagined him to be. Instead, he smiled and said, "Hua Minggong is too useless. How could he die at the hands of a youngster? He has ruined the great reputation that he had preserved through his entire life. But if he died, he died. Then, I could be the chief director of the Yunwu Commandery."

In fact, Mu Qing's martial cultivation had reached the Heaven Realm, but he could only be one of the eight principals of the Square Commandery. Not only did he need to obey the chief chairman of the Poisonous Spider Club, but he also had to take orders from the chief director of the Square Commandery. It was no wonder he felt resentful about not being promoted.

Since Hua Minggong was dead now, Mu Qing would replace him and become the chief director of the Yunwu Commandery as a matter of course.

Although the Yunwu Commandery was just an inferior commandery, it was always better than being subordinated to others.

However, Mu Qing had to take revenge for Hua Minggong's death so as to prove that he was more powerful than Hua Minggong. That way, he would be highly regarded by the Club.

Mu Qing shifted his gaze to Zhang Ruochen again. He could not believe how a youngster like him could kill Hua Minggong, who had reached the cultivation of the Heaven Realm. He thought to himself, perhaps Hua Minggong was already seriously injured, giving this youngster here the advantage over him.

"Kid, I can't believe you dare to kill the chief director of the Poisonous Spider Club. Do you know what kind of price you will pay?" Mu Qing said coldly.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "What kind of price?"

"Not only you'll have to die, your family, too, will be perished. All the women in your family will be arrested. They'll become the goods of the Poisonous Spider Club and sell into slavery." Mu Qing replied.

Zhang Ruochen chuckled, "Is this how the Poisonous Spider Club threaten people?"

"Threaten you? Haha! I guess I need to teach you a lesson so that you'll know how we work."

Mu Qing leaped into the air and jumped off from the Red Spider Vessel as if a massive black bird descending from the sky. Then, he slammed his palm down toward Zhang Ruochen.

"Sky-shaking Palm!"

His palm was completely wrapped in the lightning.

"BOOM!"

The palm strike caused rumbling sounds as loud as thunder to echo out and rang through dozens of miles.

Although it was just a palm print, it exuded an explosively strong vigor.

Zhang Ruochen did not expect that Mu Qing would jump off from the Red Spider Vessel and initiate the attack.

Obviously, Mu Qing did not think that a youngster like him should be taken seriously. He was full of confidence. Even if he did not borrow the power of the Red Spider Vessel, he believed he could still kill Zhang Ruochen.

In his opinion, it would be shameful to kill a youngster with the help of the Red Spider Vessel.

That would be killing chickens with choppers.

One had to admit that Mu Qing was indeed very powerful. Although he was still in the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm, he was even stronger than Hua Minggong who had performed the Forbidden Art.

"Dragon in the Sky!"

Zhang Ruochen leaped into the air and exploded upward with incredible speed. The Spiritual Fire Genuine Qi surged out from his body and wrapped around his palm. Then, he struck toward Mu Qing.

“BOOM!”

The lightning palm and the firing palm clashed together.

Zhang Ruochen fell to the ground hard and trod out a half-meter-deep pit. There were still some faint lightning discharges flowing on his arms, and half of his sleeves were completely burnt to black.

He shook his arms gently, and the burnt part of the sleeves instantly crumbled into powder. His sleeves were now torn and sooty.

Zhang Ruochen narrowly lost the first round of the fight.

It was understandable why he had lost the fight. The fact that his opponent had a cultivation of the Heaven Realm, and he was in his heyday made it clear that the seriously injured Hua Minggong could never match up to his strength.

Moreover, Zhang Ruochen could only take down Hua Minggong by surprise with the help of “Space Crack”.

Although Hua Minggong had used the Forbidden Art and was powerful at that time, he was exhausted as well as too thrilled to think straight. Therefore, he could not clearly detect the subtle changes of the space.

Hence it was easy for Zhang Ruochen to kill him.

However, Mu Qing was now in his heyday and his Spiritual Power was very sensitive. It would not be as easy as before if Zhang Ruochen still wanted to use the “Space Crack” to plot against him.

Since there were no guarantees of success, Zhang Ruochen did not want to use the power of space. Otherwise, not only could he not kill Mu Qing, but he would also reveal his secrets.

After landing, Mu Qing stared at Zhang Ruochen in surprise, “You’re able to catch my ‘Sky-shaking Palm’, no wonder you can kill Hua Minggong. With your strength, I guess you’re one of the top 10 internal students of the School of the Martial Market?”

“If you want to fight, fight! Stop talking nonsense!”

Zhang Ruochen initiated an attack on Mu Qing. With the powerful surge of the Genuine Qi, the 40 Inscription of Power Series carved on the Abyss Ancient Sword had been activated. The sword instantly became much heavier, reaching a weight of four thousand kilograms.

He unleashed the “Sacred Guiding Sword” and slashed toward Mu Qing.

“SWISH!”

At the same time, Mu Qing exploded forward at a speed of 300 meters per second. His body shifted a little to the side and easily dodged the attack. After he evaded Zhang Ruochen’s full force sword strike, he flicked a finger toward Zhang Ruochen’s left temple from the left side.

His speed was way faster than Zhang Ruochen, almost reaching the speed of sound.

“Perfect timing!”

As if he could predict Mu Qing’s move, Zhang Ruochen raised his sword horizontally and slashed toward Mu Qing’s waist.

If Mu Qing kept going forward, he could, of course, pierce through Zhang Ruochen’s temple and kill him with just a flick of his finger. But he would also be slashed apart by the Abyss Ancient Sword.

He surely did not want to perish together with Zhang Ruochen, therefore, he immediately stepped back and changed his movements again.

Following that, Zhang Ruochen had also changed his movement by unleashing the Sacred Sword Skill, the Perfection of Martial Arts. It successfully forced Mu Qing to retreat every time.

Both of them had changed more than 10 moves in a short period of time and yet none of the moves had actually reached each other. Every time Mu Qing made a move, Zhang Ruochen had blocked it in advance.

“Kid, I can’t believe you have practiced your sword technique to the Perfection of Martial Arts. But no matter what, I’ll destroy you!”

Retreating to 10-feet away, Mu Qing brought his hands together while strands of lightning pooled at his palms. They transformed into a human head-sized thunderbolt.

“Dragon-imprisoned Lightning Palm.”

Once a warrior of the Poisonous Spider Club reached the Heaven Realm, he could choose to practice a mid-class martial technique of the Spiritual Stage, and Mu Qing had chosen the “Dragon-imprisoned Lightning Palm”.

Similarly, for an ordinary Evil Warriors, he could only receive the mid-class martial technique of the Spiritual Stage when he reached the Heaven Realm. As for those who contributed greatly to the black market, they would then receive the second type of mid-class martial technique of the Spiritual Stage.

Even the Royal Family of the Yunwu Commandery had only possessed one type of mid-class martial technique of the Spiritual Stage as their best technique. It showed how precious the technique was.

In the School of the Martial Market, if one wanted to learn the martial technique above the Spiritual Stage, they would have to spend a large number of merit points in exchange for the technique. Moreover, they could only practice it on their own without teaching anybody else.

Not every warrior had studied through countless exercises of the superior level and martial technique like Zhang Ruochen did.

Other warriors were incomparable to what Zhang Ruochen had done.

Mu Qing had originally obtained the Sacred Mark with a thunder nature that the Genuine Qi he practiced also carried such nature. This was exactly why he was stronger than Hua Minggong in the same realm.

The Genuine Qi of Hua Minggong did not carry any nature of power.

“Awoo!”

Mu Qing unleashed a palm strike. As if there was a dragon howling ferociously, the thunderbolt broke out a loud roar and transformed into a wisp of dragon shadow lightning.

“Nine-folds of the Elephant Power.”

Zhang Ruochen launched six palm strikes in a row. The power of six palm strikes was pooled together to form a single palm print and thus six times the attack power burst out from it.

### **Chapter 240: Controlling the Giant Ship**

The two palm prints clashed together violently.

Genuine Qi spread and lightning flashed in all directions.

“Bam!”

Mu Qing shuddered as he felt a strong wave of power surge toward him from the youth’s palm strike. It disrupted the flow of his Genuine Qi in his body and he involuntarily staggered backward.

At the same time, Zhang Ruochen twisted his right hand and swung his sword. Unleashing the technique of Sacred Plenilune Sword, he slashed down toward Mu Qing’s head.

A dazzling arc of sword light, bright as a full moon, swept out in peremptory manner. Streaks of Sword Breath pooled together and winged their way toward Mu Qing’s head.

Wielding his fist with one hand and his sword with the other, this was the Multitasking technique.

It was as if Zhang Ruochen had divided himself in two, and became two top masters who attacked Mu Qing at the same time.

“You can Multitask, but so can I.”

Mu Qing’s cultivation had reached the Heaven Realm. His Spiritual Power naturally would be above level 20, so he could also use Multitask.

“SNAP!”

Left hand reaching over his waist, Mu Qing pulled out a Golden Line Long Whip. The instant the long whip was swung in the void space, it appeared as if a golden streak of light had flown out. It trembled violently and rumbling sounds of the blast exploded out.

That Golden While was made by refining the 16 Meridians of a Heaven Realm warrior. It was a level seven Genuine Martial Arms.

The warrior’s Meridians would become tougher and tougher under the constant nurturing of the Genuine Qi.

In particular, the Meridians of the Heaven Realm warriors were unbelievably strong. Their Meridians could not be destroyed with knife or fire, making them a wonderful material for refining weapon.

The Golden Whip in Mu Qing's hands was made by a Master of Weapons Refinement who had taken out 16 complete Meridians from the body of a dead warrior of the Heaven Realm. He had braided the Meridians together and carved Inscriptions into it before refining it. Finally, it became a level seven Genuine Martial Arms.

The Golden Whip was as fine as a single strand of hair and almost 3 feet in length. In the hands of a warrior of the Heaven Realm, it was sharper than a broadsword.

A warrior would immediately get his neck cut off if the long whip came into contact with him.

“SWISH!”

Mu Qing had mastered the whip technique. He could control the thin whip very well and it became very unpredictable and enigmatic in his hands, forcing Zhang Ruochen continued to retreat.

“SWISH-”

A golden flash of light could be seen as the giant pine tree next to Zhang Ruochen was chopped apart by the whip. The tree crashed backward and landed on the ground with a loud thud, causing a flurry of snowflakes to fall from the leaves.

The whip caught a corner of Zhang Ruochen's clothing and it fell apart within seconds. A scrap of white cloth fluttered loose and landed on the ground.

Since he could not attack at a close range, he would have to fight from a distance.

“Animal Spirits Fixing Arms!”

The Spiritual Blood in Zhang Ruochen's body surged out and dissolved into threads of blood. They wrapped around his body and pooled together to form the image of a Nine Handle Blood Sword.

Having reached the Earth Realm, the image of the Blood Sword had also become more solid.

The nine swords spun rapidly around Zhang Ruochen and emitted streaks of crimson Sword Breath.

“SWOOSH!”

Zhang Ruochen pointed his finger out and the nine swords immediately merged into a single streak of blood light which then flew toward Mu Qing's chest.

The Blood Sword moved with the speed of lightning.

Even with Mu Qing's speed, he would not be able to dodge it. His expression flickered and he immediately infused his Genuine Qi into a jade amulet hanging around his chest.

The defensive inscriptions on the jade amulet were activated and a Light Shield of three-meters-long and half a-meter-thick, appeared and hovered in front of him.

“BOOM!”

The Blood Sword slammed into the Light Shield and pierced halfway through before the Spiritual Blood dissipated.

The Light Shield also dissolved into threads of Spiritual Qi and gradually faded into the air.

Mu Qing was rattled by the sight. The youth's Spiritual Blood was too strong. He could even condense it into the Nine Handle Blood Sword. Luckily, he wore an amulet. Otherwise, he would have already died at the hands of Zhang Ruochen.

It cost an enormous amount of silver coins to purchase an amulet, and it could only be used once.

Mu Qing felt a pang of sorrow looking at the tarnished jade amulet on his chest. That had cost him one-third of his fortune to purchase.

"It's a pity he had an amulet!" Zhang Ruochen shook his head gently. That had been such a great opportunity, but Mu Qing had managed to escape.

Mu Qing knew he had misjudged the youth's strength. Worried that he might get himself into deeper waters, he immediately turned around and fled toward the Red Spider Vessel.

As long as he made it back to the Red Spider Vessel, he would be able to draw upon the power of the vessel and easily kill the youth.

Zhang Ruochen, of course, would not give him the chance to return to the Red Spider Vessel. Activating all the Genuine Qi in his body, he formed the "A Hundred to Fire" vision of heaven and earth.

"PHEW!"

His Genuine Qi ignited and turned into a sea of fire that enclosed a hundred meters in diameter, trapping Mu Qing in the flames.

"Break!"

Mu Qing struck out his palm to swiftly rip apart Zhang Ruochen's vision of heaven and earth. Then, he rushed out of the sea of flames.

Just as he made his escape, a giant sword came slashing down and struck with unerring accuracy toward his head.

"How could it be so fast... no way..."

Mu Qing realized that the sword was not held in Zhang Ruochen's hands, rather it came from the skies.

"Sword Defending Technique!"

Expression flickering, he immediately took a step to the right, hoping to dodge the strike.

"PUFFT!"

Mu Qing did not completely dodge the strike. The Abyss Ancient Sword chopped down on his left shoulder and took off a huge chunk of flesh and even some bones. His left arm was almost completely cut off.

Intense pain surged up from his arm to his body. Half of his body was numb. It was as if the pain was deep down to the bones.

“Bang! Bang!”

Constantly changing its moves, the Abyss Ancient Sword had displayed more than 20 techniques in a row while hovering midair. Mu Qing was heavily encircled by the sword strikes and thus he had no chance to re-board the Red Spider Vessel.

Mu Qing wielded the Golden Whip in one hand and swung the whip rapidly to block the Abyss Ancient Sword's constant attack.

A grim expression overtook his face as he fought hard against Zhang Ruochen. He deeply regretted underestimating the youth earlier, if he had known, he would have used the power of the Red Spider Vessel and would not end up in such dire straits.

“Peng Shu, activate the Red Spider Vessel array immediately, and lend me a hand.” Mu Qing yelled loudly sending the sound waves rippling through the air, calling out to one of the evil warriors aboard the Red Spider Vessel.

An attack array hovering in the void space to the left of the Red Spider Vessel began to rotate slowly, creating a whirlpool which sucked in all the Spiritual Qi in the surrounding space.

An extremely strong sense of dangerous aura spread out from above, making Zhang Ruochen felt a little suffocated.

Zhang Ruochen made a snap decision and unleashed Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon which he had practiced to the Succeed level. His body rose nine times in a row and his movements were as smooth as floating clouds and flowing water. Looking as if he were climbing a heavenly staircase, he landed on the deck of the Red Spider Vessel.

“Kid, you have guts!”

Anxiety rose up in Mu Qing when he saw Zhang Ruochen boarded the Red Spider Vessel and thus, he immediately chased after him.

He mentally berated himself for miscalculating again. If he had known earlier, he should have activated the defense strategy on the Red Spider Vessel. That way, no matter how strong the youth was, he would not be able to board the Red Spider Vessel.

However, the evil warriors waiting aboard the Red Spider Vessel did not know that Mu Qing was unable to defeat the youth. Therefore, they did not activate the defense strategy. This gave Zhang Ruochen the opportunity he needed.

“Peng Shu, quickly activate the Vessel-defending Formation to kill that youth!” Mu Qing roared.

Once he was on board, Zhang Ruochen glanced at Mu Qing who was chasing him and stretched out his arm to draw the Abyss Ancient Sword back to himself. He then rushed toward the control center of the Red Spider Vessel.



Peng Shu was standing in the control center. Having heard Mu Qing's voice, he was just preparing to activate the Vessel-defending Formation.

Suddenly, a shadow flashed past him and in an instant, a youth was already standing before him.

"Who are you..."

Peng Shu stared at the youth. Before he could finish his sentence, he saw the youth swung his sword toward him.

Peng Shu was Mu Qing's trusted aide as well as a brave general. His cultivation had reached the Completion of the Earth Realm.

He was preparing to execute a palm technique to counter Zhang Ruochen's sword attack. But before he could do so, his head was already sent flying off to the side, separated from his neck and landed on the ground.

Zhang Ruochen struck out his palm to push Peng Shu's body out of the way. He then placed a hand in a sunken hole on the control panel and activated a number of Spiritual Crystals.

The Spiritual Crystals inlaid on the Red Spider Vessel emitted strands of Spiritual Qi which triggered the Inscription of Array.

"Boom!"

A huge array, hundreds of meters in diameter, was seen hovering over the Red Spider Vessel while emitting a dazzling glow of light. Light chains were lowered down one after another, enveloping the Red Spider Vessel completely.

If one were to stand on the ground and look from a distance, he could only see a mass of dazzling light emanating from where the Red Spider Vessel was located. It was like a miniature sun.

"Damn it!"

Having just caught up to Zhang Ruochen, Mu Qing raised his head to glance at the defense array above. He shivered in terror. He immediately turned tail and jumped off the vessel.

Zhang Ruochen had already taken control of the Red Spider Vessel and activated the Vessel-defending Formation. If Mu Qing continued to stay on the Red Spider Vessel, he would, without a doubt, die.

If he could escape the Red Spider Vessel, then he had a chance to live.

What Mu Qing did not know was that Zhang Ruochen not only launched the Vessel-defending Formation, he had also activated the defense strategy.

"BOOM!"

Mu Qing crashed into the inscriptions of the defense strategy. A wall of light appeared before him and bounced him back.

The sudden hard knock to the head made the dignified warrior of the Heaven Realm see stars. He almost fell to the ground as he stumbled around.

“Kid, I am going kill you!”

Mu Qing gritted his teeth and charged toward the control center.

Just as he charged 10 steps forward, the Vessel-defending Formation had already formed over 20 lightning bolts, each as thick as the opening of a bowl. Almost as if 20 odd snakes were descending from the sky, they all fell onto Mu Qing.

“BOOM!”

Mu Qing’s body exploded instantaneously and a dense cloud of black smoke began to spread out from it.

After the black smoke cleared, a broken skeleton fell to the ground with a loud thud. A golden whip was still held in the hands of the skeleton.

When the Poisonous Spider Club was creating the Red Spider Vessel, they made sure to place the Vessel-defending Formation in the most important location, fearing that it would fall into the hands of another warrior.

Thus, even Mu Qing’s cultivation could not stand against an attack from the Vessel-defending Formation.

“Luckily there is the Red Spider Vessel. Otherwise, killing Mu Qing would not be an easy task.”

Zhang Ruochen walked down from the control center and released Space Domain in order to investigate the entire Red Spider Vessel.

Mu Qing had rushed to rescue Hua Minggong and could not have brought many people. However, the Red Spider Vessel was so huge that it was impossible to have only Mu Qing and Peng Shu on board.

There had to be other evil warriors hiding in the ship warehouse. They had to be found to avoid unexpected events.