

God Emperor 261

Chapter 261: Sacrificial Ceremony

Although the power of the Thunder Pearl wasn't strong enough to kill the Fire-cloud Wolf, it was slowed down.

At that very moment, Zhang Ruochen took out the War Map.

Under the surge of Genuine Qi, the inscriptions carved on the War Map was lit up. 10 Purple-horned Beasts charged out from the map and attacked the Fire-cloud Wolf.

The fighting power of every Purple-horned Beast was equal to a warrior at the Completion of the Earth Realm.

Zhang Ruochen seized the chance and retreated backward. He ran into the array and escaped back to the Yueji City.

When he first entered the array, a loud noise broke out behind him which shook the entire Defender Array hard.

In just that moment, the Fire-cloud Wolf had already killed the 10 Purple-horned Beasts and had caught up with him. It stretched out its arms and almost scratched Zhang Ruochen's back. Fortunately, its claw had been blocked by the array, otherwise, Zhang Ruochen would no doubt be seriously wounded.

"Such a powerful Fire-cloud Wolf! It handled all 10 Purple-horned Beasts in a flash."

Zhang Ruochen crawled up from the ground exhaustedly and looked at the War Map in hand. He realized that the dazzling light on the War Map had dimmed.

The power of the War Map would be reduced after every use.

If Zhang Ruochen activated the graph of Purple-horned Beast again, he could only release 10 Purple-horned Beasts at the Dawn State of the Earth Realm; if he charged it for the third time, he could probably only release 10 Purple-horned Beasts at the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm.

After taking the healing Pill, Zhang Ruochen rushed towards the altar in the city center. He took out the two storage bracelets and the savage beasts stored in the Storage Ring and placed them on the altar.

27 dead bodies of savage beasts in total stacked up like a little mountain of bloody bodies.

After that, he returned to the city center again and collected all the dead savage birds that had been taken down by the array.

Once again, he placed 178 dead bodies of savage birds on the altar.

"There are not enough savage beast and savage birds, I have to go and hunt some more."

Zhang Ruochen sat cross-legged at the bottom of the altar and started healing his injuries. After an hour, he had recovered 50% from his wounds.

He stopped healing. He carried the Abyss Ancient Sword, ran out from the Defender Array and hunted more savage beasts.

What differed from the previous situation was that Zhang Ruochen was not going to attack the fourth-level savage beast on purpose. On the contrary, he could hide from them as well as hunting the lower level savage beasts.

“Boom!”

Zhang Ruochen flicked a Thunder Pearl out, the lightning released had killed more than 10 first-level savage beasts. Their bodies were burnt and scattered everywhere.

He rushed over immediately and stored the dead bodies in the Storage Ring.

Just as a fourth-level savage beast, a lion-head ox head, charged out, Zhang Ruochen had already escaped back to Yueji City ahead of it.

After putting the savage beasts on the altar, Zhang Ruochen left the city secretly from another exit and continued hunting.

“What is Zhang Ruochen thinking? Perhaps he thinks his speed in hunting savage beast would be faster than my speed in summoning savage beast?” Ling Xiansu stared downwards and looked confused. He didn’t understand what Zhang Ruochen was doing.

Ling Xiansu would never be able to understand why Zhang Ruochen wanted to hunt as many savage beasts as he could in preparation for the sacrificial ceremony held in the Yueji City.

Every time Zhang Ruochen left the city, Ling Xiansu ordered a fourth-level savage beast to kill him.

However, Zhang Ruochen was very crafty and he hid near the city wall every time. Then, he released either the Thunder Pearl or the War Map, killed a bunch of savage beasts and stored them in the storage bracelet.

By nightfall, there were already 477 dead bodies of savage beasts accumulated on the altar and they formed a bloody mountain.

“The blood of the savage beast, as well as the blood of the hundred thousand human warriors in the Yueji City, should be enough to open the Door of Heaven and finish the sacrificial ceremony.” Zhang Ruochen said excitedly.

Generally, in Kunlun’s Field, the Winter Solstice was the best time for the sacrificial ceremony.

Rumor had it that the distance between the Spiritual field and the Kunlun’s Field was the closest on Winter Solstice. Therefore, the Door of Heaven could be easily opened.

Even if it was only a small-scale sacrifice in a village, the Door of Heaven would also be opened.

Yet, once the Winter Solstice had passed, the Door of Heaven would be difficult to open. Only if using a hundred times more Spiritual Blood was used could the Door of Heaven be opened and the sacrificial ceremony completed.

Outside the city, the attack of the savage beasts became more and more aggressive. They had already shattered down parts of the wall. The holy light of the defender array was becoming weaker and weaker.

There was a tiny mountain a hundred kilometers away from the Yueji City.

On the top of the mountain stood two human shadows.

The leader looked like he was in his twenties, with sharp eyebrows and eyes like an eagle, a straight nose, and a bright gaze. He gave off the sense of being handsome and severe.

That was Zhang Tiangui, the No.1 god's pride of the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge.

At this moment, Lu Qiankun, who ranked third among the internal students of the Yuntai Suzerain, was staring at the Yueji City. He asked, unsettled, "Senior brother, the Defender Array of the Yueji City is going to fall down soon. It is time for us to strike?"

Zhang Tiangui placed his arms behind his back and responded while shaking his head gently, "Just wait, we're not in a rush."

"Why?" Lu Qiankun was confused.

Zhang Tiangui put up a smile on his face and said, "It's not yet the right time."

Lu Qiankun was a straight-forward and honest person who didn't understand Zhang Tiangui's plan.

Certainly, they had to rescue people, but most importantly, how would they be rescued and when should they act?

Han Qiu hadn't been put in a dangerous situation at all. If they saved her now, they wouldn't be able to maximize the advantage.

It was to say, if Zhang Tiangui appeared when she was facing the real danger and feeling helpless, she would be a lot more appreciative and touched by him.

In order to dominate woman, some tricks had to be used, otherwise how could they be so obedient?

An idiot like Lu Qiankun would never understand why he did that.

This was the only chance for Zhang Tiangui to win Han Qiu's heart. He would definitely seize this opportunity.

"Seems like Zhang Ruochen is also staying in the Yueji City. That's perfect! Let's destroy him as well. Anyhow, letting him stay alive will be a disaster for us." Zhang Tiangui looked exceptionally calm. He gazed towards the Yueji City in the distance and a glimmer of self-confidence shone from his eyes.

He decided to wait until the perfect moment to attack.

The fight in the Yueji City was so brutal that Han Qiu activated the attack arrays and killed numerous savage beasts and savage birds.

Another hour had passed. The energy of the five attacking arrays were all consumed.

There were only two arrays left in the entire Yueji City, the defense strategy and the Defender Array. It's only a matter of time for those arrays to be broken.

Han Qiu stood on the wall, looking at the countless savage beasts which were rushing towards her, she felt exhausted and said worriedly, "What should we do now, Zhang Ruochen? The reinforcements of the School of the Martial Market and the Yuntai Suzerain hasn't arrived yet. I guess the defense strategy can only withstand the time of a burning joss stick at most."

"We'll have to take a risk! If we can break through to a higher realm, perhaps we will be able to kill them all and leave the city!"

Zhang Ruochen walked onto the stone gate underneath the altar and arrived at the edge of the Sacred Pool. He recited a piece of funeral oration from memory. At the same time, he pressed his hands on the stone wall so that the Spiritual Fire Genuine Qi in his body poured out from his palm. It spread out gradually and covered the entire altar.

"The sacrificial ceremony now begins!"

"Boom!"

The colossal altar started rotating slowly.

A bloody beam of red light surged out from the center of the altar. It shattered the clouds in the sky as if it had charged into the boundless universe.

The sky had fully turned red.

In the center of the piece of red, it seemed like a large door was opened. It was chaos around the door, light rain fell down and sprinkled over Yueji City.

Zhang Ruochen sat cross-legged on the ground and started communicating with the Vessel of Spirit.

A streak of light shot out from the top of his head, it formed a spiritual shadow that looked exactly like Zhang Ruochen.

The spiritual shadow flew out and floated above the sky of the Sacred Pool. It started absorbing the power of sacrifice that swam in the air.

Han Qiu stood aside, she didn't know what Zhang Ruochen was going to do.

She was absolutely shocked when the Martial Soul surged out from Zhang Ruochen's body. Her face was frozen as if she had been petrified and her lips also fell into an "O" shape.

"He...He practiced the Martial Soul..."

Not a lot of warriors at the myth of martial arts of the Heaven Realm were capable of practicing the Martial Soul. Yet, Zhang Ruochen had made it while he was only in the Earth Realm.

Moreover, Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul looked extremely weird as if it was an illusory image of gods. Even Han Qiu had an urge to kneel down and worship him.

The Martial Soul that floated in the air above the Sacred Pool glanced at Han Qiu and said, "What are you waiting for? Come and sit in front of me now. I'm going to transfer part of the sacrifice power into your body. With the help of the sacrifice power, perhaps it could neutralize the two powers inside your body and ease the danger that you've encountered during your practice."

Han Qiu could feel the oppression displayed by Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul. It was as if she received the order of gods and walked next to Zhang Ruochen willingly.

She sat cross-legged opposite Zhang Ruochen, raised her snow-white arms and connected with Zhang Ruochen's hands.

"Boom!"

When she touched Zhang Ruochen's hands, she felt an electric shock.

A strand of sacrifice power entered her body aggressively from her right hand. It surged into her Meridians and towards her Qi sea.

While the sacrifice power was surging through her body, she felt like she was a leaf floating in the sea and that her body would be torn apart any moment by that power.

"Don't panic. Keep yourself calm and activate the 'Holy Universe Reaching Skills'. Try to absorb the sacrifice power."

Just as Han Qiu was feeling frightened, Zhang Ruochen's voice entered her brain like the voice of god.

Eventually, Han Qiu calmed herself. She closed her eyes and started activating the exercise like Zhang Ruochen said.

The sacrifice power was the most spiritual of power. At the same time, it contained the most tolerant power. After entering her Meridians, it rotated a large circle of vital energy around her body and returned to Zhang Ruochen's Meridians through her left hand.

The sacrifice power ran inside her body once again and completed a large circle of vital energy one after one.

Her Meridians slowly absorbed the power and her Martial Arts Realm was constantly elevating.

Inside her Qi sea, the dark Genuine Qi was confronting the Holy Universe Reaching Genuine Qi. They became weaker as if they were going to blend together. Two types of Genuine Qi had transformed into a black and white Genuine Qi wave, rotating in her Meridians along with the sacrifice power.

Chapter 262: The Three Sects and Nine Clans

"Swish-"

A bright blood red light shot out of the center of Yueji City. It transformed into a light beam that connected heaven and earth.

The top of the light beam that formed a blood cloud was clearly visible at even a hundred kilometers away.

Such a scene could only be seen every year during the Ceremony of Worship on Winter Solstice.

“What are they doing? How come they are still sacrificing in Yueji City at this moment? Do they really believe they would be able to summon the gods?”

Ling Xiansu smiled while stroking his beard gently. He thought that Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu were too naive in gambling on the gods at this dying moment.

Ignorant! Stupid!

Sound waves spilled from Ling Xiansu’s mouth and the sound travelled into the city, “Juniors, it’s not going to do you any good to seek for gods’ help. Even the gods are not able to save you two! Hear my orders, all the savage beasts, attack!”

In a moment, there was a loud boom. Suddenly, the Defender Array in Yueji City was first broken, then after another moment, the two other Defensive Arrays were also broken.

The savage beasts surged into the Yueji City endlessly like an inky black tide.

Below the altar, after Zhang Ruochen had absorbed a large amount of Sacrificial Power, he finally broke through the Realm and reached the Medium State of the Earth Realm.

After restoring the Martial Soul back to his body, Zhang Ruochen’s body released a powerful force and all the bones in his body made a popping sound.

Han Qiu who sat cross-legged opposite Zhang Ruochen also released a soft white light, looking elegant and beautiful as if she had turned into a flawless and purified fairy.

Every inch of her skin was as pure as jade except her glabella. There, a dark crescent-shaped mark appeared.

If examined closely, the crescent-shaped mark was completely different from her temperament. It gave off a dark, cold, and gloomy feeling as if she was going to swallow all the light sources nearby.

“She practices the ‘Blackmoon Qi Sea’!” Zhang Ruochen stared Han Qiu in shock.

Generally, a warrior’s Qi sea would be completely stabilized only when they reached the Heaven Realm and then change into a unique state.

About 99% of warrior’s Qi seas were the common “Circle Qi Sea”.

Only very few warriors with gifted talents as well as special physical quality were able to practice a unique Qi sea.

Like Han Qiu, she had transformed her Qi sea to a special shape when she reached the Completion of the Earth Realm. Besides, her shape “Blackmoon Qi Sea” was so exceptionally rare that her martial arts talent could be classified as extremely outstanding.

Since her Qi sea had formed a shape, she had also elevated her ability.

There was a dark black splendor shining in Han Qiu's pupils. She looked at Zhang Ruochen gratefully and said, "Thank you so much, Zhang Ruochen! I feel like the two forces clashing in my body have weakened."

Zhang Ruochen responded, "After absorbing the sacrifice power, your Martial Arts has certainly improved. Along with the power of the Saint's Light Pill, you won't encounter any danger in a short period of time. If you can break through to the Heaven Realm and reach an even higher realm, you'll be able to practice other exercises. I would suggest you practice the 'Taiji Innate Skills', the greatest book of Taiji Doctrine."

"There's no absolute answer in Taiji. Whether it's right or wrong, easy or difficult, long or short, they are all mutually inclusive. By practicing the 'Taiji Innate Skills', it will help you dissolve the two clashing powers in your body. At the same time, it allows you to utilize both powers rationally. It's the best practice skill for you."

Han Qiu was confused and asked, "Taiji Doctrine?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled gently and said, "There's a saying about the three sects and nine clans in the Kunlun's Field. 'The Martial Arts in this world come from three sects while the nine clans pass it on.' It means that the Martial Arts we know all come from three sects. With the evolution of Martial Arts as well as the expansion of the land of the human clans, first-class power, second-class power...ninth-class power all gradually developed.

"Taiji Doctrine refers to one of the three doctrines. Other than the chief altar, there are three major branches – Liangyi Sect, Four Symbols Sect, and Bagua Sect."

"These three sects are all classified as the first-class power and have produced plenty of Saints. Since the legacy of the ancients times as well as the prosperous Medieval Ancient Times, the disciples of the Taiji Doctrine are all around the world."

"The Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array we are learning is the top sword array of the Liangyi Sect."

"Teaching you the Nine Yin Sword is a stroke of luck. If you want to learn the 'Taiji Innate Skills', you should consider enrolling in the Liangyi Sect. I guess when the predecessors of the Liangyi Sect see the Nine Yin Sword, they will be happy to take you as their disciple. Of course, if it does happen, don't tell them I'm the one who passed it on to you."

Han Qiu digested every single word Zhang Ruochen said. She was like a quiet student listening to her teacher.

It was undeniable that Han Qiu was indeed impressed by Zhang Ruochen's knowledge.

Moreover, if the Liangyi Sect was a first-class power like Zhang Ruochen said, it would be absolutely worthwhile to become one of their disciples.

Even the Yuntai Suzerain, which lorded over the 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge, was only a fourth-class power, they were like an ant in front of a first-class power.

How did Zhang Ruochen know the top sword array of the Liangyi Sect?

“Perhaps...he’s one of the disciples of an important person of the Liangyi Sect? It has to be! Otherwise, a prince of such an inferior commandery would never be able to master the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array.”

Zhang Ruochen looked into Han Qiu’s eyes and reminded her, “I hope you won’t expose my secret to anybody else.”

“Don’t worry! I promise I won’t tell anyone, not even my father! Anyhow, you saved me and helped me suppress the two clashing powers in my body. It has allowed me to step up to a higher realm in my Martial Arts pathway.”

Han Qiu laughed and continued, “What’s more, I feel like my ability has elevated after the practice. Although I haven’t broken through to the Heaven Realm, I think it’s not going to be difficult for me to fight with warriors who are four realms higher.”

Zhang Ruochen asked, “Four Unique Skills already?”

“Yeah, pretty much!”

Han Qiu was joyful and said, “Zhang Tiangui is the Genius with Four Unique Skills. He’s called the No.1 genius of the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge. Yet, I think I’m strong enough to confront him.”

“Congratulations!” Knowing that Han Qiu was able to confront his brother, Zhang Ruochen was happy for her.

Han Qiu blinked her eyes while biting her lips. She revealed a perfect smile and said, “I’m curious. Which level of genius have you reached?”

“Well, I’ve never been to the Nine Uniquenesses Palace so I don’t know. In fact, the so-called Three-realm Fighting Genius and Four-realm Fighting Genius are meaningless. Only warriors in the young generation who like showing off call themselves by such nicknames.”

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen’s sight sharpened and said, “Oh no! Yueji City has been attacked. The real battle has finally started!”

He stood up immediately with his Genuine Qi pouring out.

The battle lust emanating from Han Qiu’s body was very powerful. She took out the Ancient White Jade Sword and said confidently, “Since we’ve both elevated our cultivation, it shouldn’t be a problem to attack.”

“Let’s fight!”

Zhang Ruochen held the Abyss Ancient Sword, struck out a white Sword Breath over 10 meters long and split the altar in half.

At the same time, Golden lizard beetle, a third-level savage beast had crawled up to the altar. Straight away it had been torn apart by the Sword Breath and fell down to the ground.

“Boom!”



Zhang Ruochen rushed out from the altar instantly. He displayed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, transformed into nine shadows and charged forward over 10 meters.

“Pffft!”

“Pffft!”

...

When he stopped, he found nine dead bodies of savage beasts on the ground.

Every step he made, he could kill one of them.

Han Qiu had also rushed out from the bottom of the altar. She swung the sword out horizontally. It transformed into a pillar-shaped Sword Breath and pierced through the bodies of two savage beasts at the same time.

“Boom!”

All of a sudden, a Cyan-winged Red Python, a hundred meters long and a fourth-level savage beast with palm-sized scales all over its body charged out. It swung its tail and struck towards Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen rose to his toes and leapt up to 20 meters high so as to escape from its attack.

The Genuine Qi in the Cyan-winged Red Python’s body flowed. It spat out a mouthful of cyan ice while staring intensely at Zhang Ruochen.

“Phew!”

Every building, every one of the savage beast within a hundred meters in the distance had been sealed with ice.

“Bang!” Zhang Ruochen broke the ice and flew out. He rotated his body and struck his sword toward the neck of the Cyan-winged Red Python.

It pulled back its head and escaped from the Sword Breath. Once again, it spat out a mouthful of Icing air.

This time, instead of escaping, Zhang Ruochen stretched out his left arm and struck a palm out. He created a piece of Spiritual Fire Genuine Qi which clashed with the Icing air.

“Phew!”

The energy of the two powers constantly offset each other.

When the Cyan-winged Red Python ran out of Genuine Qi and it stopped spitting out Icing air, Zhang Ruochen seized this chance and swung his sword toward it.

“Sacred Plenilune Sword!”

His fighting sword pierced through the Cyan-winged Red Python’s neck and left a long sword shadow.

“Boom!”

The Cyan-winged Red Python's body fell to the ground heavily.

"After breaking through to a higher realm, it's indeed a lot easier to deal with a fourth-level lower-class savage beast."

Once again, Zhang Ruochen charged into the crowd of savage beasts and continued fighting. He wanted to open a way for Han Qiu and himself to leave Yueji City.

"Beep!"

A black giant eagle with a dragon head flew down from the sky like a wisp of black cloud. Its body was at least 10 meters long. It carried a reckless vigor and pressed down on Zhang Ruochen's head.

A Dragon-eagle, a Fourth-level Savage Beast, was the so-called lord of the sky.

Its claws were as sharp as dragon claws!

Zhang Ruochen moved aside and escaped from the Dragon-eagle's claws.

"Bang!"

The Dragon-eagle's claws scratched the ground and the stone ground turned into powder in seconds as if it were as soft as tofu. It left a massive claw print on the ground.

Ling Xiansu stared coldly at the Coliseum below and said, "I can't believe he escaped from our eagle's attack. Guess this kid has certainly elevated his ability."

The Dragon-eagle was the most powerful fighting savage beast Ling Xiansu had summoned. Therefore, he had full confidence that it could kill Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen decided not to fight head-on with the Dragon-eagle but instead he charged toward Ling Xiansu.

"The Beast-training Master has done a great job in controlling the savage beasts. Yet, their personal ability might not be as strong. Once I kill Ling Xiansu, all the danger in front of me would naturally come to an end."

Zhang Ruochen thrust up against the ground and charged toward Ling Xiansu. His sword was like a shooting star as it pierced forward.

Chapter 263: Reinforcement

"Hey, kid! You're going to get yourself killed."

Ling Xiansu stood up on the back of the Three-footed Firecrow. The light displayed from the purple crystal wrapped him up completely and transformed into a round shape light screen.

The Three-footed Firecrow's body displayed a dazzling light as if every feather was made of fine gold. Along with a long groan, it spat out a mouthful of fire like a magma wave, surging toward Zhang Ruochen.

“Such a horrifying fire...I can’t believe it’s the Fire of Divine Gold. Maybe Ling Xiansu’s steed is a fourth-level medium-level savage bird?”

Zhang Ruochen’s countenance changed. He made use of the force in the void space and leaned backward immediately. Very quickly he retreated a hundred meters away and escaped from the pouring fire.

The fire had burnt the void space until it distorted, it made a puffing sound.

The fourth-level medium and lower level savage birds were two completely different classes and there was a great difference between their fighting power.

With Zhang Ruochen’s current martial cultivation, he was able to kill a fourth-level lower-level savage bird. However, even if there were 10 Zhang Ruochens together, he was still no match for a fourth-level medium level savage bird.

The powerful Dragon-eagle that he fought earlier was only a slightly stronger fourth-level low-level savage beast.

Ling Xiansu laughed out loud and said, “Do you really think that I’m easy to kill, kid? Let me tell you honestly. My Three-footed Firecrow carriage is a fourth-level medium level savage bird. Even if the Yunwu Commandery Prince arrived in person, he might not be strong enough to kill it, let alone you! Haha!”

“A fourth-level medium level savage bird...this is going to be trouble!”

At the same time, Han Qiu rushed over and joined Zhang Ruochen. She was about to display the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array.

Other savage beasts had also rushed over. Three layers on the inside and three layers on the outside, surrounding Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu closely in the center. All the savage beasts were grunting and ,had a ferocious look in their eye along with their sharp teeth.

“Dong, dong!”

Some of the savage beasts moved forward tentatively and made the circle smaller.

The atmosphere had reached a boiling point.

At this moment, two long wheezing noise broke out from outside the city. It transformed into two sound waves and rushed into the crumbling city.

“What happened? Did a master of the Heaven Realm rush over?” Ling Xiansu’s countenance fell and he looked towards the outside of the city.

The two long roaring noises had shaken the Spiritual Qi between the heaven and earth. Obviously, only warriors of the Heaven Realm would be able to explode out with such power.

“Surely the reinforcements of the School of the Martial Market and the Yuntai Suzerain have arrived. They are going to save us!” Han Qiu was overjoyed and excited. She gazed at Zhang Ruochen with bright eyes.

Outside the city, a beautiful woman with long royal-blue hair, a tall and slender body, and an arrogant temperament arrived. She charged into Yueji City with a long sword in her hands. Without any hesitation, she entered the crowd of beasts and started killing.

There were two elders with powerful cultivation following behind her. The old man and old woman were myths of martial arts of the Heaven Realm.

That beautiful woman was Huang Yanchen.

“Zhang Ruochen should be trapped inside the city center. Fengxuan and Songji, please offer me a hand and charge in!”

Huang Yanchen entered the crowd of beasts.

The two elders, Fengxuan and Songji killed the savage beasts around them and left countless dead bodies on the ground. Shortly after, the three of them charged successfully into Yueji City.

Zhang Ruochen looked at the crowd of savage beasts and recognized Huang Yanchen who was charging forward at the front. He was shocked, “I can’t believe it’s senior sister apprentice Huang.”

Zhang Ruochen attacked immediately and joined Huang Yanchen shortly.

“Boom!”

Fengxuan and Songji had each brought along an eighth-level Genuine Martial Arms. In order to clear the way, they struck it out at the same time. A number of savage beasts flew away and they cleared out a large patch.

Huang Yanchen went over next to Zhang Ruochen. When she saw that he wasn’t hurt, she was relieved and sighed.

However, her eyes turned cold-blooded after a short while. She said, “After all the assassinations of the masters from the Poisonous Spider Club and the Square Commandery, you’re still alive. How is your life tougher than an ant’s?”

“You look disappointed.”

“Yes, I am. I want them to kill you so that it’ll be easier for me to break off our engagement in the future. No...I need not break it off as I’m not going to marry a dead person.”

“Really?”

Zhang Ruochen glanced at her and noticed that her face was full of sweat and her chest was heaving as well. Apparently, she was exhausted from rushing all the way here to save him. Yet, she still pretended to be cold and arrogant.

It had to be said that Zhang Ruochen was touched by what she had done. When he was in danger, Huang Yanchen was the first person who came to save him. Although she was quite mean when she spoke, she was still a nice person.

“Thank you so much for saving me!” Zhang Ruochen expressed his appreciation.

Although Huang Yanchen looked cold at this moment, a sense of joy and fondness flashed through her eyes. She turned around and said with disdain, "Stop pretending in front of me. You being affectionate doesn't work for me."

"Let's solve the crisis we're facing, then we can sit down and talk," said Zhang Ruochen.

Huang Yanchen nodded. She stared at Ling Xiansu and said arrogantly, "Whoever works with the Poisonous Spider Club deserve to die."

Ling Xiansu said in a deep voice, "You're Commandery Princess Yanchen of the Qianshui Commandery? Are you here to save Zhang Ruochen or allow yourself to be trapped and killed?"

Fengxuan and Songji retreated at the same time and blocked Ling Xiansu in front of Huang Yanchen.

Huang Yanchen sneered, "Ling Xiansu, you don't think I'm the only one who came over to Yueji City, do you?"

"Are there other masters in the School of the Martial Market to Yueji City as well?" Ling Xiansu asked.

Suddenly, a loud noise broke out in the sky, "Ling Xiansu, are you saying that there School of the Martial Market lacks people?"

Hearing this, Ling Xiansu's countenance changed. He asked, "Who is this?"

"Si Xingkong, the No.1 of the Internal Academy of the School."

Accompanying the sound wave in the sky, Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi unhurriedly walked through the city gate.

Si Xingkong swung his arm and struck out a scroll of Blood Book.

The Blood Book flew up to the sky, floated on the cloud and completely covered the entire Yueji City. Then, words of blood fell down one after another.

The blood-words were heavy as if they were a hundred thousand kilograms. They transformed into a swathe of blood rain and pressed down on the bodies of the savage beasts.

Shortly after, other than those fourth-level savage beasts and savage birds, all other savage beast had been pressed to the ground and couldn't move an inch.

Even those fourth-level savage beasts and savage birds were scared by the pressure of the Half-saint's Blood Book. 70% of their power had been stamped out.

"How shameful it is for people who are almost a hundred year old to fight with their juniors? Should I fight against you for a few moves?"

Si Xingkong jumped down with the wine gourd in his hand and landed on a broken wall in Yueji City. His hair fluttered while he stood up confidently. At the same time, he displayed arrogance and pride.

"Half-saint's Blood Book."

Ling Xiansu's countenance turned pale when he looked at the massive blood book floating in the sky.

If there was only Si Xingkong himself, Ling Xiansu even consider him an opponent.

However, Si Xingkong had brought along the Half-saint's Blood Book and suppressed all the Inferior Stage savage beasts. Ling Xiansu didn't have the confidence that he would definitely defeat him if they fought.

"Finally I did not arrive late" Chang Qiqi gasped. Then, he sat and rested on the ground.

Anyhow, it was impossible for Ling Xiansu to escape the senior brother, the Half-saint's Blood Book as well as two Heaven Realm warriors of the Qianshui Commandery.

Hundreds of kilometers away, Zhang Tiangui clenched his fingers. With a cold look in his eyes, he said, "Si Xingkong again! He destroys my plan every time!"

Lu Qiankun asked, "Senior brother, should we charge to Yueji City now?"

"If we don't go there now, Si Xingkong will steal all of our thunder!"

Zhang Tiangui laughed coldly. He took out a tiny carriage made with cyan metal. Under the surge of Genuine Qi, the carriage had expanded 100 times bigger and turned into a glimmering Feiyuan Chariot.

This was an eighth-level Genuine Martial Arms that possessed a forceful power. It was numerous times stronger than ordinary battle carriages.

Zhang Tiangui drove the Feiyuan Chariot and shot toward Yueji City. He clashed with the savage beasts and sent them flying. He roared loudly, "Junior sister apprentice, ninth brother, let me help you guys!"

When the Feiyuan Chariot rushed over, dust and smoke had been kicked up.

Lu Qiankun followed behind the carriage and entered Yueji City one step behind after Zhang Tiangui.

Zhang Tiangui drove the Feiyuan Chariot and stopped in front of Han Qiu. He said, "Junior sister apprentice, the defensive power of this carriage will keep you safe!"

Han Qiu glanced at Zhang Ruochen. She bit her lips, smiled and shook her head gently, "I'm alright. Ling Xiansu couldn't do much with Si Xingkong's Half-saint's Blood Book. There's no need to be afraid."

Zhang Tiangui narrowed his eyes as if something was bothering him. He said, "Since Si Xingkong has displayed the Half-saint's Blood Book, there will be a brutal fight here later. Let's get you out of the city!"

Han Qiu thought for a while and responded, "Zhang Ruochen, your seventh brother has his point. Let's retreat from Yueji City so that Si Xingkong can fight freely against Ling Xiansu."

"Huh! Half-saint's Blood Book isn't enough to finish me!"

Ling Xiansu transferred his Genuine Qi into the purple crystal. He rode on the Three-footed Firecrow and attacked Si Xingkong.

As long as Si Xingkong was killed, he still had a chance to turn defeat into victory.

"Perfect timing!"

Si Xingkong let out a long laugh. He flew up high and struck a palm towards Ling Xiansu.

“Me as well!”

Zhang Tiangui was reluctant to show weakness. He drove the Feiyuan Chariotcup into the sky and charged towards the Three-footed Firecrow.

“The Three-footed Firecrow is a fourth-level medium level savage bird. Even with the suppression of the Half-saint’s Blood Book, its attacking power is still horrifying. Even if Si Xingkong and Zhang Tiangui work together, there’s only 50% that could win.” Zhang Ruochen claimed.

If the Half-saint’s Blood Book that Si Xingkong brought was only used to defeat the Three-footed Firecrow it was possible to say that within a few breaths, he would be able to kill the Three-footed Firecrow.

Unfortunately, other than the Three-footed Firecrow, the Half-saint’s Blood Book still needed to hold more than 10,000 savage beasts on the ground. Therefore, the pressure toward the Three-footed Firecrow wasn’t strong.

Han Qiu walked next to Zhang Ruochen and said, “Zhang Ruochen, if we display the sword array, we should be able to kill the Three-footed Firecrow.”

Having listened to her, Huang Yanchen was quite defensive. She stared at Han Qiu and asked coldly, “What kind of sword array?”

Han Qiu glanced at Huang Yanchen, smiled and answered, “Zhang Ruochen and I have practiced a sword array which is classified as the strongest duo sword array. Once we display it, perhaps we will be able to confront the fourth-level medium level savage beast. I guess Zhang Ruochen has also taught you that?”

From Han Qiu’s point of view, Huang Yanchen was Zhang Ruochen’s fiancée. It was normal for him to teach her the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array.

Chapter 264: A Deadly Blow

With a sense of crisis, Huang Yanchen stared questioningly at Zhang Ruochen and asked, “Junior fellow apprentice, what kind of sword array is that? Why haven’t I heard about it before?”

“Don’t be too tense. Just a sword array.” Zhang Ruochen understated.

After hearing their talks, Han Qiu took a tumble that Zhang Ruochen didn’t impart Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array to Huang Yanchen at all. Instead of his fiancée, he passed such a powerful sword array to her.

Thinking of this, Han Qiu should feel secretly pleased.

Zhang Ruochen fixed his attention to that distant battlefield without noticing the facial expressions of Huang Yanchen and Han Qiu.

A fierce fighting among Three-footed Firecrow, Si Xingkong and Zhang Tiangui destroyed the whole ancient city, turning streets, buildings, altar and squares into a sea of fire.

“Half-saint’s Blood Book suppresses 70 percent of the strength of Three-footed Firecrow. Thus it’s not hard for Si Xingkong and Zhang Tiangui to defeat it... Look! Ling Xiansu wants to run away!”

Ling Xiansu sensed an adverse situation and immediately left Three-footed Firecrow to confront the attack from Si Xingkong and Zhang Tiangui. Then he rode Fire-cloud Wolf to the suburbs of Yueji City.

How could Zhang Ruochen release him?

“I’ll hunt down Ling Xiansu and you guys deal with those Fourth-level Savage Beasts.”

With a loud clang, Zhang Ruochen drew out his Abyss Ancient Sword and strode out towards Ling Xiansu. Having reached the medium stage of the Earth Realm, Zhang Ruochen boosted his speed to a higher degree with a fastest speed at 240 meters per second.

The speed of the Fire-cloud Wolf was extremely fast, approaching the speed velocity. However, under the pressure of Half-saint’s Blood Book, it decelerated remarkably and was soon overtaken by Zhang Ruochen.

“Hi, Ling Xiansu. What do you think of the deal that I mentioned to you in the beginning? Think over it again!” Zhang Ruochen caught up with Fire-cloud Wolf and blocked his way.

Zhang Ruochen moved his sword crosswise and swayed, forming a wave of sword and forcing Fire-cloud Wolf and Ling Xiansu to stop.

Ling Xiansu ground his teeth and said angrily, “Junior, who am I? I would rather die than submit to you.”

Then Ling Xiansu gave Fire-cloud Wolf a command to rush towards Zhang Ruochen again.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head in despair and turned to attack the leg of Fire-cloud Wolf.

Fire-cloud Wolf lifted its legs with raging flames around the whole body. A pair of feet hard as metal abruptly stepped onto Zhang Ruochen’s head.

Zhang Ruochen immediately changed his strick and bent his legs. Then he took hold of his sword to chop towards the belly of Fire-cloud Wolf.

PFFT!

The Celestial Bodyshield of Fire-cloud Wolf was broken open at once under the sharp lethality of the Abyss Ancient Sword. Its belly was torn by the sword Qi and blood continued to gush out.

Letting out a pathetic roar, Fire-cloud Wolf dashed forward hundreds of meters and ultimately fell on the ground with a sharp piercing reluctance.

SWOOSH!

Flying high of over 10 meters, Ling Xiansu balanced his body in the air and landed onto the ground like a feather.

“If it had not been for the pressure of Half-saint’s Blood Book, you couldn’t have defeated Fire-cloud Wolf, little boy!”



Ling Xiansu couldn't believe that Zhang Ruochen had achieved such significant progress in his strength. He just thought it was the Half-saint's Blood Book that accounted for Fire-cloud Wolf's failure in the battle.

Carrying a bloody sword, Zhang Ruochen went over and asked, "Why don't you run away now?"

With a strange look in his eyes, Ling Xiansu released his anger and said with a sly grin, "I suddenly figured it out and decide to yield to you. Of course, you should first tell me what benefits I can get from you."

"Really?" Zhang Ruochen said.

"Of course!"

As Ling Xiansu walked to the front of Zhang Ruochen, all of a sudden, he whipped out a 17-centimeter silver needle between his two fingers and was about to stab at Zhang Ruochen's glabella.

CLASH!

Ling Xiansu made an attack unexpectedly. If Zhang Ruochen hadn't taken precautions against Ling Xiansu, his Qi Sea in glabella would have been badly destroyed.

Unfortunately, Ling Xiansu underestimated Zhang Ruochen who swayed a sword at the same time of his sneak attack.

CHH!

Then Ling Xiansu's throat was cut down unerringly by the Abyss Ancient Sword, leaving a line of blood.

Ling Xiansu toppled stiff down to the ground with a thud, his eyes widening and staring at the sky out of breath.

Looking at the corpse of Ling Xiansu, Zhang Ruochen signed and said, "There was a very good chance for you but you chose a dead ending."

If Ling Xiansu was willing to desert to Zhang Ruochen, Zhang Ruochen would never mind giving him some superior-level beast-training inscription to help him go further on the path of Beast Trainer.

Of course, it was too late to talk about these now!

Zhang Ruochen walked up to Ling Xiansu to pick up that purple crystal from his hand. A piercing chillness arose when he held it in his hands.

Complex inscription was engraved on the surface of crystal with the brilliance of plumes of Spiritual Qi flowing which manifested an extraordinary treasure.

"This Beast-training Crystal could sell at least five million silver coins. Good stuff!"

Zhang Ruochen stored away the Beast-training Crystal and put it into his Storage Ring.

Afterwards, Zhang Ruochen came straight to the dead Fire-cloud Wolf and cut a hunk of Spiritual Brawn weighing 50 kg from its body.

With crystal clear appearance and crimson color, the Spiritual Brawn gave off a strong fragrance.

Considered to be more precious than many panaceas and Spiritual Doses, the Spiritual Brawn born from fourth-level savage beast was the quintessence of its body which could be easily absorbed by warriors.

Zhang Ruochen intended to take this Spiritual Brawn back to Devil Martial City for Kong Xuan, Bing Xue and Zhang Shaochu as he thought it would benefit them a lot.

Soon afterwards, Zhang Ruochen separated Fire-cloud Wolf's bones, eyes and teeth, putting them into his Storage Ring.

Each part of a fourth-level savage beast was a treasure. Even the flesh and blood of Fire-cloud Wolf could sell at a premium price.

Since Zhang Ruochen had plenty of Spiritual Crystals and didn't lack money, he didn't fetch the wolf's flesh and blood in case Zhang Tiangui found he owned Space Treasure.

Nobody could control the Beast-training Crystal after Ling Xiansu's death. Naturally, those savage beasts fled just like the tide was receding in all directions.

"Gaaa!"

Looking like a giant fireball, Three-footed Firecrow moved towards the horizon and soon flew out of the Yueji City.

Not only did Three-footed Firecrow flee away, another Fourth-level Savage Beast, Dragon-eagle, also escaped and flew towards the boundless Omen Ridge, disappearing in the mountains.

One Fourth-level Savage Beast, Cloud-swallowing Sparrow also wanted to run away but was suppressed by Half-saint's Blood Book and fell onto the ground.

Holding Half-saint's Blood Book, Si Xingkong jumped onto Cloud-swallowing Sparrow's back. Along with Chang Qiqi, Huang Yanchen, Fengxuan and Songji, they left that ruined ancient city and rested outside the city.

Carrying a war knife on his back, Chang Qiqi stood on the top of the Cloud-swallowing Sparrow and shouted in the distance. "Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, the crisis here is solved. Let's hurry back to Devil Martial City now!"

"Okay!"

Zhang Ruochen leaped in the void space for nine times in a row and finally flew onto Cloud-swallowing Sparrow's back after nine rises.

Standing at a high altitude, Zhang Ruochen looked behind and asked, "What about the others?"

Chang Qiqi smiled and answered, "They are all from Yuntai Suzerain and naturally won't go with us."

Zhang Ruochen mused and nodded. Zhang Tiangui, Han Qiu and Lu Qiankun were accredited as the top three internal students of the suzerain in Yuntai Suzerain and all of them were as powerful as warriors of the Earth Board.

Normally, Evil Warriors from Poisonous Spider Club and masters from Square Commandery would not offend them.

Zhang Ruochen held his fists in both hands and said, "Thank you for your great help, elder brother Chang and my eldest brother. But for your rescue, I wouldn't have escaped from Yueji City."

Chang Qiqi said, "No need to thank me for I didn't even give a hand. Instead, you should be grateful to your eldest brother and junior sister apprentice Huang."

Carrying a wine gourd, Si Xingkong took a sip and said with smile, "Since we are all students from the School of the Martial Market, it's an obligation for us to help and support each other. To my surprise, junior fellow apprentice humbled Fire-cloud Wolf with great ease. If it was not for Half-saint's Blood Book, I may not necessarily beat you."

"What? Has junior fellow apprentice Zhang's cultivation become so powerful?" Chang Qiqi exclaimed.

Chang Qiqi already knew that Zhang Ruochen owned strong cultivation and was acknowledged as a talented warrior. But it was implausible if he was said to be stronger than Si Xingkong.

As was known to all, Si Xingkong not merely ranked the first among Ten Prodigies of Omen Ridge but also was the top master of the younger generation.

Si Xingkong glared at Chang Qiqi and said, "That's not surprising at all, as you can see that in one day, your junior fellow apprentice killed three masters at the level of martial arts legends in a row. He has already become the top master of the younger generation. Did you remember when he killed Fire-cloud Wolf, one fourth-level savage beast, with only one sword in Yueji City? That is impossible for me to accomplish."

Chang Qiqi looked at Zhang Ruochen and said enviously, "Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, are you a Four-and-a-half Uniquenesses genius?"

"Four-and-a-half Uniquenesses genius? I think he is a Five Uniquenesses genius at least."

Si Xingkong looked up and fell over on Cloud-swallowing Sparrow's back. After a sip of wine, Si Xingkong grinned and said, "When junior fellow apprentice Zhang come back to Devil Martial City, the title of the first genius of 36 commanderies in Omen Ridge and the top master of the younger generation will possibly be supplanted. Haha..."

Zhang Ruochen said with smile, "My eldest brother, how could you give your position of the top master of younger generation to me so easily?"

Si Xingkong's eyes lit up and appeared a sense of war intent. "Of course it's not that easy to be the top one. Sooner or later, we will have a battle and I wish you will strain every nerve to fight with me then."

"Sure." Zhang Ruochen said firmly.

To battle with full strength was the greatest respect for him.

Huang Yanchen sat cross-legged on Zhang Ruochen's left at a short distance. She asked, "According to the news from Hugestone City, I heard you have grasped pivotal collusive evidence of Poisonous Spider Club and the Royal Family of Square Commandery. Is the news reliable, Zhang Ruochen?"

“Yes.”

Zhang Ruochen nodded.

Then Huang Yanchen threw her eyes on Chang Qiqi and Si Xingkong. She pondered for a while and said, “Could you come to my practice mansion tonight? I have important things to consult with you.”

Seeing Huang Yanchen was about to talk but said nothing, Zhang Ruochen nodded his head and agreed.

After half a day, Zhang Ruochen, Si Xingkong, Chang Qiqi and Huang Yanchen returned back to the Internal Academy.

Afterwards, Si Xingkong led Zhang Ruochen alone to Silver Gowned Elder Hall.

The Hall Master of Silver Gowned Elder Hall was called Lei Jing who was in charge of everything concerning Martial Market Banks in 36 commanderies of Omen Ridge. And all silver gowned Elders should defer to him.

It could be said that in some respects, Lei Jing had more power even than Palace Master of the School of the Martial Market.

Chapter 265: Master Lei

Having arrived at the topmost floor of the Silver Gowned Elder Hall, Zhang Ruochen finally met one of the most powerful people in Omen Ridge and the 36 commanderies— the Hall Master of the Silver Gowned Elder Hall.

“Greetings to Master Lei!” Zhang Ruochen and Si Xingkong bowed and saluted together.

Although Lei Jing would be 94 this year, he did not appear old. He appeared to be in his fifties with wide shoulders and bronzed skin. He seemed to be full of energy.

Once someone practiced his Martial Arts to the Heaven Realm, their physical quality would become strong like that of Advanced Stage savage beasts. They could control various processes in their body and reduce the aging of their bodies.

Also, Lei Jing’s power was not simply because he was a warrior in the Heaven Realm.

He sat behind his study desk with a martial scroll in one hand, reading. A moment later he lifted his head slightly and said lightly, “Si Xingkong, you may go about your own business!”

“Yes, Hall Master.”

Si Xingkong respectfully saluted him again then left.

Only Zhang Ruochen and Lei Jing were left in the room.

Lei Jing put down the martial scroll in his hand and considered Zhang Ruochen curiously. He revealed the trace of a smile and asked, “You are Zhang Ruochen?”

“Yes.”

Zhang Ruochen brought out the account book and said, "Hall Master, this..."

"No rush!"

Lei Jing smiled and shook his head. He seemed much more interested in Zhang Ruochen than in the account book.

"I have heard that you name yourself as one of my Secret Disciples to the outside world. Was this true?"

Lei Jing's demeanor changed. His whole body began to emit a red light, and a strong wave of power flooded the room.

Zhang Ruochen's face paled. It seemed to him that Lei Jing had just turned into a giant volcano that was about to spit out molten lava which would envelop him like an ocean and consume his body.

"What a terrifying anger! Master Lei's martial cultivation has surpassed that of the Completion of the Heaven Realm and reached another realm, the Fish-Dragon Realm. Only a warrior of the Fish-Dragon Realm could have such terrifying anger."

This was Zhang Ruochen's first meeting with a warrior of this level after he had arrived eight hundred years into the future.

With only the Martial Arts aura emitting from the other person, Zhang Ruochen was already having trouble breathing. His body felt like it was burning in molten lava.

Zhang Ruochen gritted his teeth and recited Scripture of Emperor Ming's Empyrean. Spiritual Fire and Genuine Qi moved through the 36 Meridians in his body and reduced some of the aura's pressure.

In the center of his forehead, a fire mark appeared like a glowing cinder.

Lei Jing's eyes lit up and a light cry came from his mouth.

After an indefinite amount of time, the terrifying pressure gradually faded.

Feeling the pressure ease, Zhang Ruochen immediately ceased his circulation exercises and once again look towards Lei Jing. To his surprise, he saw Lei Jing sitting as before beside his desk as if he had never moved.

"It seems like Master Lei was just testing me and that he was not truly angry."

Zhang Ruochen gently released a breath and relaxed a little. If he really had offended someone of Lei Jing's ability, then even if he had three heads and six arms he would not be able to stand against him.

"Not bad. You were able to continue standing after I exerted 30% of my power to suppress you. You are the first warrior below the Heaven Realm to be able to do so." Lei Jing smiled.

Zhang Ruochen stubbornly continued, "Your Secret Disciple is Chen Ruo. Perhaps there has been some misunderstanding."

Lei Jing said, "Really? But I have heard that recently, Chen Ruo and Yuantai Suzerain's Han Qiu killed the Square Commandery's Army-Guarding Marquis Huo Yundu in Hugestone City. They also took away an account book from Mu Qing's mansion. Did you hear about this?"

Zhang Ruochen was a bit ashamed, he thought for a bit, then smiled bitterly. "In all honesty, I have used the name 'Chen Ruo' as an alias, and I claimed myself as your Secret Disciple for my own safety. It is I who have acted wrongly in this matter. I accept your punishment!"

Lei Jing had not expected Zhang Ruochen to confess in such a straight-forward manner. He laughed loudly and said, "Interesting!"

Lei Jing became serious and said, "If you had been a mediocrity, I would have taught you a lesson to remember. If a mediocre person claimed to be my Secret Disciple, wouldn't that ruin my reputation?"

"However, I have tested you just now, and I have discovered that you are a great genius. If a genius claims to be my disciple and word gets out, others will believe that I am a good teacher and that I can recognize talent when I see it. That is not a bad thing!"

"What do you mean by that?" Asked Zhang Ruochen.

Lei Jing said, "I have a condition. If you can fulfill it, then not only will I not investigate this further, I will actually accept you as my Secret Disciple! What do you think?"

Zhang Ruochen asked, "What is the condition?"

Lei Jing did not immediately tell Zhang Ruochen his condition, rather he asked, "You have opened a total of 27 Meridians in your body, correct?"

"Yes," Zhang Ruochen replied.

In reality, Zhang Ruochen had opened 36 Meridians in his body, but nine of them were Wonder Meridians. Even Lei Jing could not perceive them, and so he believed Zhang Ruochen only had 27 Meridians in his body.

Even so, Lei Jing was already very shocked.

"You must have practiced a very powerful exercise to be able to open up 27 Meridians. Seems like you've had a fortuitous encounter." Lei Jing said.

Kunlun's Field has had a long history and has seen the birth of countless Saints. Even in Omen Ridge, there are secrets yet to be discovered.

Even if Zhang Ruochen had a fortuitous encounter, it was not strange. It only meant that he was very lucky.

Lei Jing nodded and did not ask what exercise Zhang Ruochen had practiced. He said, "My condition is this: You must break into the top 100 of the Earth Board this year, and you must help me do something."

"What is it?" Asked Zhang Ruochen.

Lei Jing smiled, "Don't worry, I won't have you do anything too dangerous. Just focus on your practice, and once you have entered the top 100 on the Earth Board, I will tell you exactly what you have to do."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Why me?"

Lei Jing smiled, "First, you owe me a favor. Are you not going to repay it?"

“Second, there isn’t a student in the School of the Martial Market who can make it into the top 100 of the Earth Board. Even the most powerful, Si Xingkong, is only ranked 4740 on the Earth Board. As to the other students on the Earth Board, they are all in the tens of thousands.”

“You have a great deal of natural talent, so it shouldn’t be difficult for you to reach the top 1000. However, as to the top 100... Although it is difficult, you still have a chance. If I don’t choose you, I have no other choice.”

The Earth Board covered a large area, including within it the entire Eastern Region and listed the top 100,000 warriors of the Earth Realm.

Most importantly, the Earth Board only accepted warriors below the age of 50. Once a warrior reached 50, then he or she could not enter the Earth Board, no matter how powerful their martial cultivation had grown.

If someone hadn’t broken into the Heaven Realm by 50, then his room for improvement was very slim even if they eventually reached the Heaven Realm.

So the Earth Board was not only a symbol of power, but also a demonstration of talent and potential.

In the entire 36 commanderies of Omen Ridge, only a total of 17 people have entered the Earth Board. Among them, seven were young warriors under the age of 30.

Of them, the highest ranked was Si Xingkong, who was ranked the 4740th.

The second highest was Zhang Tiangui, who had just broken into the Completion of the Earth Realm. He was the 5040th.

The third was a young prodigy from the Black Market named Hong Yu. He was ranked the 9470th.

The rest of the warriors were ranked below 10,000th.

Of course, the Lady Saint from the Moon Worship Demonic Sect was also on the Earth Board and was among the first 100. Her power was unfathomable. However, she was only seen once in Yunwu Commandery, and so no one considered her a warrior of Omen Ridge. Most people believe she had already left Omen Ridge.

Zhang Ruochen said, “Hall Master, each of the warriors in the top 100 is Genius prodigies of the Eastern Region. It will be difficult to reach that level.”

“Are you not confident in your abilities?” Lei Jing asked.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, “Of course I have confidence. But, why must I enter the top 100 of the Earth Board?”

“Because this is the least of the conditions if you want to become my Secret Disciple.”

In reality, Zhang Ruochen did not actually want to be Lei Jing’s Secret Disciple because Lei Jing had nothing to teach Zhang Ruochen the subject of martial arts. However, he had borrowed Lei Jing’s name, so he owed him a favor.

What was owed must be repaid.

Zhang Ruochen replied, "Very well! I promise you that I will enter the top 100 of the Earth Board within a year."

Lei Jing nodded with satisfaction and added a reminder, "Everyone probably knows that Chen Ruo and Zhang Ruochen are the same person by now. I don't care why you chose this alias to use at first, but after your identity has been revealed, let me know if you run into any trouble. In the Omen Ridge, there are few matters and people I can't deal with."

Zhang Ruochen replied, "I can deal with ordinary enemies, and I try not to anger those much more powerful than me. At the moment, I won't need to bother you. Of course, if I do run into trouble in the future, I will come ask for your help."

Lei Jing smiled, "Good! Now, you can bring that account book and let me have a look."

Zhang Ruochen placed the account book on the desk in front of Lei Jing.

Picking up the account book, Lei Jing began to read. Gradually his brow furrowed deeper and deeper, and a sternness crept into his gaze.

BANG!

Lei Jing threw the account book on the table and sneered coldly, "Square Commandery Prince sure is brave. Does he think the Square Commandery is his private property? Zhang Ruochen, you can go! I will immediately deliver this account book to the East Region Saint Mansion and have the authorities of the First Central Empire deal with the Square Commandery Prince. It's a death sentence to work with the Black Market and against the interests of the Empire."

Chapter 266: Negotiation

Zhang Ruochen walked out of the silver-gowned elder's hall and stood on the stone steps. He looked into the air and grinned. "Square Commandery Prince is completely doomed. I expect the pattern of Western Nine Prefectures to also have a dramatic change."

It was getting dark. The night was like pitch-black silk covering Devil Martial City, which was built high in the mountains, and making it extraordinarily mysterious.

Passing by the green stone streets, Zhang Ruochen stopped outside Huang Yanchen's practice mansion.

He did not knock on the door, but it opened by itself.

"Master, Her Majesty has been waiting for you for a long time," said a very beautiful maid of 16 or 17 years. She was holding a colorful lantern. She opened the door and led Zhang Ruochen inside.

Zhang Ruochen took a look at the maid and found that her cultivation had reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm. It was quite an amazing feat for someone of her age. She would definitely become a student at School of the Martial Market.

The maid led Zhang Ruochen into the parlor and poured hot tea for him, then she withdrew and closed the door.



Huang Yanchen was already waiting in the parlor. She was practicing, but she stopped when Zhang Ruochen walked in. With her eyes open wide, she said coldly, "Please, sit down."

Zhang Ruochen did not stand on ceremony. He got a chair and sat opposite Huang Yanchen. He observed her carefully and said, "Senior sister apprentice, you have practiced very quickly and have reached the Medium State of the Earth Realm, haven't you?"

"How can my cultivation speed compare with yours? You are a great master and can kill a strong man in the Heaven Realm. Compared with you, I am far behind!" Huang Yanchen rolled her eyes and gave him a hard look.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Senior sister apprentice, you don't need to be modest with me. When I was in the Western Campus, the Deputy Headmaster told me that you were hiding your strength. Would she lie to me?"

Huang Yanchen ground her teeth and said angrily, "How talkative is that old woman!"

Huang Yanchen smiled like a blossoming lily. She said, "You pretended to be a Secret Disciple of Master Lei. Did that irritate him?"

Zhang Ruochen rarely saw Huang Yanchen's smile, but right now, her smile was beautiful enough to melt ice or brighten up a room.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ruochen had a bizarre feeling that Huang Yanchen was not acting like herself today. It was too unusual.

"Master Lei was indeed very angry. But this has already been resolved. Senior sister apprentice, you don't need to worry about me," Zhang Ruochen said.

On their way back, Huang Yanchen had held back some things in front of Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi. She definitely had her own purpose for meeting Zhang Ruochen alone tonight.

Zhang Ruochen came straight to the question. "Senior sister apprentice, is there something important that we have to meet alone to discuss?"

Huang Yanchen nodded, stopped smiling, and said, "I know a bit about the things that happened in Square Commandery and Poisonous Spider Club. Once Master Lei presents the evidence in the Eastern Region Saints Mansion, Square Commandery will be bound to be punished. Then, the surrounding commanderies will attack Square Commandery and take its territory, population, wealth, and resources."

Zhang Ruochen seemed to understand the reason Huang Yanchen invited him there. He still pretended not to know and said, "Senior sister apprentice, what do you mean?"

"My meaning is very simple. I want to know whether or not Yunwu Commandery wants to annex Square Commandery and become a medium level commandery?"

Huang Yanchen stared into Zhang Ruochen's eyes intensely, trying to see through to his very thoughts.

Zhang Ruochen thought for a moment and said, "Although there are some martial arts legends in the Royal Family in Yunwu Commandery, no one has reached the Completion of Heaven Realm. According to

the stipulation of the First Central Empire, any family must have in place a master at the Completion of Heaven Realm. Then, it can be the Royal Family of a medium level commandery and help the First Central Empire to rule that area.”

Huang Yanchen said, “With your talent, you could reach the Completion of Heaven Realm within ten years. Then, you could be the master of the Yunwu Commandery. No one would dare to say otherwise.”

“Zhang Ruochen, this is a perfect opportunity. If Yunwu Commandery wants to be a medium level commandery, you will have Qianshui Commandery’s full support.”

“And, Master Lei admires you very much. As long as he orders it, the Martial Market Bank will support Yunwu Commandery fully. The Martial Market Bank has branches all over Square Commandery. As long as they support you, then half of Square Commandery will be behind the Yunwu Commandery.”

“If Square Commandery is annexed, Yunwu Commandery will be the most powerful of the Western Nine Prefectures. With the support of Master Lei and Qianshui Commandery, it will be just a matter of time before Yunwu Commandery unifies the Western Nine Prefectures. Eventually, Yunwu Commandery could even unify the entire Omen Ridge and develop into a superior class commandery.”

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, “I didn’t see it earlier, but, Senior sister apprentice, you are very ambitious. I’m impressed.”

Huang Yanchen gave Zhang Ruochen a stare, lifting her chest to expose her long white neck. She said, “We are family now. If I don’t help you plan, who will I help? If you can become a king in a superior class commandery, I will be the queen.”

“Wait! Wait!”

Zhang Ruochen said, “Senior sister apprentice, we agreed that we were pretending to be engaged.”

Huang Yanchen said, “Is the engagement still pretend? Zhang Ruochen, I don’t have to marry you. There are lots of people who are pursuing me. It’s just that you are getting more and more talented in Martial Arts. If we break the engagement, everyone will think that you have a higher standard and have rejected me. I will become an abandoned woman. What will people think of me, and you?”

“Those Martial World warriors will think you are an ungrateful and heartless man.”

“So, we can’t break off this engagement! Although it is debasing to marry you, for our reputation, I can only submit to it!”

Zhang Ruochen said, “Actually, we don’t have to care about other people’s opinions at all. The most important thing is to follow your own heart. If you feel debased, then let me be the bad guy. In two years, I will go to Qianshui Commandery to break off the engagement personally.”

“You will break off the engagement? How will I be able to get married?” Huang Yanchen bit her lips and felt very angry. She thought that Zhang Ruochen was an idiot. She had been so honest, how could he not understand that?

“His Martial Arts was at such a high level, so why was his EQ so low?” she thought. “Does he really now know my true feelings?”

Did he really not know my true thoughts?

Chapter 267: Feeling

Zhang Ruochen touched his chin and said, "There is another way. Senior sister apprentice, you can take the initiative to break off the engagement...Senior sister apprentice...You..."

Huang Yanchen stood up suddenly, shaking with anger. A blast of cold Genuine Qi rushed out from her body and ice crystals formed around the room.

"Did I...say something wrong...again?" Zhang Ruochen felt Huang Yanchen's anger and was puzzled.

"Bang!"

Huang Yanchen struck out her palm toward Zhang Ruochen's chest.

Zhang Ruochen sat on the chair, stretched his fingers out quickly to grab Huang Yanchen's wrist and said, "Senior sister apprentice, you have a terrible temper! Even if you want to fight, you should tell me the reason. Senior sister apprentice, you...why are you crying?"

Huang Yanchen threw herself into Zhang Ruochen's arms with her lips pressed together tightly. Her arms, white as a lotus root, held Zhang Ruochen and she buried her face in his chest. She shed a flood of tears and kept sobbing.

Zhang Ruochen was petrified and felt the warmth in his arms. He never expected that the ice cold Huang Yanchen could be like a little girl, throwing herself into his arms, crying, and beating his chest lightly.

This feeling...was unreal!

Was this really the imperious devil of Western Campus, Huang Yanchen?

Was this really the supercilious, arrogant princess of Qianshui Commandery, Huang Yanchen?

"Senior sister apprentice, you..."

Zhang Ruochen sat on the chair and dared not move. His mind was a complete blank.

Zhang Ruochen was only 18 years old. A woman had never thrown herself into his arms before.

It felt very strange. Zhang Ruochen was really thrown for a loop.

Huang Yanchen was a weeping beauty. She sobbed, "Zhang Ruochen, I don't want to break it off...I just don't..."

"I don't know when it happened. Perhaps in Earth No.1, by the bathing pool, when I gave you a serious injury with one fist, we were already tied together by fate. Or maybe, when we practiced the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon in Chikong Secret Mansion, when you rescued me from the Poisonous Spider Club. I don't know why...why I've fallen for you."

"When I heard that you were being hunted down by the masters of the Poisonous Spider Club and Square Commandery, I was so scared that I wouldn't be able to see you again. After all, you were so

young! How could you defeat those insidious, devious masters? It wasn't until then that I realized and confirmed the true feelings in my heart."

"But...Why...Why are you so brutal as to refuse me? Why? Why must you break off the engagement? Why?"

Huang Yanchen grabbed Zhang Ruochen's clothes and kept asking questions. She was in misery and bathed in tears.

As he heard Huang Yanchen's confession, Zhang Ruochen's eyes gradually softened.

Huang Yanchen at this moment was not an unreasonable, frost-hearted beauty, but a woman who needed to be cared for.

With her arrogance, it was difficult for her to be so vulnerable with her feelings.

It was mainly because he knew little about affection and had been unable to see Huang Yanchen's love. If he was a womanizer, he would have seen through Huang Yanchen a long time ago. She would never have needed to be so straightforward.

Once he spoke, there would be no going back.

Should he refuse or agree?

If he refused her, would she be sadder? Would they become strangers from then on?

If he agreed, was he really going to marry her?

Zhang Ruochen had not prepared for this. After all, he was only 18. And, he never expected that something he had done unintentionally would become a romance.

Zhang Ruochen did not know how to respond, so he hesitated for a long time. Then, he said, "Senior sister apprentice, actually, I loved someone else, and I won't love another woman anytime soon."

Huang Yanchen lifted her head with tear marks on her face, and said, "Who is it? Chen Xier? Duanmu Xingling? Or Han Qiu?"

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "None of them. Senior sister apprentice, you can be assured! I won't mention breaking up in the future anymore. As you said, since I agreed to the engagement, there is no way we could break it off."

"Are you pitying me?"

"I..."

Huang Yanchen's eyes were cold. She stood up, tidied up her messy clothes, and dried her tears. She turned around and did not dare to look Zhang Ruochen in the eye.

"Sorry!" Zhang Ruochen sighed.

He knew Huang Yanchen's feelings for him, and he had positive feelings for her, too. But how could he forget the woman he once loved?

Both love and hatred were so powerful.

Before Zhang Ruochen found out what had happened 800 years ago, he could only focus on the Martial Arts and try not to let himself get emotionally bogged down .

If he could let go of Chi Yao totally in the future, he might find a girl he could get along with. They could be together like a match made in heaven, which was not a bad thing.

“Zhang Ruochen, never tell Duanmu Xingling and Chen Xier what just happened. No, you should never tell anyone. You have to know that I’ve never cried before.” Huang Yanchen said coldly, her eyes red.

“All right! I should head back!”

Zhang Ruochen said goodbye to Huang Yanchen.

His feelings were very confusing, and he was thinking about a lot of things that happened long ago. He needed to go someplace to clear his mind.

Huang Yanchen let Zhang Ruochen walk away. She never even turned around.

Once Zhang Ruochen had walked out of the practice mansion, Huang Yanchen stomped her feet hard and hit her own head angrily. “What was wrong with me? Why did I hold onto Zhang Ruochen crying and talk about those things with him? Does he think that I was begging him? He must be laughing at me.”

“Damn! Who the hell is the woman in his heart?”

Huang Yanchen had great inner strength and would never give up. She was sure that if she worked hard enough, she could walk into Zhang Ruochen’s heart sooner or later.

Huang Yanchen was not really concerned that someone else was in Zhang Ruochen’s heart. Any powerful man would have lots of wives and concubines.

Huang Yanchen’s father, the Qianshui Commandery Prince, had married Huang Yanchen’s mother, but he had other concubines, too, with dozens of sons and daughters. It was a normal thing!

The key was that Huang Yanchen felt she had to have a place in Zhang Ruochen’s heart. Other women could not occupy Zhang Ruochen’s heart completely.

“Since he has promised that he will never again mention breaking off the engagement, there are countless possibilities.”

Huang Yanchen clenched her hands and said, “No matter who the girl is, I don’t believe that she is too outstanding to be defeated. At least I am Zhang Ruochen’s legal fiancée now, which is my biggest advantage.”

### **Chapter 268: Brightness Half-Saint**

Walking out of Huang Yanchen’s practice mansion, Zhang Ruochen took a deep breath and looked back. He still could not calm himself down.

In the dark, a petite, beautiful girl walked out barefoot and stood in the air 10 centimeters above the ground. She walked behind Zhang Ruochen without a sound and said, "Zhang Ruochen, are you feeling regret after you refused Sister Chen?"

Zhang Ruochen seemed to know that Duanmu Xingling was nearby, and he was not surprised at all. He said, "Have you been eavesdropping?"

"No, I was just passing by, and I heard your conversation accidentally. To be honest, I never expected that Sister Chen would be so vulnerable as to express her feelings for you. And yet, you refused her cruelly! What can I say to you?"

"You don't understand some things," Zhang Ruochen said.

"Tch! You keep on pretending! Every man wants lots of concubines and wives. With Sister Chen's beauty, family background, and talent, how come she doesn't deserve you? You must have another purpose. You know that Sister Chen has a strong character. The harder it is, the more she wants it. Are you playing hard to get?"

"You are thinking too much!" Zhang Ruochen said.

But Duanmu Xingling reminded Zhang Ruochen that Huang Yanchen indeed had a strong character. She would not give up easily.

More importantly, Zhang Ruochen had agreed that he would not mention breaking up again. Had he just given her hope?

Damn it.

He had said something wrong again!

Duanmu Xingling pushed out her well-developed chest and emphasized the curves of her body. She put her hands behind the back and leaned over with an enchanting smile on her face. "I really want to know who the woman is? Could she really be me?"

"Do you think it's possible?"

Zhang Ruochen patted Duanmu Xingling's shoulder and said coldly, "Don't think too much. It's not you."

Duanmu Xingling was discouraged and disheartened. She sighed. "I knew it wasn't me. Your standard is too high. Did you fall in love with senior sister disciple Luo?"

"Don't speculate. If senior sister disciple Luo found out, there would be a big misunderstanding," Zhang Ruochen said.

"I don't even want to guess!"

Duanmu Xingling folded her arms and said coldly, "Zhang Ruochen, you are a real fool. If I were you, I would take this opportunity to get with Sister Chen. Then, what has been done cannot be undone. She will listen to you from now on. With the way she feels right now, she won't resist. What a pity! You refused Sister Chen right at the door!"

Zhang Ruochen was speechless, and he said, "Do you think I am that kind of person?"

“It’s nothing. She is your fiancée, and she will be yours sooner or later.”

Duanmu Xingling smiled. “You have to know that Sister Chen is an ice beauty, not just a shy little girl. If you miss this chance, it will be ten times harder to get her later.”

“We don’t know if she and I will get together or not.” Zhang Ruochen did not want to keep talking about this with Duanmu Xingling, so he asked, “Is the little girl I sent here now living in your mansion?”

Quietly, Duanmu Xingling asked, “Is she your illegitimate daughter?”

Zhang Ruochen replied, “What are you thinking? She is my disciple and a martial arts prodigy with great talent.”

“I certainly know she is a martial arts genius with the Thousand-Bones Physical Quality, which has been rare in both ancient and modern times. What a stroke of luck for you to find her!” Duanmu Xingling said.

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, “You found out about that, too. Where is she now?”

“How should I know?” Duanmu Xingling said unpleasantly.

“How can you not know?”

Duanmu Xingling said, “Blackie took to that little girl ever since she was sent to my practice mansion. I don’t know what’s wrong with that little cat. He is obedient to her in every matter, and he loves her very much. Not long ago, Blackie left Devil Martial City with the little girl. He left a letter saying that he was going to attend a special sacrifice with the little girl to help her initiate the Sacred Mark.”

“You just stood there and watched as Han Xue was taken away by a cat?” Zhang Ruochen asked. “Senior Sister Apprentice Duanmu, I’ve always felt that you are a very thoughtful person. How can you let a cat do whatever he wants?”

“It’s my fault?”

Duanmu Xingling said testily, “You know better than I do how cunning that cat is. And, when you got back, you only cared about Sister Chen and Han Xue, but not me, your Senior Sister Apprentice.”

“Is there something the matter with you, Senior Sister Apprentice?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

Duanmu Xingling sighed. “My boyfriend got engaged to my best female friend, how could I be pleased?”

Zhang Ruochen knew that Duanmu Xingling was not really angry and that she was just joking. He said, “Senior Sister Apprentice Duanmu, you are talking about Chen Ruo. It is him that makes you unhappy. Why don’t you go to my practice mansion? I received a treasure recently. You may feel better when you see it.”

“What treasure?”

“You’ll find out when you get there!”

Zhang Ruochen brought Duanmu Xingling back to his practice mansion and entered the Secret Room for refining. He took a metal tube out of the Storage Ring.

Zhang Ruochen opened the canister and took out a rolled-up painting.

Duanmu Xingling waited by the side curiously and her eyes suddenly lit up as she watched Zhang Ruochen slowly unrolling the painted scroll.

A powerful martial arts aura emanated from the painted scroll. The two young warriors felt like the whole world was presented in front of them, or as if a Half-Saint was coming down from heaven.

“Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph.”

Duanmu Xingling immediately rushed up and stared at the world on the painting with her big, beautiful eyes. She said, “Authentic work! It is an authentic work! Only Half-Saint families can have the authentic Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph. Zhang Ruochen, how did you get this?”

Zhang Ruochen looked at Duanmu Xingling curiously and said, “I heard that you were sent to the School of the Martial Market by a Half-Saint. You should belong to the Half-Saint families and you have surely seen the authentic Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph. You don’t need to act so surprised.”

“How did you know that I was sent to the School of the Martial Market to practice by a Half-Saint?” Duanmu Xingling asked.

“I heard it,” Zhang Ruochen knew he had spilled the beans, so he tried to cover it casually.

Duanmu Xingling certainly was not a Half-Saint family member. Since Zhang Ruochen already thought so, she just admitted it and sighed. “The authentic Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph represents the inheritance of Martial Arts of Half-Saint. Even in Half-Saint families, it is a top level treasure. Nobody can just look at it whenever they want.”

“You are right!” Zhang Ruochen said.

Duanmu Xingling was so afraid that Zhang Ruochen would keep asking questions. She smiled strangely and said, “You got an authentic Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph, but instead of sharing it with Sister Chen, you showed it to me. What’s your purpose?”

Zhang Ruochen said, “Senior Sister Apprentice Huang is a princess in Qianshui Commandery and the niece of the owner of the School of the Martial Market. If she agrees, she can view the authentic Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph at any time. But we don’t have that advantage, so we should help and support each other.”

Hearing Zhang Ruochen’s words, Duanmu Xingling was moved, although she felt a little guilty, too.

Actually, Duanmu Xingling wanted to see the Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph. With her status, she could view one anytime she chose.

Zhang Ruochen, however, did not know that, so when he got Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph, he asked if she wanted to check it out. He did not hide the Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph to practice alone because of its preciousness.

Thus, Zhang Ruochen really saw her as a friend and trusted her very much.

Duanmu Xingling thought about telling Zhang Ruochen her identity, but she was afraid that he would be shocked. So, she did not reveal herself.



Zhang Ruochen saw Duanmu Xingling's face and knew that she had something on her mind, or that she was hiding something.

*I guess you are not just a junior of a Half-Saint family.*

Although Zhang Ruochen was confused, he did not ask.

Duanmu Xingling must have a reason not to share her secret, just like how Zhang Ruochen did not share his secret identity as the son of Emperor Ming 800 years ago.

Everyone has had difficulties and things that they do not want to share.

Zhang Ruochen hung the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph on the wall again.

On the scroll, a star, a moon, and a sun hung in three different directions in the sky.

A line of small words in the lower left corner read, "A Painting of the Sun and the Moon – by Brightness Half-Saint."

The picture looked very simple, but it contained very powerful Spiritual Determination and Martial Arts mysteriousness.

Zhang Ruochen just took a casual look, and he felt like he was integrated into the world of the painting.

According to Zhang Ruochen's analysis, by examining only the Star Picture, one's Spiritual Power could reach the 18th level. If one examined the Moon Picture, he or she could reach the 28th level, and examining the Sun Picture could promote one's Spiritual Power to the 38th level.

"With the help of the Painting of the Sun and the Moon, my Spiritual Power could reach the 38th level."

Zhang Ruochen sat on the ground with his legs crossed, released his Spiritual Power, and entered the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph.

Three days in a row, both Zhang Ruochen and Duanmu Xingling stayed in the Secret Practice Room, practicing and improving their Spiritual Power gradually.

After three days, both of them withdrew from the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph. Each had their achievement and started to notice the differences.

Duanmu Xingling left Zhang Ruochen's practice mansion and went back to seclude herself for refining. She seemed to realize some of the essence of Martial Arts from it.

The authentic Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph not only contained Half-Saint's Spiritual Determination but also Half-Saint's Martial Arts Essence.

Zhang Ruochen also learned some Martial Arts from the Painting of the Sun and the Moon. He spent two weeks to digest the Martial Arts power, and his martial cultivation improved greatly.

Of course, since Duanmu Xingling had left, Zhang Ruochen entered the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel to practice for two weeks, while only five days passed in reality.

Chapter 269: Qiu Lin, One of the Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge

“Although the practicing exercises of the Brightness Half-Saint can’t compare to the Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Empyrean, his understanding about Martial Arts is deeper than mine. It’s good for me to consider the Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph he left.”

During his meditation on the Painting of the Sun and the Moon , the Genuine Qi in his body continually blended into his bones and the splendor of the stars began to cast its glow on his bones.

His mortal body grew more robust.

The Martial Arts of the Brightness Half-Saint who had paid more attention to practicing his mortal body’s physical quality, especially his shinbones, was different from that of Zhang Ruochen.

Once a warrior chose a particular exercise, his decision was locked in.

Even if two warriors practiced with the same method, their Martial Arts would be totally different. One tended to achieve more than the other.

To some extent, to perceive the Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph and learn Half-Saint’s Martial Arts was to change one’s own Martial Arts and break the limitation of exercise.

Some talented warriors could even create their own Martial Arts style with unique exercises after they had studied the Arts of many Half-Saints or Saints.

Weren’t Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Empyrean and Peacock Canon both written by predecessors?

Zhang Ruochen put high requirements on himself, so he tried to learn more Martial Arts from the basis of Emperor Ming’s Empyrean to create stronger Martial Arts.

“With my current martial cultivation, I am able to contend with some weak warriors of the Heaven Realm, but my martial techniques are limited.”

“It is time to practice the fifth palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm, ‘Nine Elephants Power’, to succeed in increasing the ferocity of my palm technique.”

Zhang Ruochen had practiced to the sixth fold of the Nine-folds of the Elephant Power, and now he could deliver an attack six times more powerful.

The higher he practiced, the harder it became.

It was difficult to make further progress only practicing in the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel.

So he had to go the Mount Saint Crossing to practice Nine-folds of the Elephant Power with the help of the Gravity Practicing Secret Room’s special environment.

In the Gravity Practicing Secret Room, he could develop his palm techniques in a tenfold, or even hundredfold, gravity environment, thus strengthening his body.

The Four Martial Arts Realms, Yellow, Black, Earth, and Heaven, laid emphasis on mortal body cultivation.

The mortal body was the basis of all Martial Arts!

On his way to the Mount Saint Crossing, Zhang Ruochen meant to go the Merit Tower first to exchange some of his merit.

When he arrived at the Merit Tower, many people recognized him.

“Is he the famous Zhang Ruochen? It is said that the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider, one of the Seven Young Masters of the Black Market, died at his hands.”

“Not only the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider, but he also killed two Heaven Realm masters in the Black Market.”

“What? He could kill masters of the Heaven Realm? Wouldn’t you say that he already has the power to enter the Earth Board and maybe rank in the top fifth in the Internal Academy?”

“He is so young, not yet 20 years old. Maybe even our elder brother won’t be his rival in the future because of his terrible strength.”

“How many merits did he gain after killing the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider and two Black Market Heaven Realm masters? Maybe 30,000 merits?”

...

Only top geniuses could enter the Internal Academy, and so none of them were unskilled. Even so, they were all excited to see Zhang Ruochen and admire him.

He was a young king who could kill a martial arts legend!

A conqueror like Zhang Ruochen would be an influential figure of the youth in a Half-Saint or Saint family, let alone in the Omen Ridge.

Just then, a man in a silver robe walked out of the Merit Tower. He was two meters tall with a cool temperament, acting every inch the superior.

Four or five internal students walked behind him like his attendants.

Only three internal students had the right to wear a silver robe, and each was an Earth Board master. Together they were called the three dominators of the Internal Academy.

All other internal students should look up to him.

This man was named Qiu Lin, ranked second in the Internal Academy and the 27,861st on Earth Board. As one of the Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge, he boasted great fame in the 36 commanderies of Omen Ridge.

Two years ago, in the war between Qiu Lin and the Leech King, a fourth-level savage beast, Qiu Lin killed his enemy, and fought with aquatic savage beasts for the next three days without a break. He killed thousands of them, which dyed the river red for hundreds of miles.

That war made him very well-known.

Staring at Zhang Ruochen from afar, Qiu Lin assumed a disdainful expression, and he asked an internal student next to him, "Is that the prince from an inferior commandery who has flattered Commandery Princess Yanchen and junior sister apprentice Chen Xier?"

"Yes elder brother, he is Zhang Ruochen." Said Xun Guihai who stood behind Qiu Lin with a stony face.

Xun Guihai was a tip-top influential figure beyond the Academy, however in the Internal Academy he did not rank in the top hundred. So, in front of Qiu Lin, he was respectful.

Now Xun Guihai had not fully developed his skill. But even when he grew up, he still would not be able to attain as high a degree as Qiu Lin.

Except Si Xingkong, no one in the Internal Academy dared disrespect Qiu Lin because of his great strength.

When seeing Qiu Lin walking to Zhang Ruochen, Xun Guihai gloated.

"Wow! It's elder brother Qiu Lin. Fancy seeing him at the Merit Tower." Said a pretty female student.

"Really, that's him! They said some time ago he accepted the task of handling a heresy branch gang in Moon Commandery. Maybe now he has finished it and come back to exchange some merits."

...

...

Qiu Lin had been used to screams from these internal students and he smiled slightly.

In the Internal Academy, it was he who was the real king, and Zhang Ruochen was far beneath him.

Walking in front of Zhang Ruochen, Qiu Lin showed great hostility to him and said superciliously, "They said you killed the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider. Did you?"

Zhang Ruochen stared at Qiu Lin and replied, "Could you please tell me who are you?"

"I am Qiu Lin." He said arrogantly.

Zhang Ruochen said, "It's elder brother Qiu! I've heard a lot about you."

With that, Zhang Ruochen bypassed him, walking straight to the Merit Tower.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen had heard Qiu Lin's name before, because he ranked sixth among the Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge.

However, he had planned to exchange his merits and go straight to Mount Saint Crossing. He had no time to talk with Qiu Lin, so he just left.

But Qiu Lin did not let Zhang Ruochen go so easily. He sneered and called, "Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, I'm the second brother of the School of the Martial Market. I don't think you respect me."

Zhang Ruochen stopped walking and asked, "Elder brother Qiu, you are so serious! How have I disrespected you?"

"Oh, really? Did you salute me when you met me?" Said Qiu Lin.

Now Zhang Ruochen saw clearly that Qiu Lin was looking for trouble deliberately.

But Zhang Ruochen did not see where he had offended him.

Though he preferred not to stir up trouble, he was never afraid when it came to him.

Xun Guihai ,who stood behind Qiu Lin, sneered. “Zhang Ruochen, don’t be so proud, even if you have killed the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider. Don’t dream you are matchless!”

Another female student who admired Qiu Lin asked, “Why are you so confident and arrogant in front of elder brother Qiu?”

Zhang Ruochen cast a sharp eye on all of them.

Xun Guihai said to Zhang Ruochen without fear, “Why do you stare at us? Am I wrong? I can understand your youthful indiscretion. After all you are Commandery Princess Yanchen’s fiance with Qianshui Commandery’s backing. But I can’t stand your discourtesy to elder brother Qiu!”

His fury replaced by amusement, Zhang Ruochen said, “Xun Guihai, what should I do to show my politeness?”

Xun Guihai smiled insidiously. He felt that today he could teach Zhang Ruochen a lesson, since Qiu Lin had found trouble with Zhang Ruochen.

“Ten years ago, elder brother Qiu entered the Internal Academy. Not only is he our elder brother, but he is also our predecessor. You just entered the Internal Academy as a freshman. Don’t you think you should bow to elder brother Qiu?”

The law of the jungle also applied in this world. Everybody played up to people of power and influence.

The weak would be trodden on.

The internal students maintained their own hierarchy.

Strong as Qiu Lin, was the king, at the top of the internal students. All the other students should pay him a tribute of some of their practice resources for protection.

The cruel law of the jungle made Qiu Lin used to superiority. He expected all students to stand in awe of him.

When a student showed no reverence for him, he became unhappy.

Just like Zhang Ruochen.

Shooting a glance at Qiu Lin, Zhang Ruochen said, “We are all internal students and came to the School of the Martial Market for practicing Martial Arts. What are these redundant rules for?”

Several of the internal students standing behind Qiu Lin burst into laughter, feeling that Zhang Ruochen was being a reckless fool.

“The world would descend into chaos without laws and rules. You, the weak, should stand in awe and service to the power!”

Suddenly Xun Guihai hauled an internal student of the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm from the throng, clasped his Meridians, and dragged him in front of Qiu Lin.

“Do you think you should salute elder brother Qiu Lin?” Asked Xun Guihai darkly.

The student had entered the Internal Academy six months ago, so he knew the rules well. A mediocre student like him must pay respect to Qiu Lin.

Because it was easy for Qiu Lin to kill him.

Chapter 270: Nine Spirits Beast King’s Shadow

The internal student knelt on the ground instantly and kowtowed to Qiu Lin again and again. “Elder Brother Qiu, if you have no further instructions I’ll leave!”

Qiu Lin stood proudly with an expression in her eyes that said, “You can go”.

The internal student accepted this discharge and scrambled away.

Zhang Ruochen looked at the internal student, shook his head and sighed. “To have entered the Internal Academy, you must have great talent. It’s a pity that you don’t have a strong will. Your future in the world of Martial Arts does not look bright.”

Standing in the crowd, the internal student heard Zhang Ruochen’s words. He said to himself, “You are the Prince Consort of Qianshui Commandery and Yunwu Commandery backs you. You are certainly not afraid of Qiu Lin. But I have nothing and with Qiu Lin’s ability, he can kill me with one finger. How can I fight with him? When I become stronger in the future, I will certainly avenge today’s humiliation. On the path of practicing Martial Arts, how can you survive if you don’t know when to bend?”

Everyone had a way of doing things that he or she thought was right. You thought others were foolish, perhaps others thought you were foolish.

In the distance, a group of young beautifully-dressed female students walked toward the Merit Tower.

Chen Xier walked among them with her delicate face and a perfect figure. She looked dazzling. Like a crane standing among chickens, she attracted everyone’s attention.

There were other beautiful and talented students, but they were nothing compared to her.

“Who’s arguing up ahead?” she asked.

A noble twenty-something female student smiled. “It is said to be Qiu Lin and Zhang Ruochen.”

“Zhang Ruochen? Qiu Lin? Why are they fighting?”

Chen Xier was surprised. She had never heard the two of them disagree.

“It’s all because of you. You know that Qiu Lin has been pursuing you. If you had agreed earlier, would he make things difficult for Zhang Ruochen?”

“Although Qiu Lin is tough, Zhang Ruochen is not someone to mess with. Apparently, he has killed several martial arts masters in the Heaven Realm. He is quite powerful. It’s possible he could defeat Qiu Lin.”

“I’m kind of expecting them to fight. I wonder who is more powerful.”

Chen Xier smiled slightly. “You’re all so anxious to see the world in disorder. Qiu Lin was 32 when he reached the Completion of the Earth Realm five years ago. He is a Three-realm Fighting Genius and has attained perfection in his fighting experience and application of martial technique. Zhang Ruochen is only 18 years old. Even if his cultivation is roughly the same as Qiu Lin, there would certainly be a gap when they actually fight.”

Chen Xier walked over. She decided to help Zhang Ruochen out of his predicament.

Chen Xier’s believed that Zhang Ruochen had greater potential than Qiu Lin. Even if he was no match for Qiu Lin now, he would definitely exceed him in the future.

And, Zhang Ruochen was her brother-in-law, wasn’t he?

“Qiu Lin, you are already a top ranking warrior on the Earth Board. And yet you’re making things difficult for a junior fellow apprentice who just got into the Internal Academy. Can’t you learn from the eldest brother and be more broad-minded?” Chen Xier said.

Qiu Lin saw Chen Xier supporting Zhang Ruochen and felt more unpleasant. But he didn’t want Chen Xier to think he was narrow-minded so he smiled. “Junior sister apprentice Xier, you misunderstood! I just heard that junior fellow apprentice killed the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider Club. I have admiration for you and want to compare notes with you. I don’t expect that you are so proud that you don’t care to communicate with me about the Martial Arts.”

Chen Xier frowned and asked, “Is that true?”

“Of course, I sincerely want to communicate with him.”

Chen Xier looked at Zhang Ruochen asking for his opinion.

Zhang Ruochen didn’t bother to argue. “Well! Since elder brother Qiu wants to exchange views, I certainly can’t refuse.”

Qiu Lin was happy with this response. “Junior fellow apprentice, you are straightforward!”

“Don’t push too hard. If someone deliberately injures another, I will certainly report it to the Law-enforcing Presbyter,” Chen Xier said coldly, glaring at Qiu Lin.

“Don’t worry, I have a sense of propriety.” Qiu Lin smiled.

“Zhang Ruochen really dares to fight with Elder Brother Qiu and doesn’t weigh his strength. I estimate that there will be some injuries later.”

“It’s not possible. Senior sister apprentice Chen just said that no one can hurt others deliberately.”

“Hey, hey! If Qiu Lin accidentally hurt Zhang Ruochen, does that count as hurting others deliberately?”

“I see.”

The internal students backed away one after another and stood more than 30 meters away.

Qiu Lin kicked out both legs, and raised his arms, commencing his form. He smiled, “If I have any imperfections, I hope you can teach me.”

Zhang Ruochen nodded slightly. He deserved to be called a master on the Earth Board. His cultivation had reached the Completion Realm without a bug.

“Elder Brother Qiu’s commencing form is called Stand Straight Like a Pine. Both his feet are like pine trees in the ground. And both his arms are like pine branches flowing in the wind. Just this one commencing form is enough for an ordinary warrior to practice for a lifetime.”

Zhang Ruochen didn’t have a commencing form. He just stood there casually.

“Nine Spirits Beast King’s Shadow, the third move, Tiger King Cutting Corpse.”

Qiu Lin was like a tiger as he lunged at Zhang Ruochen. Golden Genuine Qi rushed out from his body and formed into a giant shadow of a golden tiger.

It seemed that he and the tiger king were integrated into one. He cut out one palm and the stone slabs under Zhang Ruochen’s feet were smashed to pieces.

Zhang Ruochen flew out and dropped ten meters away.

“Nine Spirits Beast King’s Shadow, the seventh move, Ape King Pounding the Earth.”

Qiu Lin folded his hands and his Genuine Qi morphed into a giant ape-like shape that attacked towards Zhang Ruochen.

“Nine Spirits Beast King’s Shadow is a top move among the mid-class Spiritual Stage martial techniques. It is very hard to practice. Elder brother Qiu has practiced the seventh move, which is very impressive.”

“I estimate there is more than that. Don’t you see? Elder brother Qiu’s move has not ended. Maybe he has practiced the eighth move successfully.”

Zhang Ruochen moved his feet sideways, and then he was several meters away, ducking Qiu Lin’s attack again.

Zhang Ruochen had dodged twice, which made Qiu Lin very angry. He said coldly, “Zhang Ruochen, do you only know how to run away? If you have the ability, fight with me face to face.”

“Okay! I will confront you. If you can force me to retreat one more step, I am a loser.” Zhang Ruochen said.

“Arrogant!”

“Nine Spirits Beast King’s Shadow, the eighth move, Kylin King Carrying a Mountain.”

Qiu Lin’s Genuine Qi condensed into a Kylin King. It was very ferocious.

“Dragon Shape and Elephant Shadow!”



Zhang Ruochen struck out both hands. His Genuine Qi rushed to his arms to form an Elephant Palm Print and a Dragon Claw Print.

“BOOM!”

Qiu Lin flew backward and dropped to the ground awkwardly. Both his legs bent, and he almost fell over.

Zhang Ruochen stood where he was without moving. He looked calm.

One could see the superior and the inferior.

The internal students outside the Merit Tower seemed to be suffocating. They looked at Zhang Ruochen in surprise.

“Am I seeing this right? Zhang Ruochen just defeated Elder Brother Qiu. Does he already have the strength to be on the Earth Board?”

“No wonder he could kill the Black Market masters. It’s impressive. I estimate that he has the strength to be in the top 10,000 on the Earth Board.”

Chen Xier looked at Zhang Ruochen in surprise. A strange light glowed in her eyes. “Zhang Ruochen reached the Earth Realm less than half a year ago, and he can already defeat Qiu Lin. That’s very impressive. No wonder Cousin got engaged to him.”

“I haven’t lost.”

Qiu Lin uttered a loud cry. Genuine Qi gushed out from his body forming a vision of heaven and earth Golden light more than 300 meters long.

“Nine Spirits Beast King’s Shadow, the ninth move, Dragon King Rushing into Sky.”

“AWOO!”

His Genuine Qi condensed into a giant dragon that wrapped around his body. He rushed to the sky and stretched out one palm to hit Zhang Ruochen.

The palm turned into a dragon claw.

“Qiu Lin has practiced the Nine Spirits Beast King’s Shadow successfully! He must have reached the Success Realm.”

There were lots of exclamations coming from all around.

Warriors in the Earth Realm who could succeed in practicing mid-class Spiritual Stage martial techniques were quite amazing.

It took too much time. Pursuing the martial technique intentionally would slow down overall Martial Art improvements.

Zhang Ruochen, whose martial technique was in the Earth Realm, had succeeded in practicing the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, a Superior class Spiritual Stage technique. He had the aid of practicing experience from his last lifetime and powerful Spiritual Power.

An internal student said, "Elder Brother Qiu is a top talent. He started to practice the Nine Spirits Beast King's Shadow five years ago. He must practice mid-class Spiritual Stage martial techniques."

"Within five years, he succeeded in practicing them. He deserves to be a Three-realm Fighting Genius."

"If Elder Brother Qiu has succeeded in practicing the Nine Spirits Beast King's Shadow, his strength must have improved greatly. It's enough to reach Three-and-a-half-realm. Even compared to the eldest brother, he is not much weaker."

"With Elder Brother Qiu's strength, he could reach the top 10,000 on the Earth Board."

Zhang Ruochen looked serious. He regulated his Genuine Qi and unleashed six palms in a row.

With the palm forces overlapping, he could explode six times more attack power.

"Nine-folds of the Elephant Power."

Qiu Lin spat out a mouthful blood and flew into the sky.

He fell to the ground with a bang.

Zhang Ruochen stood where he was and stared at Qiu Lin. "You have achieved Nine Spirits Beast King's Shadow. Actually, it didn't expose the power of the completion. Do you know the reason why?"

"Why?"

Qiu Lin was half kneeling with his hand supporting him on the ground. He stood up and clenched his teeth with his eyes fixed on Zhang Ruochen.

How could Zhang Ruochen know better than him about the Nine Spirits Beast King's Shadow?