

Chapter 301: Eastern Region Report

“What am I talking about? You’re in the Eastern Region Report. You’ve been named the most outstanding youngster in Omen Ridge since Luo Xu.”

Chang Qiqi was extremely excited. His face was glowing, and his cheeks were ruddy.

He opened the report, pointed to one of the paragraphs and read out, “Eighteen-year-old Zhang Ruochen, the ninth son of Yunwu Commandery Prince, defeated ‘Yan Qingwu’, the top-ranked genius of the Yan Family and ranks 98th on the Earth Board. He was unable to practice Martial Arts until the age of 16 when he obtained a Sacred Mark. Since then, his accomplishments have soared. He is named as the most outstanding warrior in Omen Ridge after Luo Xu.”

There was even a story stating his major results on the back page.

Zhang Ruochen looked with a faint smile. “It’s not a big deal to be published in Eastern Region Report. Moreover, I’m only listed on the 18th page, which is the last page.”

“How is this not amazing? You must know that it has been more than 10 years since an Omen Ridge warrior has been published in the Eastern Region Report. Do you know what this means? It means you’re popular now. Indeed, you’re famous!” said Chang Qiqi.

The Eastern Region Report was a monthly newspaper published by the Martial Market Bank. It had 18 pages and mainly recorded the major events of the entire Eastern Region in the previous month.

The more significant an event was, the higher the chance it would be published on a leading page.

For example, the Commandery Prince of the Tianyi Commandery had broken through the Half-Saint realm; this was published on the second page in this issue. It was explosive news in the Tianyi Commandery, and still quite a significant piece of news in the entire Eastern Region. Even the commanderies near the border of the Tianyi Commandery were affected.

It was expected that the Commandery Princes of the border of the Tianyi Commandery had already prepared numerous gifts and were ready to congratulate him in person.

Of course, it was more than one million kilometers between Omen Ridge and Tianyi Commandery. Warriors here had discussed it a bit, but it didn’t warrant too much attention.

As for the leading page of this issue, it was occupied by another shocking story:

A mysterious young master from the Black Market Excellence Hall had defeated Bu Qianfan, the top-ranked warrior on the Earth Board with only three moves. A warrior at the Half-Saint realm estimated that the young master had already broken through to the Ultimate Realm of the Earth Realm.

Even the news of Tianyi Commandery Prince breaking through to Half-Saint had been squeezed off the front page. It showed just how significant this was.

Bu Qianfan, who had been named the most outstanding youngster in the past century in the entire Eastern Region and reached the level of seven and a half tricks genius, had occupied the top spot of the Earth Board for three years. No one was able to withstand even one of his moves.

And yet this outstanding youngster had been defeated by a young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall in just three sword moves. How could it not be shocking news?

If the mysterious young master had indeed reached the Ultimate Realm of the Earth Realm, the shock would be even greater. It was surmised that even the governing body of the First Central Empire would need to send masters for investigation.

If this youngster was fully developed, it would be another hundred years before he could be matched.

Compared to the young master, Zhang Ruochen defeating Yan Qingwu was not worth mentioning. That's why his news had been published on the last page.

Even though it was on the last page, it still caused a massive commotion in Omen Ridge.

It had been years since a warrior from Omen Ridge had entered the top thousand of the Earth Board. Never mind the fact that Zhang Ruochen had reached the top 100. It was definitely a glorious achievement for Omen Ridge.

The latest issues of both the Eastern Region Report and the Earth Board had been selling like crazy. People were queuing up outside the Martial Market Bank wanting to purchase it.

It was a massive honor to be published in the Eastern Region Report.

"Have you read the latest Eastern Region Report? Zhang Ruochen, the Ninth Prince of the Yunwu Commandery is published in it!"

"Are you serious? When did Omen Ridge nurture such a popular person?"

"Amazing, isn't it? Zhang Ruochen defeated the top-ranked genius of the Yan Family and entered the top 100 of the Earth Board. He is the most outstanding warrior from Omen Ridge after Luo Xu."

"He has brought so much glory to Omen Ridge! I need to buy a copy!"

...

People from every city in Omen Ridge were discussing Zhang Ruochen.

This youngster who had once been just slightly popular was now known by every single person in Omen Ridge.

The warriors of Yunwu Commandery were even crazier. They had bought every copy of both publications from the Martial Market Bank. Almost all the young warriors set Zhang Ruochen as their idol and started practicing hard.

Before the sun had even risen, a copy of the Eastern Region Report had been sent into Yunwu Commandery palace and placed in front of Yunwu Commandery Prince.

When he saw Zhang Ruochen's name in the paper, he was completely overjoyed. "I have practiced Martial Arts my entire life and I have never been published in the Eastern Region Report. My ninth son is only 18 years old and has already entered the top 100 of the Earth Board. Indeed, he did not let me down. Good, very good!"

While Yunwu Commandery Prince was praising Zhang Ruochen, the Queen was furious. "If I had known that this kid would develop to this stage... I should have killed him long ago. Now he's fully developed, even Guier is incomparable with him. No way! He has to die!"

The Queen was filled with regret. Zhang Ruochen had once been just a sickly crap in front of her. She could have killed him with one finger.

If she wanted to kill him now, it was going to be extremely difficult.

At the same time, a copy of the Eastern Region Report had been sent to Zhang Tiangui.

When he read through the part about Zhang Ruochen, his hands shook. He was so angry his pupils were on fire. He regretted that he hadn't killed him earlier when he'd had the chance. If he had known that Zhang Ruochen would develop into such an outstanding warrior, he would have killed him without any hesitation.

Zhang Ruochen had already entered the top 100 of the Earth Board, while he was still ranked thousands behind him. The glory he had once owned had all fallen on Zhang Ruochen.

How could this be?

It had only been a few months. How could this happen?

What made Zhang Tiangui even more confused was that the Master hadn't summoned him for two months. He hadn't even seen Han Qiu. Every time he had gone to find her, he had been refused.

Nothing like this had happened before.

Lin Chenyu stood behind Zhang Tiangui and stared at him with compassion, yet his eyes were cold.

Since Zhang Ruochen had fully developed, Zhang Tiangui's good days had come to an end.

"Zhang Tiangui has probably lost all foothold in both the Yunwu Commandery and Yuntai Suzerain." Lin Chenyu smiled coldly.

Zhang Tiangui tried his best to stay calm. "Lin Chenyu, do you know who the Master and junior sister apprentice Han have been in touch with? Why have their attitudes toward me changed so drastically?"

Lin Chenyu walked toward Zhang Tiangui and responded with courtesy, "Master, I heard that Elder Sister Han sent people to Yunwu Commandery and investigated you."

Zhang Tiangui stood up suddenly and narrowed his eyes. "How long ago?"

"Last time Elder Sister Han came back...Oh, I remember. Before she came back, she confronted the assassins of the black market and Square Commandery with Zhang Ruochen. I'm guessing he said something to her behind your back," said Lin Chenyu.

Zhang Tiangui grasped his fists tight. His look was enough to make one's blood run cold. "Zhang Ruochen again!"

Lin Chenyu looked down and said carefully, "I also heard that Elder Sister Han had feelings for Zhang Ruochen and that she went to the School of the Martial three times wanting to meet Zhang Ruochen. But, Zhang Ruochen was secluding himself for refining, so she didn't see him."

Zhang Tiangui was even more shocked. He said furiously, "Why didn't you tell me this earlier?"

A woman's voice let out outside his mansion, "I asked him not to tell you."

Han Qiu appeared carrying a white jade fighting sword.

Lin Chenyu retreated a few steps backward and escaped from the room.

The fact that he had betrayed Zhang Tiangui had been revealed. Of course, he had to leave immediately and wait patiently for what would happen next.

It was obvious that Han Qiu couldn't help but take action against Zhang Tiangui. With her current ability, she was now the stronger one. Moreover, she was the daughter of the Master. Zhang Tiangui had no leverage to fight with her.

Zhang Tiangui realized that something had happened.

He let out a long laugh. "Zhang Ruochen and Lin Chenyu. Indeed I underestimated them. Junior sister apprentice, do you believe what they told you?"

Han Qiu held the white jade sword and stood five steps away from Zhang Tiangui. She said, "Why wouldn't I? To be honest, my elder brother, you have always been my role model. Unfortunately, what you've done is not role-model worthy."

"What did Zhang Ruochen say to you?" Zhang Tiangui questioned.

"Zhang Ruochen didn't say anything. It was the results brought back from the people I sent for investigation." Han Qiu continued, "You snatched the woman your brother loved, and you even wanted to assassinate your own brother?! What a character you are. I really doubt if there is still any humanity in you!"

"Haha! Junior sister apprentice, since you've said all this, I have nothing to say."

Zhang Tiangui laughed and asked, "So there's no place for me to stay in the Yuntai Suzerain?"

"You haven't done anything unfavorable to our suzerain. Why would you think there's no place for you in the Yuntai Suzerain?" Han Qiu claimed.

Zhang Tiangui responded, "Well, since you and the Master believe the words of a scoundrel, you've started keeping a lookout on me and you see me as a villain who would do anything at any costs, I guess I won't be learning any more advanced Martial Arts techniques at the Yuntai Suzerain. What's the point of staying here? Don't you worry. I'll leave the Yuntai Suzerain; I won't put the two of you in a difficult situation."

Zhang Tiangui didn't stop to get anything from his room. He walked passed Han Qiu, went down the long stone steps and left the Yuntai Suzerain through the mountain door.

He glanced back with a cold gaze and thought to himself, "Han Qiu, Yuntai Suzerain, you are going to regret letting me go today!"

He had pretended to be grieved in front of Han Qiu as he was hoping to get sympathy from her.

This was his only way to leave the Yuntai Suzerain alive.

Otherwise, today he would have died.

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Chapter 302: The Mysterious Master

Lin Chenyu followed and stood behind Han Qiu. He watched Zhang Tiangui leave with murderous intent flashing in his eyes. He said, "Elder sister Han, if you don't kill Zhang Tiangui, there will be no end to your trouble in the future."

Han Qiu's eyes revealed a slight struggle. She sighed. "I know, but after all he is the elder brother in Yuntai Suzerain, and he hasn't done anything bad to the Suzerain. If I killed him, I would be neither virtuous nor righteous."

"You should have at least destroyed his cultivation and broken his meridians..." Lin Chenyu said.

"Don't say anything further. Just let him go! After all, he was once a member of Yuntai Suzerain and our eldest brother," Han Qiu said.

Lin Chenyu was disappointed. "How indecisive women are! But even if Han Qiu can't bear to do it, the Master is a man with the means. He will never set a tiger free to roam the mountains. It will not be easy for Zhang Tiangui to leave Yuntai Suzerain."

Zhang Tiangui quickly executed his fastest technique to fly through the woods, hoping to leave Omen Ridge as soon as possible.

"Lin Chenyu, how dare you betray me? You just wait and see. I will exterminate your whole family."

Zhang Tiangui was very angry. With his talent, he could have married Han Qiu and even become the future master of Yuntai Suzerain.

The Master had even promised that as long as he reached the fish-dragon realm, he could marry Han Qiu. The honor of being Master would be passed to Han Qiu.

Han Qiu would have been the Master and Zhang Tiangui would have been the Second Master.

Han Li had intended to let him help Han Qiu carry Yuntai Suzerain forward.

However, because of Zhang Ruochen and Lin Chenyu, he had to leave Yuntai Suzerain. He would not have the chance to become the Second Master nor the opportunity to practice the *Holy Universe Reaching Skill* .

He was like a stray dog now.

The world was so big. Where should he go?

“Shing!”

All of a sudden, there was a slight sound of breeze.

“Who goes there?”

Zhang Tiangui was highly alert. He stopped at once and looked towards the woods.

However, he could see nothing but trees, vines, moss, and rocks.

He seemed to feel something and turned around immediately.

Behind him, was a bearded elder who was likely in his 80s.

The bearded elder was skinny and haggard. He stood still in the forest like a mummy. His hands were shaped like eagle claws with ten sharp fingernails like trenchant edges.

Zhang Tiangui knew that the old man was a servant named Han Jingzhong. He always followed Han Li and was a master of martial arts. His cultivation was unfathomable.

“Oh, uncle Zhong. I knew that the Master wouldn’t allow me to leave alive.” Zhang Tiangui clasped his hands and mobilized the Genuine Qi throughout his body.

With no hesitation, Zhang Tiangui seized the initiative to make an attack. He punched towards Han Jingzhongin’s abdomen.

“Tiger-intruding Fist.”

The Genuine Qi formed ripples around Zhang Tiangui’s wrist. It sounded like the roar of a tiger.

“Grrrr!”

Zhang Tiangui was highly gifted, and his all-out punch was very powerful. It shook the trees nearby and leaves fell one by one.

Han Jingzhong stood still like a dry pine. His smile was as ferocious as a ghost. He raised his shriveled palm lightly.

His palm seemed to move slowly but left a weird mark in the void space.

“Clap!”

Han Jingzhong’s palm collided against Zhang Tiangui’s fist. He folded his fingers and easily caught Zhang Tiangui’s fist. His long fingernails penetrated straight into Zhang Tiangui’s flesh.

He twisted his arm.

With a popping sound, Zhang Tiangui’s arm snapped. He was thrown back and rotated 360 degrees in the air.

“Bang!”

Zhang Tiangui fell to the ground on one knee. He felt an acute pain in his arm and his facial muscles were cramping.

“You think you’re the top prodigy in Omen Ridge? Do you think you’re invincible? In my eyes, you are still too young.”

Han Jingzhong’s voice was like gravel. He laughed grimly.

One leg forward and one back, Zhang Tiangui was like a fierce tiger on the ground. He stared coldly at Han Jingzhong and waited for the next attack. He knew it would be even more fierce.

However, unexpectedly, Han Jingzhong didn’t launch any further attack but said slowly, “Zhang Tiangui, do you know why the Master can’t tolerate you and must eliminate you?”

“Because of my misconduct?” Zhang Tiangui said.

Han Jingzhong laughed, “What matters in the dog-eat-dog martial world is means. How many people actually conduct themselves well?”

“Then why?” asked Zhang Tiangui.

Han Jingzhong said, “Don’t you know that two tigers can’t live on one mountain? Before, your talents were much higher than Han Qiu. Of course, the Master eagerly wanted to marry Han Qiu to you and let you stay in Yuntai Suzerain. Thus, the power of Yuntai Suzerain would expand. But now it is different. Han Qiu has passed the fourth-floor of Jiuju Tower. She is as gifted as you. If the two of you have the same power, who should be the future master of Yuntai Suzerain?”

Zhang Tiangui said, “If we are equal, neither of us would surrender to the other. In the future, I must fight with Han Qiu. Either I or Han Qiu will die and there is no other possibility. That’s why the Master chose to kill me. To protect his daughter. Funny!”

“Uncle Zhong, the Master has sent you to kill me. Why are you not attacking me?”

Han Jingzhong smiled coldly. “If I wanted to kill you, you’d be dead on the first move! Zhang Tiangui, you are a prodigy, a man with means and ambition. I think highly of you.”

“What do you mean?” Zhang Tiangui asked, confused.

Han Jingzhong waved his hands and turned to leave. He said, “Neither Yuntai Suzerain nor Yunwu Commandery has room for you. You only have one way, which is to follow me. I will introduce you to someone and perhaps he can help you.”

Zhang Tiangui endured the pain in his arms and looked at Han Jingzhong’s hunched figure. “Who on earth are you?”

“Just follow me and no more nonsense.” Han Jingzhong said coldly.

Zhang Tiangui didn’t have any choice. He had to follow him.

Omen Ridge, as vast as a sea of forests, had turbulent rivers, wide lakes, and towering mountains.

When traveling through the forests, people got lost easily.

It was hard to know how far they had gone when Han Jingzhong led him to a military camp built in the dense jungle. The roar of savage beasts and the sound of military training could be heard far off in the distance.

Standing on the branch of an ancient tree, Han Jingzhong was as light as a feather. Folding his hands behind his back, he glanced into the distance and said, "In front of us is the camp of the Barbarian Elephant Army. It is the strongest military training center in the Square Commandery.

Zhang Tiangui said, "Isn't Square Commandery sanctioned? I thought they don't exist anymore?!"

Han Jingzhong laughed coldly. "The royal family of the Square Commandery has many masters. There are more than 20 warriors who have reached the Heaven Realm. Before the sanction paper from East Region Saint Mansions was handed out, they had already withdrawn and hidden in the training center concealed in Omen Ridge. You should clearly know that you and they share one enemy- Zhang Ruochen."

Zhang Tiangui asked, "Are you from the Square Commandery?"

"Square Commandery? Funny!" Han Jingzhong laughed disdainfully. "The royal members of Square Commandery are stray cats like you."

Suddenly, a cold wind blew.

"Swish!"

A red ray of light flashed in void space and flew through the dense forests.

Zhang Tiangui's eyes tightened and he shouted, "Who?"

Suddenly, Spiritual Qi surged and formed ripples in the void space. From the center of these ripples, a red hand with long soft fingers stretched out, emitting crimson mist.

"Swoosh!"

The red hand displayed hundreds of phantoms and attacked Zhang Tiangui.

Han Jingzhong stepped onto the deadwood and rushed in front of him, striking out with two hands.

"Boom!"

Like eagle claws, his palms had a metal luster formed from a vast and mighty strength.

Han Jingzhong struck out with hundreds of palms, forming a wall of palm prints.

"Bang! Bang!"

In a mere second, Han Jingzhong struck against the red hand hundreds of times.

All of a sudden, Han Jingzhong was hit in the chest. He flew back and crashed into a huge rock with a giant crack!

A beautiful woman in red suddenly appeared from above. Her legs were slim, and her figure was curvy. She had a charming face and long hair as red as blood.

An eerie red light surrounded her body. As she landed on the ground, even the mud turned crimson.

Seeing her, Han Jingzhong knelt down on his knees. Fearfully, he said, "Red Wish Emissary."

Han Jingzhong gave Zhang Tiangui a glare signaling him to do the same.

Zhang Tiangui felt terror spreading from the woman. His heart chilled and he immediately knelt on the ground with his face nearly buried in the mud.

"Han Jingzhong, why have you brought a stranger here? Are you forgetting the young master's rules?"

Her voice was very fascinating, it seemed to carry both a smile and a chill.

Han Jingzhong said reverently, "I dare not forget the rules, but he is a rare talent. I want to recommend him to the young master.

"Talent?"

Red Wish Emissary carefully sized Zhang Tiangui up. She smiled. "Han Jingzhong, you should know that in black market excellence hall, talent is everywhere."

"Taat taat!"

A handsome man in a purple gown appeared from the forest.

He carried a dragonhead long spear on his back and his face was cold. He said, "Red Wish, Han Jingzhong, the meeting has begun. Young master let me take you."

"Purple Wind Emissary."

Han Jingzhong bowed to the man and stood up straight.

Zhang Tiangui was bewildered. "Why are there so many top warriors appearing in Omen Ridge?"

Han Jingzhong alone, was an unfathomable old geezer. Even the Master of Yuntai Suzerain didn't know his true strength.

What's more, who was this siren in red and who was the man in purple? And who was the young master they mentioned?

Their martial cultivation seemed to be stronger than Han Jingzhong.

Zhang Tiangui's was confused.

At the same time, he was excited. "If I follow them, perhaps my strength could be enhanced. Then, I will not need to worry about how to defeat Zhang Ruochen or destroy Yuntai Suzerain."

Chapter 303: Di Yi

With looks of awe, Han Jingzhong and Zhang Tiangui bowed their heads and followed the Red Wish Emissary and the Purple Wind Emissary into the camp.

This was a vast military camp established amid the mountains as well as a training base for the Barbarian Elephant Army, the strongest army of the Square Commandery.

There were horse farms, places for martial arts, and camps exclusively for training savage beasts.

There were only 3,000 soldiers in the base, but even the most inferior among them had a martial cultivation in the Dawn State of the Earth Realm. Outside of the camp, they were all powerful practitioners of martial arts.

All of their mounts were Brute Elephants.

A four-armed Brute Elephant was an inferior savage beast.

Although they were the weakest, who could defend against a charge of 3,000 Brute Elephants?

Even the martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm would be crushed.

Possession of an army this strong was sufficient to sweep across all the 36 commanderies in Omen Ridge.

Such a Barbarian Elephant Army required a massive amount of Spiritual Crystals to fund as well as all the possible masters. However, the royal family in the Square Commandery did not have the funds for such an army, and they also did not have the popularity to attract so many masters.

So, the army did not belong to the Square Commandery, but to a big shot in the Black Market.

At the moment, the big shot was sitting at the head position in the main tent.

The man wore gold-rimmed Darksteel Armor and a gold-iron mask, and his hands peeking out of his sleeves were white and delicate. It was clear that he was young.

However, it was a young man such as this whose body emitted a strong sense of cold.

Besides him, 10 other Martial Arts Masters sat within the tent: the Commandery Prince of the Square Commandery, the leader of the Hades Department, the chief chairman of the Poisonous Spider Club, and the Mansion Master of Rosefinch Tower...

Almost all the powers of the Black Market were present. Each of them had a reputation that would terrify anyone who heard it.

Of course, aside from them, there were other young talents who had no right to sit, standing off to the side. Among them were seven young masters from the Black Market and a few newly promoted young evil warriors.

A thin man stood amid these ruthless people. Wearing grey linen clothes, he leaned against the wall with an iron sword in hand, and a whiff of dead air emanated from him as if he had no emotions.

If Zhang Ruochen was here, he would recognize the man as the deadly swordsman who was determined to join the Black Market, Le.

Nevertheless, he had already become one of the best young killers in the Hades Department. He could kill a warrior in the Heaven Realm while his cultivation was in the Earth Realm, and thus, he was highly regarded by the Overseer of Hell.

In the Hades Department, his strength had already surpassed its young master, “Zi Yinyang”.

But, Le was so solitary that he barely talked to anyone—he was just like a human-shaped stone.

In addition, another two young warriors of the Hades Department were in the tent. They were Zi Yinyang and Zi Qian. Their status dictated that they could only stand in the corner.

Only breathing sounds could be heard in the tent. The atmosphere was very tense.

The iron-masked man sitting at the head said in his husky tone, “I’m disappointed that the Black Market has been oppressed by the Martial Market Bank and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect and left without room to move. This is not like us.

“The Poisonous Spider Club, with over 10 martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm, is the biggest club of the Black Market in Omen Ridge, whose power has stretched out through the 36 commanderies. Chairman Hua, what is your opinion on this issue?”

Hua Qingye, the chief chairman of the Poisonous Spider Club, was so shocked that he broke out in a cold sweat and his legs trembled as if he had been summoned by death.

He was over 100 years old and his martial cultivation had reached the Fish-dragon Realm, already beyond the realm of mortals. But before that mysterious man, a feeling of immense dread pounded in his heart.

He stood trembling and saluted to the man, saying, “Young master, the situation in Omen Ridge is very complicated. Not only the Martial Market Bank and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect, but all powers are formidable, such as the Tai Qing Palace and the Yuntai Suzerain. They are both four-class Suzerains with Half-Saints that cannot be ignored. Moreover...”

“Boom!”

The man in iron mask hit the table and sneered, saying, “If such is the case, what’s the point of keeping you alive?”

The Red Wish Emissary and the Purple Wind Emissary both stood behind him—the former wearing a red cloth and was sexy and enchanting; the latter wearing a purple gown with a dragon pattern and was handsome and powerful.

After hearing the man, the Red Wish Emissary and the Purple Wind Emissary immediately understood. They stared coldly at Hua Qingye.

“Chairman Hua, if you can dodge one of my blows, you will not die.”

The man wearing purple, the Purple Wind Emissary, carried a dragonhead iron spear, and rushed toward Hua Qingye. He appeared before him in a flash.

He squeezed his five fingers into a palm-knife and struck toward the chief chairman's left shoulder in a streak of purple light.

The Purple Wind Emissary's power was precisely controlled and not a single strand of Genuine Qi escaped.

As the Poisonous Spider Club's chief chairman, Hua Qingye was also a powerful master. Twisting his body and pushing up with his legs, he tried to retreat rapidly.

But a sharp pain came from his shoulder before he could move.

"Shunk!"

Hua Qingye's left arm was sliced off by the purple-tinted machete force and landed on the ground.

Blood spurted from his shoulder and the whole tent was filled with the strong scent of blood.

The Purple Wind Emissary glanced at Hua Qingye but did not attack him again. He retreated back and said, "Since you were able to dodge my blow, you won't have to die. But you should know that I only used one-tenth of my cultivation. If I used my full strength, not even a bone of yours would remain."

"Thank you, Purple Wind Emissary. Thank you, young master!"

At once, Hua Qingye knelt on the ground, constantly kowtowing to the iron-masked man.

All the men in the tent swallowed and felt even more afraid.

Hua Qingye was an immensely powerful warrior who had already surpassed the Heaven Realm, yet he lost his left arm to the purple-robed man. How powerful was that purple-robed man?

He looked to be around 20 years old. Even if a warrior could slow down aging, he could be no older than 50.

It was terrifying that he could reach such heights before turning 50.

The man in the metal mask said, "You don't have to be afraid of me. We're all working for the Black Market, so we should cooperate. Maybe you are still ignorant of my identity, so I will introduce myself first. I am the top master in the Eastern Region Black Market Excellence Hall, you can call me... Di Yi. If you have read this issue of the Eastern Region Report, you probably know me. It was me that defeat Bu Qianfan in three strikes.

"Although I just have reached the Earth Realm, I hope you won't underestimate me, or else it will not be as simple as losing an arm!"

The man named Di Yi smiled and continued, "There are two main reasons for my visit this time to Omen Ridge. First, the Black Market must completely control Omen Ridge. Regardless of the Martial Market Bank, the Moon Worship Demonic Sect, or other local forces, all must be subject to the Black Market.

"Second, I will find the legendary Dragon Sarira and hope that you all can help me."

The Square Commandery Prince asked carefully, "Young master, what is the Dragon Sarira?"

Di Yi answered, “800 years ago, there were nine top powers in Kunlun’s Field, called the Nine Emperors. Among them was a man who cultivated as a Buddha and was called ‘Buddhist Emperor’.

“In order to unify the world, Empress Chi Yao had to march into the Western Region and suppress one of the three ‘Thousand Buddhas Sects’. As the prophet of Brahma, Buddhist Emperor inevitably had to fight against her at that time.

“As recorded in the historical records, Empress Chi Yao won the battle. She suppressed the Western Region and defeated the leader of Buddhism, the Thousand Buddhas Sect.

“After Buddhist Emperor’s death, the Sarira left behind was swallowed by his mount, Golden Dragon.

“Golden Dragon escaped as Empress Chi Yao was hurt. And later, Empress Chi Yao sent warriors to kill it and loot the Sarira. Empress Chi Yao didn’t expect that Golden Dragon had refined the Sarira into a Dragon Sarira. Its cultivation had also increased and destroyed everyone that Empress Chi Yao had sent.

“Although all of the enemies were killed, it was badly hurt and eventually died as it escaped. Since then, the Dragon Sarira vanished.

“I searched through all the ancient books in the Black Market Excellence Hall and finally found something in one of them.

“At that time, Empress Chi Yao’s power was at her peak. After sweeping away the Nine Emperors, she was completely unopposed. After Golden Dragon was hurt, it ran away to the bleak Eastern Region. In the Eastern Region, Golden Dragon had a junior, the old overlord in Omen Ridge, Four-winged Earth Dragon.

“I guess that the badly wounded Golden Dragon died right in Omen Ridge.

“Four-winged Earth Dragon had two caves—one in the Chikong Secret Mansion of Omen Ridge, the other in the Dragon Palace at the bottom of the Tongming River.

“The war 500 years ago destroyed the Chikong Secret Mansion. The Dragon Sarira was probably taken by someone if it existed there. However, the Underwater Dragon Palace still has its mysteries. If Four-winged Earth Dragon had the Dragon Sarira, it would hide it in the palace.”

Those heretics of the Black Market were excited after listening to Di Yi.

The Sarira of the legendary Buddhist Emperor was possibly in Omen Ridge, how could there be anything more exciting?

Owning the Sarira meant owning the inheritance of Buddhist Emperor.

Of course, they did not dare to get the Dragon Sarira. It belonged to Di Yi. But, if they helped Di Yi to retrieve it, they would have done a great deed.

Chapter 304: Tongming River

Square Commandery Prince’s expression was somewhat unnatural. Carefully, he asked again, “Are you going to Underwater Dragon Palace?”

“Do you have a problem with it?”

Di Yi looked at him. His eyes were like two sharp swords.

Somehow, Square Commandery Prince’s martial cultivation was obviously above Di Yi’s. She was over-awed by Di Yi’s eyes. She was slightly shocked. “Underwater Dragon Palace is a very dangerous place. Only warriors at the Heaven Realm can enter it. What if you meet danger?”

Di Yi smiled, “It is precisely because Underwater Dragon Palace is a very dangerous place, that I have invited you all here. I need a 1,000 warriors at the Completion of the Earth Realm to come with me. I believe that all of you can help me with that.”

They hesitated and looked at Hua Qingye, who had lost an arm. They all replied in one voice, “We will help you find a thousand Completion of the Earth Realm warriors within three days.”

Zhang Tiangui who had been standing in the corner instantly knelt down one knee. “I would like to follow the young master and go to Underwater Dragon Palace.”

Di Yi looked at Zhang Tiangui plainly like he could see right through him. He grinned. “Are you a four tricks genius? It is quite amazing to have a four tricks genius in Omen Ridge.”

Omen Ridge was after all a small place and its cultivation practice was relatively low. If the practice of cultivation was low, then the starting point was lower than others.

And, the practice resources in Omen Ridge were also lower. So not only was the starting point lower than others’, but the practice environment, the pills and masters who taught them martial arts were far behind that of others as well.

And under these condition, Zhang Tiangui had been able to become a four tricks genius in the Earth Realm. His talent was indeed incredible.

The Earth Realm was just a stage of refining the body. The bones hadn’t been fixed yet. In the Heaven Realm and the Fish-dragon Realm, there was still a lot of room for improvement. If a four tricks genius could enter a perfect practice environment and get the best training, he could become a six or even seven tricks genius.

Like Luo Xu, he had been a two tricks genius and eventually in the end became a seven tricks genius.

On the path of practice, your growth potential was not fixed at the very beginning. As long as you worked hard, and the right opportunities came along, your future achievements were unpredictable.

Of course, if you laid down a solid foundation and moved forward step by step, your martial arts path would be much smoother, more solid and easier than others’.

After all, only one out of every hundred thousand warriors would become a top master later on in life. However, one in ten young warriors had the chance of becoming a top one master through honest accumulation.

Certainly, Di Yi was the latter, and Zhang Tiangui was the former.

It was 10,000 times harder for Zhang Tiangui to become a top master than Di Yi. Maybe he would be one of the 9,999 losers. Not everyone could become a miracle.

At this moment, an old man wearing a bamboo hat and grey cloak came into the tent. He walked towards Hua Qingye, chief chairman of the Poisonous Spider Club and spoke to him in a low voice.

Hearing the old man's words, Hua Qingye's expression changed slightly. He looked like he wanted to kill someone.

Di Yi's ears moved. He asked, "Chairman Hua, what's going on?"

"Just a small thing. It doesn't concern you," Hua Qingye said.

"Big things are made up of many small things. Isn't a grand person actually a small one who has stepped up?" Di Yi said.

"It really is a small thing," Hua Qingye said. "Our undercover person in the black market of Devil Martial City just found out that Zhang Ruochen has left Devil Martial City."

"Zhang Ruochen? Who is Zhang Ruochen?" Di Yi asked.

"Zhang Ruochen is the top master among the younger generation in Omen Ridge," the chief chairman of the Poisonous Spider Club replied. "He is in this month's edition of the *Eastern Region Report* together with you. However, you are on the front page and he is mentioned in a small section on the second last page."

"It is a small thing." Di Yi smiled.

He was just a talent in Omen Ridge. Di Yi certainly wouldn't care about him.

Square Commandery Prince stood up suddenly with an angry expression. "Young Master, Zhang Ruochen is our black market's enemy. He has killed several of the Black Market's warriors of the Heaven Realm. It is because of him, that our identity as the Royal Family of Square Commandery was exposed and we suffered the sanction from the East Region Saint Mansions. We must kill him, otherwise, he will be a huge enemy to the black market in the future."

Di Yi obviously did not care about Zhang Ruochen. He said, "All right! If you want to get rid of Zhang Ruochen, then I leave it to you to handle. Don't tell me that with the strength of the Royal Family of Square Commandery, it can't kill a young genius."

Di Yi's approval made Square Commandery Prince very happy. "If Zhang Ruochen had stayed in the Devil Martial City, we might have left him alone. But since he is out, I will cut him to pieces."

Zhang Tiangui said, "I would like to give you a hand."

"It seems that Zhang Ruochen has made lots of enemies in the black market. You can go if you want. But never leak the information. If anyone dares to inform others about Dragon Sarira, don't blame me for being impolite," Di Yi said coldly.

They all felt chills in their spines and showed inexplicable awe.

In the entire tent, only Le and Zi Qian showed a glimmer of strange light in their eyes.

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In order to cover up the story, Zhang Ruochen, Huang Yanchen, Duanmu Xingling, Si Xingkong and Chen Xier left the town separately. They had decided to meet again at Tongming River.

When he left the town, Zhang Ruochen felt like he was being followed by more than one group of people.

He thought, "Just as I expected, someone suspects that I am going to the ancient cave from medieval times to dig up the treasure. I have to ditch them. I can't let them follow me to Underwater Dragon Palace of Tongming River."

Zhang Ruochen grinned. He rode a savage beast with the Ancient Abyss Sword on his back. Suddenly, he sped up and rushed into a thick forest.

"Woosh!"

The warriors following him quickly unleashed their body movements and chased him into the woods.

But upon entering the forest, all they saw was a savage beast; they could not see Zhang Ruochen anywhere.

"Where is he?"

"The whole forest is sealed, but he is nowhere to be found. Can Zhang Ruochen disappear into the ground?"

"Keep looking, we have to find him."

30 kilometers away, the void space twisted slightly. It was like a circle of ripples.

"Swoosh!"

Zhang Ruochen walked out of the circle of half transparent ripples. He looked back and continued walking.

As long as he was a master of space warps power, he could easily ditch followers.

Four days later, Zhang Ruochen was sitting in a small boat on the surface of Tongming River.

He sat with his legs crossed, practicing Five Strike Technique. This technique had yin-cold nature and belonged to the Sword Ripple of Ten Channels. The Five Strike Technique was in his right hand.

Zhang Ruochen drew characters in the air with his right fingers, forming streaks of Genuine Qi light.

"Tongming River is indeed an extremely cold place. It is perfect for practicing Sword Wave," he said to himself.

The little boat sailed downward with the current and was very stable.

Tongming River was an ancient river that stretched a hundred thousand kilometers. It ran through 42 commanderies. The river was wide, and its flow was slow. You couldn't see its end; it was like an ocean.

If Omen Ridge was home to land savage beasts, then Tongming River was home to water savage beasts.

Empress Chi Yao had sat on the throne for 500 years. The national power was getting stronger and more prosperous. Saints came forth in large numbers and practicing the Martial Arts had become very popular. Any land savage beasts who dared to fight with humans had been eradicated. In the whole Kunlun's Field, humans were the most respected and all the beasts were hibernating.

Humans had never been so powerful that they controlled almost all the beasts. Anything that dared to fight against a human was looking for death.

Now, in all of Kunlun's Field, with the exception of the wild place in the north, only the water beasts would dare to fight humans.

Tongming River was certainly home to many savage beasts. There were 10 times more here than in Omen Ridge.

The danger of an aquatic savage beast was no less than that of a land savage beast. They made trouble all the year round and destroyed human villages and towns along the river.

Especially the Death Section of Tongming River, it was a forbidden area for humans. Man would die if he or she came near.

At this moment, Zhang Ruochen on his little boat was sailing straight toward the Death Section.

He had an arrangement with Huang Yanchen, Duanmu Xingling, Chen Xier, Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi that they would meet at the Death City, the only human city in the Death Section of the river.

Suddenly, large waves churned up on the water's once calm surface.

The waves were more than 10 meters high. They were like water walls wanting to push the little boat into the sky. At the same time, the wind was blowing hard like a tornado. There was whistling sound.

"Awoo!"

Savage beasts began to cry and growl. Their voices could be heard hundreds of kilometers away. Even the clouds in the sky cleared away with the sound of their voices.

A giant black shadow lurched out of the water, exposing fierce scales. Each scale was the size of a palm.

"Bam!"

The water flow surged, beating the boat fiercely.

The little boat was torn apart instantly turning to sawdust.

"SHING!"

Zhang Ruochen morphed into a white light and leaped into the sky. He applied Genuine Qi into his legs and stopped for a minute in the sky. Then he leaped higher, reaching a spot more than 30 meters above the water's surface.

A giant black skull shot out of the water and opened its mouth. It wanted to swallow Zhang Ruochen in one bite.

It was a class four medium level savage beast, the Black-wind Anaconda.

The Black-wind Anaconda was an overlord in the water. It could come and go freely in the water, and also control hurricanes. It could make the strong wind blow and cause giant waves.

If it was angry, villagers who lived within hundreds of kilometers along the river would suffer.

Zhang Ruochen pinched his middle finger and forefinger together. The Heart of the Sword of Qi pool on his glabella lit up instantly and formed into a force of Sword Comprehension.

“Whew!”

The Ancient Abyss Sword let out a cry and flew out from his back. Like a dragon, it flew into the Black-wind Anaconda’s mouth. There was a “whish” sound.

Chapter 305: Here Comes A Strong Enemy

The Ancient Abyss Sword was very sharp. It pierced the Blackwind Python’s Celestial Bodysield instantly. It passed through its teeth and tongue and flew into its stomach.

The Blackwind Python felt the pain, and its body rolled drastically. A strange howling sound came out from its mouth.

Forces of wind nature Genuine Qi flew out from its body turning into wind blades that flew in every direction.

The waves on the water’s surface became even more turbulent.

Zhang Ruochen stood calmly in the middle of the storm. He seemed quite tranquil.

“Woosh!”

Under Zhang Ruochen’s control, the Ancient Abyss Sword sliced the Python’s internal organs. It came out covered in blood and landed in his hand.

“Boom!”

The Blackwind Python’s body dropped down heavily with a series of giant splashes.

A moment later, its giant body floated to the surface. It was more than 70 meters long. Its sturdy body was scary, ferocious and rugged. Every one of its scales seemed to be made of iron, reflecting light like metal.

The water was dyed crimson and emanated a strong stench of blood.

If Zhang Ruochen had not had the Ancient Abyss Sword and reached the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword, killing the Blackwind Python would not have been an easy task.

Its scales were not ordinary Genuine Martial Arms; they could not be broken.

This class four medium level savage beast had finally died under Zhang Ruochen’s sword. From then on, the water within a hundred kilometers of this area would be much calmer.

Zhang Ruochen's toes dipped onto the water's surface. He flew up, as light as a swallow. He flew a hundred meters away and gently landed on the Blackwind Python's body.

Its body was full of treasures, like snakeskin which could be made into soft armor.

Snake teeth could be made into a poisonous soldier.

Even its blood and meat could be eaten once it was processed. This could improve a warrior's physical quality and increase their resistance to poison.

However, for Zhang Ruochen, although Blackwind Python's skin, teeth, and meat were good stuff, he had no interest in them.

He had several million Spiritual Crystals. Couldn't he just buy those?

The higher one's martial cultivation was and the more fortune he had, and the higher his vision was.

Of course, there was still one thing he wanted.

The snake's gallbladder.

"Chh!"

Zhang Ruochen carefully cut the snake open. He removed its colorful gallbladder and one piece of Spiritual Brawn weighing more than 100kg.

A strong aroma arose from the Spiritual Brawn. It was like a Spiritual Dose made of flesh and blood. One would feel refreshed and energetic with just one sniff.

"A class four medium level savage beast was much stronger than a class four lower level. And its Spiritual Brawn was a nourishing food."

The Blackwind Python was pretty much like a warrior at the Advanced Stage or Dawn State of the Heaven Realm. It was certainly a formidable savage beast.

It was not just 100kg Spiritual Brawn. Its value was ten times more precious than all of the snake's flesh and blood combined.

Even a warrior at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm would benefit greatly from it.

Zhang Ruochen cut the Spiritual Brawn into ten pieces and put them into ten separate jade containers. He put them away carefully.

His eyes lit up as he stared at the fist-sized gallbladder. He was even more excited than he'd been at the sight of the Spiritual Brawn.

The snake's gallbladder was three colors, black, white and yellow.

Three colors. This Blackwind Python had practiced for 300 years. Its gallbladder was equivalent to a 600 year old Spiritual Dose. It was a good thing!

He put away the gallbladder, and went back to shore.

He lifted his head and looked to the sky.

The sun was setting. It was like a flame burning bright in the sky. Even the water had turned into a golden color.

"It looks like I won't make it to the Death City today."

Zhang Ruochen was not in a hurry. Even though he wanted to unseal Underwater Dragon Palace, he had already waited three months. What was one more night?

Tonight, I should refine the Snake Gallbladder and see how much cultivation I can get from it.

Zhang Ruochen found a concealed valley and built a fire.

He sat by the fire and took out the Gallbladder. He processed it, ate it and started to refine it.

The energy it contained was very cold. He felt like he had eaten a piece of Profound Ice. Luckily, he had refined many Icing Meridians Pills before, so he could easily withstand the stream of icy air.

He started to practice his right hand's Five Strike Technique with the help of gallbladder's yin-cold power.

"Supreme Yin Pulse Sword Wave!"

His thumb was a sword and pointed out quickly.

"Swoosh!"

The air around him became cold suddenly.

A pale blue sword wave flew out from his thumb, hitting the stone wall behind the valley with a crash. A giant hole of three meters wide was left on the stone wall. It looked like it had been hit by an aerolite.

The surrounding stone walls broke and were sealed with a layer of cold.

His left thumb's "Supreme Yin Pulse Sword Wave" had reached the Small Success Realm.

"Tr "Supreme Yin Pulse Sword Wave!" anquility Pulse Sword Wave."

Zhang Ruochen's palm kept changing and his right forefinger pointed out.

A Sword Breath flew out from his fingertip, leaving a path of ice on the ground.

"Bam!"

There was another giant hole in the stone wall. Its destructive force was pretty much the same as the one before it.

He struck out once again. This time he only used his middle, ring and baby fingers.

Three fingers struck out at the same time.

"Middle Spiritual Pulse Sword Wave."

"Supreme Abyss Pulse Sword Wave."

"Lesser Moon Pulse Sword Wave."

Three Sword Breaths flew out at the same time, leaving three more giant gaping holes in the remote stone wall.

Two of the holes were the same size as the former ones. The destructive force of Lesser Meridian Strike had made a smaller hole just one meter in diameter.

The Blackwind Python's gallbladder was indeed good stuff. It had aided him in practicing Supreme Yin Pulse Sword Wave, Tranquility Pulse Sword Wave, Middle Spiritual Pulse Sword Wave, and Supreme Abyss Pulse Sword Wave to the level of Small Success. Only Lesser Moon Pulse Sword Wave was still at the Beginner level.

Zhang Ruochen was still very satisfied. Before coming to Tongming River, he had never thought that he could practice four Sword Waves to the level of Small Success in such a short time.

With his Sword Wave reaching the level of Small Success, his power increased several times over.

Zhang Ruochen felt that his martial cultivation had improved a lot. It was close to the peak of the Final State of the Earth Realm.

In addition, even his eyesight, hearing and Spiritual Power had improved slightly. His five senses became sharp, and the whole world became clearer.

At midnight, Zhang Ruochen suddenly woke up from practice. His ears moved, and he said to himself, "I am surrounded! They've caught up with me. I wonder who they are?"

He had heard their footsteps, breathing, and even heartbeats. Although the enemy was still far away, Zhang Ruochen already knew them very well.

The enemies were evil. A few of them had powerful cultivations, even more powerful than Zhang Ruochen's. He could only defeat them if he used all his power.

The formidable enemies were getting closer. Zhang Ruochen was still very calm. He picked up twigs from the ground and threw them into the fire.

"Crack! Crack!"

The firewood began to crack and spark.

"Rustle!"

Thirty centimeters under the ground, a long metal whip full of sharp barbs was surging forward rapidly like a metal snake. It rushed toward Zhang Ruochen.

Three meters away, it dashed out from the underground with a "swoosh" sound. It kept spinning round with barbs as it moved toward Zhang Ruochen's neck.

Its tip was a five-inch long spike and emanated a purple glow. Obviously, it was highly toxic.

Zhang Ruochen grinned and grabbed a tree branch with his two fingers.

Spiritual Fire Genuine Qi came out of his fingers, surrounding the tree branch. It hit the long metal whip.

"Ding!"

The tree branch with Spiritual Fire hit the long metal whip and dispersed the Genuine Qi it contained.

A moment later, the long metal whip flew out again and hit Zhang Ruochen in the back with a “swoosh” sound.

The owner of the long metal whip suddenly appeared from the darkness.

It was a woman who appeared to be around 30 years old. She wore a tightly wrapped golden armor around her chest and buttocks, exposing her long snow-white legs and waist.

She made a whining sound, like a phantom. She kept striking out the long metal whip. She applied a set of exquisite whips that completely surrounded Zhang Ruochen.

The entire valley was full of golden light.

Zhang Ruochen sat on the ground with his legs crossed. He was very elegant and comfortable. He kept striking out the tree branches, defeating the long metal whip every time.

“Whew!”

Suddenly, a fire arrow with a Phoenix Tail shot out of the darkness toward Zhang Ruochen.

In the blink of an eye, it had flown several kilometers through the valley. It was heading straight toward Zhang Ruochen’s glabella.

If an arrow could still keep its force after flying several kilometers, the owner must be a top master. He had not only amazing arm strength, but also eyesight that was much better than ordinary warriors.

Zhang Ruochen showed a serious expression in his eyes as he grabbed the hilt of the Ancient Abyss Sword.

“Swoosh!”

The ancient sword moved from its sheath and showed a brilliant sword light. It formed a crescent shaped Sword Breath with a diameter of more than ten meters in the sky.

“Bam!”

The fire arrow clashed together with the Sword Breath. With a bang, all the Spiritual Qi in the valley shook.

The Phoenix Feather Arrow was exposed instantly. It turned into a large rain of fire, firing out rapidly in all directions.

The woman holding the long metal whip stood back to avoid the impact of the fire rain.

The rain of fire certainly fell on Zhang Ruochen.

But Zhang Ruochen had a one meter shield of Genuine Qi, so the fire droplets fell to the ground and turned to iron sand.

“SHING!”

A man holding a red bow and quiver flew out from the darkness like a giant bird.

Chapter 306: A Waiting Trap

The man looked tall and strong. His arms were as big as Zhang Ruochen's thighs. His muscles were like red hot steel.

"BANG!"

A loud explosion in the sky made the entire valley shake. Almost all the leaves fell from trees.

It was the sound of the Phoenix Feather Arrow. It was so fast, it exceeded the speed velocity, so the arrow arrived before it was heard.

The man could shoot an arrow at supersonic speed. His archery was excellent and very powerful.

He could kill an enemy from dozens of kilometers away.

Zhang Ruochen looked at the two men in front of him and asked, "Are you from Square Commandery?"

"Yes."

The woman holding the long metal whip had well-developed breasts. She showed a cold expression in her eyes and said in a low voice, "I am the imperial concubine of the Square Commandery Prince, Jin Yeyun."

"It is unusual for the Square Commandery Prince to pay so much attention to a junior such as me. He even sends out his concubine."

Zhang Ruochen added more firewood to the fire. His expression was quite natural as he looked at the man. "Your archery skill is quite amazing. You must be a martial arts legend from Square Commandery?"

"Young man, listen carefully! I am Yin Shan, Commander of the Ace Archer Battalion from Square Commandery." The man holding the big red bow said with a coarse voice.

Zhang Ruochen nodded his head. "It's a pity that Square Commandery colluded with the Black Market. It broke the First Central Dynasty's rule and had to be eradicated!"

"You did that."

Jin Yeyun was very angry and revealed a murderous light in her eyes, like she was going to swallow Zhang Ruochen whole.

If it were not Zhang Ruochen, she would still be the highest-ranking imperial concubine and lived comfortably. How could she come to kill a junior from far away?

Now Square Commandery no longer existed, she could only join the Black Market and live in darkness. Her glamor was gone forever.

Zhang Ruochen said coldly, "Although both of you are martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm, with your strength, it is not easy to kill me. Who else is out there? Show yourself!"

WOOSH!

A human figure appeared from the darkness and dashed into the valley at a very high speed.

“Supervisor of West Palace from Square Commandery, Cao Lin.”

An old eunuch in a green uniform landed behind Zhang Ruochen. He was wearing an official’s headgear with his long white hair tied beneath it.

“Commander of Imperial Guards from Square Commandery, Guo Shisan.”

A big bald man who was taller and stronger than Yin Shan appeared quickly on Zhang Ruochen’s left. He looked to be 2.8 meters tall. He was holding a wide heavy sword that looked like a giant metal door.

Both of his feet sunk into the ground from the weight of his combat sword.

In addition to Jin Yeyun, Yin Shan, Cao Lin and Guo Shisan, there were two more men standing in the distance.

Behind them was a team of soldiers riding brute elephants.

The brute elephant was a giant beast, close to ten meters tall. The soldiers stood on the backs of the elephants wearing heavy armor and holding long spears. They were like a team of black ghost knights.

The entire valley had turned into a death valley. The atmosphere was suppressed to its extreme.

Zhang Ruochen stood up and tightened his shirt slightly. He gazed out at the valley and said with a smile, “Square Commandery’s most powerful army, the Barbarian Elephant Army was moved in order to kill me. You think highly of me. I just want to know, who will lead the army to kill me tonight?”

An old man’s voice came from far away. “I am Jin Chuan, the tenth of the top ten masters of Square Commandery. I am under the command of the Commandery Prince to kill you. Zhang Ruochen, we have already set up nets above and snares below. You will not escape tonight. Even if you had wings you could not escape.”

“Predecessor Jin Chuan. It seems unlikely that I will escape tonight!” Zhang Ruochen said at a normal speed.

Zhang Ruochen looked calm, but in reality his heart was beating very quickly.

Jin Chuan was famous in Omen Ridge. He was rated as a top ten master in Square Commandery. His martial cultivation was unfathomable. It was said that he had practiced the Martial Soul.

Zhang Ruochen saw another shadow and felt its familiarity. “Zhang Tiangui?”

“Ninth brother, how are you?”

Zhang Tiangui took a few steps forward. He withdrew from the shadows, exposing his well-defined face. His eyebrows were bluish black and his eyes were sharp, giving him an imposing appearance.

He looked at Zhang Ruochen with pity in his eyes.

Zhang Ruochen withdrew his status. He would die for sure tonight. It was particularly sad to think about.

With his great talent, he had the opportunity to become the best in the future. But he was going to die a violent death before he was fully developed.

It was normal for Zhang Tiangui to show a merciful expression.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "You colluded with the men in Square Commandery. Aren't you afraid that Yuntai Suzerain will find out about this?"

"It is because of you that I am no longer a disciple of Yuntai Suzerain," Zhang Tiangui replied coldly. "I have officially become a member of the Black Market now."

Zhang Ruochen nodded his head, showing an understanding expression. He glanced toward the warriors of Square Commandery and asked, "Zhang Tiangui, don't you want to fight me personally?"

Zhang Tiangui stood up straight with his hands behind him like a javelin. He replied with a smile, "Ninth brother, you are now one of the top hundred masters on the Earth Board. I am afraid that I am no longer a match for you. Don't worry; I won't give you a chance to kill me."

"Don't talk nonsense with him. Kill him now."

Jin Yeyun bent her beautiful long legs slightly and shot off into the sky. She formed three graceful human shadows.

WOOSH!

The long metal whips in her hands swung out at the same time, turning into three golden spiritual snakes. They formed multiple spinning lines in the sky and attacked Zhang Ruochen in the neck, waist and legs.

The whips were like entities not phantoms.

The others couldn't see Jin Yeyun's bodily movement, but Zhang Ruochen could see it clearly.

His pupils were connecting with her Meridians. On the surface of his pupils was a thin layer of Genuine Qi. A great deal of Spiritual Fire moved around the Genuine Qi and his eyesight was greatly enhanced.

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen rushed out, his body splitting into nine shadows.

The shadows drew swords from nine directions and attacked Jin Yeyun all at the same time.

"This is bad. The boy has practiced bodily movement martial techniques in the Superior class of Spiritual Stage. I'll go help her."

Guo Shisan ran over quickly, each step covering almost seven meters. He lifted the wide heavy sword above his head. Genuine Qi poured out from his pores and formed a spherical Celestial Bodyshield with a diameter of 10 meters.

"Rainbow-cleaving Sword."

He swung his sword down heavily. Black Genuine Qi came out from the tip of his sword and turned into a illusory giant sword image ten meters long. It struck at Zhang Ruochen's nine shadows and blocked his way.

As the former Commander of Imperial Guards in Square Commandery, Guo Shisan's martial cultivation had reached the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm. Plus, he was a top warrior and had the strength to fight in different realms. The sword he struck out with full strength was certainly unusual.

Even Yan Qingwu, who was one of the top 100 on the Earth Board was far behind compared to Guo Shisan.

The sword Qi Guo Shisan struck out was like a waterfall rushing down from the sky.

Zhang Ruochen had to withdraw his sword; his nine shadows became one again. His sword hit the back of Guo Shisan's heavy sword with a "BANG".

A terrible force spread to Zhang Ruochen's arm, causing his fingers to go numb.

"What a horrible power."

Zhang Ruochen's heart sank. It was difficult enough to deal with Guo Shisan alone. How powerful would Jin Chuan, the top ten Master of Square Commandery be?

"You can withstand my sword. You are definitely a top 100 genius on the Earth Board. You do have ability."

Guo Shisan chased after him, pressing harder and harder, striking out his sword at every step.

Despite Guo Shisan's huge arms and legs, his sword technique was quite good. Luckily, Zhang Ruochen's bodily movement was very flexible, otherwise he would have been killed by the sword.

"BAM!"

Guo Shisan's heavy sword missed Zhang Ruochen and hit the ground. It left a giant sword mark on the ground, more than 30 meters long, 30 meters deep and half a meter wide.

It was conceivable that if it were to strike a human body, the whole person would be smashed into pieces by the sword Qi and turned into blood fog.

WOOSH!

Jin Yeyun stood in the distance with her long metal whip. She helped Guo Shisan by constantly attacking Zhang Ruochen's legs and suppressing his bodily movement advantage.

One was near and the other was far.

One focused on his power and the other on his flexibility. They worked together perfectly. Every movement seemed to drive Zhang Ruochen closer to death.

As Zhang Ruochen withheld their attacks, he looked around seeking a way out of the valley.

Jin Chuan and Zhang Tiangui were in the mouth of the valley, in addition to the Barbarian Elephant Army. It was a dead end.

Looking to the other three sides of the valley, the old eunuch with unfathomable cultivation was standing on the left and the man holding the giant red bow was on the right.

Both of them were seemingly top-notch masters who could not be killed with two or three movements. So, the back of the valley was the only way out.

The back was a cliff of over 333 meters in height. It was smooth and barren. Maybe this was why the masters from Square Commandery weren't sedulously guarding it.

However, Zhang Ruochen felt that something was wrong with this. Square Commandery had sent so many masters to kill him; they had set up nets above and snares below. How could they give him a way out?

Was it a dead end? Were they just deliberately giving him a way out, when actually they were waiting for him to attempt it?

Zhang Ruochen had no choice. Even though he knew that they might have set up a trap there, he had no other choice.

"No wonder the Commandery Prince wanted me to lead the team to kill Zhang Ruochen personally. This guy is indeed amazing!" Jin Chuan exclaimed. "Even though he hasn't reached the Heaven Realm, he can still resist a joint attack from Guo Shisan and Yun. How horrible will he be when he reaches the Heaven Realm? Even the top 50 warriors on the Earth Board are not that powerful!"

Zhang Tianguai smiled. "Zhang Ruochen is just pretending. Actually, he has reached his limit. Within 50 movements, Commander Guo and Concubine Jin will kill him."

Jin Chuan was a bit surprised. He could not help looking at Zhang Tianguai and thinking, *"This guy's judgement is very sharp, he can see Zhang Ruochen's strength."*

In Jin Chuan's opinion, Zhang Ruochen had been put in an inferior position with Guo Shisan and Jin Yeyun's attack. Unless he was still hiding some of his strength, he would for sure die within 50 movements.

Chapter 307: Endless Battles

"Phantom Lightning Whip."

Jin Yeyun executed a Spiritual Stage whip martial technique. Genuine Qi flowed from her hands and wrapped around the metal long whip.

The metal long whip turned into threads of lightning that twisted together and flashed towards Zhang Ruochen's waist in the dark.

"Windcatching Thirteen Swords."

At the same time, Guo Shisan swung out 13 times in succession. Each sword stroke was like a wave that crashed one after another towards Zhang Ruochen.

The whip technique and sword Qi intertwined to form a gigantic wave of attack.

Zhang Ruochen retreated continuously, but she still managed to catch his thigh with her whip, leaving a wound.

Crackling sounds came from the wound as the blood and flesh were fried by lightning.

Fortunately, the wound was not deep and did not affect his bodily movement.

Zhang Ruochen resisted the pain in his leg and roared, "Break!"

The the Abyss Ancient Sword in his hand began to spin quickly and flew towards the metal whip.

SNAP!

The metal whip snapped in half; one half fell to the ground.

When the whip snapped, naturally its inscriptions also broke. The Genuine Martial Arms was destroyed; it had lost all of its previous power.

"How is this possible? My dragon lightning whip is made from Candle Dragon Metal and is an eighth level Genuine Martial Arms. How could he have broken it so easily?"

Jin Yeyun looked at the broken whip in her hand. She lost her focus slightly for a moment.

In that moment, Zhang Ruochen pushed off with both feet and arched into a curve. Genuine Qi flowed into his legs from his Qi Sea.

BOOM!

He flew into the sky like a cannonball.

His speed only began to slow slightly as he reached 70 meters. Looking down, the people on the ground appeared to be no larger than a finger.

After the initial burst of speed faded, Zhang Ruochen immediately executed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. Using the tiny scraps of wind power in the air, his body stopped slightly before continuing upwards.

"No! Zhang Ruochen wants to escape!" Zhang Tiangui announced.

"He can't escape."

Yin Shan took out three Phoenix Feather Arrows and nocked them into the giant red bow. He drew the bow to its fullest extent.

Upon closer examination, the flames were moving up and down the bow string.

The three Phoenix Feather Arrows were like three Phoenixes.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

As the three arrows flew out there were three ear-splitting explosions.

The power of the explosions forced Yin Shan to take three steps back.

The arrows flew faster than the speed of sound and became three streaks of fire. They formed a curve, flying towards Zhang Ruochen.

“Incredible. A man’s arrow is able to surpass the speed of sound!” Zhang Tiangui was awed.

“That is because Yin Shan’s bow itself is already very powerful,” Jin Chuan explained. “It is a ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms. The bowstring is made from the Meridians of a the Fourth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm warrior. Even without arming it, just the sound of firing an empty bow is enough to kill a flying bird.”

Guo Shisan added, “Yin Shan is publicly known as the best archer in Square Commandery. He once killed a Master of Martial Arts who was in the Heaven Realm from 50 kilometers away.”

“Zhang Ruochen will be much less agile in the air. No matter how skilled he is, he won’t be able to dodge three Phoenix Feather Arrows.”

It was at this moment that a strange thing happened right in front of their eyes.

The three Phoenix Feather Arrows turned together and flew past Zhang Ruochen before hitting the cliff nearby.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Three giant booms sounded from the cliff.

Each Phoenix Feather Arrow gouged a deep hole into the cliff, causing the stone wall to shake, and dislodging giant rocks which fell to the ground below.

“How could this happen? Could it be that Zhang Ruochen has practiced the legendary Star Shift martial technique?” Zhang Tiangui narrowed his eyes and became lost in thought.

Naturally, they did not know that Zhang Ruochen had just demonstrated the power of space warps.

“Follow him!”

The four masters Guo Shisan, Jin Yeyun, Cao Lin, and Yin Shan ran together towards the stone wall and rushed to the top.

Meanwhile Jin Chuan did not appear to be in a rush. He appeared to be very relaxed. He smiled coolly, “Does Zhang Ruochen really think he can get away by climbing the cliff? He’s too naive!”

After Zhang Ruochen dodged the three Phoenix Feather Arrows, he climbed over the hundred meter high cliff and rushed into the glades.

He had just run into the glades when dozens of long spears appeared, turning the forest into a forest of spears.

WOOSH!

Above the cliff, there was an ambush from the Barbarian Elephant Army. There were 50 people and each was a master at the Dawn State of the Earth Realm.

Each of them was dressed in black armor. They rode brute elephants as large as small mountains.

The long spears they held were made from Earth Core Scorching Iron, and each weighed 1,500 kilograms. Combining that with the strength of the brute elephant's charge, the power of each of their strikes could surpass the entire strength of a warrior at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm.

The power of a brute elephant was already equal to that of a warrior at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm.

The 50 members of the Barbarian Elephant Army stood in a row like a spear array. When they attacked at the same time it was like a rain of spears, and it forced Zhang Ruochen to back up.

PHHF!

Zhang Ruochen backed up to the edge of the cliff. If he took one more step back, he would fall into the abyss.

The four masters were running up the cliff; they were going to reach the top soon.

"There is a brute elephant spear forest ahead, and masters behind. It looks like my only option is to fly across the sky!"

The Spatial Ring on Zhang Ruochen's finger gave out a pulse of light. He removed a fist-sized red iron ball from within the ring.

The surface of the ball was covered in scales and had many lines of inscriptions carved into it.

Zhang Ruochen injected his Genuine Qi into the iron ball and activated the inscriptions. In a flash, the scales on the surface of the iron ball fell off and enveloped Zhang Ruochen's fingers, wrists, arms, chest, head, and legs.

SWOOSH!

A moment later, Zhang Ruochen's entire body was covered in a layer of red scales and a pair of seven meter wide fins, like a pair of wings, appeared on his back.

A ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms, Flying Fish Armor.

BAM!

A loud boom came from the top of the cliff.

Zhang Ruochen flew up wearing the Flying Fish Armor and reached the speed velocity. In a mere moment, he had flown up into the night sky.

Yin Shan climbed to the top of the mountain and immediately nocked three Phoenix Feather Arrows to his bow.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Three Phoenix Feather Arrows shot like shooting stars across the sky towards Zhang Ruochen.

After firing the three arrows, Yin Shan bent his bow and fired three more.

The six Phoenix Feather Arrows seemed to move together as one drawing six fiery paths across the sky.

Although Zhang Ruochen moved much more quickly after putting on the Flying Fish Armor, he was considerably less agile.

Using the power of space warps, he successfully dodged five Phoenix Feather Arrows but was struck in the back by the sixth.

BOOM! Zhang Ruochen felt like he had been struck by lightning. An intense pain radiated out from the center of his back; it felt like his spine had snapped.

Luckily the Flying Fish Armor blocked 70 percent of the Phoenix Feather Arrow's power. Otherwise, that one arrow would have left a bowl-sized blood hole in Zhang Ruochen.

Even so, he still lost some of his center of gravity. It seemed like he would topple to the earth.

No, he must continue on.

If he fell to the ground, he would be at their mercy!

Through sheer force of will, Zhang Rouchen clapped his hands in void space and drew on his Genuine Qi to correct his center of balance. Using the Flying Fish Armor, he flew into the distance.

"We can't let him escape!" Zhang Tiangui cried out.

"He can't escape."

Jin Chuan revealed a trace of a smile. "I have put down an inescapable net. It is not one that a junior could escape from."

In the night sky, there came a strange noise. It sounded both like the roar of a beast and the screech of an eagle.

CRASH!

Suddenly, lightning flashed, and thunder crashed in the clouds.

The shadow of a strange bird of gigantic proportions opened its wings and flew out of the clouds.

It was too dark for them to see anything clearly. They could only see that it was a giant savage bird with a wingspan that covered half the sky and dimmed the light of the moon and stars.

Flying beneath the giant shadow, Zhang Ruochen looked like a tiny bug.

BOOM!

The giant shadow extended a claw that crackled with lightning and struck towards Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen's scalp felt numb and his entire body was freezing cold. It was as if he was being enveloped in death's embrace and could not escape.

"Oh no! I've been completely trapped by that savage bird. Its Genuine Qi has imprisoned me, and I can't escape."

The savage bird was at least a fourth-level superior class savage beast.

When two warriors duelled, if their cultivations were too far apart, the stronger warrior would be able to trap the weaker with their Martial Arts Genuine Qi. This meant the weaker warrior did not even have a chance to escape.

Right now, Zhang Ruochen was caught in this situation.

It appeared that the giant descending claw was about to land on him.

“Break!”

Zhang Ruochen raised the Abyss Ancient Sword with great difficulty. He activated the inscriptions and swung the sword out.

TCH!

The Abyss Ancient Sword tore an opening into the savage bird’s Genuine Qi. Zhang Ruochen seized the opportunity and burst through the opening. His body plummeted down and splashed into the ice cold Tongming River.

PHHHF!

Landing in the water, he sent up a wave meters high.

Like a fish entering the ocean, Zhang Ruochen dove into the water and swam towards the bottom of the river.

The wings on the Flying Fish Amor became two fins that sliced through the water with no resistance. Once again moving at the speed velocity, he disappeared into the dark water in a flash.

“GAAA!”

The black savage bird let out an earth-shattering cry.

The Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi, affected by the savage bird’s power, created a thick bolt of lightning and sent it flashing down from the heavens onto the surface of the Tongming River.

The surface of the water was completely covered with lightning and emitted a cracking sound.

A moment later, fish, shrimp, and turtles floated to the surface of the water in a dense group. Among them there were even some Aquatic Savage Beasts’ corpses.

They had all been killed by the flash of lightning. All creatures within hundreds meters had pretty much been wiped out.

Chapter 308: Swordsman Vs. Swordsman

“Pearl Thunder Bird, this is the Tongming River, the Aquatic Savage Beast’s zone. Take back your power first, lest the savage beast overlords become infuriated.”

Jin Chuan ran from the valley and stood on a raised rock by the river.

The golden-robed man looked very old. His grey hair fluttered in the wind.

Although he spoke quietly, his voice was echoed in the sky.

Above the vault of heaven, a gigantic black shadow promptly took back the power of thunderbolt. It swirled in the air and fell to the top of a small hill by the river.

From afar, it looked like a Pearl Thunder Bird. It was as big as a half-hill. Its body was like that of a black eagle, but it had a scaly neck and snake-like head.

With its snake-like head, it looked like a savage monster. No one dared to get close to it.

Zhang Tiangui arrived at the Tongming River and looked at the rolling waters. His face suddenly darkened.

Zhang Tiangui clenched both hands, releasing his envy and hate. "He ran away!"

If it were him, he would have died that night. However, Zhang Ruochen had gotten away successfully. This meant Zhang Ruochen was far stronger than him.

He was envious of Zhang Ruochen's power. The more envious he was, the more hateful he grew. He could not wait to see Zhang Ruochen get torn to pieces.

"Woosh!"

Four figures flashed. Jin Yeyun, Cao Lin, Guo Shisan and Yin Shan came from above and stood in a line. Each of them was powerful. They stood by the river like four great mountains.

"I am surprised that he could escape from our tight encirclement," Jin Yeyun said. "If we do not kill him, he is doomed to be trouble for us."

"Zhang Ruochen has been severely injured," Yin Shan pointed out. "It's quite possible that he'll die in the abdomen of an Aquatic Savage Beast, even if he escapes into the Tongming River."

Jin Chuan said, "We must never be negligent. As the Commandery Prince ordered, Zhang Ruochen is wanted dead or alive."

"Boom!"

A group of brute elephants rushed from the forest. On each one's back was a heavily-armored soldier, holding a spear in hand.

A total of 200 people stood in a square formation. Each of them was a top-notch martial arts master.

Jin Chuan ordered, "Each takes a team of Barbarian Elephant soldiers to pursue separately along the Tongming River. Make sure to kill him while he is severely injured."

"Please take care of yourselves. There are many strong savage beasts in these waters. It is called the 'Forbidden Area for Humans'. Don't disturb the savage beast overlords during your chase."

"Yes!"

Each of the four masters led 50 soldiers and disappeared into the night.

They began to track Zhang Ruochen along the upper and lower river.

A red coquettish figure suddenly flew over the water. It stopped in the mist like a ghost, but it had an enticing silhouette.

Jin Chuan and Zhang Tianguai promptly knelt down to salute in awe. "Red Wish Emissary, what brings you here?"

The Red Wish Emissary stood above the water with her jade white feet pointed. Her tiptoes made ripples in the water.

She said, "Our young master is already here. He asks me to tell you that he has found the Saintness from the Demonic Sect's trail in Death City. It's probably just a rumor that masters have come to the Tongming River. He asks you to be cautious; do not mess this up for him."

"What? Why has the Saintness come here?" Jin Chuan raised his head. His face darkened.

Everyone had a natural fear of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect.

The Red Wish Emissary said, "The young master is looking into it. If the Moon Worship Demonic Sect knows about the Dragon Sarira, our actions in Underwater Dragon Palace might be obstructed. I heard that you were killing a so-called genius from Omen Ridge. Have you succeeded?"

"I've set a far-flung network, but unfortunately... That man is so sly that he ran into the Tongming River. We are tracking him now," Jin Chuan said awkwardly.

The Red Wish Emissary laughed. "You are so useless, you cannot even deal with such trifles. I hope you can fix your problems here as soon as possible and avoid endangering our young master's great plans."

With this, the Red Wish Emissary turned into a red haze. She flew out and disappeared above the water.

Zhang Tianguai raised his head and looked to where the Red Wish Emissary had stood. "Predecessor Jin Chuan, who is the Red Wish Emissary? Why are you so scared of her?"

Jin Chuan stood up and flipped the dust from his knee. His eyes were full of awe. "She is one of the Seven Kills Emissaries of the Black Market Excellence Hall. Each of the Seven Kills Emissaries is a genius of geniuses, a master of masters. You may be a top genius in Omen Ridge, but to them, you are just a small potato."

"Really?"

Zhang Tianguai doubted that he was inferior to the so-called Seven Kills Emissary and the young master.

Someday, he would become a man of men, to be admired and awed by all people.

...

...

Zhang Ruochen swam rapidly downstream at the bottom of the river. He was wearing the Flying Fish Armor.

Without knowing how long it took, Zhang Ruochen stopped but remained underwater. He opened the internal space of the Space Spinel.

Upon entering the internal space, his Flying Fish Armor immediately disappeared and turned into a fist-sized red iron ball.

“Ahem!”

He knelt on one knee, a trail of blood dripping from his mouth.

A fierce pain shot through his back, like a fire was burning through his flesh and blood.

“Square Commandery has sent so many masters to murder me. They must be greatly shocked that I am 98th on the Earth Board and want to get rid of me.”

What was more worrisome, actually, was Zhang Tiangui, who had once been a disciple of Yuntai Suzerain. He had always erred on the side of caution.

However, he was not overly cautious now that he had joined the black market.

Zhang Ruochen knew all his secrets. How would he deal with him?

Would he murder Concubine Lin, Zhang Ruochen’s mother?

Not a chance! Zhang Rouchen had to kill him. Otherwise, his mother would be in danger.

“Ahem!”

He began to cough up blood again, promptly eliminating his distracting thoughts.

He would make plans once he recovered.

He took a healing Pill and started to refine it.

After half a day, more than half of his injuries had healed.

There were two reasons for his fast recovery. First, he had reached the Advanced Stage in the Heaven Realm, because he had refined a lot of Refined Physique Elixirs over several months of practice in the Gravity Secret Practice Room.

Having a strong physical quality made it much easier to recover.

Secondly, the Genuine Qi of the Phoenix Feather Arrow’s fire had been stopped by the Flying Fish Armor; it hadn’t entered his body.

The hardest thing to recover from was the injury caused by Genuine Qi and Sword Breath that flowed into his body.

Take Zhang Ruochen for example. If he stabbed a warrior, there would not be only a sword cut. Sword Breath and Genuine Qi would also be injected into the warrior’s body through the wound.

If the warrior failed to repel Zhang Ruochen’s Sword Breath, he would die of broken meridians.

Flying Fish Armor helped ward off Genuine Qi and Sword Breath. It even dissolved seventy percent of the impact force.

Almost recovered, Zhang Ruochen left the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel and sped out of the water. He was ready to go to the Death City. He would consider the next step once he met with Si Xingkong, Huang Yanchen, and the others.

A short time later, Zhang Ruochen felt a sudden slight Genuine Qi fluctuation from the forest.

Spiritual Qi quivered in the air causing fallen leaves to shake and swirl.

How powerful it was!

“SWOOSH!”

Zhang Ruochen changed his momentum and drew out the Ancient Abyss Sword. The sword edge radiated cold light. He called out, “Who’s there?”

“It’s me.”

A grey-robed man walked out of the forest.

He was thin and carried a rough iron sword behind his back.

As he approached, a gloomy cold breath emitted from him. It was an invisible murderous intent, but it could not be deliberately hidden.

“Le!”

Zhang Ruochen stared at the man and happily withdrew the Ancient Abyss Sword. He had not been expecting to run into his friend here.

Just like a sword, Le had an unspeakable persistence in his eyes. He would not yield to anything.

But he lowered his head before Zhang Ruochen. “My Savior, I’ve come specially to tell you an important thing.”

“What is it?” Zhang Ruochen grew serious.

He had saved Le and taught him exercises of the Nonuple Samsara Magic formula, without asking anything in return.

After all, the Nonuple Samsara Magic Formula was a death practice. For every one level increase, the cultivator had to experience death. Very few warriors could practice to the third level or higher.

At the time, Le’s meridians had been completely broken. Zhang Ruochen imparting the Nonuple Samsara Magic Formula to him could be regarded as the only way to save him.

Later, Le had joined the black market.

Less than two years later, the young man with broken meridians became strong again.

He had killed countless people. Otherwise, he would not have such a cold murderous look. It seemed like it could freeze human blood.

Le said, “Huo Shilin, the Square Commandery Prince, is sending several masters to kill you.”

"I know. I have already fought with them." Zhang Ruochen laughed.

Le said, "The masters of the Square Commandery are horrible, but the men behind them are even more dreadful."

"Who are they?" asked Zhang Ruochen.

Le replied, "A mysterious young master from the Black Market Excellence Hall has come to Omen Ridge."

Chapter 309: Heavy Armor Break

"I never imagined that the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall would come to Omen Ridge."

Zhang Ruochen was slightly stunned, fully realizing the seriousness of the current situation. He asked promptly, "Are the Seven Kills Emissaries in Omen Ridge too?"

"How do you know about the Seven Kills Emissary?" Le asked.

Zhang Ruochen replied, "Since the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall has been elected, Seven Kills Emissaries, as the guardians of the young master, should be naturally appointed. All Seven Kills Emissaries are the best of the best. Before the young master has fully developed, they are the scariest."

"How many Seven Kills Emissaries are there in Omen Ridge?"

Le said, "I've only seen two, Red Wish Emissary and Purple Wind Emissary. I don't know if the other five are in Omen Ridge."

Zhang Ruochen thought for a moment and touched his nose with his finger. He said, "Generally, Seven Kills Emissaries are selected in their twenties, and only one is selected every three years. That is to say, Purple Wind Emissary was selected first, so his martial cultivation is the best, while Red Wish Emissary was selected last, so her martial cultivation is the worst."

"Since the best and the worst Emissaries have come to Omen Ridge, the other five Emissaries must have arrived as well. What on earth is there in Omen Ridge to attract the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall and the Seven Kills Emissaries?"

Le responded, "Dragon Sarira."

"What is Dragon Sarira?" Asked Zhang Ruochen.

Le said, "As said by the mysterious young master 'Di Yi', Dragon Sarira is the remains of a Buddhist Emperor from 800 years ago, one of the Nine Emperors. It was taken by the Four-wing Earth Dragon, the dominator of Omen Ridge. After he died, it went missing. Di Yi doubts that it is in Underwater Dragon Palace."

"So, it is for the Buddhist Emperor's Sarira. No wonder the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall has come to Omen Ridge."

Zhang Ruochen was going to Underwater Dragon Palace. He could expect to meet such a strong opponent.

In all of Kunlun's Field, the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall could be counted as the top-ranked among the youth. He would likely be the future ruler of the Black Market.

However, Zhang Ruochen had no fear. Rather he had a strong war intent.

The Dragon Sarira surprised him more.

Actually, Zhang Ruochen had been involved with the Buddhist Emperor. The Buddhist Emperor and Emperor Ming had exchanged one martial art each. What the Buddhist Emperor gave to Emperor Ming was "Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm".

It was said that Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm was a top palm technique in Thousand Buddhas Sect, due to its extreme masculine and myriad forms. However, it was very difficult to practice, and very few people reached the Seventh Palm.

"Dragon Sarira, I have to get it."

Zhang Ruochen wanted to defeat Empress Chi Yao. If he could get the Buddhist Emperor's Sarira, he would be closer to achieving his goal.

Certainly, he would not fight blindly with Di Yi. If he did, he would die a terrible death, like an egg against a rock.

Le told him some other information about Di Yi. However, as a killer of Hades Department, Le only knew part of it. Thus, Zhang Ruochen had only a rough idea of the Black Market's recent actions.

"My savior, I have told you everything I know. I have to go back as soon as possible, lest the Hades Department finds out."

Le bowed down to Zhang Ruochen and turned away immediately.

"Le!" Zhang Ruochen called.

Le slowed his pace.

"Thanks!"

Zhang Ruochen knew Le had risked everything to secretly deliver this news to him.

"Without your rescue and teachings, I would not be what I am today. It is I who should thank you."

Le's voice was gruff; he was a poor speaker.

He was often very isolated.

BOOM!

The ground shook violently.

A brute elephant roared in the distance.

Zhang Ruochen and Le's expressions changed.

"It must be pursuers from the Square Commandery. Ninth Prince, you'd better leave and let me deal with them."

Le put his grey hood back on to conceal his face, only his reddish lips could be seen.

SWISH!

Unsheathing his sword, he had an icy murderous feeling.

"Zhang Ruochen, you are completely surrounded. You cannot escape!"

Turning into an elegant silhouette, Jin Yeyun flew down from the top of an ancient tree.

Jin Yeyun was definitely pretty, as an imperial concubine and a martial arts legend of the Heaven Realm. She looked to be 28 or 29 years old, with skin on her face more delicate and white like a young girls'.

"BANG!"

"BANG!"

...

Like scaly moving hills, 50 hulking brute elephants appeared from all sides surrounding Zhang Ruochen and Le.

"Roar!"

50 soldiers with heavy armor, stood on the backs of the brute elephants. Each of them carried a long spear and made an ear-splitting sound.

Zhang Ruochen said to Le, "They are calling other soldiers. We must find our way out as soon as possible. Otherwise, there will be more."

"Haha! Zhang Ruochen, you might be overestimating your ability." Jin Yeyun sneered. "Even if your cultivation doubled, you could not break the Heaven-shaking Formation arranged by the Barbarian Elephant Army."

"Let's see if you can successfully arrange the Heaven-shaking Formation." Le laughed grimly.

With this, he rushed towards a brute elephant. He leaped up 10 meters and stabbed the heart of the sergeant upon it.

The sergeant waved his spear, stabbing at Le.

Le easily avoided the spear; he was faster than the sergeant expected.

DING!

The iron sword pierced straight into the sergeant's heart, but it was blocked by heavy armor, causing energy ripples.

Under the strong impact, the sergeant flew backward. With a bang, he fell to the earth 10 meters away.

The sergeant hit the ground with a palm, and quickly jumped back onto the brute elephant. He attacked Le once again as if he had not been hurt.

Jin Yeyun laughed. "The Barbarian Elephant Army's armour is made from 5,000 kilograms of 10 centimeter thick Earth Core Scorching Iron. How can you break it?"

Le retreated and glanced at the sergeant's chest. He had not even pierced into the armor; there was only a three-centimeter sword mark.

The Barbarian Elephant Army's armour was completely connected. There was no breach; even eye sockets were mounted with spinels.

"Are there really no flaws? I doubt it." Le replied.

Jin Yeyun said nothing to Le, but ordered, "Attention, Barbarian Elephant Army! Prepare to arrange Heaven-shaking Formation, to kill these two."

When the army embattled, Le started a new attack.

SWOOSH!

His sword thrust like lightning crossing the sky.

PFFFF!

He stabbed just underneath the soldier's chin and pierced into the armour.

Le withdrew his sword.

A stream of blood spilled out from the soldier's neck. His body trembled for a while, and then he fell face up.

"How...can this happen?" Jin Yeyun screamed.

"The soldier's armor indeed has very strong defensive power." Zhang Ruochen said. "Moreover, it is up to 10 centimeters thick, so a normal sword cannot pierce through."

"However, the joint between the head and shoulder is relatively weak, because it is only about three centimeters thick. Comparatively, the joint between the helmet and body armor is weaker. It is just below the chin."

Le had just pierced the weakest part below the soldier's chin.

Only with rich fighting experience and extraordinary insight, could a warrior see the Barbarian Elephant Army's weakness.

"What are you going to do now that you know this?"

Jin Yeyun shouted, "Defense."

The remaining 49 soldiers simultaneously lowered their heads, held down their chins, and tried to guard their weakest joint with their helmets.

"It is useless to defend."

Zhang Ruochen activated the inscription of Force Series by injecting Genuine Qi into the Abyss Ancient Sword. The weight of the sword rapidly increased to 2,500 kilograms.

He jumped high into the air and brandished his sword.

The soldier beneath aimed his sword horizontally to ward off Zhang Ruochen's sword.

BANG!

The Abyss Ancient Sword nearly cut the spear off. He broke the heavy armor and sliced the soldier from the top of the head.

Sword Qi went through with a loud bang, and Zhang Ruochen landed on his feet.

There was a long blood trail on the ground in the direction he had pointed the sword, and the ground cracked.

Not only was the soldier's body split into two, but also his savage beast mount.

The power of the sword surprised all the soldiers present and oppressed their morale.

"He... he can... break the soldiers' armour so easily?"

"How can his sword be so sharp? Is it a legendary tenth level Genuine Martial Arms?"

...

Stunned by his overwhelming sword technique, Jin Yeyun turned pale.

"Did he deliberately hide his strength in the valley?"

Jin Yeyun could not stay calm. Even with her cultivation at the Advanced Stage of the Peak of the Heaven Realm, she could not release such powerful attack force.

"Fight!"

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Le and rushed out to attack another soldier.

SWOOSH!

With a flash of sword light, the soldier was beheaded.

As if it was made of paper, the so-called heavy armour was powerless under the Abyss Ancient Sword.

These soldiers were really top-notch martial arts masters. They quickly reacted to attack Zhang Ruochen.

Nine spears thrust out nearly at the same time.

"Animal Spirits Fixing Arms!"

Crimson Spiritual Blood gushed out from his body. It formed nine spinning Blood Swords.

PHEW!

As nine swords flew out, nine soldiers flew to the sky.

Le promptly rushed out, suspending in the air nine times. When he fell down to the ground, all nine soldiers had holes in their necks, from which blood gushed out.

BANG! BANG!

All became corpses when they fell down to the ground.

Zhang Ruochen's sword technique was delicate and graceful, without any flaws. Following the righteous path, he looked like a young sword saint.

Following an odd and unconventional path, Le looked like a sword demon.

Chapter 310: Death City

"What a terrible sword!"

Seeing the soldiers of Barbarian Elephant Army falling down one by one, Jin Yeyun's face changed color. She performed a bodily movement immediately, charged to the distance, and tried to run away.

Facing two horrible young swordsmen, she was already frightened. She believed that even 50 soldiers of Barbarian Elephant Army couldn't take them down.

She had only gone about 33 meters when Le, dressed in grey, stopped in front of her, blocking her way.

"Who are you? Why are you helping Zhang Ruochen?" She asked.

"I don't answer questions from the dead." He replied.

"Another arrogant boy!"

Jin Yeyun believed her cultivation was deep enough. She decided, therefore, to kill one before she left.

She transferred Genuine Qi to her palms, with a tittering noise. Sharp clear ice spikes were formed. She shook her wrists and the ice spikes flew towards Le all at once.

"Shadow Sword Technique!"

Le slashed, and seven shadows appeared, as if seven sword techniques were performed at the same time. The ice spikes all smashed into fine powder.

"Die!"

Jin Yeyun's voice rang in Le's ear.

When she'd thrown the ice spikes out, she had been very fast. Now she was less than a meter away from Le.

Her palm struck out with a clapping sound.

A powerful palm power struck towards Le's stomach.

Before the palm hit Le, its icing air formed a layer of thick frost.

Jin Yeyun was after all in the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm. Le hadn't even reached the Heaven Realm yet. There was a huge gap between them.

Le didn't even have a chance to escape.

BANG!

Jin Yeyun hit Le in the stomach, and he was blown into the air. His outfit was torn up, shredding into rags around him like moths.

"Haha!"

Jin Yeyun laughed and struck him again in the chest.

Le spat out a mouthful of blood. With a crackling sound, his rib collapsed.

BANG!

He fell to the ground on his knees. His chest bled so badly that his clothes completely incarnadined.

"Let's get this over with!"

Jin Yeyun's five fingers turned into knives and she slashed towards Le's neck.

The dying Le suddenly burst out a sense of death and used his last strength to stab upwards with his sword.

The whole movement was accomplished in one breath.

It was not only like a deathbed struggle, it was also like a preconceived stabbing.

There was no way Jin Yeyun believed that Le could strike back.

PFFT!

The sword tore open her Celestial Bodysield, pierced her heart, and went through her back. A 17-centimeter bloody sword tip came out of her body.

Jin Yeyun shook from head to toe. She looked at her chest. She still couldn't believe the fact that she was dying by a dying man's hand.

"It... it can't...be..."

Le withdrew his sword, and Jin Yeyun's body fell down to the ground heavily.

A master at the Peak of the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm would never be reconciled to die like this. She looked straight into the sky even after death.

SWOOSH!

After taking down the last soldier, Zhang Ruochen rushed over immediately. He took out a healing Pill quickly and handed it to Le. He said, "Take this. Quick."

Actually, Le and Jin Yeyun's battle had happened in a mere second. By the time Zhang Ruochen reached them, Jin Yeyun had already been killed by Le.

Le glanced at the healing pill and shook his head. "No, I don't need... this. The worse I get wounded, the faster my martial cultivation will improve. Don't you remember it is the Nonuple Samsara Magic formula that I practice? Put me to death and I shall rise; wound me to the extreme and I shall grow. Cough-cough!"

He clenched his chest and spat out another mouthful of blood.

But he still chose not to take the healing Pill. Instead, he pushed the ground with his hands and managed to stand up.

The Nonuple Samsara Magic formula was just that amazing. The warrior had to experience a hairbreadth escape in order to become stronger.

Even if the warrior was wounded, he mustn't heal himself on purpose. Instead, he had to depend on his body and his Genuine Qi to recuperate. Only in this way could he improve his cultivation.

It was a huge test of the warrior's will power!

A timid and weak person could not successfully practice the first level, never mind achieve great success.

Le had improved drastically in the last two years. Thus, he must have gone through countless injuries, tests and tortures that no one could even imagine.

A man like him would become a top Saint in the future if he survived everything.

Zhang Ruochen put the healing pill away. "Over the past two years, your heart has become colder and your will stronger. I don't know whether that's a good thing or not."

Le glanced at Zhang Ruochen, looking at the blood on his hands. He smiled rigidly and said, "And so have you. I remember two years ago you refused to kill anyone."

Looking at the piles of dead bodies on the ground, Zhang Ruochen frowned. "My status is different now. In the past, no one dared to kill me, so naturally, I didn't have to kill anyone. But now it's different. There are too many people wanting me dead. I will be killed if I don't kill them. I don't want to die. I still have a lot to do. So I must kill. Maybe I can say it's all beyond my control!"

Le replied, "As the saying goes, a general builds his success on ten thousand bleaching bones. Saint's sword must be stained with thousands of people's blood. My dear benefactor, I have a feeling that your future path will be much harder than mine."

With serious wounds, Le quickly left and returned to the Hades Department.

Zhang Ruochen went in another direction to the Death City.

An hour later, Jin Chuan, Zhang Tiangui and Guo Shisan arrived with 50 Barbarian Elephant Soldiers.

The strong scent of Spiritual Blood filled the air.

The savage beasts were feasting on the dead bodies.

50 Barbarian Elephant Soldiers dashed out and killed all the savage beasts.

"A Barbarian Elephant Army was completely annihilated!"

Gripping his sword, Guo Shisan looked cold and angry.

“Concubine Jin’s body is here.”

A Barbarian Elephant Soldier found Jin Yeyun lying in a pool of blood.

“Yun!”

Jin Chuan rushed forward and held Jin Yeyun’s body in his arm. He broke down and cried out loud.

Jin Chuan was Jin Yeyun’s father.

“Zhang Ruochen is too heinous! He killed Concubine Jin!” Said Zhang Tiangui with a vicious look.

“Predecessor Jin Chuan, you must avenge for Concubine Jin!”

“Zhang Ruochen!”

Jin Chuan roared. A strong blast of wind power burst out of his mouth like a hurricane, shaking every leaf in the forest from the branches. They floated in the air, rustling.

All the trees became naked.

All the birds and beasts were shaken to death as well.

“Go after him!” Jin Chuan roared. “I will catch Zhang Ruochen and cut him into pieces!”

...

The Tongming River was occupied by Aquatic Savage Beasts; it was the forbidden area for Human tribe.

In order to clean the Tongming River, Human tribe had built a city only a hundred kilometers away from the death reach of Tongming River. It was called the Death City.

More than ten commanderies had once had their armies stationed in the Death City, and the number of soldiers had even reached a million.

Almost every month, human soldiers would go into the reach by battleship to wipe out savage beasts.

Every year, there would be a large-scale campaign between the savage beasts and human beings. Both sides would suffer huge losses.

In addition to the armies, there were warriors from every commandery coming here to hunt savage beasts and search for treasures in the river.

There were more practicing treasures in the water than on land. Even just one treasure could improve a warrior’s cultivation greatly.

It was because of these benefits that every day numerous warriors, fully aware of the danger, came to the Death City and joined the adventure.

Some of them died and became underwater corpses, while some of them found treasures and became masters.

It was a place full of opportunities and dangers; legends and death existing side by side.

Arriving at the Death City, Zhang Ruochen saw high walls, countless battleships and a continuous stream of warriors.

“It is said that Zhao Santu dug up a Crimson Coral in the Tongming River and sold two million silver coins. He made a good fortune!”

“There was another fight on Caoshi Street. It is said that more than 60 people died, and the blood was flowing like a stream. There was even an Earth Realm warrior among them.”

“This morning, the Death City army sent 13 warships out into the death reach. It is said that they want to hunt the medium level savage beast, Gelid Octopus. I don’t know if they will succeed.”

“More than ten lovely ladies arrived at the Rosefinch Tower earlier. Tonight their virgin nights will be auctioned. I wonder who will be sold for the highest price?”

...

Walking along the busy street, Zhang Ruochen heard all kinds of stories; treasures found, important people who had come to the Death City, powerful savage beasts that had been seen...

The Death City was indeed a place where good and evil mixed together.

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen felt something. He looked up towards an inn in the distance. He believed he saw a familiar figure.

“It’s her.”

Zhang Ruochen squinted his eyes and stared at the woman in purple who was standing on the third floor of an ancient building near the street.

The woman was very pretty. She had a beautiful face and a slim figure. It looked like she was not strong, but actually her martial cultivation was very deep. What’s more, her five senses were very sharp, and she seemed to notice that someone was watching her.

She turned and looked towards the stare. She saw Zhang Ruochen standing in the center of the street.