God Emperor 351

Chapter 351: A Blood Feud

After fighting with Di Yi, Zhang Ruochen returned quickly to the Yunwu Commandery.

He regulated his Genuine Qi to its extreme. He took his feet from the ground as if he was riding on the tip of grassblades. His speed reached its maximum limit.

Rushing for a day and a night and crossing thousands of kilometers, he did not stop to rest until the Genuine Qi in his body ran out.

I should be near Yunwu Commandery. Hope I can still make it.

Although he was very anxious, he had to stop and restore.

Zhang Ruochen walked into a temple. He sat below a statue surrounded by spider webs with his legs crossed. He swallowed a Blood Pill and regulated his martial techniques to absorb the Divine Dragon Strength from Dragon Pearl. His Genuine Qi and strength started to restore.

WOO! WOO!

The howling cold wind blew through the damaged door, letting out a devilish crying sound, adding a slight chill.

At midnight, there was a heavy sound of footsteps outside the temple.

The sound woke Zhang Ruochen up. The Genuine Qi inside his body had almost recovered. He called out the Abyss Ancient Sword and stared at the door of the temple, alert and ready.

CREAK!

A fat figure burst the wooden door open. It missed its footing, tumbled down the staircase, and finally fell into the temple courtyard.

"It hurts. It's killing me!"

The fat figure kept howling. It seemed that it had taken a bad fall.

Zhang Ruochen looked over carefully, finding that the fat figure who'd tumbled in was actually a rabbit with long red fur. Its body was very big, almost two meters tall when it stood up.

Its ears stuck up like two giant fans.

Its head was round, like a fluffy ball. Its big oval eyes kept rotating and looking around the temple. It finally saw Zhang Ruochen who sat below the statue with his legs crossed.

With a strange cry, it flew over.

"Guoguo, why are you here?" Zhang Ruochen asked, slightly confused.

Guoguo sat next to Zhang Ruochen, with its snow white teeth exposed. It spoke like a human, "It's a long story. I swallowed a piece of meat under the water, then my body started to burn. So I tried my best to run to put out the fire, but the fire didn't go out. It made me so mad. Then I kept running. Afterward I saw that you were running. So I ran after you and followed you here."

Although Guoguo had been enlightened after absorbing the Dragon's Blood, its intelligence was still limited. It could only talk very fast, and also it did not speak clearly.

It talked for a long time, gestured with its paws and made all sorts of exaggerated expressions. However, Zhang Ruochen was confused. He had no idea what it was talking about.

Zhang Ruochen did understand one thing. The cause of the whole thing was that it had swallowed a piece of meat.

What kind of meat was it?

Zhang Ruochen felt a jolt. Was it ...

He quickly stretched out a hand to grab one of Guoguo's paws. He infused Blue Genuine Qi into its palm.

BAM!

A stroke of powerful Evil Breath corrupted Zhang Ruochen's Genuine Qi and flew backward from Guoguo's body, toward Zhang Ruochen's arms.

The cloud of Evil Breath was very cold, making Zhang Ruochen feel numb in his arms.

Zhang Ruochen instantly regulated his Genuine Qi to defuse it. He stared at Guoguo with slight amazement, exposing a dignified look.

Guoguo looked at Zhang Ruochen and had a bad feeling. It opened its eyes wide and said nervously, "Master Chen, Did ... Did I eat something that I shouldn't ..."

Zhang Ruochen took a keen look at it and nodded, "You do eat some bad things."

Guoguo was scared. Its mouth was twisted, and its tongue was hanging out. It was totally shocked.

After a long moment, it gave out a cry and stretched out both its claws, trying to pull the bad thing out from its mouth.

It wailed and rolled on the ground, hitting the nearby stone stool and incense burner table.

Zhang Ruochen nodded his head and said, "You don't need to be so miserable. If I am right, what you swallowed is the evil heart of Di Yi."

Guoguo somersaulted to get up and stood in front of Zhang Ruochen. It said, "Master Chen, Di Yi was so powerful. Why did he throw his evil heart into the water? What on earth is the evil heart? You tell me. You tell me!"

Zhang Ruochen said calmly, "The evil heart was Di Yi's heart, and it was dug out by me. It fell into Tongming River and you swallowed it. Although the evil heart grows in the human body, it is a miraculous thing, containing the most evil power with Utmost Yin. I just used my Martial Soul to explore,

and discovered that the evil heart was in your body. It actually turned into an evil ball of red fire and integrated with your flesh and blood. It was a bit strange."

"Alas! I'm doomed! I am a vegetarian rabbit. I ate the evil heart by mistake. I'm afraid that I will be killed by that thing. Master Chen, you have to help me take out the evil ball. Our Greedy Rabbit family has only one offspring for each generation. Our family can't disappear because of me, " Guoguo stared pitifully at Zhang Ruochen with his big round eyes.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Only one offspring for each generation? How did your father give birth to you?"

"Don't pay attention to those details," Guoguo said.

Zhang Ruochen said, "You are not a vegetarian. I gave you Spiritual Brawn before. You also ate it."

"Master Chen, when Xiaochang taught me how to talk, he told me that when you are listening to someone, you should learn to get the essentials. Why can't you get the essentials? Whether I am the only offspring, or I am a vegetarian do not matter. What matters most is that you have to help me take out the evil ball," Guoguo said.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "It is true that the kind of teacher teaches the kind of student. Together with Chang Qiqi, you haven't learned to talk fluently yet, but you have learned how to talk nonsense. Don't worry! The evil ball is not bad for you. On the contrary, it might be very good for you. In the future, it might be practiced into a body pill.

Hearing Zhang Ruochen's words, Guoguo felt calm and relief. It sat down again.

"Master Chen, where are you going? Why are you in such a hurry? I almost failed to catch up with you," Guoguo could not help but asking.

Zhang Ruochen turned serious. After a long while he said, "Home."

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen's ears moved and he said, "A large number of people are rushing toward us, they are roughly a hundred kilometers away ..."

He closed his eyes to release his Martial Soul.

The Martial Soul left his body, and flew toward the people a hundred kilometers away.

"You can hear what is going on more than 100 kilometers away? For real?"

Guoguo looked at Zhang Ruochen with some confusion. It did not really believe him, so it laid down on the ground with its ears against the ground, listening carefully.

"This is not good. It's the Fourth Brother."

Zhang Ruochen suddenly opened his eyes and swung his arms. A stroke of Sword Comprehension come out, attracting the Abyss Ancient Sword.

PHEW!

The Abyss Ancient Sword let out a cry and turned into a flying light. It flew out from the broken temple. With its long tail, it disappeared into the dark night.

Zhang Ruochen jumped up. He broke through the roof of the broken temple with a bang.

The Genuine Qi inside his body was released and turned into a giant dragon shadow, more than 20 meters long, enveloping his body. It flew out at the speed of sound.

"Master Chen, why are you running again? Where are you going? Don't leave me behind ... I'm scared of darkness ... "

Guoguo broke the wall of the temple, rolling down the hill. It chased after the dragon shadow and rushed out. Its speed was surprisingly fast.

It was 80 kilometers away.

The fourth prince, Zhang Shaochu was fleeing with a group of soldiers. Dozens of black market Evil Warriors in black clothes were after them.

Zhang Shaochu wore armor and had fought a bloody battle. However, his soldiers were getting fewer and fewer. They died one by one in a pool of blood. In the end, there were less than ten men still with him.

Five days ago, Zhang Tiangui had returned to the Yunwu Commandery and killed all of the members of the Royal Family. He had killed his brothers and father, ascending to the throne of Commandery Prince.

At that time, Zhang Shaochu had been leading the army to attack the Square Commandery. When he learned the horrible news, he was desperate and immediately returned with his army. He wanted to crusade against Zhang Tiangui to avenge his father, his brothers and his mother.

Unfortunately, there were several masters with Zhang Tiangui. He had the support of the black market. Zhang Shaochu was defeated before he even got to the city gate and now he was being hunted down by the black market masters.

Zhang Shaochu was already devastated after all the running. It wasn't just the physical pain and exhaustion in his body, but also the pain in his heart that made him sob again and again.

A sergeant with blood all over his body and disheveled hair said miserably, "Your Royal Highness, it seems that we can't escape!"

Zhang Shaochu was also hurt badly. He used his sword to support himself. He said, "Don't be scared. Mr. Liu has already been back to the School of the Martial Market to send the message. As long as the ninth brother can hurry back, we can rally our forces and kill Zhang Tiangui, that son of a b*tch.

"I'm afraid that you won't get the opportunity."

Xue Jingtian walked out from the group of black market warriors. He stared at Zhang Shaochu and said with a smile, "Fourth Prince, the other princes have already been executed. Why are you still struggling? Do you still hope that Zhang Ruochen can make it back to rescue you? Truth be told, Zhang Ruochen has already died in Tongming River. He can't come back! Haha!"

Zhang Shaochu clenched his teeth and said angrily, "Xue Jingtian, my father trusted you so much. He let you be the minister. You are a beast with a human face."

Xue Jingtian smiled and looked sympathetically at Zhang Shaochu. He used sound wave to send a message to Zhang Shaochu's ears. He said, "You're right! I am a beast with a human face. Not only did I kill your father, I also slept with your father's woman."

"What ... What did you say?" Zhang Shaochu was surprised.

Xue Jingtian was very proud and said with a smile, "Zhang Tiangui is my son. Do you understand now? From now on, Yunwu Commandery belongs to the Xue Family. It has nothing to do with your Zhang Family! Haha!"

"Sure enough ... So that's what it is ... That's what it is ... " Zhang Shaochu burst into tears. He said, "I always said that no matter how cruel Zhang Tiangui was, he would never kill his own father and brother. So that's what it is ... "

Xue Jingtian had told the truth, because he knew that Zhang Shaochu would die today for sure. So, he told the secret hidden in his heart to Zhang Shaochu.

Keeping a secret was a painful thing. Xue Jingtian had never dared to tell anyone.

But it was all right to tell a dead man.

Finally telling the hidden secret made Xue Jingtian feel comfortable, as though he was walking on clouds. He could finally share his achievement with others.

"Since you now know the secret, you have to die!"

Xue Jingtian used his hand as a knife and swung it to make an arch line, chopping toward Zhang Shaochu's neck.

Chapter 352: Anger

Xue Jingtian used his hand as a knife and swung it to make an arch line, chopping toward Zhang Shaochu's neck.

Suddenly, there was a sharp sound. A sword light flew overhead, emitting splendid sword awe. It fell from just above Xue Jingtian's right arm.

CHH!

His arm was cut in half and fell to the ground.

Blood gushed out of his arm. At the same time, a powerful Sword Breath rushed into his body from the wound, continuously breaking his Meridians and blood veins.

"Who? Who the hell is it?"

Xue Jingtian held back the pain. He looked into the dark night and roared fiercely.

He sealed the Meridians on his right shoulder using Genuine Qi to stop the bleeding. But the stroke of Sword Breath suddenly broke through his Genuine Qi, rushing toward his heart and Qi Pool.

Zhang Shaochu had been shocked to see the sword, which had suddenly flown out. However, he was not terrified. Rather he was quite happy.

He knew that sword. It belonged to the Ninth Brother.

The Ninth Brother has come back. He has come back. Haha!

Zhang Shaochu laughed aloud crazily and mockingly looked at Xue Jingtian as if to say 'didn't you just say that Ninth Brother had already died'? But he is back now. He is back!'

All of the Martial Arts masters of the black market became nervous and raised their battle knives. They stood together and looked around on alert like they were facing a powerful enemy.

Xue Jingtian shook his head and said, "It is impossible. It is definitely impossible. The ninth prince has already been killed by the young master of Black Market Excellence Hall. He can't possibly be alive."

Who was the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall?

For Xue Jingtian, he was a figure who could only be looked up to. With just one word, he could make the Yunwu Commandery Prince disappear.

How could Zhang Ruochen have possibly escaped from the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall?

At this very moment, there was a voice coming from behind Xue Jingtian.

"Minister, how do you know that I have already been killed by the young master of Black Market Excellence Hall?"

Xue Jingtian was shocked. His expression changed and slowly he turned around.

A young and handsome man was standing five steps away, holding a broken sword in his hand. His clear and cold eyes were glaring at him.

"Zhang ... Ruochen ... How are you still alive?"

It might have been the severe blood loss, or it might have been fear; Xue Jingtian's heart twitched and his face turned pale.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Did you hope I was dead?"

Xue Jingtian clenched his teeth. With cold eyes, he showed killing intent toward Zhang Ruochen and secretly gathered his Genuine Qi.

He knew that Zhang Ruochen was very powerful, but between him and Zhang Ruochen, one of them had to die. Why not risk his life to fight? Maybe he could turn things around.

SWOOSH!

Xue Jingtian suddenly struck out a palm toward Zhang Ruochen's chest.

Zhang Ruochen moved his hand. In a spilt second, he grabbed Xue Jingtian's wrist. His fingers were like pinchers, squeezing his flesh and blood. Xue Jingtian's face twisted in pain and his whole body twitched.

Drops of blood came down from Xue Jingtian's wrist.

It seemed that Zhang Ruochen's fingers were going to pierce through his wrist.

"Zhang ... Zhang Ruochen ... You ... " Xue Jingtian said miserably.

Zhang Shaochu rushed over. He was both ecstatic and furious. He said, "Ninth brother, kill this bastard. He killed our father."

Zhang Ruochen sighed. It seemed he was too late. What had happened had happened.

"Zhang Ruochen, I'm the man of the black market now. If you dare to kill me, the masters of the black market will cut you into pieces," Xue Jingtian said.

ZZhang Ruochen replied, "You are using the black market to threaten me. If they could kill me, I wouldn't be here now."

SNAP!

Zhang Ruochen regulated his Genuine Qi into his five fingers. His palm was surrounded with a cloud of blue light. Suddenly, he twisted tightly, and Xue Jingtian's arm turned into a fried dough twist.

The bones in his arm were all broken.

"Ahh..."

Xue Jingtian screamed like a pig being killed. Both his legs softened and he knelt down on the ground, wailing mournfully.

"Xue Jingtian, go to hell!"

Zhang Shaochu rushed over madly. His fists dropped down on Xue Jingtian like rain drops, making him cry out continuously as he rolled and crawled on the ground.

"Ninth Prince, Fourth Prince, you can't ... treat ... me like that ... Help me ..."

CRACK! CRACK!

Incalculable bones were broken. Even his face depressed and his head was almost smashed.

Xue Jingtian was beaten to death in the end.

BANG! BANG!

Zhang Shaochu's fists did not stop. He continued to beat Xue Jingtian's dead body, letting out the insane hatred and anger in his heart.

Finally, Zhang Ruochen forcefully pulled him away. He knelt down on the ground, holding his brother's legs and crying loudly. He said desperately, "Ninth brother, father is dead. Mother is dead. Grandfather is dead. Uncle Wan is also dead. Eldest brother is dead. Second brother is dead ... All of them were killed. You have to avenge them."

Zhang Ruochen's heart sank. He had guessed that the Royal Family would go through big changes when Zhang Tiangui got back to the Yunwu Commandery, but he never thought it would be this bad.

After all, Zhang Tiangui was a royal family member. How could he be so cruel?

Besides, what Zhang Ruochen worried about most was his mother ...

Even the Yunwu Commandery Prince had been killed. His mother was just an ordinary woman. How could she have been spared?

Zhang Ruochen felt an indescribable grieving. His ten fingers could not help clenching. A blaze of anger rose in his heart.

Suddenly, a powerful momentum burst out of his body, forming a gust of violent wind, causing dozens of black market warriors to fly up.

"All go to hell."

Zhang Ruochen swung his arm, accumulating a giant palm of Genuine Qi. It waved toward the sky.

BANG! BANG!

There were a series of loud bangs. The bodies of dozens of warriors of the black market were smashed into pieces from the powerful Genuine Qi palm. They were blasted into clouds of blood fog. Each cloud of blood fog dropped down a broken skeleton. The heads and abdomens were blown open, leaving only the bloody skeleton.

"Zhang Tiangui!"

Zhang Ruochen looked up at the sky and roared. His voice was like thunder, resounding 80 kilometers away.

Although Zhang Ruochen had only stayed with Concubine Lin for a short time, he had felt her maternal love. He sincerely treated her as his own mother.

As for the Yunwu Commandery Prince, although Zhang Ruochen was very dissatisfied with him and never called him father, Zhang Ruochen could feel that he loved and cared for him, and had made an effort of trying to make up for him.

So, Zhang Ruochen's opinion of the Yunwu Commandery Prince had also been changing.

Originally, Zhang Ruochen had wanted to go back to the Yunwu Commandery after visiting the Underwater Dragon Palace. He wanted to give some esotericas and the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph to the Yunwu Commandery Prince to help warriors of the Royal Family improve their strength.

No one could expect that Zhang Tiangui was so cruel he could kill his own father and brothers, as well as the entire royal family.

Upon hearing what had happened in Yunwu City and Zhang Tiangui's crime, Zhang Ruochen's face turned darker and darker, and the killing intent in his heart grew unprecedentedly powerful.

Zhang Shaochu said, "According to a royal guard who ran away from the palace, he saw with his own eyes that Zhang Tiangui smashed father's head. And, Xue Jingtian said before that ... Zhang Tiangui was ... his son, was the child of the Queen and him.

"What?!"

"Xue Jingtian thought that I was going to die, so he told me the truth. It can't be fake. With his identity, there is no need to lie to a man who is going to die," Zhang Shaochu said.

Zhang Ruochen showed a strong murderous look in his eyes. He said, "Zhang Tiangui ... shall die ... However, this can never be leaked out."

Zhang Shaochu understood. After all, it was disgraceful. Once it got out, the Yunwu Commandery Prince would definitely become a joke among the warriors in the world.

He knew that Zhang Ruochen was defending the Yunwu Commandery Prince's dignity.

Actually, this was the only thing they could do to help the Yunwu Commandery Prince aside from the revenge.

"Ninth brother, Zhang Tiangui has lots of warriors of the black market working for him. Some of them are really powerful and definitely martial arts legends at the Heaven Realm. Shall we tell this to the School and let school presbyters call the shots for us?" Zhang Shaochu asked.

"It's our enemy. We should take revenge by ourselves," Zhang Ruochen replied.

Zhang Shaochu checked on the badly injured soldiers. He looked at Zhang Ruochen again and said, "But with just a few of us, even if we get back to Yunwu City, we can't kill Zhang Tiangui."

Zhang Ruochen patted Zhang Shaochu on the shoulder. "Fourth Brother, you and the soldiers are injured. Stay and recover! Leave the revenge to me."

With the words, Zhang Ruochen was laden with anxiety and walked toward Yunwu City, with an inexpressible heavy heart.

Zhang Shaochu chased after him and shouted, "Ninth Brother, wait for me. Even if you want to avenge them yourself, count me in. If you kill Zhang Tiangui, you will bear a bad name for killing your own brother. You have a promising future. Don't do it. Leave this notoriety to me ... Leave it to me ..."

Zhang Ruochen kept walking forward without turning around. He appeared to walk slowly, but actually he walked more than 30 meters with each step. Zhang Shaochu could not catch up to him.

Before long, Zhang Ruochen disappeared into the hazy night, leaving only a tall firm figure.

The next morning, Zhang Ruochen finally arrived at Yunwu City. He raised his head and looked at the tall city wall.

The cold fog from last night had dampened his shoes and robe. Even his broken sword was covered with a thin layer of white frost.

"Master Chen, you have already arrived at the city. Why don't you talk?" Guoguo asked doubtfully. It exposed its round fat face and blocked Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen said nothing. His eyes were full of blood. He held the sword and kept walking toward the city gate.

"Who is it?"

Soldiers guarding the city looked at Zhang Ruochen with a sword in the distance. They rushed out instantly and surrounded Zhang Ruochen.

"If you don't want to die, get out of here."

With his long hair flowing eccentrically, Zhang Ruochen did not stop walking.

Chapter 353: Shock

One of the elder soldiers was holding a long spear. He walked toward Zhang Ruochen.

Before he even started, Guoguo sent him flying with one palm.

Guoguo sighed, "I told you not to come near. If you are blocking his way, you are looking for death."

A rabbit that was taller than a human was actually talking like a human. The soldiers were amazed.

Especially the soldier who was sent flying by him. Finding himself tens of meters away without a single wound on his body, he was even more terrified.

The young swordsman and the rabbit were extraordinary Martial Arts swordsman. Provoking them was not a good idea.

The soldiers did not dare to attack Zhang Ruochen. They merely stood back and watched as he entered Yunwu City.

Yunwu City was still bustling with streams of people, horses and carriages. Occasionally, you could hear people talking about the great change in the palace and the tragic homicide of the Lin Family.

"The Seventh Prince is extremely cruel and merciless. In order to ascend the throne, he actually killed every prince of the Royal Family. All of the princes and princesses are ghosts now."

"It is said that several princes knelt down begging and wanted to surrender to him, yet he still executed them."

"Anyway, this is the business of the Royal Family. It has nothing to do with us."

"It wasn't just the Royal Family. Even the Lin Family have all been killed. 847 bodies in the courtyard and still not buried. Their blood spilled onto the street!"

"Why did the Seventh Prince kill the Lin Family?"

"It must be related to the Ninth Prince. The leader of the Lin Family is the Ninth Prince's grandfather. It was said that he was also killed. His head chopped right off. My! How sinful he is!"

"Hey! Quickly! Look ... That man holding a sword looks like the Ninth Prince."

Zhang Ruochen was walking on the street and attracted some attention. He had finally been recognized by someone.

"It's the Ninth Prince ... He has actually come back ... "

"The palace has gone through great changes. He has to come back. It's a pity that he can't change anything. Almost all the Royal Family members were killed. The Seventh Prince has become the leader of the Yunwu Commandery."

"Why does he come alone? The fourth prince came back with an army and couldn't avenge his father. What's the use of him coming back alone? He has just come back to die!"

...

What happened in the Royal Family indeed caused a lot of shock. But it did not affect ordinary people's daily life. They did not really care who the king of Yunwu Commandery was.

Of course, there were many people who secretly cursed and scolded Zhang Tiangui. They said that he was utterly devoid of conscience to kill his own father and brothers.

At the same time, the news of Zhang Ruochen entering Yunwu City was passed to the palace and Zhang Tiangui.

Zhang Tiangui was extremely surprised. He looked at the reporting soldier and confirmed with him, "Are you sure it is Zhang Ruochen?"

"It's him. There's absolutely no mistake," the soldier said firmly.

"By himself?"

"That's right. Only him, and ... a rabbit. Square Commandery Prince and presbyter Jin are hurrying over with their men. Your Majesty, should we send an army to kill him?"

"How can this be? A young master went to kill Zhang Ruochen personally. And he escaped," Zhang Tiangui had a bad feeling about this.

Zhang Tiangui sat back again and gently shook his head, "Since the Square Commandery Prince and Jin Chuan are already on their way, I think they can handle Zhang Ruochen. If they can't, then no matter how many armies you send, it will also be in vain. Pass my order right now to initialize the Formation of Palace Protection. If Zhang Ruochen wants to come back to die, then I will fulfill his desire."

At this very moment, there were footsteps coming from outside the palace. 保存(Ctrl+Enter)

The queen quickly walked in from outside. She was a bit frightened and said, "Gui'er, I heard that Zhang Ruochen has come back! Didn't you say that Zhang Ruochen had been killed by the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall? Why is he back in Yunwu City?"

Zhang Tiangui gave a small smile. "Don't worry, mother. Even if Zhang Ruochen has come back, his cultivation is only in the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm. The Square Commandery Prince and Jin Chuan are top masters who have practiced the Martial Soul. It will be easy to handle him."

The Queen relaxed a little. She said, "What do we need to do now?"

"We don't need to do anything. We just need to go stand on the city wall and watch how Zhang Ruochen gets killed by masters of the Square Commandery."

Zhang Tiangui had one last card in his hands. He was very calm without a glimmer of fear.

He was still confused as to how Zhang Ruochen had managed to escape from the trap Di Yi had set up though.

Zhang Tiangui and the Queen walked out of the palace and ascended the city wall, looking far into the distance. They soon saw Zhang Ruochen walking on the wide street.

Zhang Ruochen's presence caused a big shock throughout the entire city. Lots of warriors hurried over, surrounding the street.

In the Yunwu Commandery, almost all of the warriors knew that there were two world famous talents in the Royal Family. One was the Seventh Prince, and the other one was the Ninth Prince.

Many people were secretly discussing how the Seventh Prince was more powerful or the Ninth Prince was more outstanding.

The palace had gone through a great change and now the Ninth Prince was back. Everything seemed to predict that there would be a great battle between the two princes.

Brothers turned against each other and Geniuses fought with each other. This was something that all warriors could expect.

Lin Ningshan and Lin Chenyu wore bamboo hats and dressed in black cloaks. They were walking in the crowd watching Zhang Ruochen, who was in the middle of the street, from a distance.

"It is indeed him. He's back!" Lin Ningshan's eyes were swollen and red, as she stared at Zhang Ruochen who stood in the distance. She had a different feeling in her heart.

Only three short years had passed. The once weak and sick cousin had turned into a world-famous master.

Lin Chenyu said with his hoarse voice, "What's the point of coming back?"

"Well ... He can avenge our father and grandfather ... " Lin Ningshan said.

After the Lin Family members were all killed, Lin Ningshan and Lin Chenyu secretly returned to Yunwu City. Unfortunately, many masters of the black market had been hiding outside the Lin Mansion. They did not even have a chance to get the bodies back and could only watch the bodies of their families fall into the blood pool, slowly rotting.

Lin Chenyu said, "Zhang Tiangui is controlling the situation and surrendered himself to the black market. He has many masters at his side. Zhang Ruochen has returned alone. He is an egg bashing itself against a rock. Zhang Ruochen is too impulsive. He will die for sure."

In Lin Chenyu's opinion, Zhang Ruochen was indeed very stupid.

His martial cultivation was not powerful enough and yet, he'd come back for revenge. What was that if not stupid?

There was a sudden clicking sound coming from the street.

A group of soldiers in golden armor rode on giant savage beasts, galloping from a distance. They rolled up a large amount of smoke and dust, resulting in tremendous momentum.

The ground shook violently.

All the warriors on the streets were shocked. They immediately dispersed, retreating to the shops on either side of the street.

In the lead of the army, was a middle-aged man with a steel needle beard and elite tiger mask. He carried a long bronze halberd on his back and rode on a four-meter-high blue-eyed golden lion.

When he saw Zhang Ruochen in front of him, he showed a cold expression in his eyes and roared loudly.

The blue-eyed golden lion received an order and stopped immediately. There were two tubes of white smoke coming out from its nostrils.

The dozen or so soldiers behind him also called their lions to stop and stood in the back.

The entire street exhibited an awful atmosphere. Powerful Martial Arts aura radiated from the bodies of the soldiers, frightening the surrounding warriors.

Who the hell were these soldiers? How come they had such powerful momentum?

They were definitely not ordinary warriors.

Zhang Ruochen stopped and raised his head to look, staring at the face of the middle-aged man in the forefront. He said, "Square Commandery Prince, you are a fierce and powerful person. When did you become a soldier of the Yunwu Commandery?"

That's right.

The man at the forefront was the Square Commandery Prince.

More than a dozen soldiers stood behind him and they were all top masters in the Square Commandery.

If Di Yi hadn't ordered the Square Commandery Prince to listen to Zhang Tiangui, why was the Square Commandery Prince willing to listen to Zhang Tiangui? Of course, he and Zhang Tiangui also had a common enemy. Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen had appeared, and of course the Square Commandery Prince had immediately rushed over.

"Zhang Ruochen, you are very lucky that you didn't die in the Underwater Dragon Palace. However, since you won't be able to come to Yunwu City of the Yunwu Commandery, you will have no chance to escape," the Square Commandery Prince said coldly.

Zhang Ruochen replied, "I've come back to settle something with Zhang Tiangui. I suggest that you don't get involved."

"You mean something about killing the Yunwu Commandery Prince. Haha! To tell you the truth, I am an interested party. The top master of the Yunwu Commandery, your great grandfather? I killed him. He

couldn't withstand a single blow!" The Square Commandery Prince deliberately said this to provoke Zhang Ruochen.

Originally, Zhang Ruochen had not wanted to deal with warriors of the Square Commandery. He just wanted to kill Zhang Tiangui.

But now his killing intent was expanding.

PHHT!

A stroke of cold Genuine Qi emitted from Zhang Ruochen's body, It froze into ice on the ground, and continuously spread out several meters.

"You are angry because of this?"

The Square Commandery Prince smiled. "I haven't told you that I also killed your grandfather, the master of the Lin Family. I chopped off his head with a handheld knife. The top masters of your Yunwu Commandery were too weak!"

"Haha!"

All of the soldiers behind the Square Commandery Prince laughed.

"Well then, you have to pay a heavy price for the crime you've committed," Zhang Ruochen said coldly.

The Square Commandery warriors laughed again like they had heard something funny.

"Zhang Ruochen, you think you are powerful. With the Commandery Prince and Elder Lao here, you still want revenge?" A Square Commandery warrior in the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm laughed.

He was Wang Jinyi, the Square Commandery Prince's eldest disciple. He had once been a senior general who attended to garrison duty in the Square Commandery.

Chapter 354: All of You Will Die

The Square Commandery Prince and Jin Chuan were both among the top ten warriors in the Square Commandery. Particularly, Square Commandery Prince who was ranked third.

The Square Commandery was a medium level commandery which was ten times stronger than the Yunwu Commandery. So the Square Commandery's top ten warriors were also highly respected as legends in the Yunwu Commandery.

Now, two of the top ten warriors were here. What's more, six masters in the Heaven Realm and many other warriors in the Earth Realm from the Black Market were also on their way here.

Zhang Ruochen was only a young warrior who was less than 20 years old. What could he do when so many masters were here?

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Wang Jinyi.

His gaze was like two cold needles stabbing into Wang Jinyi's pupils, making Wang Jinyi shiver. His eyes dulled and he almost fell off the savage beast.

Wang Jinyi immediately ran his Genuine Qi to dissolve the power of Zhang Ruochen's gaze. He cried, "Zhang Ruochen, I don't believe you are that powerful!"

After saying this, Wang Jinyi stood up on the savage beast's back. Holding his three-meter long spear, he jumped up and stabbed.

"Black Whirl!"

This spear technique was very powerful. As the spear turned, the Spiritual Qi between heaven and earth moved along with it, forming a spear vortex.

With the stabbing of the spear, countless wind blades flew out of the vortex, making swishing noise.

Wang Jinyi was very talented. He had once defeated an opponent who was two realms stronger than him. It was during that battle that the Square Commandery Prince noticed him and recruited him as his favorite disciple.

His Genuine Qi carried the power of wind nature.

Thus, whenever he used his Genuine Qi, wind blades would form.

CRACK! CRACK!

Some of the wind blades slashed onto the street and cut up the half-meter thick slates, leaving behind two-meter long cracks, while other wind blades flew to the shops around them, cutting through the walls and pillars.

This destructive spear technique wrecked the whole street. Many fun-seeking warriors were accidentally injured by the wind blades, and some of them even lost their lives.

"How terrifying! That's the power of a martial arts legend! Step back, everyone! We are risking our lives if we stay here!"

An elder in the Earth Realm roared, and then he was the first to run away.

There were not many martial arts legends in the whole the Yunwu Commandery. Each one of them was a great martial expert.

Knowing that the man with the long spear was a martial arts legend in the Heaven Realm, everyone was shocked. Then immediately they started to run away.

"A martial arts legend has come here in person to fight with the Ninth Prince! The Ninth Prince has quite the honor!"

"Where on earth did Zhang Tiangui invite so many masters from? It seems that the Ninth Prince doesn't even have a chance to escape!"

...

The fun-seeking warriors all stood far away.

Only a few confident warriors stood near. They wanted to see if the Ninth Prince could escape from the martial arts legend's attack.

SWOOSH!

Everyone was dazzled. They could only see a beam of sword radiance.

The sword light was so bright that they were all blinded for a while. After they reopened their eyes, they saw that the Ninth Prince was still standing there, while the martial arts legend had become a headless body and was lying on the ground.

BAM!

A bloody head dropped down from the air like a ball. It bounced on the ground and rolled to Wang Jinyi's armpit.

Seeing this, everyone gasped.

A martial arts legend in the Heaven Realm died just like this?

Who killed him?

Nobody believed that Wang Jinyi was killed by Zhang Ruochen. They thought maybe some masters were hiding in the dark.

Only a few warriors with higher cultivation vaguely saw Zhang Ruochen attack just now, and they were greatly astonished.

Because Zhang Ruochen was so fast like wind and thunder that Wang Jinyi lost his head before he could block.

The warriors from the Square Commandery were shocked as well. Wang Jinyi was a relatively strong master, but he could not even block one of Zhang Ruochen's blows.

"Humph!"

Jin Chuan hummed. On an Ice Plain Wolf, he came out from behind the Square Commandery Prince's back. He stared at Zhang Ruochen from a height and said, "I'll be your opponent."

Jin Chuan stretched out his ten fingers and suddenly bent them into claws.

PHHT!

His ten fingers were enveloped with Genuine Qi. It looked like there were wisps of electricity flowing on his skin. His old hands looked just like electric tiger claws.

Wisps of lightning also appeared on the ground, looking like purple snakes crawling toward Zhang Ruochen.

Jin Chuan was the tenth ranked master in the Square Commandery, and his martial cultivation was much higher than Wang Jinyi's.

Before he had even struck, he had already created a great momentum.

SWOOSH!

Zhang Ruochen moved first. He stepped out and turned into a chain of Shadows. In just a second, he was in front of Jin Chuan.

"So fast!"

Jin Chuan's face changed color. He crossed his arms and performed his strongest martial technique, Ghostly Claw.

His hands were like metal claws, striking against the Abyss Ancient Sword with streaks of lightning.

Ghostly Claw was a Spiritual Stage mid-class martial technique. Once it was mastered, the warrior's hands would become harder than iron.

Zhang Ruochen slashed open the lightning on Jin Chuan's claws and ended Jin Chuan's martial technique.

CRACK!

Zhang Ruochen's gaze was ruthless. He suddenly lowered his combat sword and broke Jin Chuan's Celestial Bodyshield.

The sword edge came down right above Jin Chuan's head, it pierced through his chest and all the way to the ground with a loud noise.

A pit with a diameter of five meters appeared on the ground.

CRACK! CRACK!

The slates around the pit were all broken and arched, forming a round ashy Qi billow.

"This is... one slash's power... of the Ninth Prince?"

The warriors around were all shocked and frightened.

Even the mounts of the Square Commandery Prince and other warriors from the Square Commandery were startled. They neighed and kept stepping back.

PHHT!

Jin Chuan, who was originally sitting on the savage beast's back, cracked in half when a blood line appeared in the middle of his body. He fell into the pit and his organs scattered everywhere.

Even a top ten master in the Square Commandery could not block Zhang Ruochen's one blow and had died in such an ugly way.

"How could Zhang Ruochen be... so powerful?"

The Square Commandery Prince's face changed color greatly. His jaw was set firmly in anger and his hands started to quiver.

The power Zhang Ruochen showed in that blow was beyond the Square Commandery Prince's expectations. He didn't have enough confidence that he would be able to block him.

His hatred towards Zhang Ruochen was completely aroused. The threads of blood in his eyes became even denser.

"All of you can die!"

Zhang Ruochen roared. Then, he shifted all of his Genuine Qi into the Abyss Ancient Sword and activated all the inscriptions in the sword.

Zhang Ruochen slashed out.

Countless angry Sword Breaths burst out, forming into translucent sword shadows and charged out like a storm.

BANG! BANG!

Constant screeches could be heard among the sword Qi.

When everything became quiet again, only the Square Commandery Prince stood alive on the ground. The other warriors from the Square Commandery had all become bodies in a pool of blood. There were at least ten wounds on each of them.

Some of them were even ripped to pieces by the sword Qi and were mere body parts which no one could identify.

The Square Commandery Prince looked even more wretched. His face, shoulders, and legs were all wounded by the sword Qi. His clothes were pierced and he was covered in blood. He had a very disbelieving look on his face.

He had reached the Final State of the Heaven Realm, and he had the power to fight warriors in higher realms. In other words, he was standing on the Peak of the Heaven Realm. How could he be wounded by a junior at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm?

Normally, a warrior who could reach the Final State of the Heaven Realm would at least be a One-realm Fighting Geniuses. Many of them were Two-realm Fighting Geniuses or even Three-realm Fighting Geniuses.

The Square Commandery Prince was already a Two-and-a-half-realm Fighting Genius when he was young.

Before the Square Commandery Prince could calm himself down, Zhang Ruochen appeared beside him with just a movement of his body. And then he slashed again.

After knowing how powerful Zhang Ruochen was, the Square Commandery Prince was a little afraid. He didn't dare to fight with Zhang Ruochen again. So he performed a bodily movement and ran back to the palace.

"Still trying to run? You are a dead man today!"

Zhang Ruochen stepped on a slate and crushed it. He bowed slightly and flashed forward like an arrow. In just a moment, he had caught up with the Square Commandery Prince.

"Dragon in the Sky!"

An illusory image of a flying dragon was formed in the void space after Zhang Ruochen's blow. It roared and flew toward the Square Commandery Prince.

The Square Commandery Prince sensed the palm power at his back. He turned around immediately and punched out as well.

"Surprise Cloud Palm!"

Two wisps of Genuine Qi from both of his palms integrated together and formed a ball of white light.

The illusory image of the flying dragon crashed into the white light and tore it open, turning it into wisps of light haze.

POW!

The Square Commandery Prince was blown out over 33 meters by the force of Zhang Ruochen's palm power.

The Square Commandery Prince's martial cultivation was high enough that he managed to steady himself the moment he fell to the ground. He landed on his tiptoe, turned his body around and kept running towards the palace.

"Zhang Ruochen is too powerful. I'm no match for him."

The Square Commandery Prince's arms were numb because of the pain. He knew he could block Zhang Ruochen only by getting back to the palace and activating the Palace-defending Array.

Zhang Tiangui and the Queen were just standing on the city wall, so they clearly saw what happened just now.

The Queen was pale with fear. She shuddered greatly and cold sweat kept dripping from her forehead.

Zhang Tiangui gasped and said, "Activate the Palace-defending Array! Now! We mustn't allow Zhang Ruochen to get in!"

"But... the Square Commandery Prince is still out there..." Said a master from the Black Market.

Zhang Tiangui replied coldly, "Don't care about him. If we let Zhang Ruochen in because of him, we will all die."

Seeing Zhang Ruochen coming nearer and nearer, Zhang Tiangui was also a little afraid. He shouted angrily, "You stupid servant! I told you to activate the Palace-defending Array! Are you deaf? Do it!"

The master sensed Zhang Tiangui's fury, and he quickly went away and asked the people in charge to activate the Inscription of Array that defended the Palace.

Chapter 355: Outside the Palace

Yunwu City had a total of three walls, named the Major Wall, the Internal Wall, and the Palace Wall.

In terms of defensive power, the Major Wall was the strongest. After hundreds of years' reinforcement, the wall was high and thick. What's more, they had even invited the array masters from the Federation of Inscription to set over 100 Defender Arrays.

Although the Palace Wall, which defended the Palace, was not very high, the number of defending arrays and attacking arrays was more than that of the Major Wall.

Particularly, the Dragon-turtle Holy Armour Array, a Fourth Class array, which was 70% defensive power and 30% attacking.

Once the array was started up, the whole Palace would be covered. Even a warrior in the Fish-dragon Realm would find it difficult to break through.

Inside each array tower on the top of the Palace Wall, there was an array master from the Black Market. Under their joint efforts, the Palace-defending Array was finally activated.

BAM!

A 333-meter light column shot out from each array tower and pierced through the clouds.

After that, lines of arrays appeared on the four palace walls and eight palace doors and turned into a spiderweb-like light screen, covering the entire Yunwu City.

Looking down from the palace, the array was like a huge turtle crouching down on the ground. It looked like a big blue dragon was tangled around its neck, with the dragon head resting on its back.

Seeing the Palace-defending Array was activated, Zhang Tiangui finally calmed down.

With the help of the Palace-defending Array, Zhang Ruochen had to withdraw no matter how powerful he was.

It would be better if he tried to break through the Palace-defending Array then Zhang Tiangui could seize the chance to kill him with the help of the array.

"Zhang Ruochen, let's see what you can do now." Zhang Tiangui grinned coldly.

The Palace-defending Array has always been strictly controlled by the Commandery Prince. If Zhang Tiangui did not break into the palace with masters from the Square Commandery and kill the Array Master in advance, the Palace would not have fallen so quickly.

A commandery, or even an inferior commandery's defensive power could be very strong.

The Square Commandery Prince ran to the North Gate and stared at Zhang Tiangui above. He shouted from the distance, "Zhang Tiangui, open the array and let me in! Quick!"

Zhang Tiangui gave him a cold and contemptuous look and said, "Elder Huo, once you were the third master in the Square Commandery. How could even you fail to fight against Zhang Ruochen now? If the young master knew of this, he will be very disappointed."

The Square Commandery Prince's name was Huo Tianshu. Since he was very powerful in the Black Market of Omen Ridge, he was made an Elder.

Hearing Zhang Tiangui's words, Square Commandery Prince's heart sank.

Square Commandery Prince never liked Zhang Tiangui. He thought his cultivation was much higher than Zhang Tiangui's, so he did not want to listen to him.

Just because of this, they looked to be quite friendly with each other on the surface, but they both bore grudges in private.

The Square Commandery Prince did not expect Zhang Tiangui to revenge him by blocking him outside the Palace-defending Array at such a crucial moment.

Zhang Ruochen also arrived at the gate. He stopped behind the Square Commandery Prince and said, with blood dripping down his sword, "Where are you going now, Square Commandery Prince?"

The Square Commandery Prince looked back at Zhang Ruochen. He was only a young man about 20 years old. But, at this moment, in the Square Commandery Prince's eyes, he was more like a god of death gradually approaching.

"Zhang Tiangui! You're doing me harm on purpose!"

The Square Commandery Prince gnashed his teeth together in anger. He glanced at Zhang Tiangui coldly and said, "If the young master knows this, he won't pardon you!"

Zhang Tiangui sneered. He thought to himself, the Square Commandery Prince may be somebody in Omen Ridge, but he was nothing the moment he stepped out of Omen Ridge. A person like Di Yi would never care about him.

Zhang Tiangui believed that, even if Di Yi knew this, he would not say anything. After all, he was much more valuable than the Square Commandery Prince.

Zhang Tiangui said loudly, "Elder Huo, you are a famous Martial Arts master, and Zhang Ruochen is no match for you. I think you'd better give full play to your remarkable skills and slaughter Zhang Ruochen. At that time, I'll definitely ask the young master to record your meritorious deed."

The Square Commandery Prince was furious. He did not want to talk to Zhang Tiangui anymore, so he turned around and stared at Zhang Ruochen.

Indeed, Zhang Tiangui was a sinister man but his words made sense. The Square Commandery Prince thought that if he could kill Zhang Ruochen, he would definitely receive great credit.

He was in the Final State of the Heaven Realm, while Zhang Ruochen had just entered the Heaven Realm. If he risked his life, there might be a chance for him to kill Zhang Ruochen.

With his will growing stronger and stronger, the vigor coming out of the Square Commandery Prince also grew stronger. The bronze halberd on his back shivered greatly, shattered the cloth and flew into his hands.

"Conqueror Halberd!"

Holding the halberd with both hands, the Square Commandery Prince stood there with his legs spread apart. Suddenly, he waved the halberd and the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi stirred. He performed an opening posture as if the halberd and himself were combined together.

POW!

One end of the Conqueror Halberd struck on the ground. It made a loud noise and left deep cracks on the ground.

This halberd was a ninth level Genuine Martial Arms. It had been the weapon of the Square Commandery Prince for decades, by which countless famous masters were killed.

The Square Commandery Prince's Genuine Qi was very profound, which activated the Inscriptions of the Fire Series in the Conqueror Halberd. The halberd was covered with fire immediately and an illusory image of the Fire Battle Lord in armor was formed.

"Birds Reaching the Clouds!"

This martial technique was called the Wind and Cloud Halberd Skill, which was a Spiritual Stage Superior class martial technique.

This halberd skill contained 36 moves. Once it was practiced to succeed, the warrior could split rivers and mountains and pierce the clouds and sky. It was one of the most important martial Mysteriums in the Square Commandery.

But the Square Commandery only owned 22 moves. In other words, this martial Mysterium was incomplete, which made it difficult for the warrior to master the skill.

Of course, even though it was incomplete, when it was performed by a master like the Square Commandery Prince, its power was still startling.

One blow turned into a fire cloud and came down from above.

A heat wave blew in across his face.

Zhang Ruochen did not dodge. Instead, he rushed forward.

Blue Genuine Qi poured out of his body and formed a Celestial Bodyshield around him. He dashed through the fire cloud and slashed toward the Square Commandery Prince's wrist.

The Square Commandery Prince did not expect Zhang Ruochen's sword technique would be so profound. It was only one simple slash, but his Spiritual Stage Superior class halberd technique was broken.

This sword technique turned the foul and rotten into the rare and ethereal.

The Square Commandery Prince immediately changed his move. He turned his arm and stabbed again. The flames condensed into one point and came right toward Zhang Ruochen's chest.

Zhang Ruochen moved his feet and appeared on the left side of the Square Commandery Prince. He slammed on the Square Commandery Prince's head with his palm.

The Square Commandery Prince sensed palm strength rushing toward him so he blocked with his halberd.

POW!

The Square Commandery Prince retreated seven steps because of the strike. Then, Zhang Ruochen ran forward again. He pinched his right thumb into a Finger Sword and pointed toward the front.

A cold blue Sword Wave flew out of his fingertip.

POW!

The Sword Wave struck precisely on the Square Commandery Prince. But it was blocked by Square Commandery Prince's Celestial Bodyshield.

Square Commandery Prince was not hurt, but he retreated another step.

Zhang Ruochen did not give the Square Commandery Prince any chance to rest. Immediately, he slashed out the second Sword Wave. The Square Commandery Prince's Celestial Bodyshield was finally broken, and the Sword Wave struck on the Square Commandery Prince's body.

The Square Commandery Prince grunted. His robe at the front of his chest was torn apart by the sword Qi. The Square Commandery Prince himself was also badly wounded. White ribs could be seen through his bloody chest.

POW!

The Square Commandery Prince fell on the ground, but he refused to acknowledge his defeat. So he threw his Conqueror Halberd at Zhang Ruochen like an arrow.

At the same time, he released his Martial Soul and mobilized the Spiritual Qi between heaven and earth. Above him, a huge fire vortex formed.

POW!

Zhang Ruochen slashed and hit the Conqueror Halberd away.

Then, he struck out another Sword Wave and turned it into a bowl-sized sword Qi light column, attacking right at the Square Commandery Prince who was currently pulling together his power.

The Square Commandery Prince's Martial Soul pushed with both hands and struck out with the huge fire vortex.

In just a second, Zhang Ruochen's Sword Wave was devoured by the fire vortex.

The fire vortex kept rotating and became bigger and bigger. It reached a diameter of 20 meters then it blew up the slates on the ground and melted them into lava.

The lava turned into a red river. The vortex continued to move and make popping noises.

"Haha! Zhang Ruochen, now you see the difference between the Heaven Realm warriors who have the Martial Soul and those who haven't. I can move the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi through the Martial

Soul. I am a martial arts legends, and you are just a little brat! You'll die like a dog if you fight against me!"

The Square Commandery Prince laughed wildly, believing that he was sure to win.

The power of Martial Soul couldn't be stopped by warriors who didn't have Martial Soul.

"You can use the power of Martial Soul, do you think I cannot?"

Zhang Ruochen also released his Martial Soul. A shadow hung over his head and started to mobilize the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi. What's more, Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul even stole the Spiritual Qi from the Square Commandery Prince's Martial Soul.

The Square Commandery Prince's face changed color greatly. He thought to himself, "How can this be? You've just reached the Heaven Realm, there's no way for you to have Martial Soul as well!"

The Square Commandery Prince had practiced 30 years in the Heaven Realm to get his Martial Soul. But Zhang Ruochen had just reached the Heaven Realm, so theoretically, he just could not have the Martial Soul.

Besides, Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul was even more powerful than his.

Seeing Zhang Ruochen releasing his Martial Soul, Zhang Tiangui was almost out of his mind with envy. He thought, "Zhang Ruochen has got the Martial Soul! It... it can't be! Is the gap between us this big?"

Zhang Tiangui had always been called the top genius, so he was very proud and looked down on everyone, including those warriors who had higher cultivation.

But now, his pride and confidence were completely smashed by Zhang Ruochen.

His talent and Zhang Ruochen's talent were like a firefly and a star. He was not even qualified to lick Zhang Ruochen's shoes.

Chapter 356: Strongly Overwhelmed

Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul in his last lifetime had been much stronger than that of warriors at the Completion of Heaven Realm. The three times he had summoned the Chord of Gods had further improved his Martial Soul and thus it was much stronger than Square Commandery Prince's.

The more powerful the soul was, the more Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi it could control, and the more formidable the power it demonstrated was.

At this moment, Zhang Ruochen only used one-tenth of the power of his Martial Soul. Using the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi he formed into a 20-meter huge sword.

SWOOSH!

The sword chopped down. The fire vortex was torn apart and it fell above the Square Commandery Prince's head. Before the sword cut down, the sword Qi had already riven the ground below him, leaving a broken sword path.

"No..."

The Square Commandery Prince roared with dissatisfaction.

The marvelous sword radiance swallowed the Square Commandery Prince and enveloped him in the light.

After a while, the sword radiance vanished.

Everyone looked over and found that the Square Commandery Prince's Body of Martial Arts had been severed by the furious sword Qi and only a mangled body remained.

A dominator in the Martial Arts, the once Commandery Prince, died... in this way?

In the distance, many warriors gasped. They were all shocked by Zhang Ruochen's strike could not help but tremble.

They were familiar with the Square Commandery Prince. He was a powerful martial arts legend in the Heaven Realm and he was even stronger than the top master of Yunwu Commandery.

But even for a powerful person like this, there was no escape. And finally, he was killed by the sword of the Ninth Prince.

How mighty he was!

"His... his power has grown so much..." In the crowd, Lin Chenyu looked at Zhang Ruochen, who was standing below the gate with speechless shock.

Pulling Lin Ningshan out of the crowd, Lin Chenyu approached Zhang Ruochen.

With any hesitation, he knelt in front of Zhang Ruochen. With a faint voice he cried and said, "Cousin, the people of the Lin clan were all killed by Zhang Tiangui, even our grandfather was not spared, please avenge him."

Lin Chenyu was cunning. Domestic affection was not actually important to him. The most important thing in his heart was to eliminate Zhang Tiangui.

If Zhang Tiangui could not be killed, his future would very difficult.

At this time, who had the ability to kill Zhang Tiangui?

Of course, that person was Zhang Ruochen.

The power Zhang Ruochen demonstrated just now was much more powerful than that of Zhang Tiangui's.

Lin Chenyu was also a man who was very good at judging the situation and making appropriate decisions. When Zhang Ruochen was sick and weak, he would never stretch out his hand to help him, in fact, he would trample over him. However, after Zhang Ruochen returned more powerful, he also didn't hesitate to close their distance again. Even if he had to kneel to Zhang Ruochen, he wouldn't furrow his brows.

You could not ask a really mean person for more.

Lin Chenyu gazed at Lin Ningshan and said, "Ningshan, quickly knew and beg our cousin, only cousin has the power to avenge us now."

Lin Ningshan sighed and gazed deeply at Zhang Ruochen. She could not see his expression, she could only feel a great power of Martial Arts emanating from him, which was sharper than other martial arts legends.

Not so long ago, this cousin had stood by her side, was concerned about her, cared for her, and loved her. But at that time she was too focused on chasing fame and had not attached much importance to him.

Now, all that had gone with the wind. The man standing in front of her had become an undefeated man.

At the urging of Lin Chenyu, Lin Ningshan finally knelt down. As she thought of the bodies of her family and the blood that flowed into the street, tears came to her eyes. She begged, "Cousin, please avenge grandfather. You know you were his favorite child."

Zhang Ruochen did not glance at Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan, he was staring at Zhang Tiangui who was standing on the gate. He said, "You don't need to beg me, I will definitely take revenge."

Lin Chenyu felt happy. *It was impossible for Zhang Tiangui to escape*. But he still feared that Zhang Ruochen would not kill Zhang Tiangui because their brotherhood, so he immediately said, "Cousin, you have to kill him. According to what I know, he is not the Commandery Prince's son, but a bastard of the Queen and another man."

Lin Chenyu had been Zhang Tiangui's servant, so he knew many of Zhang Tiangui's secrets. However, what he just said was only a conjecture.

He could not be sure whether Zhang Tiangui was the son of the Yunwu Commandery Prince or not. He just said this to Zhang Ruochen with an intention to irritate him, so that he could use Zhang Ruochen's hand to completely destroy Zhang Tiangui.

However, he had not thought that Zhang Ruochen's eyes would suddenly become icy cold because of what he said.

CLAP!

Zhang Ruochen slapped Lin Chenyu and sent him flying. A moment later he landed on the ground and tumbled like a dog.

Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu did not want to expose the secret, because they wanted to retain dignity for the Yunwu Commandery Prince.

But they did not expect for the scandal to be revealed by Lin Chenyu. How could Zhang Ruochen forgive him?

Lin Chenyu did not only dishonor the Yunwu Commandery Prince but also trampled on his dignity.

Zhang Ruochen would rather bear the notoriety of killing a brother than to release that secret.

Zhang Ruochen's slap was extremely cruel and left a bloody handprint on Lin Chenyu's face. Even his cheekbones caved from the strike.

"Cou... cousin, forgive me. I shouldn't have said this out loud..." Lin Chenyu realized his fault and he immediately begged for mercy while endlessly kowtowing.

After hearing what he said, Zhang Ruochen became more furious. He slapped Lin Chenyu again and sent him crashing down to the ground, stunned.

"Brother... brother..."

Lin Ningshan rushed to Lin Chenyu and put out her finger to check his breath. She was relieved after feeling Lin Chenyu's breath, and she knew that Zhang Ruochen had spared her brother's life.

Naturally, the other warriors heard what Lin Chenyu said earlier.

"Zhang Tiangui is not the Yunwu Commandery Prince's son, is this for real?"

"It's not a big deal. I guessed it long ago! Zhang Tiangui killed all the members of the Royal Family as soon he became the Commandery Prince. It would be really strange if he was the son of the Yunwu Commandery Prince."

...

Above the gate, Zhang Tiangui was livid with rage. If he was not afraid of Zhang Ruochen, he would have rushed out to kill Lin Chenyu.

But very quickly, he felt a cold gaze staring at him as if they wanted to kill him just by looking at him.

It was Zhang Ruochen.

What?

Did he want to contend against the Palace-defensing Array just by himself?

Step by step, Zhang Ruochen walked toward the palace. Each step he took enhanced his momentum, "Zhang Tiangui, when you killed father, did you ever think there would be retribution?"

"Haha! Zhang Ruochen, what are you? I don't need your remarks and criticisms." Since Zhang Tiangui held a Palace-defensing Array, he did not fear Zhang Ruochen at all.

After seeing the distance between Zhang Ruochen and the palace gate was less than 33 meters, Zhang Tiangui revealed his joy and immediately ordered Array Masters to start the attacking inscription of the Palace-defensing Array.

"Swoosh!"

Driven by Array Masters, illusory images of Spiritual Qi poured from the formation, condensing into the giant body of a Blue Dragon. A single dragon claw, which was more than 20 meters long, lifted from the array and punched down toward Zhang Ruochen.

The power of this attack had far exceeded the strongest power of the Square Commandery Prince.

Only the array could demonstrate such formidable power!

"Nine-folds of Elephant Power!"

Zhang Ruochen struck out nine handprints in a row, which formed a giant palm that was over 20 meters long. It burst out a nine-fold power of attack.

He contended with the Palace-defensing Array with his own strength.

BOOM!

The two forces collided. It seemed the entire palace trembled.

Zhang Ruochen took a slight step back then he rushed toward the array.

"Zhang Ruochen, you are killing yourself. The formation only used a tenth of its strength. Now, it will activate all its power to completely crush you."

Zhang Tiangui was very confident of the array. Never mind a Zhang Ruochen, even a general warrior in the Fish-dragon Realm would not prevail.

"You have no more chances!"

Releasing the Space Domain, Zhang Ruochen waved an arm and created a Space Crack.

In a flash, a dark and deep crack appeared on the array, which was both like a mouth of a monster and an eye of hell.

"Swoosh!"

The Space Crack madly devoured the power of the array.

When it vanished, a large hole that was seven or eight meters in diameter appeared on the Palace-defensing Array. With a flash, Zhang Ruochen flew out of it and rushed into the array.

After reaching the Heaven Realm, Zhang Ruochen's power of space had also increased a lot. He just displayed a little bit of its power.

BAM!

Zhang Ruochen struck out and broke the palace gate into pieces.

After rushing through the gate, Zhang Ruochen took off and landed on the top of the palace. His eyes, like burning flames, were staring at Zhang Tiangui and the Queen, both of whom were not far away.

At this moment, Zhang Tiangui and the Queen still looked stunned.

They did not understand what had just happened.

How can Zhang Ruochen have gotten through the barriers before the true power of the array erupted?

"A tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye. The minister has already been killed by me. What last words do you need to say?" Zhang Ruochen said.

"You... you actually killed... killed him..."

When the Queen saw Zhang Ruochen, she felt like the sky was falling down. Fear covered her eyes and she kept retreating.

"Swoosh!"

Without hesitation, Zhang Ruochen waved his hand. A sword Qi flew out and passed through the neck of the Queen, leaving a bloody line.

A moment later, the Queen's head flew up and a long bead of blood rushed from her neck. Blood spattered on Zhang Tiangui's face.

Chapter 357: Encountering a Warrior in Fish-Draagon Realm

Once upon a time, Zhang Tiangui wanted to have a fight with Zhang Ruochen, in which he would defeat Zhang Ruochen and regain his reputation as the first genius of Omen Ridge with his formidable power.

But now that he was truly standing with Zhang Ruochen. The powerful pressure emanating from Zhang Ruochen almost crushed him.

Although he had powerful Martial Arts willpower, he was still terrified.

It was not until this moment did he really understand the huge gap between Zhang Ruochen and himself. Compared with Zhang Ruochen, his so-called talent was nothing.

Zhang Tiangui completely ignored the dead Queen who was lying in blood. Dead was dead, there was no need to look at a dead person. He pretended to be calm and asked, "Zhang Ruochen, how did you escape from Di Yi's siege?"

Zhang Tiangui thought Di Yi was unfathomable. Even if Zhang Ruochen was powerful, Zhang Tiangui still did not believe that Zhang Ruochen could defeat Di Yi.

Zhang Ruochen did not want to say anything to Zhang Tiangui. He had determined to kill Zhang Tiangui and would not give him any chance to survive.

After seeing Zhang Ruochen's murderous feeling, Zhang Tiangui's heart sank and he immediately turned around to run.

"Do you think you can escape?"

Zhang Ruochen's body moved. It turned into a Shadow, catching up with Zhang Tiangui in an instant and appearing behind him.

POW!

Zhang Ruochen stretched out his palm. The dragon shadow appeared and it struck Zhang Tiangui on the back.

Zhang Tiangui immediately infused Genuine Qi into a Jade Amulet. It formed a light screen to envelop him and tried to resist Zhang Ruochen's handprint.

POW!

The light screen was shattered and turned into strands of light spots.

The handprint sent Zhang Tiangui flying out. A huge bloody handprint was left on his back.

"Argh!"

Zhang Tiangui spat out blood mixed with some pieces of flesh. It seemed like his internal organs had all been shattered by the palm power.

Zhang Tiangui took a Healing Pill while he was lying on the ground. Then, he slowly got up.

However, he had already suffered internal injuries. So he couldn't use any power in his current state even with the help of the Healing Pill. Now, even an ordinary person could easily defeat him with only a punch.

Zhang Ruochen walked over step by step, his eyes were filled with an extremely strong murderous intent.

"Zhang Ruochen, you are too arrogant. Do you really think that I will die today?"

Zhang Tiangui laughed and spared a glance over Zhang Ruochen's shoulders.

A single-armed old man suddenly appeared nearly ten meters behind Zhang Ruochen. He was standing in the air. The man had a head of white hair which was separated down the middle where a wrinkled old face looked out.

Zhang Ruochen naturally felt the aura of the horrific power from behind him. That kind of feeling did not feel like a man was standing behind him, rather, it was like a thousand-year-old ghost was standing behind him.

In just an instant, the cold air from behind him almost froze Zhang Ruochen's entire body.

Instinctively, Zhang Ruochen immediately mobilized his Genuine Qi to form a giant light blue ball and wrapped himself in it.

The Genuine Qi practiced by Zhang Ruochen was Blue Genuine Qi. The Celestial Bodyshield which was made from it had robust defensive power. It was even harder to destroy the shield than to destroy a wall.

"Boom!"

In a flash, the one-armed man struck out with his palm.

The palm, like a five-fingered mountain, smashed the light ball of Genuine Qi and reached to Zhang Ruochen's chest.

Just as the palm dropped down, a golden light rushed from Zhang Ruochen's heart.

In the light, an audible dragon's roar appeared and a powerful force burst forth, defusing the power of that elder.

Even so, that great impact force still sent Zhang Ruochen flying away. He broke a tower and smashed into the ruins of the collapsed wall.

"Who are you?"

Zhang Ruochen walked out of the shambles and dusted himself down. He still stood above the wall and gazed at the one-armed elder.

An incredible look appeared on Zhang Tiangui's face as he saw Zhang Ruochen survive the attack of the one-armed man. He said, "Zhang Ruochen, the man standing in front of you is the chief chairman of the Poisonous Spider Club, Hua Qingye. Do you think you have the opportunity to kill me today as Predecessor Hua is here?"

Zhang Tiangui has always been arrogant, even a dominator of Martial Arts like the Square Commandery Prince was looked down on by him. However, he dared not to act presumptuously in front of Hua Qingye.

Because Hua Qingye was an existence that had surpassed Martial Arts. His cultivation had already reached the Fish-dragon Realm.

Although Zhang Tiangui had been the first genius of Omen Ridge, he might not be able to break through the Fish-dragon Realm with his talent.

Throughout the entire 36 commanderies of Omen Ridge, there were less than 20 warriors in the Fishdragon Realm. Each of them was honored by the martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm. A warrior in the Fish-dragon Realm was a real master, a superior among superiors.

There were three Half-Saints in Omen Ridge. They were Half-Saint Kongkong in the School of the Martial Market, Half-Saint Hanjue in the Yuntai Suzerain, and Half-Saint Lingxi in the Tai Qing Palace.

However, Half-Saints were not in Omen Ridge most of the time. They went to the battlefields of Primitive World to open up new territories for human beings. They stayed in the Suzerain for only a little time. Instead of intervening in struggles of major forces, they preferred to seclude themselves for refining and comprehending the Holy Road.

Therefore, warriors in the Fish-dragon Realm were the most powerful in Omen Ridge. They dominated the fate of all warriors here.

Di Yi highly valued Yunwu Commandery. He wanted to unify the 36 commanderies in Omen Ridge and establish a superior class commandery which would be under the control of the Black Market. And the commandery would be based on the foundation of Yunwu Commandery.

So, he had dispatched Hua Qingye to suppress Yunwu Commandery, in case the School of the Martial Market counter-attacked.

However, even Hua Qingye did not think that Zhang Ruochen would arrive before the arrival of those masters of School of the Martial Market.

SWOOSH!

Hua Qingye flew down from above. He stepped onto the ground and stared at Zhang Ruochen coldly, "You can ward off my palm, there must be a splendid amulet treasure on your body."

An ordinary amulet treasure could not stop a strike of a warrior in the Fish-dragon Realm. It must be a top-notch amulet treasure which was worth more than millions of Spiritual Crystals that had such a defensive power.

The amulet treasure of Zhang Ruochen was the Dragon Pearl in his heart.

After knowing the old man's identity, Zhang Ruochen said with a serious expression, "You have reached the First Change in the Fish-dragon Realm."

"You can see through my realm, indeed you are a genius who can be the top 100 in the Earth Board."

Slightly lifting eyes and exposing white teeth, Hua Qingye grimly smiled and said, "Do you think I can't kill you by my power in the First Change in the Fish-dragon Realm? The gap between the Fish-dragon Realm and the Heaven Realm can't be compensated by your talent."

Never mind Zhang Ruochen, even if a legendary genius with nine tricks encountered a master in the Fish-dragon Realm at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm, he would be killed with no power to counterattack.

Moreover, Hua Qingye had great talent to be able to reach the Fish-dragon Realm. He was not an ordinary warrior.

Zhang Ruochen had another trump card, the Sarira. As long as he unlocked the first seal, he would be able to obtain the power of a warrior in Fish-dragon Realm, which was enough to kill Hua Qingye.

But Zhang Ruochen did not want to waste the power of the first seal of the Sarira to deal with Hua Qingye. The power could be used to save his life, it was very valuable to him. So the power would never be used unless there was no other way.

"I'll have to use the power of Martial Soul!"

After reaching the Heaven Realm, he had never used all of the power of his Martial Soul. And now, it was time to show his strength.

Zhang Tiangui did not know what Zhang Ruochen was thinking, and he thought that Zhang Ruochen was thinking about how to escape. With a joking smile on face, he said, "Zhang Ruochen, it's too late to escape! Your power that you're so proud of is even weaker than an ant in front of Predecessor Hua."

Zhang Ruochen did not talk nonsense and directly released his Martial Soul.

SWISH!

The shadow of the soul stood behind Zhang Ruochen and it emitted a blue light. The Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi gathered above Zhang Ruochen's head and condensed into a blue cloud.

Hua Qingye shook head and said with a smirk, "It is useless, even if you have practiced the Martial Soul. The strength of a warrior in the Fish-dragon Realm is not something you can imagine. Let alone you're just at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm. You will never be my match even if you reached the Completion of Heaven Realm."

Previously, Hua Qingye had seen that Zhang Ruochen using the powerful force of Martial Soul to kill the Square Commandery Prince. So he had some understanding of his power.

Even so, Hua Qingye still looked down on Zhang Ruochen. The battle between Zhang Ruochen and the Square Commandery Prince was just like a horseplay of children to him.

But he did not know that the power of Martial Soul that Zhang Ruochen used against the Square Commandery Prince was only a tenth of what he had.

Hua Qingye also did not want to say anything more. He suddenly charged out, his speed so fast that it could not be captured by naked eyes. It seemed like it was just a moment before he came to Zhang Ruochen and attacked Zhang Ruochen's head.

Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul had perceived Hua Qingye's trick in advance. It immediately mobilized Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi. A sword was formed and it chopped toward Hua Qingye.

POW!

With just one casual strike, Hua Qingye shattered the spiritual sword with one squeeze on his palm and continued to strike toward Zhang Ruochen's head.

At that moment, Zhang Ruochen quickly retreated backward and escaped the attack.

CLASH!

Zhang Ruochen condensed all of the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi into the Abyss Ancient Sword. Then, he made an attack to stab the belly of Hua Qingye.

This attack not only contained the power of himself but also contained the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi which was summoned by his Martial Soul. The power in it had already exceeded the fighting strength of a warrior in the Heaven Realm.

(To be continued...)

Chapter 358: The Duel with Hua Qingye

The power of Zhang Ruochen's attack had almost exceeded the domain of Martial Arts, reaching another realm.

Streams of air were forced back by the sword Qi, forming a diamond-shaped Qi billow. It emanated a red flame.

Hua Qingye gasped and closed his five fingers. He gathered a cloud of Genuine Qi and held back Zhang Ruochen's sword.

His arm twisted and dismantled the power gathered on the sword. At the same time, he attacked Zhang Ruochen with his palm again.

Zhang Ruochen kicked his legs and jumped up, avoiding Hua Qingye's power.

SWOOSH!

Zhang Ruochen rapidly backed off far away, landing on the roof of a palace.

At this very moment, he sent out the Abyss Ancient Sword. Standing more than 33 meters away, he used Sword Defending Technique and continuously attacked Hua Qingye.

Zhang Ruochen knew very well that it was not good for him to fight with Hua Qingye at close range. Because his speed was far less than Hua Qingye's, he could only use the power of Heart Integrated into Sword and attack from a distance.

On the Abyss Ancient Sword, there was Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi. Every sword attack had giant power. Even if the sword Qi it emitted could leave terrific sword marks in the Palace.

The duel between Zhang Ruochen and Hua Qingye shattered the magnificent Palace.

Zhang Ruochen actually can exchange blows with Hua Qingye? How... how is this possible...

Zhang Tiangui was not just shocked. He was even a bit hopeless.

Zhang Ruochen was like a bottomless hole. No one knew that how deep he was. The more powerful the warrior he met, the more powerful the strength he showed.

"The Heart Integrated into Sword realm is nothing. Young man, you are too still greatly lacking."

Hua Qingye roared loudly and sent the Abyss Ancient Sword flying out with one palm. He flew up from the palace wall and shot above Zhang Ruochen's head before stepping down with a foot.

Zhang Ruochen was slightly shocked. He immediately raised his arms and gathered the power in every piece of muscle and bone, striking upward with both his palms.

The Martial Soul that stood behind Zhang Ruochen made the same movements as Zhang Ruochen, striking upward with both his palms.

The naked eye could not see that clouds of Spiritual Qi gushed out of the ground and merged with his Martial Soul. They slowly increased the power of his Martial Soul, turning it into a giant man.

BANG!

As Hua Qingye landed, the roof of the palace split open and Zhang Ruochen fell down.

BANG!

Zhang Ruochen only felt that there was a mountain crashing down on his head. Within his field of vision, the entire world violently shook once.

When he recovered, he found out that his body below the waist was buried under the ground. His whole body seemed to have fallen apart, extreme pain shot through his body.

The entire ground of the temple cracked, the wall collapsed and the tiles shattered. Even the copper pillars were shaking, like they were going to fall.

CRACK!

Hua Qingye stood on the shattered tile. He walked and approached Zhang Ruochen. One arm was enveloped by Genuine Qi and gathered freezing air. His five fingers were like sharp metal claws.

He coldly stared at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Young man, you are indeed very incredible and much more powerful than those legendary geniuses. You have actually managed to fight with me for 11 moves with your cultivation in the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm."

While Zhang Ruochen gathered his power, he coldly replied, "You think too highly of me!"

Hua Qingye said, "Your Martial Soul is very powerful and much more powerful than mine. It is just because that your cultivation is too weak, so you are defeated by me. If you can reach the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm and apply the power of Martial Soul, I'm afraid that I can't defeat you even within 100 moves. What secret are you hiding? If you tell me, I may spare your life."

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "I don't have any secret."

Hua Qingye's face darkened. He said, "If you don't have a secret, how could you succeed in practicing Heart Integrated into Sword? If you don't have a secret, how can you have such a powerful Martial Soul? Young man, you have to be honest in front of me. Open the door, or I will open it for you."

To have such terrific strength in the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm, Zhang Ruochen was completely been beyond Hua Qingye's knowledge.

Zhang Ruochen must have a big secret.

Hua Qingye had already been in the Fish-dragon Realm for 20 years. Although his cultivation was improving, there was no sign of him reaching the Second Change in the Fish-dragon Realm.

He knew that his potential had already been exhausted and could not be improved in his life. Unless... he got some good luck.

Obviously, this good luck was in front of him, it was on Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Well! If you really want to know, I'm not saying that I can't tell you, but I have one condition."

"What condition?"

Hua Qingye was so excited. His old eyes were shining. He could not help taking a step forward.

WHEW!

At this very moment, the Abyss Ancient Sword flew out of the temple and turned into a flying streak of light, attacking toward the center of Hua Qingye's back.

Hua Qingye's reaction speed was amazing. In just a brief moment, he instantly moved sideways and stretched out two fingers, pinching the Abyss Ancient Sword.

The Abyss Ancient Sword kept shaking and making sword sounds. However, it could not break loose from Hua Qingye's two fingers.

Zhang Ruochen sighed in his heart. Hua Qingye's martial cultivation was too high and his reaction speed was also too fast. He had secretly regulated the Sword Comprehension to control the Abyss Ancient Sword but there was no success in this attack.

In this case, even if he applied the Space Crack, it would be difficult to hurt this old man.

What should he do? Did he really need to undo the first seal of Sarira?

"You want to secretly attack me, young man, you are too young! When I did that, your father was still a suckling babe."

Hua Qingye's fingers turned and he pinched the hilt of the Abyss Ancient Sword. He spared it a glance and sighed, "What a good sword. It should be a Holy Sword. Unfortunately, it's already been broken, and now it can only be a ninth level Genuine Martial Arms. Zhang Ruochen, I'll give you one last chance. If you still don't tell me, I can only use this broken sword to cut open your flesh and blood piece by piece and slowly look for the answer."

"If you do that, you can't possibly find out my secret."

Zhang Ruochen said again, "I'll say it again, if you comply with one of my requests, I can tell you why I have such a powerful Martial Soul. And... for you, this should be an opportunity."

"Go ahead!"

Hua Qingye was on the alert and was worried that Zhang Ruochen would secretly attack him again.

Zhang Ruochen said, "My request is that you have to help me kill Zhang Tiangui."

"Kill Zhang Tiangui..."

Hua Qingye spared a glance at Zhang Ruochen. Suddenly, he laughed out loud and became serious. He said, "Young man, you want to use me? Do you think that I am so easily fooled?"

Zhang Ruochen said, "If you think that I am fooling you, then I have nothing to say. However, you have to think clearly. I have fallen into your hands, you just need to raise one hand to kill me. I have no reason to exercise my wits for my personal gain with you. Moreover, with my talent, I have a future. If I could survive, why would I choose to die?"

Hua Qingye said, "Zhang Tiangui is the favorite man of the young master of Black Market Excellence Hall. If I kill him, am I not setting myself against the Black Market?"

"The young master of Black Market Excellence Hall? Di Yi? Don't you know? I have dug out his Demon's Heart. He was badly injured and has escaped Omen Ridge. Maybe he has already died on the way," Zhang Ruochen said.

"It's impossible, Di Yi is so powerful. How could you be able to hurt him so severely?" Hua Qingye said.

Zhang Ruochen replied, "If I haven't defeated Di Yi, how could I leave Tongming River and be here? Moreover, with the strength I just showed you, am I not more powerful than Di Yi?"

Hua Qingye was a bit shocked and said to himself. Yes, Zhang Ruochen was indeed extremely powerful. If Di Yi had a duel with him, it was not possible for him to win at all.

Hua Qingye had always been told that Di Yi was the most powerful of God's favored sons among his peers and no one could possibly be his opponent. So, he had ignored Zhang Ruochen's strength.

When he realised it, he discovered that with the strength Zhang Ruochen just showed, Di Yi alone, or even ten Di Yi together, were not a match for Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen's secret was a fatal temptation for Hua Qingye.

If he could find out the secret, he could have a meteoric rise. He even could become Half-Saint in future and didn't need to do things according to Di Yi's attitude.

One of Hua Qingye arms had been chopped off by the Purple Wind Emissary. So, he had always held a grudge against Di Yi and the Seven Kills Emissaries. It's just that his strength was far less than the Purple Wind Emissary's. So he could only swallow the insult and humiliation silently and had to grovel to a junior like Di Yi, like a dog.

Now, since Zhang Ruochen had already hurt Di Yi badly, and it's likely that Di Yi had already left Omen Ridge, Hua Qingye's last concern had gone.

Zhang Tiangui, without Di Yi's protection, was nothing in Hua Qingye's eyes. Hua Qingye could kill him with just one move.

Of course, Hua Qingye did not totally believe what Zhang Ruochen had said. He gave a dark smile and said, "Zhang Ruochen, if you dare to play tricks on me, do you know what you'll end up with?"

"I certainly do," Zhang Ruochen said.

At this very moment, Zhang Tiangui quickly walked in. Seeing Zhang Ruoche, who had been struck to the ground, he was very excited and fawningly said, "Senior Hua is definitely a master in the Fish-dragon Realm. Before you, Zhang Ruochen is a stink bug that can be easily pinched to death."

Hua Qingye gently turned around and stared at Zhang Tiangui. There was a strange smile on his ferocious old face.

Chapter 359: Break the Seal

"That's right. It is indeed very easy for me to kill Zhang Ruochen. Similarly, it is even easier for me to kill you," Hua Qingye said.

Upon seeing Hua Qingye's cold eyes, Zhang Tiangui felt an indescribable chill. Drops of cold sweat poured out of the center of his back. He stopped walking, not daring to move forward. He said, "Predecessor Hua... why do you say that?"

Hua Qingye grinned, showing a mouthful of yellow teeth. He said, with a smile, "Zhang Ruochen made a deal with me that if I could kill you, he would tell me his secret. Should I trust him? Hoho!"

Zhang Tiangui's whole body went stiff like he was falling into an ice hole. He hastily said, "Predecessor Hua, Zhang Ruochen is full of craft and cunning, you must never believe his words. It's best for you to kill

him now. Then bring his head to the young master to take the credit. Young master will definitely give you a great reward."

Hua Qingye frowned, showing a contemplative expression.

Zhang Ruochen did not give Hua Qingye time to think and said, "Unfortunately, Di Yi has already been injured badly and has escaped Omen Ridge. Even if he can survive, given his identity, he will never come to such a remote and insignificant place like Omen Ridge. Hua Qingye, you'd better think clearly before you make your decision. Of course, you can also keep waiting. What happened in Tongming River will be known to Yunwu City of Yunwu Commandery in five days at most. At that time, it's not too late to decide who you are going to kill."

Zhang Tiangui said hurriedly, "I can't wait. Zhang Ruochen is the disciple of Lei Jing, Hall Master of Silver Gowned Elder's Hall. Since Zhang Ruochen is in Yunwu City, Lei Jing must be here soon."

Upon hearing Lei Jing's name, Hua Qingye's face changed a little bit.

Although he and Lei Jing were both in the Fish-dragon Realm, he was at the first change, and Lei Jing had reached the First Change in the Fish-dragon Realm 50 years ago. His current realm was even more terrifying and was far beyond Hua Qingye's.

Moreover, he had lost one arm now and his strength has declined greatly. How could he defeat Lei Jing at his prime?

Zhang Ruochen saw that Hua Qingye seemed to be persuaded by Zhang Tiangui's words, so he kept pushing and said, "In order to show my sincerity, I can tell you the source of my secret in advance."

"What source?"

Hua Qingye was moved and asked quickly.

Zhang Ruochen replied, "I can reach the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm in three years. And I have reached the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword, of course, all these are because I had a great adventure."

Upon hearing this, even Zhang Tiangui, let alone Hua Qingye, was attracted by Zhang Ruochen's words. He really wanted to know what happened next.

Zhang Ruochen calmly continued, "Three years ago, I found an ancient cave of the Middle Ancient Times in Omen Ridge by accident and received treasures from a saint monk. I was very weak at that time and didn't get very deep into the ancient cave. I swallowed a strange white fruit, and left in a hurry. Afterward, I don't know what happened, my martial cultivation improved greatly. Even my physical quality also seemed to be refreshed by the strange fruit. I actually easily reached the Heart Integrated into Sword."

Before Zhang Ruochen could finish talking, Hua Qingye's eyes revealed a feverish glare. He said hurriedly, "Is it possible that what you swallowed was the legendary saint fruit of Buddhism, Bodhi fruit?"

"I don't know. The shape of the fruit was like a saint Buddha with his leg crossed reciting scriptures," Zhang Ruochen said.

Zhang Ruochen certainly knew what the Bodhi fruit was and even knew its effect.

He deliberately made up a lie because he wanted to guide Hua Qingye's thought to the Bodhi fruit.

If he took the initiative to bring up what he swallowed was Bodhi fruit, Hua Qingye would definitely not believe him. But if Hua Qingye guessed it out, he would certainly believe it without doubt.

Not only Hua Qingye, Zhang Tiangui who stood at the side also believed in Zhang Ruochen's words.

It was because that Zhang Tiangui knew Zhang Ruochen the best. Three years ago, Zhang Ruochen was just a sick man. If there was no such great adventure, how could he have current achievements?

"Damn it. If I could find the ancient cave and swallowed the Bodhi fruit, I guess I would have already reached the Completion of Heaven Realm. Why does Zhang Ruochen have such good luck?"

Zhang Tiangui stared at Zhang Ruochen with envious eyes.

However, he was injured badly. As he became a bit angry, there was a sharp pain in his stomach and he started to cough.

Hua Qingye could almost be certain that what Zhang Ruochen swallowed was Bodhi fruit. He was shaking from the excitement. Every one of his nerve was jumping. He rushed to get in front of Zhang Ruochen and said, "Where is that ancient cave? Bring me there quickly."

Zhang Ruochen smiled and walked toward Zhang Tiangui. He said, "It seems that you haven't accomplished what you promised me."

Hua Qingye narrowed his eyes, looking at Zhang Tiangui.

Zhang Tiangui said anxiously, "Predecessor Hua, you should never believe Zhang Ruochen's words. He is driving a wedge between us."

Hua Qingye hesitated for a moment. Finally, he decided to wait for a few days. When the news from Tongming River arrived, it would not be too late to kill Zhang Tiangui.

Of course, he was also afraid that Lei Jing would be in Yunwu City. Therefore, Hua Qingye took Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Tiangui and left Yunwu City. They arrived at a secret stronghold of the Black Market outside Yunwu City. They settled down, waiting for the news.

It was just five days. Hua Qingye could wait for that.

This stronghold was only 15 kilometers away from Yunwu City. If anything happened in Yunwu City, Hua Qingye could be the first one to know it.

Hua Qingye sealed Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Tiangui's Meridians and locked them up in a Secret Room.

The Secret Room was a dungeon elaborately built by the Black Market. As long as the stone gate was closed and the array was activated, Zhang Ruochen could not escape even if his cultivation was not sealed, which it was.

Hua Qingye left after the stone gate was closed.

"Ahem..."

Zhang Tiangui was injured badly. Since his Meridians had been sealed, his Genuine Qi could not regulate inside his body.

Without the protection of Genuine Qi, he was an ordinary man. He lay on the ground with a pale face and could not move. He could only wait till his injury recovered itself.

When he was at his highest and in his most vigorous spirits, he never thought that he would have such a tragic day.

Zhang Ruochen coldly stared at Zhang Tiangui. He had no intention to kill him in a hurry and so he sat with his legs crossed and began to practice.

Hua Qingye was obviously very cautious. He not only sealed Zhang Ruochen's Meridians with his Genuine Qi but also inserted a Magic Breaking Needle into Zhang Ruochen's glabella, sealing his Qi Sea.

With double seals, even a warrior in the Fish-dragon Realm could only sit in the secret room, waiting for his death.

Unfortunately, Hua Qingye did not expect that there was an odd Meridian inside Zhang Ruochen's body, Vessel of Spiritual Blood. Furthermore, he did not expect that there was a Dragon Pearl in Zhang Ruochen's heart.

Zhang Ruochen absorbed the Qi of the Saint Dragon with the help of the Vessel of Spiritual Blood. Very quickly, he opened up the sealed Meridians.

"Hua Qingye wants to seal my Qi Sea with a Magic Breaking Needle. He underestimates me too much!"

Zhang Ruochen clasped his hands together and regulated the Divine Dragon Strength in the Dragon Pearl. It gathered toward his Qi Sea and quickly pushed out part of the Magic Breaking Needle.

The Qi Sea's seal loosened a bit.

As Zhang Ruochen kept using his strength an almost transparent silver needle slowly came out of his glabella and fell on the ground.

Because the needle was very thin. It was ten times lighter than a hair. So even when it fell on the ground, it made no sound.

The seal was totally unlocked. The Genuine Qi in his Qi Sea instantly rushed toward Zhang Ruochen's 36 Meridians like tidewater.

With his cultivation recovered, Zhang Ruochen was full of energy.

I have to reach the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm in five days. As long as I do, my power of Martial Soul will be more powerful. In due course, even if I can't defeat Hua Qingye, at least I can try my best.

Zhang Ruochen closed his eyes and, using the Vessel of Spiritual Blood, started to absorb the Divine Dragon Strength of the Dragon Pearl.

SWISH-

There was a thin layer of golden Genuine Qi coming out of his body. Every ray of Genuine Qi contained powerful energy like a swimming legendary small dragon with horns.

After practiced for half day, Zhang Ruochen gathered 13 drops of Vital Essence. There was already Vital Essence in his Qi Sea. Now, he had 32 drops of Vital Essence.

As long as he got 100 drops of Vital Essence, he could reach the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm.

Originally, a warrior gathering Vital Essence was a very slow process. For Zhang Ruochen, it was as easy as drinking boiled water.

It was because he had the Dragon Pearl.

Originally, Si Xingkong, Chang Qiqi, and others just blended a single drop of Dragon's Blood and they directly reached the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm from the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm.

What Zhang Ruochen had was the Dragon Pearl, which was much more powerful than a drop of Dragon's Blood.

As long as Zhang Ruochen actively absorbed the Qi of the Saint Dragon in the Dragon Pearl, he could easily gather Vital Essence.

Predecessor Golden Dragon's Dragon Pearl was indeed good stuff. The speed of increase of my cultivation is faster than I expected.

If Zhang Ruochen's cultivation could be increased at this speed, he was confident that he could reach the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm within three days.

Zhang Tiangui lay on the ground. Seeing the golden light emitting from Zhang Ruochen's body, he was very surprised.

He knew that Zhang Ruochen had already broken the seal.

"You... you..."

Zhang Tiangui seemed to be trying to say something. However, he was injured badly and could not say a full sentence.

Previously, Zhang Tiangui had Genuine Qi to protect his five internal organs and six hollow organs, so he could still manage to walk. Since Zhang Tiangui's Genuine Qi had been sealed, hs injury was getting worse and worse. His face was as pale as a dead man's.

Zhang Ruochen spared a glance at Zhang Tiangui. His eyes showed an intention of killing again, so he stopped practicing and stood up.

SWOOSH!

His right palm turned once. He used a ray of Genuine Qi to attract the Magic Breaking Needle on the ground and pinched it between his two fingers. He walked toward Zhang Tiangui.

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen was walking over, Zhang Tiangui started to twitch. His eyes grew wider and wider, he was becoming more and more terrified.

Stopping in front of him, Zhang Ruochen crouched down and looked at him up close, "Zhang Tiangui, should you pay with your life for a murder?"

Zhang Tiangui violently shook his head. He stuttered, "Ninth... Ninth brother, father... father... was not killed by me... I was forced. It was Hua Qingye. Hua Qingye and Di Yi forced me to do it. Father was dead. I was also very sad..."

Chapter 360: Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm

"Is it?"

Zhang Ruochen certainly did not believe Zhang Tiangui's words. However, he did not want to kill Zhang Tiangui right now. He continued, "Tell me, who killed my mother, Concubine Lin?"

Zhang Tiangui shook his head. He said, "Concubine Lin... is not dead..."

"What?"

Zhang Ruochen grabbed Zhang Tiangui's clothes, lifting him up. He said, "You'd better not lie to me. Otherwise, I won't let you die quickly."

Zhang Tiangui immediately replied, "Ninth brother, Concubine... Lin really is alive. She was saved by someone!"

"Who?"

"I don't know... I just know that it is a killer of the Hades Department... a killer who is very good at using a sword..." Zhang Tiangui said.

He did not lie to Zhang Ruochen and tried his best to answer Zhang Ruochen's questions. He did not want to irritate Zhang Ruochen. As long as Zhang Ruochen's heart softened slightly, maybe his life could be spared.

In the future, when he recovered, he would certainly have a chance to stage a comeback. At that time, it would not be too late to slowly deal with Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen lightly loosened his hands. He showed a contemplative expression and guessed that perhaps it was Le who saved his mother.

In the Hades Department, only Zi Qian and Le were acquaintances of Zhang Ruochen.

When the incident happened in the palace, Zi Qian was still at Tongming River. It could not have possibly been her.

It should be Le.

Knowing that his mother was not dead, Zhang Ruochen's mood was much better. He stared at Zhang Tiangui again.

"Ninth... brother, I was wrong. It was my fault. Please spare my life. After all... after all, we are blood brothers..."

Zhang Tiangui stared at Zhang Ruochen with beseeching eyes. He showed a very pitiful look while shedding tears.

At present, as long as he could survive, even if he was asked to crawl under Zhang Ruochen's legs, he would do it right away, much less being asked to admit his mistake.

A real man could take temporary setbacks, that was what Zhang Tiangui thought.

Unfortunately, Zhang Ruochen was no longer a simple youth anymore. Over the past three years, he had seen all the fickleness of human nature. He knew better now that the Martial World was a cruel world. Most of the time, there were only two endings: either your death or mine.

"Since my mother is still alive, I won't be hard on you. I will give you a quick way to die now."

Zhang Ruochen's eyes were very sharp. He raised his arm and hit out the Magic Breaking Needle, which was turned into a flying light and stabbed into Zhang Tiangui's glabella.

"No... Zhang Ruochen... You can't kill... me..."

The Magic Breaking Needle carried a wisp of Blue Genuine Qi. It pierced through Zhang Tiangui's Qi Sea very quickly.

With a bang, Zhang Tiangui's Qi Sea exploded.

A frantic gush of Genuine Qi flowed out of his Qi Sea and rushed into Meridians inside Zhang Tiangui's body.

A moment later, Zhang Tiangui's Meridians were all broken and he died. His body gradually turned cold and his breath stopped.

Outwardly, there was no wound on him. It was like he was sleeping.

"It's finally over!"

Zhang Ruochen gave a long sigh. He felt very complicated and returned to where he was standing before. He continued to practice.

Spending three days and two nights, Zhang Ruochen finally gathered 100 drops of Vital Essence and he started to break into the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm.

There was no bottleneck for a warrior to reach the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm from the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm. As long as he could gather 100 drops of Vital Essence, 99% of warriors could easily reach the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm.

It certainly was a piece of cake for Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen broke through the realm in only two hours. He had officially reached the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm.

When a warrior reached the Heaven Realm, the strength of the Martial Soul would be increased as he broke through another realm. When Zhang Ruochen was breaking through to the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm, he could feel that his Martial Soul was increased again!

PHHT!

The Genuine Qi inside his body kept infusing into his muscles, bones, internal organs, and meridians, nourishing his body and refining his Martial Soul. His entire body seemed to be sublimated.

However, there were still 100 drops of Vital Essence in his Qi Sea.

"Since I have the Dragon Pearl, it is easy for me to reach the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm. But it will be much harder to reach the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm."

As long as he got 100 drops of Vital Essence, he could reach the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm.

However, he must have 10,000 drops of Vital Essence before he could reach the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm.

The amount of Vital Essence was increased 100 times.

Even if Zhang Ruochen reached the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm right now and doubled his speed of absorbing the Divine Dragon Strength, it would still take five months for him to get ten thousand drops of Vital Essence. Moreover, he could only do it by secluding himself.

The higher one's martial cultivation was, the harder it was to increase it.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen had the Time and Space Spinel and had three times more time than others. If he secluded himself for refining, he could reach the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm within two months.

In the last three days, Hua Qingye did not come to the Secret Room. Maybe in his opinion, Zhang Ruochen, whose Meridians and Qi Sea were sealed, could not do anything, so he did not bother himself to pay attention to him.

As for Zhang Tiangui, Hua Qingye did not care about his life at all.

In the past few days, Hua Qingye had visited Yunwu City to ask for news every day.

It was not until the fourth day that Hua Qingye finally got some news which shocked the entire Martial World of Omen Ridge.

"Zhang Ruochen defeated the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall, Di Yi. He dug out Di Yi's Demon's Heart."

Although Hua Qingye had heard from Zhang Ruochen long ago and he was prepared for it, he was still very shocked when he heard it for himself. After a long time, he revealed an ecstatic expression.

Zhang Ruochen could defeat Di Yi who had a Saintly Being and Demon's Heart as both of them were in the same realm. It proved that the ancient cave, which grew the Bodhi fruit, was an amazing place. If he could get some treasures from it, maybe he could reach the realm of Half-Saint in the future.

At present, Zhang Ruochen was a giant treasure house.

And he controlled the treasure house. How could he not be happy?

Hua Qingye instantly returned to the Secret Room. He wanted Zhang Ruochen to take him to look for the ancient cave right now. He could not wait anymore.

However, Hua Qingye did not know that Zhang Ruochen had already broken the seal and he had been waiting for him in the Secret Room for a long time.

Hua Qingye put his palm on the surface of the stone gate of the Secret Room, turning off the array. With rumbling, the stone gate was slowly lifted up, exposing Zhang Ruochen who was sitting in the Secret Room with his legs crossed.

"Zhang Ruochen, you are powerful. You actually killed Di Yi. Haha! For Omen Ridge to be able to produce such a blessed talent like you, I am actually rather reluctant to kill you."

Hua Qingye spared a glance at the corner, setting his eyes on Zhang Tiangui. He discovered that Zhang Tiangui had already died.

He seemed to have expected this and showed no surprise. On the contrary, he smiled and said, "Since Zhang Tiangui has already died. Should you not bring me to the ancient cave right now?"

Zhang Ruochen opened his eyes and stood up. He said lightly, "It seems that the news from Tongming River has been passed to Yunwu City. All right, let's go now."

Somehow, when Zhang Ruochen stood up, Hua Qingye had a sense of danger.

Why was Zhang Ruochen so calm and so indifferent?

It was not good.

In just an instant, Hua Qingye pushed out with his legs and charged out from the left.

SWOOSH!

A three-meter Space Crack split open on the right side of Hua Qingye. It had a powerful sucking force and it pulled Hua Qingye toward the crack.

Zhang Tiangui's dead body was sucked over in a flash. Before it entered the Space Crack, it was torn into pieces and only a skeleton was left.

"What is this kind of martial technique?"

Hua Qingye clenched his teeth and regulated his Genuine Qi all over his body. His feet sank down, and the ground was broken into pieces. His body below the knees sank down into the ground. It was like his whole body was fixed there in order to hold back the power of Space Crack.

Zhang Ruochen decisively struck out, he unleashed both of his hands at the same time and hit Hua Qingye's chest.

BAM!

Hua Qingye flew back and crashed into a stone wall, sending cracks spidering across it.

In the middle of the Lines, there was a giant and deep human-shaped pit. Hua Qingye was stuck inside the pit.

With a swooshing sound, Zhang Ruochen rushed to the front of the stone wall. Both his hands kept striking out handprints and they struck on Hua Qingye's chest.

BANG! BANG!

Zhang Ruochen's hands quickly struck out. A series of handprints were the only things that could be seen.

In the space of a breath, Zhang Ruochen struck out more than 70 palms. All of them hit Hua Qingye, pushing Hua Qingye two meters deep into the stone wall. It seemed that he was buried in it.

"Young man, you're looking for death!"

Hua Qingye roared fiercely and clenched his five fingers together. The Genuine Qi gushing out of the ten thousand pores in his body was like water waves.

BOOM!

The power, which could be owned only by warriors in the Fish-dragon Realm, exploded from his body and turned into a powerful Qi billow. It shocked Zhang Ruochen and made him move backward.

"You are still alive?"

Zhang Ruochen steadied himself, he stared at the giant pit on the stone wall. He took out the Abyss Ancient Sword and controlled it by Sword Comprehension to strike into the giant dark pit.

BAM!

SWOOSH!

Hua Qingye walked out from the giant deep pit and kept striking out fist technique, sending the Abyss Ancient Sword flying out.

Zhang Ruochen's heavy hitting had badly injured Hua Qingye. There was blood on his chest which was almost collapsed.

Unfortunately, Hua Qingye's cultivation was too high, so he could bear Zhang Ruochen's more than 70 palms and could actually walk out of the pit. Only warriors in the Fish-dragon Realm could do it.

Hua Qingye was dejected and depressed. His face, his body and his legs were all covered with blood. And with his thin old face, he was like a ferocious ghost crawling out of the underground.

"Awoo!"

Hua Qingye roared loudly and leaped toward Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen immediately released his Martial Soul, regulating the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi. It gathered into a three-meter giant Genuine Qi handprint. His five fingers were like columns and the handprint on his palm could be seen clearly.

BAM!

Hua Qingye was hit and flew backward again. His body hit the stone wall and shook the entire Secret Room.

"Have you already reached the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm?" Hua Qingye said surprisingly.

How did Zhang Ruochen break through into the realm so quickly?

Zhang Ruochen stood grandly opposite Hua Qingye while emitting a shinning blue Spiritual Qi. His entire demeanor had changed like a sharp sword out of its sheath.

There was no need to say more, Hua Qingye knew that he had fallen into Zhang Ruochen's plot to gain more time. Previously, Zhang Ruochen had deliberately shown his weakness mainly to stall for time and break through into the realm.