

God Emperor 51

Chapter 51: Soul of Space

Zhang Ruochen transformed Genuine Qi to his right arm, clenched his fist and lowered it to the ground.

Boom!

The ground shook with a thundering sound. Then there appeared a pit with a diameter of three meters.

Then the pit was surrounded by innumerable cracks.

By observing the destruction to the ground, Zhang Ruochen could almost estimate his current power. He could burst out the strength of 78 bulls without the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm! If he used the palm, he could explode the strength of 88 bulls.

No one had ever exceeded the extreme power of the strength of 100 bulls at the Completion of Yellow Realm before.

Until now, no one could exceed the extreme power of the strength of 100 bulls at the Yellow Realm.

However, as long as the Body of Martial Arts was incredible, his power was infinitely close to the strength of 100 bulls, even more than 100 bulls.

In his last lifetime, the strongest explosion of his power at the Yellow Realm had reached 94 bulls. And this number was still invincible at the Yellow Realm 800 years later.

Since he had reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm, it was very difficult for him to improve his power. Each time he improved by one more bull was more challenging.

In this case, he could defeat the warriors of Yellow Board easily!

He decided to test the power of the Vessel of Spirit!

The most remarkable of the 36 Meridians, the Vessel of Spirit, connected the body and soul.

For the average warrior, the soul was quite mysterious. It indeed existed, but invisible and untouchable.

Zhang Ruochen sat with his legs crossed, regulated his breath and calmed himself to feel the power of sacrifice in his Qi Pool.

Separate from the Power of Blood, the power of sacrifice was like a bloody river moving through the Qi Pool.

It was the Vessel of Spirit!

Boom!

As the Genuine Qi was embedded into the blood Vessel of Spirit, it started to shake and broke through the head. It looked like a red light column of 21 to 24 meters in height.

An illusory soul image identical to Zhang Ruochen appeared ahead. It was completely surrounded by the crimson light and seemed to regulate his breath as well.

Certainly, this scene was only seen by Zhang Ruochen.

The other people could only see Zhang Ruochen sitting with his legs crossed. They could not see the bloody beam and illusory soul image at all.

Influenced by the power of soul, the whole courtyard began to gust waves of chilly wind, howling across the courtyard.

It was amazing to connect with the soul!

Typically, only warriors reaching the Heaven Realm could separate the soul from the acupoint. He could do it at the Completion of the Yellow Realm!

The Vessel of Spirit connected Zhang Ruochen's body with soul. The longer the Vessel of Spirit was, the further the soul could be separated from the body. There was no limitation for warriors in the Heaven Realm.

Zhang Ruochen's present cultivation was far from enough. His Vessel of Spirit was only 24 meters long, which meant that his soul could only be eight meters away from the body.

It was known that the soul of a warrior at the Heaven Realm could only be 150 kilometers away from the body. Only in thought could one see what was happening several kilometers away.

Meanwhile, warriors in the Heaven Realm also ran Genuine Qi to refine their soul, make it stronger, and to become a Martial Soul.

If they ran the power of the Martial Soul, they could operate things in the universe and borrow Spiritual Qi from the universe to attack enemies.

Therefore, every warrior at the Heaven Realm was counted as one of the mythical beings of Martial Arts!

It was obvious that Zhang Ruochen had become strong enough to reach the Completion of Heaven Realm. He had cultivated his practice and his soul into the Martial Soul. Furthermore, the rare thunderbolt Martial Soul.

It could transform the Spiritual Qi to the power of thunderbolt in the universe.

This meant that Zhang Ruochen could operate Spiritual Qi in the universe and exert the power of the thunderbolt. He could only operate the Spiritual Qi within 24 meters with accuracy. If further than this, it would be difficult for him to operate!

"Weapon of thunderbolt!"

Zhang Ruochen operated Spiritual Qi in the universe as in his last lifetime, trying to exert the power of the thunderbolt.

It failed! What a pity!

“Why was this? Although he had been reborn eight hundred years later, the power of soul was not reduced. But why couldn’t he exert the power of thunderbolt?”

Zhang Ruochen was lost in thought. Suddenly, something occurred to him. “Did this mean that the change of his Sacred Mark to the Spacetime Sacred Mark had also changed his Martial Soul?”

In order to make sense, Zhang Ruochen summoned the Blackie out of the Yin Yang Wooden Graph and told it about his doubt.

“Warriors at the Completion of the Yellow Realm were able to separate the soul from the body and refine the soul to the Martial Soul? Are you kidding?” Blackie did not believe in Zhang Ruochen’s words.

Then, it added, “According to my knowledge, only warriors in the Completion of Heaven Realm could practice the soul into the Martial Soul. Do you have any common sense?”

Zhang Ruochen did not explain and sat with legs crossed to implant Genuine Qi into the Vessel of Spirit.

Boom!

A 24 meter light column of red light rushed from the top of Zhang Ruochen’s head.

The illusory soul image, indistinguishable from Zhang Ruochen, was suspended in the light column.

Soul separation!

Other warriors indeed could not see illusory soul image of Zhang Ruochen, but Blackie’s observation was better than the normal one and saw the illusory soul image suspending in the light column.

“Your... your soul... could reach the realm of separate soul! How could it be?” Blackie’s eyes held a shimmery shine. “You must have secrets. It’s impossible for normal people to practice the martial soul at the Completion of the Yellow Realm.”

Zhang Ruochen said, “It’s none of your business. Just tell me what my Martial Soul is.”

“You have developed the Spacetime Sacred Mark, so it’s Soul of Space!” Blackie shook his head and felt that the talents Zhang Ruochen had were too freakish to be accepted.

“Soul of Space?” Zhang Ruochen repeated.

Blackie said, “Take out The Mystery of Time and Space and turn to page three, where there were introductions to the Soul of Space.”

Zhang Ruochen immediately took out The Mystery of Time and Space and turned to page three, on which four ancient characters were written: Soul Of Space.

The third page was full of dense words, documenting introductions to the Soul of Space.

Zhang Ruochen took the whole afternoon to memorize the content.

However, his comprehension level was less than one-tenth of the content.

“After practicing the Soul of Space, I can start to practice Space domain and the mark of time.” Zhang Ruochen closed The Mystery of Time and Space, lost in deep thought.

Blackie said, "Young man! I have to warn you that your present cultivation is too weak. Your Genuine Qi storage could not support Space Domain at all, and you cannot condense mark of time either. You'd better wait to practice Space Domain until you have broken the Black Realm."

Zhang Ruochen said, "Don't remind me, I understand this truth. The power of time and space is too esoteric, my present cultivation is too weak to control the two forces."

Zhang Ruochen took back The Mystery of Time and Space and said, "I won't practice space domain until I've broken the Black Realm. My cultivation has reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm, but I've only practiced two palms of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm. It is time to practice the third palm!"

The balance must be reached between practicing skills and practicing martial techniques.

Only the successful practice of the third palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm could improve the power of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm to the superior class of Human Stage.

Over the next few days, Zhang Ruochen spent most of his time practicing the third palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.

He also spent a lot of time practicing the "Inscription of Strain-type" and the "Inscription of Condensing". He wanted to complete the learning of all eight fundamental inscriptions of space as soon as possible.

If he grasped the eight fundamental inscriptions of space, he could refine the Spatial Ring to have large internal space. If he sold the space ring, he could get rid of his financial dilemma.

Then, he would have many silver coins to buy pills and improve his martial cultivation quickly.

He had used all his savings to buy the weapon refining stove. He was as poor as a church mouse and could not take out a single silver coin.

If he could not grasp the eight fundamental inscriptions of space in time, he would not be able to afford Blood Pills either!

One day, the Ninth Commandery Princess visited the Jade Palace again.

She rushed to Zhang Ruochen the moment she saw him practicing palm in the garden and said, "Ninth brother, are you in the mood to practice palm? Don't you know that Lin's tender heart is engaged to the seventh brother?"

Zhang Ruochen retracted the internal Genuine Qi, stopped and asked, "Who's Lin?"

The Ninth Commandery Princess was at a loss for words for a moment. Then she said, "She is, of course, your cousin, Lin Ningshan! A little bird just told me that our father and the Queen have recently agreed and decided the engagement will be held in the Red Autumn Festival next year!"

"Oh."

Zhang Ruochen nodded and walked to his place without emotion.

“Hey, what’s wrong with you? Don’t you feel sad at all about Ningshan’s future marriage to the seventh brother? From that day, you will call her sister-in-law!” The Ninth Commandery Princess chased after him.

Zhang Ruochen changed into new martial clothes with Ice-fire Kylin armor inside and said, “Is it any business of mine that a member of the Lin family will be engaged to the seventh prince? Why should I feel sad? Now that you are here, let’s go to the Yellow Fighting Palace again.”

“Why are we going to the Yellow Fighting Palace? Could it be...”

An amazing expression appeared on the ninth commandery princess’s pretty face. She covered her mouth with her fine, slim hands, and said in a trembling voice, “I heard that you have been in the Savage God’s pool for 24 days. Could it be that your cultivation has reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm?”

Zhang Ruochen nodded with a smile.

What a freak! How could your practicing be so fast?” The Ninth Commandery Princess was stunned with her beautiful eyes wide open.

It was known that she was a martial arts genius who had reached the medium state of the Yellow Realm at 16. But she felt herself like a mediocrity compared with Zhang Ruochen.

Riding in an ornate carriage, Zhang Ruochen and the Ninth Commandery Princess left the palace to go to the Yellow Fighting Palace.

The Yellow Fighting Palace was a good place to earn money. If one were to have ten winning streaks, he would receive 100 million silver coins as a reward.

Such a great number of silver coins was enough for Zhang Ruochen to buy a lot of pills, he could make a breakthrough to the Black Realm.

He could learn the eight fundamental Inscriptions of Space gradually.

A watched pot never boils. The more anxious he was, the harder to draw inscriptions.

“Finally. Ninth Prince, I have been waiting for you to go out. You won’t be so lucky this time!” Han Qingluo walked out from behind the wall, with her hands behind her and stared at Zhang Ruochen’s carriage riding away with a chilling smile on her face.

Han Qingluo, one of the four disciples of the Queen, followed Zhang Ruochen and the Ninth Commandery Princess’s carriage to the Yellow Fighting Palace the moment she saw them leave the palace.

Chapter 52: The Deadly Swordsman

Zhang Ruochen and the Ninth Commandery Princess had just arrived at the Yellow Fighting Palace when a deafening cry emanated from the Warfare Palace.

After the sound, a headless body was carried out by other people.

Zhang Ruochen glanced at the body, and asked the housekeeper of the Yellow Fighting Palace, "Sir! What happened?"

The housekeeper was very thin, looking around 30 years old as he answered, "Today, a deadly swordsman came to the Yellow Fighting Palace. All the warriors who fought against him were decapitated by him. That was the eighth."

The Ninth Commandery Princess's expression changed slightly when she added, "Just using a sword?"

The housekeeper nodded and continued, "He is so excellent! I've been here for 10 years, and I've never seen a young man whose sword technique is so brutal, merciless, and cold. He strikes as fast as lightning. How horrible it is! Are you able to guess how old he is?"

The Ninth Commandery Princess answered, "The person who can kill the warriors at the Completion of the Yellow Realm with one slash must be 18 or 19 years old at the least."

The housekeeper shook his head and murmured, "His name is Le and he is just 15 years old."

The Ninth Commandery Princess was suddenly shocked.

"15 years old!? Let me have a look." Zhang Ruochen walked into the Yellow Fighting Palace with his hands behind his back.

At that moment, a sallow and emaciated boy stood inside the Coliseum.

He looked 14 or 15, dressed in tattered clothes, and held a rusty sword stained by dripping blood.

He held himself straight like a sculpture, but his gaze betrayed fear and murderous feeling.

Having continuously killed eight warriors, he had momentum climb to the peak.

No one dared to get into the Coliseum under the pressure of his murderous feeling.

Zhang Ruochen stared at the boy in the center of the Coliseum. As a young swordsman, he distinctly felt the Sword Comprehension and the murderous feeling of the boy, Le.

Zhang Ruochen nodded and said, "He is gifted. His Sword Breath followed the Heart. The realm of his Sword Comprehension which is rich in murderous intent has reached the Intermediate Stage of the Following the Mind."

The Ninth Commandery Princess also looked at the boy and said, "He doesn't look like a pure Terran, but a Magic Wolf Half-Human of the Half-Human clan."

Zhang Ruochen said, "That's right! He is a Magic Wolf Half-Human! See, his eyes is blood red, just the same as the 'wolves'."

At this moment, a cold laughter echoed from the distance and said, "Ruochen. You've been three years gone, I really miss you."

Zhang Ruochen looked towards the direction of the laughter. He spotted a handsome man with a pale complexion standing in the grandstand and smiling at him.

He also saw another acquaintance, Lin Ningshan.

Lin Ningshan was wearing a white chiffon shirt with a sachet and a jade pendant on her waist. She looked taller with a graceful body, snow-white skin and long black hair hung over her waist.

Lin Ningshan was clearly extremely beautiful. She had blackened eyebrows, big blinking eyes, ruby lips, a slender neck, a stiff bosom and straight legs. She was as perfect as a world beauty walking out of a scroll.

“Cousin, don’t you even know me?” Lin Chenyu stared at Zhang Ruochen with a coquettish and evil smile.

Zhang Ruochen had already known who he was after seeing Lin Ningshan.

Since he greeted forwardly, Zhang Ruochen decided to behave himself decently and to them, saying, “Long time no see. I didn’t expect to meet you at here.”

The Ninth Commandery Princess whispered, “Ruochen, don’t get too close to Lin Chenyu. He behaves badly and is sinister and crafty. It is not suitable to make friends with him.”

Ninth Commandery Princess’s voice was very small but was still heard by Lin Chenyu.

Lin Chenyu’s ears moved slightly with his eyes gleaming, and said, “Hem! Ninth Commandery Princess, you speak ill of me in front of me. How terrible! Is this the decorum of the Royal Family?”

The Ninth Commandery Princess retreated with a complex look on her face and a muffled sound in her throat when she heard the cold hum from Lin Chenyu.

She stopped with a trace of blood spilling out of her mouth. She had suffered internal injuries.

Zhang Ruochen thought, “What a great cultivation he has! It must have reached the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm or stronger.”

In each realm, there were seven more stages: the Initial Stage, the Middle Stage, the Advanced Stage, the Dawn State, the Medium State, the Final State and finally, the Completion.

A warrior who had reached the Black Realm was a master of Martial Arts. If he joined the army, he would be a general at least.

Of course, in the Black Realm, every advancement to a higher small realm grew more difficult.

Lin Chenyu deserved to be considered the first genius of Lin family. He had reached such an unfathomable realm at just 20 years old.

Finally, the ninth challenger entered the Coliseum to challenge the deadly swordsman.

It was known that the former challengers were killed by the deadly swordsman. The person who still dared to challenge him was clearly very brave.

“Deadly swordsman, I, Han Fu, have come to challenge you!” Han Fu stood in front of him with an axe in one hand.

Every warrior was looking at the Coliseum.

The challenger of the ninth battle was Han Fu, who was a Warrior of Yellow Board.

Since he had fought against Han Fu, Zhang Ruochen knew about his ability.

The Ninth Commandery Princess had wiped away the bloodstain, distanced herself from Lin Chenyu, stared at the Coliseum, and said, "I'm unable to predict how many swords Han Fu can catch."

Zhang Ruochen answered, "If Han Fu can catch his first sword, he can keep his life. Otherwise, he might die!"

"How can only one sword have the potential to kill Han Fu? That's impossible!" The Ninth Commandery Princess said.

Zhang Ruochen was silent as he gazed at the Coliseum.

"Puff!"

In an instant, Han Fu's head had flown out of the Coliseum, falling to the ground like a ball.

In the ninth battle, the deadly swordsman had won!

After a short silence, the entire Warfare Palace broke out loudly in shouts and exclamations.

"Only a single sword... I didn't even see his attack clearly and only perceived a shadow of that strike."

"What class of sword technique did he use?"

"It was far too fast to see how he employed the sword."

"In the last month, even the Ninth Prince, a genius, needed more than 80 attacks to defeat Han Fu in a match!"

"Will another talented young warrior be rising?"

The Ninth Commandery Princess was also startled and asked, "Ruochen, did you see his attack?"

Zhang Ruochen laughed and said, "His action is quite fast, but it contains a fatal flaw. The others won't notice it, but I have. Of course, the world of martial arts can defeat everything but speed. His speed can cover the flaw to an extent. If it was a month ago, the result would be hard to predict. But now..."

Zhang Ruochen didn't continue speaking and stared at the Coliseum.

Finally, the deadly swordsman began the 10th battle.

The next person who fought against him was Su Heng, an elderly man.

Sorrowfully, Su Heng also died, becoming a headless corpse and lying in a pool of blood.

"He must be so invincible!"

He had won ten rounds in a row. Every single match was settled only with one blade.

Even no exception for a Warrior of Yellow Board.

The young swordsman showed a more incredible talent than the one the Ninth Prince showed within the last month.

The principal of the Yellow Fighting Palace quickly provided an assessment of his performance.

He was ranked sixth on the Yellow Board!

The reason why he was only sixth was that nobody could force him to try his best. If he showed his complete might, his rank would be higher.

Le, the deadly swordsman, still looked cold and heartless. He departed from the Coliseum carrying his macabre sword.

Completely Emotionless!

He had not returned to a mild countenance until he saw Lin Ningshan. He felt his heart's beat increase, quickly averted his eyes, and said, "Miss Lin, I kept my word and won ten matches without any losses."

Lin Ningshan smiled sweetly, touching Le's shoulder softly as she said, "Le, as your talent is so strong that many great powers would like to draw you over to their side. Why do you choose to remain in our family as a servant?"

Le bit his lip lightly, stared at her beautiful face and said, "I'm willing to stand by you forever and remain content."

In his view, the girl in front of him was so perfect and holy that it was satisfying to stay with her.

Lin Ningshan nodded and smiled, but there was contempt in her eyes.

Lin Ningshan looked arrogantly at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Cousin, you practice the sword as well. If you fought against Le, how many attacks could you receive?"

Zhang Ruochen looked at Le, thought a moment and said indifferently, "Since he is so willing to protect you, you should treasure him!"

After saying that, Zhang Ruochen headed for the Coliseum and didn't bother Lin Ningshan anymore.

When she saw Zhang Ruochen enter the Coliseum, Lin Ningshan thought, "He has become a Warrior of Yellow Board, why did he walk into the Coliseum? Did he...?"

"Ha! This is fun!" Lin Chenyu smiled with his eyes betraying murderous intent.

Maybe he found it humorous that Zhang Ruochen could be slain inside the Coliseum.

Lin Chenyu waved to Le and said, "Le, come here!"

"Master, what do you want me to do?" Le said.

Lin Chenyu laughed, "Look carefully. The youth inside the Coliseum is a pursuer of Ningshan. You will possibly kill him later. Are you sure about this?"

"In my eyes, there are two kinds of people: The living and the dead. Either he dies or I die."

Le stared at the Coliseum sharply, his gaze as sharp as sharp as a sword.

Chapter 53: The Top Three on the Yellow Board, Shui Wenxin

“Just a month later, why did the Ninth Prince come to the Yellow Fighting Palace again? Does he want to challenge the ten warriors of Yellow Board.”

“It’s impossible!”

“Only a short time had passed by, even if his cultivation was improved, it would not enhance too much.”

“There was nobody can get the ten-fight winning streaks in the Yunwu Commandery. It was so difficult that even the Seventh Prince couldn’t make it.”

...

Every Warrior of Yellow Board could fight against ten warriors at the Completion of the Yellow Realm at the same time.

Some weaker warriors of Yellow Board who could not do that were able to survive under their attacks.

So, it was not easy to defeat a warrior of Yellow Board.

Took Le, a deadly swordsman, for example, he could kill a warrior of Yellow Board with one single attack, but he could not kill ten with ten attacks successively.

“If the Ninth Prince has broken through the Completion of the Yellow Realm, and doesn’t meet the old men who rank top five on the Yellow Board, it is not difficult for him to win five matches!”

“Just wait and see! Since the Ninth Prince dares to come to the Yellow Fighting Palace, he must be confident enough.”

...

“The Ninth Prince, you’re here again! Last time, you are so lucky that you defeat me. But this time, you can’t be lucky again!”

Liu Chengfeng first got on the Coliseum with cold eyes.

Looking at Liu Chengfeng, Zhang Ruochen asked, “Do you want to be the first to challenge me?”

“Of course, are you afraid of being defeated in the first battle?” Liu Chengfeng said.

“OK!”

Zhang Ruochen nodded and reached out a hand to motion him to start.

Liu Chengfeng stared at the sword held by Zhang Ruochen’s other hand and said, “Do you try to fight against me without a sword?”

“Yes, not now.” Zhang Ruochen said.

“How dare you despise me! You have to pay for your arrogance,” Liu Chengfeng got angry as he thought Zhang Ruochen humiliated him on purpose.

It was known that he would not have failed if he had not made a wrong judgment in the battle of last month.

He must regain his lost face at the same place.

“Spark Fire Flies!”

Liu Chengfeng directly demonstrated “Meteor Sword Technique”, a martial technique of the Superior class at Human Stage. He whamed quickly, thus making the sound of popping echoed in the air.

Compared to the sword technique of last month, Liu Chengfeng got a big progress.

The Meteor Sword Technique that he showed was more subtle and was as fluent as Floating Clouds and Flowing Water. The sword screeched.

Zhang Ruochen was as steady as the Mount Tai and only lifted his arms and reached two fingers to nip the sword of Liu Chengfeng.

“Boom!”

—

With a slight flick of his finger, a mighty power reached to Liu Cheng Feng’s arms from the sword.

“Bang!”

A sound of bone fracture went off loudly!

Both his wrist and arms were broken and his sword fell to the ground.

“You... Why did your cultivation become so powerful?” Liu Chengfeng stepped back seven steps. His half body was shocked to numbness. He felt like being thumped heavily making it hard to move his fingers.

Zhang Ruochen defeated him only with two fingers.

He took back his fingers and said calmly, “You’ve lost!”

Defeating Liu Chengfeng with two fingers, Zhang Ruochen had the crowd on their feet.

Even the warrior of Initial Stage of the Black Realm could not defeat Liu Chengfeng so easily.

“It becomes more and more interesting!” Lin Chenyu sat upright, stared at Zhang Ruochen with a big sneer.

The challengers who fought against Zhang Ruochen in the following six battles were all the warriors of Yellow Board.

Hua Shuli was 24 on the Yellow Board.

Huo Yi was ranked top 19.

Wang Linsheng ranked top 13.

Wang Qing ranked 27.

Zhang Gengshu ranked top nine.

Without exception, all of them were defeated by Zhang Ruochen with one move, and no one was able to force him to use the second attack.

Zhang Gengshu, one of the most mighty warriors of Yellow Board, who ranked top nine and could break out the power of 52 bulls was still slapped out of the Coliseum by him.

“He defeated seven warriors of Yellow Board successively with just one move. That was horrible!”

“Just one month over, what powerful realm did he cultivate?”

“We can’t use common sense to treat the Genius of Martial Arts.”

There was a hubbub in the battle venue of Yellow Stage because the crowd felt incredible about what they saw.

The beautiful ladies of the nobility stared at Zhang Ruochen with adoration in their eyes.

“The Ninth Prince is so handsome! I would gladly give 10 years of my life to marry him and become his Crown Princess.” A girl about 13 or 15 obsessively gazed at Zhang Ruochen with adoration.

“The Ninth Prince is too noble to choose you.”

“He is not only good-looking and gifted, but also gentle. He is polite to every opponent. As he is a modest phenom, I would even like to be his maid.”

Hearing what the ladies of the nobility said, Lin Ningshan felt unpleasant and said coldly, “Le, it’s your turn.”

“Yes!”

He went to the Coliseum carrying his sword with a determined look,

A grey figure passed quickly beside him and stepped on the Coliseum before him.

He was an old, thin man with a wrinkly face. But his hair was blacker than the young’s and he was in fine fig with bright eyes.

The old man smiled, looked at Le, and said, “Ha, ha! Sonny, just wait a minute and I will fight against the Ninth Prince first.”

Then, he turned to Zhang Ruochen and said, “I’m Shui Wenxin, I’d like to see your merit. The Ninth Prince will you use your sword when you fight against me?”

As soon as the old man spoke out his name, the scream echoed in the crowd.

“Oh my god! Shui Wenxin, the top three on the Yellow Board, he should stay in Yunwu City.”

“40 years ago, he was a warrior of Yellow Board. At that time, he was also a genius but because of jealousy from a warrior of the Black Realm, he fell a prey to a plot and been injured, as a result, he never broke through the Black Realm.”

“If he hadn’t been injured, he would have become a superior at the Earth Realm already.”

“It will be interesting! It is not easy for the Ninth Prince to defeat him.”

“It’s said that Shui Wenxin defeated a warrior of Initial Stage of the Black Realm. His strength was very strong.”

“The warriors ranked top five on the Yellow Board were all have the capacity of the Initial Stage of the Black Realm. The two freaks of first and second killed a warrior of the Mid Stage of the Black Realm, but they joined together to kill him.”

Zhang Ruochen looked at Shui Wenxin seriously.

The old man, like Shui Wenxin, had been practiced at the Completion of the Yellow Realm for decades. He must have mastered many martial techniques and had various means. The young couldn’t compare well with them.

The third of the Yellow Board proved his power.

Zhang Ruochen asked, “What weapons do you use?”

“Ha, ha! I never use a weapon, and my hands and foot are my best weapons.” Shui Wenxin laughed and said.

Zhang Ruochen nodded and said, “If so, I don’t use a weapon either, let’s fight just with hands and foot!”

Shui Wenxin gave an approving glance and said, “Don’t boast! I have been drinking blood of savage beast for many years and built up my body by Pill. Although I just reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm, I could break out the power of 72 bulls. No one could catch my hands and foot at the Yellow Realm, even the first and second of the Yellow Board.”

Zhang Ruochen said, “It doesn’t matter, I am younger than you, but my strength is not inferior to you.”

“OK! Ninth Prince, watch out!”

Shui Wenxin raised his arms, ran the Genuine Qi to his ten fingers, and pinched quickly. As a result, his whole body gave a sound of cracking.

“Boom!”

Suddenly, he stepped on the ground and punched Zhang Ruochen’s face.

His punch was so fierce that unlike fist technique of an old man.

Zhang Ruochen slapped and his palm collided with the fists of Shui Wenxin.

Shui Wenxin stepped back six steps continuously while Zhang Ruochen stood still.

“I punch with the power of 56 bulls, and he can catch it easily and drive me off. Now it is understandable that he dare to compare with me. If he tries his best, he can break out more than 70-bull power.”

He was shocked for a while then continued punching again.

He did not plan to fight against Zhang Ruochen with brute force. He decided to use another fist technique.

Random Cloud Fist, the martial technique of mid-class of Human Stage.

He punched one fist, appearing six illusory images of the fist.

He continuously punched 10 fists, there were 60 illusory images of the fist.

“It’s excellent, his fist technique has reached the high level of the Following the Heart.” Zhang Ruochen spotted his attainment of the Martial Arts at one single glance.

Generally, only the powerhouse of the Earth Realm can reach the high Realm where the fist follows the Heart.

That was to say if he had not been plotted against, he must have reached the Earth Realm or a higher realm.

Zhang Ruochen had to carefully and continuously used palm technique, appearing tens of illusory images of palms, to slap back Shui Wenxin’s fist technique.

Bang! Bang!

Zhang Ruochen was stronger than Shui Wenxin, making him retreat continuously.

“Awesome! Your power is stronger than me. If you can catch me next attack, there will be no doubting that you will be the first of the Yellow Board.”

Obviously, Shui Wenxin was confident about his next move.

He had never used it, a life-saving attack. Once he punched, even the first of the Yellow Board could not catch.

Chapter 54: Crushed by Power

The last punch!

Shui Wenxin’s eyes were gleaming slightly and his black hair was flowing in the Genuine Qi shuttling in his hair.

Even his thin body looked much stronger.

If looked closely, one would be able to notice that his arms were covered with a metallic sheen as if he had two iron arms.

“Martial technique of Lower-class of Spiritual, Vajra Fist!”

Zhang Ruochen was shocked for a second. Soon after he discovered it was the martial technique of Shui Wenxin.

“Haha! That’s right. It is the Vajra Fist!” Shui Wenxin laughed.

The Vajra Fist was a common fist technique of martial arts in the Spiritual Stage. It was popular that the Fist Booklet could be found in many commanderies.

However, no matter how popular and common the Vajra Fist was, it was a martial technique of the Spiritual Stage which was classified as one of the supreme techniques. Only the Commandery Prince's Mansion, the Suzerain, and the large-scale family could record it.

It was as difficult as to climb up to the sky for an ordinary warrior to practice the Vajra Fist.

Shui Wenxin just happened to learn the Flaming King Kong, which was one of fist technique out of 18 Vajra Fists.

By demonstrating the fist technique, he had broken out the strength of 78 bulls that even the first of the Yellow Board couldn't do it.

In other words, once he unleashed the Vajra Fist, he would be capable of being the first of the Yellow Board.

A female warrior in her 30 from the Yellow Board said, "Shui Wenxin has practiced one of the techniques of Vajra Fist unexpectedly. The Black Belle, the first of the Yellow Board, is no match for him if he uses this move."

A warrior of the Yellow Board who had been defeated by Zhang Ruochen mentioned, "Shui Wenxin is just a little weaker than the Black Belle before practicing the martial technique of Spiritual Stage. The Black Belle can only defeat him by using the Uncertain Sword Technique of the low-class of Spiritual. As for now, he has cultivated the Vajra Fist with a more powerful force and thus It is not difficult for him to win over the Black Belle."

"If he can defeat the Ninth Prince, he will become the first of the Yellow Board after this fight."

A young girl asked, "If the Ninth Prince defeats Shui Wenxin, does that mean he will be the first?"

An old man standing next to her giggled and said, "The Ninth Prince will not win. Shui Wenxin uses the martial technique of Spiritual Stages which means he is confident enough to win the fight."

"The Ninth Prince is obviously weaker than Shui Wenxin. I guess Le needn't fight against him." Lin Ningshan thought with disappointment.

If Zhang Ruochen fought against Le, the defeat would be more than losing the fight.

Instead, he would be killed.

Lin Ningshan hated Zhang Ruochen especially when she saw he was in the spotlight and worshipped by others. She wanted him to die in front of her.

She didn't even know why she hated him so much.

"Flaming King Kong!"

Shui Wenxin punched his two fists with enough power.

His Genuine Qi was burning and turned into two iron flame fists. At the same time, he broke out the strength of 78 bulls.

Shui Wenxin could have repulsed hundreds of warrior only by his momentum at a war.

However, rather than retreated, Zhang Ruochen rushed out like a brute elephant. He activated the power of his muscle and bones and transported it to his arms.

“Elephant Galloping!”

He unleashed one palm and broke out the strength of 88 bulls.

The outcome was obvious.

As long as his fists met with Zhang Ruochen’s palms, Shui Wenxin flew out and fell on the ground 10 meters away. He almost fell off the Coliseum.

Yet, Zhang Ruochen stood in the center of the Coliseum steadily and slowly retracted his palms.

It was quite a crush of power.

Having looked at his fists and Zhang Ruochen, Shui Wenxin sighed and said, “Your cultivation is indeed beyond mine! Such a talented warrior! From now on, you’re the first of the Yellow Board. With your talent, I’m sure you will break through the Black Realm very soon. I guess you won’t bother with being the first at all! Haha!”

After a long sigh, Shui Wenxin left the Coliseum and gave in with much desolation.

Only himself knew how massive the gap was compared to Zhang Ruochen. He must have been badly injured if Zhang Ruochen hadn’t taken back some of the power in the last minute.

Zhang Ruochen’s power was so mighty that beyond everyone’s imagination.

Like Shui Wenxin said, Zhang Ruochen was not interested in being the first. Instead, he aimed at the 1,000,000 silver coins reward.

After all, the Yellow Board just recorded warriors from the Yunwu Commandery featuring small influence. Yet, all warriors would fight for the ranking of the Profound Board as the reward was at a much higher level.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen’s goal was too high. If the other young warriors could win the first place of the Yellow Board, they would immediately become the hotspot in the commandery and get much adoration from young girls.

Le, the deadly swordsman at the age of 15, finally got on the Coliseum with the discussion of the crowd. He was the ninth opponent of Zhang Ruochen.

The warriors who were watching this felt more expectant.

It was known that Le had killed 10 warriors with one single attack in the last 10 battles. None knew how strong he was.

On the other hand, Zhang Ruochen had never lost as well. He even defeated Shui Wenxin.

Both of them were outstanding young warriors. Who would be more powerful?

“That’s interesting! Both of them are good sword master of martial arts as well as unfathomable. I wonder who will win the fight!”

“That’s hard to say. After all, the deadly swordsman had only displayed one attack so far. Maybe he is stronger than Shui Wenxin.”

There were more and more people placing bets.

Zhang Ruochen, winner. Pledge one for three times compensation.

Zhang Ruochen, loser. Pledge one for two times compensation.

Le, winner. Pledge one for two times compensation.

Le, loser. Pledge 10 for one times compensation.

Tie. Pledge one for four times compensation.

Some bet Zhang Ruochen to win, some bet Le. Of course, some thought they would tie.

The Ninth Commandery Princess had confidence in Zhang Ruochen. Without any hesitation, she bet 10 thousand silver coins which were all of her savings for Zhang Ruochen to win.

On the Coliseum.

The two young warriors stared at each other with ten steps in between.

Le held his sword, stood still with eyes wide opened like a sculpture. “You are indeed so strong!”

Zhang Ruochen responded and said, “It’s great for you to reach such high level at your age. But, there is a dead bug in your sword technique. Fighting against me will not only lose, you’ll probably die. You’d better give in.”

Le’s sword technique was indeed horrible. Even Zhang Ruochen had to fight at his best.

Once he did that, he was unable to hold his hand.

Either Le died or he died.

Le looked towards Lin Ningshan, then turned to Zhang Ruochen with determination and said, “Who lives who die, will only know until we fight!”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head slightly and said, “You’ve practiced the ‘Self-destructive Swordsmanship’, a forbidden martial technique. You’re not only killing people, but also hurting yourself. No doubt you can kill warriors of Yellow Board with one attack, but every attack is harmful to your body as well.”

The Forbidden martial technique was a martial technique which was used at a certain cost of warriors’ health.

Took Self-destructive Swordsmanship as an example, every attack would consume users’ own vitality.

If Le used 10 times of sword technique continuously, he would end up killing himself.

Of course, he had reached a high attainment in sword and far higher than his peers. As long as he didn’t fight against warriors of the Yellow Board, he needn’t demonstrate the Self-destructive Swordsmanship.

The so-called forbidden martial technique was a horrible technique that not anyone could cultivate it.

Le calmly said, "Since you know what I practice, you should know its strength. Nobody at the same realm can withstand one attack. Not long ago, I've killed a warrior of the Mid Stage of the Black Realm with one attack."

Zhang Ruochen chuckled and said, "I've told you that you have no chance to win if you fight against me because there is a dead flaw in your Self-destructive Swordsmanship. It's incomplete, isn't it?"

Le calmly continued, "Do you want to destroy my will in this way?"

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and answered, "Since you're not giving in, well, let me see how strong your Self-destructive Swordsmanship is!"

In fact, Zhang Ruochen didn't hate Le. Instead, he appreciated his sword technique. He thought he would become a super swordsman one day.

He had never killed people not only in this lifetime but last. He was very reluctant to end the young man's life, so he said a little much.

Zhang Ruochen also drew his Flash Shinning Sword fighting against Le.

Two Sword Breath gave off and collided in the air.

Seeing the two guys fight against each other on the Coliseum, Lin Ningshan felt so excited.

It was the best ending that if Le could get Zhang Ruochen killed. Otherwise, the death of Le would also make her excited.

A genius fought for her and finally was killed by another genius. Should not she be excited?

That would be so wonderful!

"Self-destructive!"

Le murmured. He rushed to Zhang Ruochen and quickly stabbed him.

Zhang Ruochen stepped out and rushed to Le as well.

Chapter 55: Fickleness of Human Nature

Everyone in the audience held their breath, their eyes on the Coliseum.

In the coliseum, two blurry figures collided in silence. The contact between the two was brief before they crossed each other.

After that, they separated at a higher speed.

With their positions exchanged, they stood still.

"Why are they so still? Has a victor emerged?"

"What fearsome speed!" From under the stage, Shui Wenxin stared at Zhang Ruochen and Le.

With his cultivation, he was able to barely follow the tracks of their swords. But he was only 40% certain that he could intercept any of their swords.

The 60% was the certainty of death.

“Who won?” Lin Ningshan stood up. With her beautiful pair of eyes, she stared expectantly at the Coliseum.

A standing Le took at his chest and felt a pain burning from inside. Blood gushing from his wound, staining a good portion of his clothes red.

“Bang!”

Unwillingly, he fell down to the ground. One of his hands was tightly gripping his sword and the other was clutching his chest. His gaze was still on Lin Ningshan who was under the Coliseum.

In the end, he lost and broke his promise to her.

A thin streak bloodstain appeared on Zhang Ruochen’s neck. It was a shallow wound; his skin was merely grazed.

“Why didn’t... you... kill me?” Le was lying on the ground, eyes now on Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen, in fact, could have ended the battle unscathed. To do so meant he had to kill Le in a single strike.

But he did not. The moment he made his strike, he forcibly altered the direction of his sword, so it was just slightly off. That was why Le’s sword managed to graze his neck.

Zhang Ruochen looked at him and said, “I never kill!”

In fact, he omitted the latter half of his sentence: “Unless I meet someone who deserves to be killed.”

“I owe you my life... in the future I’ll...” Le clenched his teeth like a stubborn lone wolf. He crawled down the Coliseum, leaving a bloody trail behind him.

Zhang Ruochen frowned and glanced towards the direction of Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan.

The Lin family was indeed cruel and merciless. They actually refused to send any servants to come down and help a heavily injured Le. Instead, they watched him drag himself off the Coliseum alone.

Of course, that had nothing to do with him. After all, everyone had their own paths to take.

Coming up was the 10th battle.

There were two warriors of the Yellow Board in the Yellow Fighting Palace who had not joined the battle yet. They were Sikong Di and Yun Tian who ranked the fifth and 21th respectively.

It was Sikong Di who would fight against Zhang Ruochen as he had stronger cultivation.

Sikong Di was as strong as a warrior of the Initial Stage of the Black Realm. But with both Shui Wenxin and Le losing against Zhang Ruochen, he naturally stood no chance.

Without any suspense, Zhang Ruochen defeated Sikong Di with ease. He became the first warrior who obtained 10 winning streaks in the Yellow Realm on the Yellow Board.

Not only did Zhang Ruochen win the new Iron Token of the Yellow Board, he was also rewarded with one million silver coins.

There were words carved on the new Iron Token: "Zhang Ruochen, the first of the Yellow Board, the Yunwu Commandery." It was definitely an honor for him.

As for the one million silver coins, he exchanged them for one thousand Spiritual Crystals. After all, it was more convenient to carry Spiritual Crystals than one million silver coins.

Zhang Ruochen deposited 800 thousand silver coins to the Three-Star VIP Card of Martial Market Bank. With 200 Spiritual Crystals, he went and bought some pills at Qingxuan Pavilion as preparation to enter the Black Realm.

"Ninth sister, you seem to harvest a lot?" Zhang Ruochen walked towards the Ninth Commandery Princess who was cheerfully counting her Spiritual Crystals.

"I've only won 20 Spiritual Crystals. It's completely incomparable to you!" With half-lidded eyes, the princess looked overjoyed. After all, both she and Zhang Ruochen had won.

For a Commandery Princess, 20 Spiritual Crystals were considered a large sum of money.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "I'm on my way to Qingxuan Pavilion to buy some pills now. Do you want to come?"

"Sure! It so happened I hit a jackpot. I can buy a Triple-Purity Genuine Qi Pill to break through the Final State of the Yellow Realm with these Spiritual Crystals," the Ninth Commandery Princess replied happily.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Since I won one million silver coins, naturally it's my treat. Ninth sister, let me know if there are any pills you want."

"You're amazing, ninth brother!" She threw herself at Zhang Ruochen, giving him a kiss on his face.

"Boom!"

Thunder boomed in the sky, followed by violent gusts of wind and pouring rain.

By the time Zhang Ruochen and the Ninth Commandery Princess walked out of the Yellow Level Coliseum, there was a downpour.

The streets were flooded with water. A fallen leaf swirled in the air, before falling into the murky water. It was then crushed into the mud by a passing carriage.

"Hit him! People, hit him until his legs are broken! This is too infuriating! How useless are you that you can't even defeat a measly Zhang Ruochen?!" Standing in the rain, Lin Ningshan coolly admonished.

A maidservant held an oiled paper umbrella for Lin Ningshan.

After receiving the order from Lin Ningshan, the four strong and powerful guards wore grinning expressions and repeatedly hit Le with iron rods.

“Bang, bang!”

Le flopped onto a pool of rain water, with his both legs broken and his head cracked. His body was badly mutilated from the beating.

“A deadly swordsman? Bullshit! You’re just a slave! If the mistress hadn’t picked you up, you’d have starved to death in the snow!”

“Aren’t you very powerful? Where’s your sword? Come on, kill me! Haha!”

“Hit him! Kill this useless thing!”

...

The four guards spared no effort in brandishing their iron rods, cackling as they did.

Lin Ningshan stood on one side. With a tall and slender body, paired with a beautiful face, she stared indifferently at Le. There was a hint of contempt in her expression when she said, “If it weren’t for your talent in martial arts, why would I’ve taken you home? Now that your meridians have been broken by Zhang Ruochen, what use I have for you? Hit him! Hit him until this good-for-nothing dies!”

Lying in the muddy water, Le stared at Lin Ningshan with wide eyes. Then he closed them.

His blood flowed out, staining the rain water around him red.

A strong guard held a bloody iron rod and walked to Lin Ningshan. Bowing, he said, “My lady, I think he’s dead!”

“Truly a useless thing!” Lin Ningshan spat coldly, eyes on the man lying in the pool of his blood and rain water.

“Clank!”

A luxurious carriage sailed through the rain before stopping in the middle of the street.

Lin Chenyu lifted the carriage curtain and poked his head out. With a sneer, he said, “Ningshan, we should go home!”

Lin Ningshan nodded and got on the carriage without looking at Le who was lying in a pool of blood.

The luxurious carriage began to move again and disappeared at the end of the street.

Shortly after, a vintage carriage drawn by snow-white Lightning Rabbits pulled out of the Yellow Level Coliseum and stopped next to Le.

Zhang Ruochen left the vintage carriage and looked at a blood-drenched Le. He reached out his finger and put it underneath Le’s nose.

“He’s still breathing. He’s not dead,” Zhang Ruochen said.

The Ninth Commandery Princess lifted the carriage curtain and said, “Ninth brother, all his limbs are broken and he’s so heavily injured too. He’ll definitely die in a short while. Even his master didn’t save him, why should we bother?”

“If we don’t bother, he’ll definitely die. Send two guards to take him back to the palace. Whether he lives or not depends on his will.”

Zhang Ruochen took out a bottle pill containing 10 Saint Stone Pills, a second-class healing pill. Each of the pills was valued at 2,000 silver coins.

He put one into Le’s mouth and put away the bottle.

The Ninth Commandery Princess immediately sent two guards to carry Le into another carriage. The vintage carriage then headed back towards the direction of the palace.

Zhang Ruochen and the Ninth Commandery Princess then drove the cloud rabbit lunar rover to the Pill Market.

“Tick, tock!”

The rain had not stopped.

There were fewer people and vehicles on the street. Finally, they had arrived at a desolate street.

In the dark, a figure darted past in a flash, falling onto the eaves of a four-storeyed loft from a wooden tower.

It was Han Qingluo, one of the Queen’s four disciples.

Her green clothes were drenched by the rain, outlining her graceful body with a perky bosom and a slender waist. It was as if a beautiful ghost was haunting in the night.

With a veil over her face, only revealing a pair of beautiful eyes, she stared at the vintage carriage.

“Boom!”

Her hand went to her belt, removing it from her waist. With a flick of her arm, the belt turned into a green Soft Sword.

She stepped on the ground, flew off, and caught up with the vintage car.

She then leaped and fell from the sky, stopping seven meters above the carriage, and slashed it.

“Bang!”

The vintage carriage split into two, flying towards both sides.

The body of the driving maidservant was split into two.

But the vintage carriage was empty. There was no trace of the prince’s body inside.

“Did he escape in advance?” Han Qingluo fell onto the ground, before standing in the middle of the street with a puzzled expression.

Just as Han Qingluo was still in shock, Zhang Ruochen and the Ninth Commandery Princess walked out from a distance in the rain.

“Who are you?” the Ninth Commandery Princess asked angrily.

“Eh?!”

Han Qingluo gasped. She really could not understand how they managed to escape her killing strike.

The truth was they had been staying in the carriage throughout the ride, not expecting a killer. Yet, Zhang Ruochen felt a murderous feeling when Han Qingluo unleashed her power.

Thus, he took hold of the Ninth Commandery Princess, broke out of the carriage through the wall, and escaped from the back.

Zhang Ruochen gave Han Qingluo a once-over and asked, “Are you a killer at the Black Realm?”

Han Qingluo carried a heavy murderous air and her eyes were ice cold. She was most definitely not a common warrior, but an assassin who had killed countless people.

Assassins were fearsome as the master all kinds of killing skills and it was impossible to defend against them effectively. They could even kill a warrior of a much higher realm.

A killer at the Black Realm was, naturally, even more frightening!

Chapter 56: Four Disciples

Without saying a word, Han Qingluo wielded her Soft Sword straight. Rain splashed on the Soft Sword.

Cold aura rose from the blade, freezing the five raindrops on it into ice pellets as her secret weapon. She flung the pellets at Zhang Ruochen and the Ninth Commandery Princess.

Four ice pellets flew towards Zhang Ruochen; the last one towards the Ninth Commandery Princess.

“Boom!”

Zhang Ruochen stepped out horizontally, standing in front of the princess. He focused his Genuine Qi onto the palm and unleashed his power. Just three meters away from them, the pellets shattered.

“Clang!”

All of a sudden, the blade clanked next to Zhang Ruochen’s ear.

Han Qingluo who had been standing in the middle of the street disappeared. Like a ghost, she materialized behind him and thrust her sword at Ruochen.

The tip of the sword was aimed at Zhang Ruochen’s nape.

Zhang Ruochen did not turn around. Instead, he raised his arm and used two fingers to pinch the blade.

“Did you think I’m Liu Chengfeng?” Han Qingluo sneered.

“Whew!”

Her Green Soft Sword was like a spiritual snake, coiling around Zhang Ruochen’s arm and pinning it down.

Once Han Qingluo wrapped her Soft Sword around Ruochen's arm, all she needed to do was retrieve it. This way, his arm would be completely mutilated.

Han Qingluo's sword technique was advanced, but Zhang Ruochen's intelligence was even more so.

He freed the tip of the blade that he was pinching, pressing his two fingers at Han Qingluo's wrist through the snake-like Soft Sword.

Genuine Qi was released through his fingertip, leaving a deep wound on Han Qingluo's wrist.

The arm Han Qingluo used to hold her Soft Sword instantly lost strength. With a clang, the Soft Sword fell out of her hand and onto the ground.

"You..."

How was she to foresee that Ruochen not only had deep cultivation but also rich combat experiences?

The assassination failed.

Han Qingluo tiptoed on the ground, made a leap towards the rooftop of an ancient building on the street, and escaped in the cover of the rain.

"You want to escape?"

Carrying his Flash Shining Sword, Zhang Ruochen flew to the top of the building. Stepping on the glazed tiles, he quickly chased after Qingluo.

With all his 36 Meridians running simultaneously, he was even faster than Han Qingluo.

"He's just a Completion warrior at the Yellow Realm. How can he be so fast?"

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen was closing in on her, a secretly worried Qingluo unpinned the nine thin Golden Needles from her hair.

Her Genuine Qi was coming out of her, surrounding the needles. She threw these needles at Zhang Ruochen who was chasing her.

"Whew!"

In the dark and raining evening, it was already difficult enough for a warrior to see his opponent, much less the nine flying Golden Needles. Zhang Ruochen was, however, different. He opened his eye vessel, improving his sight in the rain.

"Ding!"

He wielded his sword, knocking the needles away.

He continued to give chase.

It was bizarre to see that a Black Realm killer running away from a Completion warrior at Yellow Realm.

Han Qingluo noted that his power was stronger than a Mid Stage warrior at the Black Realm and thought that she must relay this to the Queen.

She injected Genuine Qi into her blood immediately.

Her blood ran faster, allowing her to run five times faster than she was previously. She increased the distance between her and Zhang Ruochen.

“Boiling Animal Spirits! That’s what a real Black Realm warrior has. It seems that she’s at the Initial Stage.”

A Yellow Realm warrior mainly practiced his Meridians.

A Black Realm warrior mainly practiced his Spiritual Blood.

Boiling Animal Spirits symbolized warriors that had reached the Initial Stage of the Black Realm. Spiritual Blood was like boiling water coursing through the blood vessels of warriors, allowing them to unleash even stronger power.

Some of the best warriors at the Yellow Board might defeat Initial Stage warriors at the Black Realm. However, they would find it difficult to kill Black Realm warriors.

If an Initial Stage warrior at the Black Realm unleashed his Spiritual Blood to accelerate his speed, a Warrior of the Yellow Board could never chase him down.

Even a genius like Zhang Ruochen was now slower than Han Qingluo.

Zhang Ruochen stopped and stood on the edge of a tall pavilion. A hint of a smile crossed his lips. He took out some silver coins from the Internal Space of the Time and Space Spinel.

“If you can use concealed weapons, so can I!”

Zhang Ruochen ran his 36 Meridians and injected Genuine Qi into these silver coins, then he flung the coins.

“Boom!”

Like silver rain, the coins flew towards the person in front of him.

“Bang, bang!”

Two silver coins hit Qingluo’s back, piercing through her shirt into her flesh. It left two bloody wounds on her back.

“Oh!”

Han Qingluo spat a mouthful of blood and crashed onto the street.

With her face down, she was still like a dead woman.

Zhang Ruochen flew there as well and approached Han Qingluo carefully.

“Who’s the one wants to kill me?”

Zhang Ruochen turned Han Qingluo around and lifted her chin. He wanted to unveil her and see who she really was.

“Oh no!”

Just as Ruochen was stretching out his hand, Qingluo’s eyes opened. With a flash of a dagger, she slashed it on Ruochen’s neck.

Zhang Ruochen seemed to anticipate this and used his hand to defend himself.

“Bang!”

The humerus in Han Qingluo’s arm was broken, prompting a painful scream. She said while crying, “Ninth Prince, even if you don’t die today, there will definitely be others who will kill you in the future.”

Zhang Ruochen somberly asked, “Who sent you?”

Han Qingluo’s body trembled for a moment, before she became still, no longer moving.

“Tch!”

Before Ruochen could unveil her, her body melted into a pool of poisonous black blood. It ate away at everything, even her clothes. Nothing was left behind.

The Ninth Commandery Princess showed up, having finally caught up. She asked, “Where’s the assassin?”

Zhang Ruochen pointed at the blood pool on the ground and answered, “She had a poisonous pill in her mouth. If she fails, she would crunch it and wipe herself out. Who exactly is the perpetrator to have such a loyal assassin?”

The princess was stunned. She handed Ruochen the Soft Sword the assassin and said, “This is hers!”

“Oh!”

Zhang Ruochen took the Soft Sword and injected his Genuine Qi into it. It began emitting a cold aura.

“It’s a Level Three Genuine Martial Arm with nine inscriptions.”

Zhang Ruochen inspected the Soft Sword again and shook his head. He could not find any clue.

The princess asked, “Who wants to kill you?”

“If we want to know, there’s actually still a way to find out,” said Ruochen.

The princess was confused, “The assassin’s dead, so the clues all are gone. Can we still find the person pulling the strings?”

Zhang Ruochen smiled. “Only we know she’s dead now, but the perpetrator doesn’t. If we want to know who that person is, we just need to set up a trap. Sister, I need you to put on a show for me this time!”

The princess was not sure what he meant. However, she was willing to play along.

...

Two hours later.

Inside the Queen's chamber, a servant was down on her knees. Panicking, she reported to the Queen, "My Queen, bad news. Han Qingluo failed her mission."

The Queen sat calmly on her chair and said, seemingly indifferently, "She failed even with her level of cultivation. Huh, this Ninth Prince seems hard to deal with!"

That servant continued, "It's said that Ninth Prince was injured as well and is now unconscious. But before he fainted, he saw Qingluo's face."

"What?"

There was a slight shift in the Queen's expression as she asked, "Where's she?"

That servant replied, "The Ninth Commandery Princess said Miss Han was caught by one of the Ten Royal Guard Generals, Luo Tong. She was sent to the Celestial Prison. Your Majesty is now aware of this and he's very angry. He asked Luo Tong to find the perpetrator behind Miss Han."

Zhao Lin, the Queen's first disciple in her 30s, appeared behind the Queen. She said, "My Queen, Luo Tong is a boor and has never seen Qingluo. Even if he caught her, he can never tell who she is. But if His Majesty arrives and recognizes her... That'll be horrible!"

The Queen's expression worsened. She said, "Zhao Lin, you've been with me for 30 years! Among my four disciples, your cultivation is the highest and you have also reached the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm."

Zhao Lin asked, "My Queen, what would you like me to do?"

The Queen ordered, "The Celestial Prison is dangerous. With your cultivation, only you can get in. I want you to rescue Qingluo before Your Majesty sees her, at any expense. If you can't, then kill her and destroy all evidence."

"I understand."

Zhao Lin paused before continuing. "The Ninth Prince has seen Qingluo's face, so he definitely knows that she's your servant. If he wakes up later..."

The Queen stood up and scoffed. She said, "I'll send your two juniors to kill him. He'll never wake up again. Whoever who wants to go against me will never end up well."

"That puts my mind at ease!"

Zhao Lin knelt down in front of the Queen and bowed. She then changed into an outfit for the night and rushed to the Celestial Prison.

Afterwards, the Queen sent her second and third disciple, Yao Su and Zhao Wuxia, to kill Ruochen before he woke up.

Yao Su was a Completion warrior at the Black Realm.

Zhao Wuxia was a Medium State warrior at the Black Realm.

These four disciples acted as the Queen's four sharp swords. Besides Han Qingluo, the other three had already been with the Queen for more than 20 years. All of them were top warriors. They had exterminated nearly all the Queen's enemies for her.

As long as the Queen had her four disciples, nobody could sway her status in Yunwu City.

The Queen was confident in their abilities.

The Queen waited in her chamber for six hours, but she never saw any of them return. Finally, she felt a bad gut feeling that something went wrong.

She finally received some news early next morning.

All three of her disciples were ambushed, trapped by a large group of royal guards.

In order not to expose the Queen, they all crunched their poisonous pills and killed themselves.

Four disciples died in one night.

After hearing the news, the Queen almost fell from her seat. She closed her eyes and said, a tremor in her voice, "Hurry... hurry up and send word to the Seventh Prince... ask him to come back..."

Chapter 57: Yuntai Suzerain and School of the Martial Market

"Your Majesty, you have overestimated the Ninth Prince, that's why you forgot about the strategy. Otherwise, Zhao Lin, Yao Su, Zhao Wuxia, and Han Qingluo, none of them would have been set up by the Ninth Prince," said Lin Chenyu who was sitting at a lower place.

That same day, Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan were called by the Queen to figure out a counterplan.

Lin Chenyu was the Seventh Prince's servant and Lin Ningshan was his fiancée. So now the whole Lin Clan and the Queen were sort of in the same chariot.

Their futures were bound.

The Queen recovered very quickly, she was a top warrior after all. She hummed coldly and said, "You think I overestimated him? You are wrong! I underestimated him, and that's why I was set up by him. It cost me four disciples. He's young but he's quite powerful. If we wait for him to develop further, what will happen?"

Lin Chenyu said, "Actually if we want to kill him, we don't need the Seventh Prince. We don't need to do it ourselves. Why not get some killers from the Black Market?"

"Good idea!"

With a twinkle in her eye, the Queen said, "I'll leave this with you. If you can make it happen, the whole Lin Clan will benefit later on."

"For this kind of stuff, you should leave it to us. I am sure that I can get you his head within the shortest period of time," said Lin Chenyu obsequiously.

Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan bowed to the Queen respectfully with their knees on the ground. After that, they left the Queen's Chamber.

The Queen was from the Xue's which was a seventh-class family. Inside her clan, there was a Heaven Realm who led the whole clan. And the Seventh Prince was a God's favored son.

In their eyes, if they could work for the Queen and the Seventh Prince, they would have a bright future. Besides that, the whole Lin Clan would benefit and become a powerful family in the Yunwu Commandery.

...

Ninth Commandery Princess sighed and said, "What a shame. The one who planned to rescue the prisoner, as well as the other two warriors who planned to kill you, died. They all poisoned themselves. Their bodies were corroded. We couldn't identify them at all."

Without a doubt, these three disciples had died because of Zhang Ruochen's strategies.

All of them were scapegoats. They committed suicide by poisoning themselves.

Their remains were exactly the same as that of Han Qingluo.

"I've heard that the person who went to the jail was an Earth Realm warrior who killed more than two hundred imperial guards. If it weren't for General Luo Tong and General Xiao Ling, she probably would have escaped. What a shame, she died as well. We could not find the person behind her," said Yuxi.

Zhang Ruochen laughed with a thoughtful look and said, "They could send an Earth Realm warrior, I am afraid that he or she is a powerful, horrible person."

Zhang Ruochen doubted that the person who wanted to kill him was inside the royal palace.

He went to check the recent personnel transfers in the royal palace. Unexpectedly, he found a few clues.

Last night, four of the Queen's maids had annoyed her. So she sentenced them to death.

"What a coincidence..."

Zhang Ruochen speculated that the four maids had not been sentenced to death by the Queen. Instead, they were the four assassins who poisoned themselves last night. The Queen had just found a proper reason to wipe them out.

However, this was just Zhang Ruochen's speculation. Without any firm evidence, he could never prove that the assassins had been sent by the Queen.

The Queen was powerful and was supported by a seventh-class family, the Xue's.

With Zhang Ruochen's current skills, if he waged a war against the Queen, it would be like using an egg to attack a stone.

"The Queen's power is so strong that even the Yunwu Commandery Prince is somewhat afraid of her. Now I must be patient. If I am not patient, I am just killing myself." Zhang Ruochen was 100% sure that the Queen was the person behind the assassins.

But he couldn't kill her yet.

His cultivation was still too weak.

Zhang Ruochen frowned deeply. If the Queen intended to kill him, even though he could stay in the royal palace, his security could not be guaranteed. However, if he were to leave the palace, it would be even more dangerous.

Yuxi commented when Zhang Ruochen was lost in thought. She said, "Brother, the first deadly swordsman sent back yesterday is awake now. Would you like to have a look?"

"Really? Let's go," said and laughed Zhang Ruochen.

He did not plan to inform Ninth Commandery Princess of his speculation. The more she knew, the more danger would she encounter.

Meanwhile, Le was lying on his bed, covered by white cloths. He looked just like a mummy.

Although he was awake now, his gaze was blank and unfocused. People could probably not tell the difference between Le and a dead man.

"Your Highness, he hasn't moved an inch since he woke up. He hasn't even blinked. Is he coming towards the end of the dying process?" Whispered the Maid Yun, bowing to Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen came closer to the bed and peered at Le. He shook his head slightly and said, "He's alive but his heart is dead! For a warrior, a wound of the heart is more serious than a wound of the body. Have you applied the Muscles and Bones Regenerating Ointment? Once his limbs recover, let him go."

After saying these words, Zhang Ruochen left.

Zhang Ruochen was planning not to think about the Queen any longer. He prepared to practice further in order to reach the Black Realm as soon as possible.

Once he reached the Black Realm, Ruochen would be able to practice the Space Domain and the mark of Time. By then, his power would have advanced rapidly.

At least, when the Queen sent others to kill him, he was able to protect himself.

In the Yunwu Commandery, Yellow Realm warriors were placed at the bottom.

Black Realm warriors were considered stronger.

Earth Realm warriors were considered the top masters. They could normally control any situation and were the Masters of Martial Arts.

As for Heaven Realm warriors, each one of them was a Martial Arts legend. It was difficult to find them, however, they represented the ultimate power of Yunwu Commandery.

If a Heaven Realm warrior wanted to, he could eliminate the entire Lin Clan in one night. As long as he could justify himself, even the official power of the Yunwu Commandery would let him go.

Heaven Realm warriors, to some extent, had surpassed the legal system.

However, if they slaughtered the innocent, they would be chased by the official power and become wanted criminals.

Apart from the hidden warriors, there were only famous Heaven Realm warriors in the Yunwu Commandery. All of them were big shots. They dominated their areas. If they stomped on the ground, the whole Commandery would shake.

That day, Zhang Ruochen, surrounded by a troop of royal guards, went to the Martial Market to purchase some Pills.

He spent fifty thousand silver coins on 20 Three-Qing Energy Pills.

He spent another sixty thousand silver coins on a Dark Blood Pill.

A Dark Blood Pill was a top Third-Class Pill. If a warrior took it when they planned to reach the Black Realm, the success rate could increase up to fifty percent.

But it was too pricy—one hundred and twenty thousand silver coins. Even princes and princesses could not afford one. This time the Qingxuan Pavilion offered Ruochen a fifty percent discount. However, even with this discount, Ruochen could only afford one.

Right now, every time Zhang Ruochen left the royal palace, he was escorted by a troop of one hundred guards.

The captain of the guards was called Ge Qian. He was the Yunwu Commandery Prince's personal captain. He had reached the Earth Realm and was a top warrior in the Commandery.

With Ge Qian's protection, he did not encounter any risk. After a short while, he went back to the royal palace.

Mansion, Main Palace.

"Your Majesty, the Ninth Prince is a Genius of Martial Arts. His gift is not lower than that of the Seventh Prince. With the protection of General Ge Qian, his safety is guaranteed. However, there are some disadvantages," whispered an old eunuch.

The Commandery Prince asked, "What do you mean?"

The eunuch replied, "How could an eyes grow up and fly high in a completely safe environment? Our royal palace is too comfortable, it will not help the Ninth Prince to grow up."

The Commandery Prince nodded slightly. "It makes sense. The Seventh Prince apprenticed to the Yuntai Suzerain and became an external student of the suzerain when he was fourteen. Two years ago, he managed to become an internal student because he was ranked first."

"In fact, Ruochen should have reached the Completion Stage of the Yellow Realm by now. I am confident that he can reach the Initial Stage of the Black Realm very soon. Maybe he can have a chance to apprentice at the Yuntai Suzerain this year."

The basic requirement of becoming an external student of the suzerain was reaching the Black Realm before the age of thirty.

Yenta Suzerain was a Four-class Suzerain, situated in the Omen Ridge which was a junction of the Yunwu Commandery, the Flame Dragon Commandery, and the Square Commandery. It was the largest Suzerain in the Nine Western Prefectures.

A Black Realm could only become an external student of the suzerain.

Only an Earth Realm warrior could become an internal student of the suzerain.

Six of the fourteen Heaven Realm warriors in the Yunwu Commandery were students of the Yuntai Suzerain. In other words, if a warrior could join the Yuntai Suzerain, it was definitely something to be proud of.

The eunuch shook his head slightly. "Your Majesty, I don't think it's proper. If the Ninth Prince joins the Yuntai Suzerain while the Seventh Prince is already there, it won't be a good thing!"

"You're right!"

With flames in his eyes, the Commandery Prince nodded slightly and said, "The Martial Market Bank has a School in the Omen Ridge which accepts students from the Nine Western Prefectures. Besides that, it accepts students from the Nine Eastern Prefectures, the Nine Southern Prefectures, and the Nine Northern Prefectures as well."

"Liu Chuanshen once told me that he has strong faith in Ruochen and wanted to recommend Ruochen study at the School of the Martial Market."

The eunuch's eyes shone brightly now. He said, "If the Ninth Prince can achieve something in the School of the Martial Market, maybe he could be a top manager there one day. It's going to benefit the whole Commandery."

The Commandery Prince laughed and said, "The requirements of the School of the Martial Market are harsher and more difficult than those of the Yuntai Suzerain. An average warrior can't get in at all."

The eunuch laughed and said, "Your Majesty, you overthink! The Ninth Prince is at the top of the Yellow Board, and he has a reference from Liu Chuanshen, who's the Manager of the Commandery Branch of the Martial Market Bank. In my humble opinion, the success rate can be higher than seventy percent."

"Haha! I think it's ninety percent!" said the Commandery Prince, "Once he reaches the Black Realm, I will ask him whether he's interested in the School of the Martial Market or Yuntai Suzerain."

Chapter 58: Power of Rainbow-like Animal Spirits

In the Royal Palace under the Jun Mountain, there was a Royal Family's Martial arts field.

"Swish! Swish!" Before dawn, the princes and princesses were already had been practicing their martial techniques there.

Yunwu Commandery Prince had nine sons and 13 daughters in total. Once they obtained the Sacred Mark, it was compulsory for them to practice at the Martial arts field every day.

Zhang Ruochen had never been there before. He was dragged by the Ninth Commandery Princess to practice with her today.

The Martial arts field of the Royal Family was indeed seven to eight times bigger than the Lin's and was completely paved with one-meter-thick white slates.

Inside the field, princes and princesses could practice with each other and the royal guards who had similar cultivation.

In addition, a general at the Earth Realm would perambulate the martial arts field every day and instruct the princes and princesses.

"Young Commandery Princess, when you practice the Wind Chasing Sword Technique, the most important part is to have a solid step as well as a smooth sword technique. Raise your left hand a little higher. Look at me, the sword is as fast as lightning."

While the general was instructing the Young Commandery Princess on sword techniques of the inferior class at the Human Stage, he also demonstrated for her as an example.

The adorable, six-year-old Young Commandery Princess was holding a small sword in her hand. It seemed that she had made some decent progress on learning the Wind Chasing Sword Technique.

Having seen the Ninth Commandery Princess and Zhang Ruochen, the Young Commandery Princess's eyes suddenly brightened. She ran to Zhang Ruochen with her sword in hand and asked, "Are you my ninth brother?"

Zhang Ruochen looked at the Ninth Commandery Princess, nodded and said, "Do you know me?"

"Of course! You got first place in both the Year-end Assessment and the Yellow Board. You're the genius of martial arts. According to my master, you have already reached the advanced stage of Sword Following the Mind. Even he, himself is incomparable with you. He wants me to set you as my role model to work hard. My dear ninth brother, can you teach me how to practice the sword technique and reach the Realm of Sword Following the Mind?"

Although the Young Commandery Princess was little, she spoke clearly. She didn't sound like a child at all.

Zhang Ruochen smiled and thought she was adorable. He asked, "Who is your master?"

She pointed to the general who clad in an armor not far away as she said, "My master is General Huo Si, one of the ten royal guards!"

Zhang Ruochen observed General Huo Si, who was already walking towards them. He bowed to Zhang Ruochen and said, "Your servant Huo Si greets the Ninth Prince."

Huo Si was classified as a warrior at the Earth Realm, superior among the royal guards. His salute to Zhang Ruochen clearly showed that he respected Zhang Ruochen a great deal and dared not to neglect him.

No other prince or princess could enjoy such treatment from such a general.

No wonder he was such a strong warrior at the Earth Realm. Zhang Rouchen could feel that his aura was like great mountains and seas. It was rather unfathomable. Zhang Rouchen nodded.

Zhang Ruo Chen could figure out Huo Si's cultivation level with one glance.

Zhang Ruo Chen's arrival caused the entire Martial arts field to turn lively. All the princes and princesses stopped practicing and gathered around him.

The Fifth Prince said cynically, "It is said that your cultivation has reached the Completion of Yellow Realm and you have obtained a ten-win streak over the warriors of the Yellow Board. I'm interested to know how powerful you actually are. I wonder if my ninth brother can impress us?"

The Sixth Prince sneered and said, "It's said that you've defeated Shui Wenxin who ranks the third of the Yellow Board. Everyone is saying that my ninth brother has an unfathomable power that can hold against 10 thousand men. I wonder are you more powerful than warriors at the Black Realm?"

The Young Commandery Princess and all the other princesses showed eagerness in their eyes. They'd heard too much about the Ninth Prince recently and wanted to know if he was as strong as was said in the rumors.

"Ruo Chen, let me see your techniques. Show our brothers and sisters your capabilities." The Third Prince stepped out from the crowd and smiled.

The 28-year-old Third Prince was wearing a gold-gilt silver robe. He smirked and looked at Zhang Ruo Chen with his arms crossed.

Among the nine sons and 13 daughters of the Yunwu Commandery Prince, the Seventh Prince had the highest talent. The second highest was the Second Prince, then the Fourth Prince, the Fifth, and the Ninth Commandery Princess.

The Seventh Prince who was not even 20 yet had already enrolled as an internal student of the Yuntai Suzerain.

Both the Second Prince and the Fifth Commandery Princess were also students of the Yuntai Suzerain. The Second Prince was an internal student while the Fifth Commandery Princess was an external student of the suzerain.

The Fourth Prince had also become an external student of the School of Martial Market last year.

The Third Prince stood opposite Zhang Ruo Chen. He had attended the examination of the Yuntai Suzerain three times and unfortunately failed all three trials.

He was not convinced that everyone said the Ninth Prince was a Genius of Martial Arts who could pass the exam of Yuntai Suzerain. Thus he wanted to prove his power by defeating Zhang Ruo Chen.

The Ninth Commandery Princess said irritably, "Third brother, you've cultivated to the mid-stage of the Black Realm while my ninth brother is still at the Completion of the Yellow Realm. It doesn't mean anything if you defeat him."

The Third Prince frowned and said, "My ninth sister, what do you mean? I'm just afraid our ninth brother will become arrogant after he gets first place on the Yellow Board. I want to practice my martial

techniques with him. Besides, it's not humiliating if he loses to me. After all, losing to his brother is also a kind of training."

"Clap! Clap!"

Suddenly, applause could be heard coming from outside of the Martial arts field.

"Well said, Third Prince!"

Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan entered the Martial arts field.

"Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan greet all the princes and princesses." Although he bowed towards the princes and princesses in the field, there wasn't any sense of courtesy in his eyes, instead, they sneered.

The Ninth Commandery Princess frowned and said, "Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan, this is the Martial arts field of the Royal Family. You are not allowed to be here!"

Lin Chenyu took out a waist token and said, "According to the Queen, Ningshan and myself are granted to practice martial techniques with all the princes and princesses here."

Lin Chenyu then put away the waist token and chuckled. He said, "Regarding what the Third Prince has just said, it does make sense! My cousin, are you afraid of losing? Is this why you dare not fight? Or do you look down on the Third Prince and think he's not a worthy opponent?"

Having heard what Lin Chenyu's said, the Third Prince looked cold-blooded, "My ninth brother, are you going to fight with me? Or like Lin Chenyu said, you look down on me and don't want to fight?"

Zhang Ruochen looked around and said, "Well, you've already put things up. I'll fight with you."

The Ninth Commandery Princess shook her head and said, "My ninth brother, don't be stupid! Our third brother wants to defeat you to enjoy a sense of accomplishments just because he couldn't enroll in the Yuntai Suzerain."

Zhang Ruochen chuckled and said, "Ninth sister, don't worry about me. I have a plan."

Zhang Ruochen's cultivation had improved considerably after a day's practice. His strongest force could reach the strength of 92 bulls.

There was a chance that Zhang Ruochen would defeat the Third Prince who had reached the Mid Stage of the Black Realm.

Seeing Zhang Ruochen had agreed, Lin Chenyu showed a cunning smile. He thought that Zhang Ruochen was hard-edged and it would be very funny to lose his faith by the hand of the Third Prince.

A smile emerged on the Third Prince's face. He said, "Ninth brother, be careful. Don't lose by my first technique. Otherwise, you'll lose the reputation of the Yellow Board!"

"Brute Bull Fist."

What the Third Prince had displayed was Brute Bull Fist, a mid-class martial technique of the Human Stage in the military.

There were altogether 10 levels of the Brute Bull Fist.

After having practiced the first level successfully, a warrior would obtain the strength of one Brute Bull.

The second level, the strength of four Brute bulls.

The third level, the strength of nine Brute bulls.

Similarly, at the 10th level, warriors would be able to unleash the strength of 100 Brute bulls.

In the military, a lot of soldiers had practiced the Brute Cattle Fist, but no one could make it to the 10th level prior to reaching the Black Realm.

At the moment, the Third Prince had only reached the ninth level and burst out the strength of 81 bulls.

Although Zhang Ruochen had reached the Completion of Yellow Realm, his power had surpassed a number of warriors in the same realm. Even if he didn't demonstrate the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm, he could bring out the strength of 81 bulls.

Zhang Ruochen's palm collided with the Third Prince's Brute Cattle Fist.

Boom!

This was a neck-to-neck matchup.

Zhang Ruochen fixed his sleeves and said, "This is the strength of a warrior at the Mid Stage Black Realm?"

"This is just the beginning."

The Sacred Mark on the Third Prince's glabella suddenly brightened. He activated his Genuine Qi and injected it into his blood. A reddish Spiritual Blood came out and surrounded his body like a rainbow.

Power of Rainbow-like Animal Spirits.

Only warriors at the Mid Stage of the Black Realm would be able to do that. The deeper the color of the rainbow ring, the stronger the warrior was.

However, the Third Prince's rainbow ring was rather light which meant that he had just reached the Mid Stage of the Black Realm.

The signal of the Initial Stage of the Black Realm was Boiling Animal Spirits.

The signal of the Mid Stage of the Black Realm was Power of Rainbow-like Animal Spirits.

Last but not least, the signal of the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm was Soaring Animal Spirits.

The power of the Third Prince had doubled since he'd activated the Spiritual Blood. Every fist he dashed out was equal to the strength of 100 bulls, the 10th level of the Brute Bull Fist.

Boom!

The Third Prince had shaken Zhang Ruochen fiercely with one mere fist.

"And this is the strength of the genius of the Yellow Board?"

The Third Prince laughed wildly. He kicked up his heel like a brute cattle and dashed out another 18 fists towards Zhang Ruochen.

Every fist made Zhang Ruochen retreat a step back.

Chapter 59: One Month Appointment

“A Mid Stage Warrior at the Black Realm shouldn’t be underestimated. Moreover, the Third Prince is comparatively weaker among those at the Black Realm.” Zhang Ruochen thought to himself.

With each fist strike he received from the Third Prince, part of the force would be passed to the ground through his bones and meridians.

Therefore, even if the Third Prince could display the strength of 100 bulls, he still could not hurt Zhang Ruochen.

If the Third Prince’s opponent was someone other than Zhang Ruochen, the Full Stage Warrior at the Yellow Realm would probably be squashed to death with one strike.

“Although the Third Prince is an idiot, his cultivation is still strong. It seems that Zhang Ruochen is going to lose,” said Lin Ningshan.

Lin Chenyu shook his head in disagreement and said, “No, he isn’t. The cultivation of Zhang Ruochen is powerful beyond imagination. The Third Prince won’t be able to defeat him.”

Lin Ningshan was confused. “Why? Zhang Ruochen is beaten up to the point where he can only fall back into retreat. He didn’t even have a chance to fight back.”

Lin Chenyu pointed his finger toward the ground and said, “Look carefully. Look at the ground where Zhang Ruochen has stamped his feet on.”

Following the direction of his finger, Lin Ningshan looked down at the ground. She noticed that slate of the ground sunk a little after each step Zhang Ruochen had made, leaving a shallow footprint on the ground. If she had not observed carefully, she would not have noticed it.

“He defuses the Third Prince’s power into the earth.” Lin Ningshan was amazed and added on, “How can he do that?”

“Zhang Ruochen has excellent control of his own power. No matter how powerful the Third Prince is, he won’t be able to defeat Zhang Ruochen. If the foolish Third Prince didn’t challenge him, we’d never know the true strength of Zhang Ruochen,” said Lin Chenyu.

“If we want to hire an assassin to kill him, I guess we’ll need to double up on the bounty.”

Lin Chenyu grinned slightly.

Besides Lin Chenyu, only General Huo Si, whose cultivation had reached the Earth Realm, could discern Zhang Ruochen’s true strength. He could not help but nod his head in acknowledgement. Zhang Ruochen was indeed a genius of martial arts.

Ninth Commandery Princess was very worried about Zhang Ruochen. She said, "Ninth brother, don't use brute force to fight with him. Take this sword!"

The Ninth Commandery Princess threw the sword in her hand to Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen was thinking about fighting the Third Prince in order to practice his palm techniques.

Since the Ninth Commandery Princess had thrown him a sword, he naturally caught it and said, "Well... let's finish it quickly."

"Boom!"

Holding the hilt, Zhang Ruochen flicked his wrist and displayed a series of gorgeous sword techniques. A dazzling sword radiance could be seen whenever the sword sliced through the air, unfolding a beautiful arc before everyone's eyes.

He swung his sword forward. The sharp end of his sword pointed at the Third Prince's neck.

He subdued the Third Prince in one stroke.

The Third Prince's fist paused in midair, and he did not dare move in the slightest. If he made a wrong move, his neck would be sliced open by the sword instantly.

Everybody in the arena was stunned by the scene before them. They could not have been more shocked.

Why did the Third Prince lose? He obviously had the upper hand throughout the fight. The Ninth Prince was even pushed back into retreat!

"It was my ninth brother who didn't unleash his full power. Otherwise, he could easily defeat my third brother from the very beginning." The Young Commandery Princess said with her hands clasped behind her back. Her big bright eyes were shining, showing her admiration toward Zhang Ruochen.

Other princes and princesses belatedly realized that the Ninth Prince was playing with the Third Prince all along.

"Indeed, the Ninth Prince is a martial arts genius! He has only reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm and yet, he can defeat a Mid-Stage Warrior at the Black Realm. I can't imagine how powerful he will be after breaking through the Black Realm!"

"It is said that the power of the Yellow Realm is 100 bulls. I wonder if the Ninth Prince has reached the legendary Power of Realm?"

"Even if he hasn't reached that realm, I would say he's not far from it."

...

The Third Prince was fuming with rage as well as humiliation when he heard people complimenting the Ninth Prince.

He was looking forward to obtain a sense of achievement by defeating the Ninth Prince. But unexpectedly, he was easily defeated with a single sword stroke.

What a great shame!

"I am not convinced! Ninth brother, let's have another battle!" The Third Prince attributed his failure to his own negligence.

"No more fighting. Does it really matter who wins or loses?"

Having said that, Zhang Ruochen then turned away from the Third Prince, walked toward the Ninth Commandery Princess and returned the sword to her. The Third Prince was left standing like a fool.

"Why didn't you tell me earlier that you could win the third brother?" The Ninth Commandery Princess said angrily and gave Zhang a sideways glance. "I was quite worried about you."

"A guaranteed win? There is no such thing in this world." Zhang Ruochen chuckled while shaking his head and said.

A twinge of displeasure ran through Lin Ningshan's heart after she saw how intimate Zhang Ruochen and the Ninth Commandery Princess were. She took her sword, strode toward the Ninth Commandery Princess and said slowly, "Ninth Princess, I heard that you've reached the Realm of Sword Following the Mind. I suddenly feel an itch to have a go. Let's compete our sword techniques. How about that?"

"Okay! I have been waiting for this opportunity for some time. Since we're already here at the Royal Coliseum, let's do a battle!" said the Ninth Commandery Princess. A hint of war intent appeared in her eyes.

The Ninth Commandery Princess and Lin Ningshan were known as the Two Beauties in the Yunwu City. But, the Ninth Commandery Princess had lost to Lin Ningshan in the Year-end Assessment. Obviously, she was not convinced of her loss. Since then, she had always wanted to fight again and defeat Lin Ningshan.

"Blue Water Listening to the Sea."

The first to launch an attack was the Ninth Commandery Princess. The moment her sword was swung, a ferocious wave of air was swept up, sweeping toward Lin Ningshan wave after wave.

"Clank!"

Rumbling sounds rang out in the air. Her sword waves resembled the surging tidewater, as if they were actually beating against the shore.

After the Ninth Commandery Princess had reached the initial realm of Sword Following the Mind, the sophistication of her sword techniques had also reached a new height. Compared to her performance in the Year-end Assessment, she had greatly improved in terms of accuracy and precision.

Lin Ningshan stood still and did not move an inch. Her glittering red lips revealed a disdainful smile.

"Swish!"

Lin charged forward with her sword. A powerful wave of icing cold Sword Breath emitted from the sword tip, blocking all sword techniques unleashed by the Ninth Commandery Princess.

"Let your sword go!"

Lin Ningshan let out a low growl and slapped her sword down onto the Ninth Commandery Princess' wrist.

The blow left a bruise on the Ninth Commandery Princess' wrist. She no longer had any energy to hold onto her sword. The sword was sent flying off to the side and clattered down onto the ground.

There was a blood mark on her wrist. She staggered a few steps backward as the pain spread through every part of her body. Enraged, she clenched her teeth tightly and said, "You..."

Lin Ningshan pulled her Splendor Sword back in a graceful manner. Faking a gasp, she said, "Isn't the Ninth Commandery Princess a God's favored daughter? You can't even hold a sword! I guess the gap between our cultivation is getting bigger and bigger! Aw!"

"Lin Ningshan! Don't you dare humiliate me on purpose!" The Ninth Commandery Princess was irritated. Her face flushed red with shame.

The truth was both Lin Ningshan and Zhang Yuxi were regarded as the God's favored daughter. Being defeated in a single, effortless swipe of Lin Ningshan's sword had obviously crushed her pride.

"I don't dare," said Lin Ningshan, laughing, "I just didn't expect your sword technique would be so bad."

Zhang Ruochen picked up the sword from the ground and went to the side of the Ninth Commandery Princess, "Lin Ningshan, your cultivation has reached the Final State of the Yellow Realm, which is one realm higher than my ninth sister. Do you think by defeating her can prove that you're better than her? You're too immature!"

Lin Ningshan's face turned gloomy upon hearing his words. "You mean I'm being childish? Everyone can see that I've defeated the Ninth Commandery Princess with just one sword strike! Her capability was never worth comparing to mine."

Lin Ningshan held her head up high like an arrogant white swan.

The Ninth Commandery Princess almost burst into tears seeing how Lin Ningshan behaved. She felt extremely resentful, but she could not do anything about it as she was indeed not her opponent.

Zhang Ruochen stared at Lin Ningshan and said, "In that case, let's fight again after one month. If you can defeat my ninth sister by then, I'll apologize for what I said earlier."

His words took the Ninth Commandery Princess by surprise. She looked at Zhang Ruochen and shook her head in disagreement.

What if she lost to Lin Ningshan again after a month? Her ninth brother would have to apologize to the disgraceful woman!

Lin Ningshan was overjoyed hearing what Zhang Ruochen had proposed. She quickly agreed to the challenge and said, "Fine! Zhang Ruochen, mark your words! I am looking forward to hearing an apology from a martial art genius."

"If you lose, you'll have to apologize to my sister in front of everyone," Zhang Ruochen added.

"Deal." Lin Ningshan had great confidence in herself and thus, she agreed without hesitation.

Lin Ningshan had been humiliated by Zhang Ruochen in the Year-end Assessment and thus, she hated him so much.

If she defeated the Ninth Commandery Princess after a month, she definitely would not go easy on Zhang Ruochen.

“An apology?”

“Zhang Ruochen, you’re too naive!”

Suddenly, she realized that humiliating Zhang Ruochen would be much more exciting than killing him.

Then, Lin Ningshan and Lin Chenyu left the Royal Coliseum.

Lin Chenyu spoke while leaving the Coliseum, “Zhang Ruochen is not as naive as he seems. He must have possessed a certainty of success and hence, he proposed the fight. Ningshan, you better be careful!”

“My brother, stop overthinking. The Qi Accumulating Liquid you brought back from Yuntai Suzerain is going to help my cultivation. I’m sure I can practice till the peak of the Final State after one month. By then, I’ll be much stronger than the Ninth Commandery Princess and our gap will only get bigger.”

Lin Chenyu nodded and said, “It’s true that the Qi Accumulating Liquid will boost your cultivation significantly. Work hard then, my sister. Try your best to reach the Completion of the Yellow Realm as soon as possible. I’ll then give you a Dark Blood Pill which will accelerate your progress, so that you can break through the Black Realm quickly.”

“The Black Realm!” Lin Ningshan could not hide the smile on her face.

Lin Chenyu added, “When you reach the Black Realm, it’s going to be easier for you to enroll into the Yuntai Suzerain. With your talent, it shouldn’t be a problem. The Ninth Commandery Princess is just a stepping-stone on your way to success. As for Zhang Ruochen, he will die going against the Queen! Haha!”

Lin Ningshan’s eyes shone with a strange light. She appeared to be very excited, obviously looking forward to the match next month.

Her lips curled up into a charming smile as she imagined Zhang Ruochen’s apology.

Chapter 60: Tianhe Scripture

“My ninth brother, I’ve heard that Lin Chenyu brought back a great deal of Qi Accumulating Liquid from Yuntai Suzerain in order to raise their young warriors’ power and attack the Seventh-class Family. That’s why Lin Ningshan could reach the Yellow Realm in such short period,” said Ninth Commandery Princess.

“I have no hope to win against her in next month since she has the help of that liquid. Brother, you had made a rash decision.”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, “Ninth sister, don’t you trust me? Have you forgotten that I leveled up to the Completion of Yellow Realm in half a year?”

“Yes! What had happened to you, my brother?” Ninth Commandery Princess felt regretful when she finished her question, “Sorry, you don’t have to tell me, that’s your secret after all.”

After these last days’ contact, Zhang Ruochen thought the Ninth Commandery Princess was reliable. To tell her some secrets would be okay.

Zhang Ruochen said, “Of course practice resources are important. However, the practical skills are indispensable. You are practicing ‘Ice Formula’, a Inferior-class of Spiritual exercise, right?”

The Ninth Commandery Princess nodded.

There were three Spiritual Stage Exercises in the Royal Family: “Ice Formula”, “God of War Tactics” and “Innate Skills”.

“Ice Formula” and “God of War Tactics” belonged to the low-class of Spiritual; “Innate skills” was a mid-class Spiritual Stage exercise.

Generally speaking, in the Royal Family, only princes and princesses who had opened the Sacred Mark before five years old could practice “Innate skills”.

In other words, only Royal Family members who practiced “Innate skills” could rival for the emperor crown. The earliest one who practiced “Innate skills” was the Seventh Prince and later he got other favorable turns in life and better practice skills.

At the age of six, the Ninth Commandery Princess unlocked her Sacred Mark so that she had to choose “Ice Formula” as practice skill.

Zhang Ruochen said, “As a low-class of Spiritual exercise, Ice Formula will only help you open 16 meridians even if you practice to the Completion of Yellow Realm.”

Ninth Commandery Princess rolled her eyes to Zhang Ruochen as she said, “Why do you despise the exercises of low-class Spiritual? Do you know in Yunwu Commandery, there are less than 10 intact books about Spiritual Stage Exercises, and three of them possessed by our Royal Family? It is quite amazing.”

“Moreover, a low-class Spiritual exercise book costs about a million, even five million silver coins. A classic book like ‘Ice Formula’ would cost three million silver coins at a market.”

In Yunwu Commandery, only two seventh-class families and one seventh-class suzerain possessed an exercise book of the low-class Spiritual separately. As to the eighth-class families or suzerains, they merely had fragments of the Spiritual Stage or Superior Class books of Human Stage.

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, “If you can keep my secret, I shall give you an Inferior Class exercise of the Ghost Level.”

“Inferior Class of the Ghost...Level...”

The Ninth Commandery Princess covered her mouth instantly after an exclamation.

She was shocked greatly and stared at Zhang Ruochen with two widen eyes.

After a long while, she calmed herself down and whispered, “An Inferior Class Exercise of the Ghost Level? My brother, where did you get this incredible book? It is said that even the most powerful

exercise of the Yuntai Suzerain, 'Holy Universe Reaching Skills', just belongs to the Inferior Class of the Ghost Level."

What Zhang Ruochen said was so amazing that even the Royal Family couldn't save him if it had been spread out. It certainly would attract scourges.

The Ninth Commandery Princess didn't dare to desire the Inferior Class of the Ghost Level at all.

Zhang Ruochen had even recited some exercise books of the King's Stage, let alone the Inferior Class Exercises of the Ghost Level.

However, if Zhang Ruochen gave the Ninth Commandery Princess the exercises of the King's Stage, it would harm her rather than help.

Zhang Ruochen said, "The exercise that I'm going to give you is 'Tianhe Scripture'. It divides into seven levels. You can reach the Completion of the Yellow Realm if you finish its first level."

Zhang then wrote "Tianhe Scripture" down and gave it to the Ninth Commandery Princess.

She handed it over the instant she began to read it and got completely attracted by it.

It took her six hours to keep "Tianhe Scripture" in mind.

"No wonder it's an Inferior Class Exercise of the Ghost Level! Whoever could finish it, he or she would be terribly strong."

The Ninth Commandery Princess lifted her delicate head up with a pair of bright eyes. She desired to kiss Zhang Ruochen.

Reading out what the Ninth Commandery Princess was thinking, Zhang Ruochen cleared his throat as he said, "Ninth sister, never tell others! It's a big deal."

"I'm not stupid. I won't tell anybody even my parents," said the Ninth Commandery Princess.

Finishing it, the Ninth Commandery Princess walked to the candlestick and burnt "Tianhe Scripture" to ash.

"Now, if you can turn your exercises to 'Tianhe Scripture', the Genuine Qi in your body will soar massively, which may help you to reach the Final State of the Yellow Realm. One month later, you should have 90 percent chance to win Lin Ningshan," said Zhang Ruochen.

The higher class the exercises was, the stronger his Genuine Qi and combat power of a warrior were.

Just like Zhang Ruochen, who had just reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm, could defeat the third prince, who reached the Mid Stage of the Black Realm. It was possible because Zhang Ruochen had practiced "Scripture of Emperor Ming's Emphyrean".

The Ninth Commandery Princess's confidence had been increased greatly. She smiled at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Ninth brother, I don't know how to express my gratitude for your giving me 'Tianhe Scripture'."

“Ahem! As brother and sister, we don’t have to say thanks. But you’d better practice it as soon as possible.” Zhang Ruochen turned around and looked out of the window.

The Ninth Commandery Princess hummed and said, “If you were not my brother, I would marry you.”

But she read out some unnatural expressions on Zhang’s face. Soon afterward, she managed to leave his residence and seclude herself for refining.

She knew that her combat with Lin Ningshan was important and she could not lose.

After she had gone, Zhang Ruochen entered into the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel to practice.

After his cultivation had reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm, his Qi Pool decoupled and shaped into a giant Qi Pool space, which could contain more Genuine Qi.

However, his Genuine Qi now merely accounted for 20 percent of the Qi Pool.

Only he had practiced the Genuine Qi completely could he dash to the Black Realm.

It would take more than two years for an ordinary warrior who had reached the completion of the Yellow realm to fill the Qi pool fully, with the help of a spiritual crystal.

Liu Chengfeng, another genius, who had reached the Completion of Yellow Realm at 17 years old spent three years practicing the Black Realm unsuccessfully.

It followed that it was not easy to break to the Black Realm.

Even Zhang Ruochen had opened 36 meridians and practiced faster than other warriors, it also would take a whole year to fill his Qi pool.

One year was too long.

He couldn’t wait, thus he had spent a high price at the polls which could augment his genuine Qi to help his cultivation.

The Second-class bill, a Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pill, cost 5,000 silver coins.

A Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pill could only help to accelerate 20 percent of the filling.

He took one and meanwhile used 36 meridians to absorb the pill spirit and turned it into the Genuine Qi.

Zhang Ruochen’s cultivation increased by leaps and bounds.

Three days later, his Genuine Qi amounted to two fifths, which could break out the power of 94 bulls.

Another five days had been passed, his Genuine Qi amounted to three fifths, which could break out the power of 96 bulls.

Seven days later, his Genuine Qi amounted to four-fifths, which could break out the power of 98 bulls.

His Qi Pool almost had been filled after another 10 days’ practice. Zhang Ruochen could raise 99 bulls’ power; only one ball short of the power of Yellow Realm.

Blackie saw the whole process and said, "What a pity. Short of Strength of a bull to the Yellow Ultimate Realm."

If the Completion had the eighth small realm, it would be the "Ultimate Realm".

The Ultimate Realm meant unparalleled.

The power of 100 bulls was the Ultimate Realm of Yellow Realm.

Only young Gods in ancient times could practice to the Ultimate Realm.

Since then nobody could reach it even those great emperors, or any lord or Saint who could be close to it.

There was a huge difference between reaching it and closing to it.

Like Zhang Ruochen now, who seemed to be just short of one bull to the Ultimate Realm.

It was a world of difference!

That's why Blackie signed, "If you had reached the Ultimate Realm, you could have attracted echoes from ancient gods, which would be amazing!"

"Maybe I still have a chance to reach the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm!" said Zhang Ruochen firmly because he had great faith in himself.

Blackie shook his head and said, "Your Qi Pool has been filled, no space for further promotion."