

Great Ruler 321

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Chapter 321: Kicked out of the Hunting War

Screech!

A resonant and clear cry rang across the world as countless gazes looked in shock at the giant black bird that had surfaced from within the torrential black flames across the horizon. As the giant bird unfurled its giant wings that could encompass mountains, black flames surged and swept out, causing the temperature of this stretch of the world to rise even higher.

“The Nine Netherbird...”

Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton looked at each other, noticing the astonishment within each other’s eyes, as they mutter, “He is actually able to transform into a Spiritual Beast form even at this level...”

Everyone knew that once one steps into the Spirit Stage, everyone would possess a power, and that was to refine the Soul Essence of Spiritual Beasts. It’s exactly this power of the Soul Essence that allowed Spirit Stage experts to possess the might of Spiritual Beasts.

However, from a certain perspective, this kind of possession wasn’t eternal, as even the Soul Essence of the Spiritual Beast would one day dissipate. Furthermore, following the increasing strength of the refiner, gradually breaking through from Spirit Stage to Heavenly Fusion Stage and Heavenly Transformation Stage, the power gained from refining the Spiritual Beast’s Soul Essence would gradually be replaced.

Naturally, not all of the refined Spiritual Beast’s Soul Essence would dissipate. If one was able to reach a considerably high level of fusion with their Spiritual Beast’s Soul Essence, the power gained from the Soul Essence would continue to exist. However, for that kind of situation to occur was not simple. After all, a Spiritual Beast’s Soul Essence had a natural rejection to mankind. Even though the Spiritual Beast was already killed, its remnant thoughts would still resist this fusion. That is, unless they were willing to get refined. Only if this were to happen would the power from the Soul Essence be able to follow alongside the refiner.

However, with untamed and arrogant Spiritual Beasts, after being killing, would they be willing to be refined?

Therefore, following the increase in strength of people, after breaking through to Heavenly Fusion Stage, Heavenly Transformation Stage and Heavenly Completion Stage, the Spiritual Beast’s Soul Essence present within them would gradually dissipate. This kind of power from the Soul Essence would gradually be replaced by an even more powerful strength.

This was the reason why Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had shown such astonishment when Mu Chen transformed into the shape of the Nine Netherbird, and, in addition, into such a complete form.

“I truly don’t know exactly how Mu Chen was able to reach such a point of fusion with the Nine Netherbird’s Soul Essence...” Shen Cangsheng smiled in startlement, before saying, “Over these last few years, this is the first time I’ve seen someone who was able to transform into such a perfect form of the Nine Netherbird.”

Li Xuanton slightly nodded his head in approval, as he looked towards the incomparably large Nine Netherbird. At this moment, a complicated expression arose on his face, since the current Mu Chen truly had a monumental change since a number of months ago.

“He’s too formidable! He’s actually able to transform into such a perfect form of the Nine Netherbird at this moment...”

On the ground, Wang Tong and the rest were also exclaiming in astonishment. All of them had also refined the Soul Essence of Spiritual Beasts that were not weak while they were at the Spirit Stage. However, once they promoted into the Heavenly Transformation Stage, the power from their Spiritual Beast’s Soul Essence had seemingly completely dissipated, without even talking about being able to completely transform into such a perfect form of their Spiritual Beasts. In addition, when the power of the Soul Essence was most abundant within their bodies, they were still unable to transform into such a Spiritual Beast form that was as substantial as a living creature.

Standing beside them, Luo Li gave a faint smile. She naturally knew about how Mu Chen was able to achieve such a step. Not only did he have a high level agreement with the Nine Netherbird within him, even their lives were intertwined. The Bloodline Bond wasn’t something that just anyone could enjoy, as well as having the courage to be tied in one.

To many people, the power from the Soul Essence might be considered to be a provisional power source. However, for Mu Chen, it would be with him throughout his life.

Screech!

Under the countless gazes that were sparkling with various kinds of emotions, the gigantic black bird that covered the horizon raised its head towards the sky and gave a long screech. In the next instant, flapping its wings, it smashed, head first, into the blood-red full moon that had shattered space as it headed towards Mu Chen.

Bang!

The two frightening powers smashed against each other. The intense bang produced was akin to thunder, resounding across the skies, even causing a slight twist and distortion in the space.

The giant bird, burning in black flames, smashed head-on against the blood-red full moon. The two frightening powers were currently crazily trying to corrode one another.

Bang! Bang!

The incomparably erratic Spiritual Energy fluctuations were akin to hundred metre high waves that were continuously sweeping and trying to engulf the territory of the other. The scene that they created caused the skin of quite a few people on the ground to feel numb.

Everyone was able to see a black and red colour condensing in the erratic corrosion that was happening between the giant bird and the full moon. In the short span of a number of breaths, these two powers turned into a gigantic ball of light that was over a hundred meters in diameter. Within the centre of the ball of light, the two forces were erratically mixing in an extreme fashion.

Like a bomb.

Since it was a bomb, it would explode.

As this thought flashed past the minds of the crowd, they notice that the black and red colour was expanding in the sky. In the next moment, an astonishing sound rang out.

BOOM!!!

The Spiritual Energy ball of light that had condensed from the all-out attacks of the two finally could not hold onto its shape and furiously exploded. Spiritual Energy crazily swept out as the gigantic black bird, as well of the full moon, were instantly engulfed within it.

A dazzling light formed, causing countless people to narrow their eyes. A Spiritual Energy shockwave, approximately thousands of metres in length, radiated out, before finally diffusing into the ends of the horizon.

At this instant, the Spiritual Light Mountain, which was akin to a giant pillar that held the sky up, started to hum as it vibrated and shook.

Bang! Bang!

Under the buffeting from the devastating Spiritual Energy storm, a black and a red streak of light were violently flung out, before heavily impacting the expansive platform on the ground below.

BOOM!

As the earth shook, the thousand metre long stone platform started to collapse as two deep holes appeared on it. Large and coarse cracks, spanning thousands of metres, appeared like spider webs as they extended from the giant holes.

Figures started to hurriedly rise into the air from all around the stone platform as they cast their gazes over. In the previous heaven-shattering collision, exactly who had gained an advantage?

Everyone was clear that this exchange was sufficient to determine the winner.

Under the convergence of countless gazes, the dust clouds slowly dissipated from the completely destroyed stone platform. Two unfathomably deep giant holes started to appear in the eyes of the crowd.

The jet blackness of the deep holes masked every source of light and gaze.

Exactly who had won?

Whoosh!

Within the depths of the dark giant hole, a whooshing sound suddenly rang out, causing the crowd to hurriedly converge their gazes over. In the next instant, they saw, from the left deep hole, a figure that was covered in blood was staggering as he rose to the sky.

The figure had a head full of green hair, while the injuries were present over his entire body. Blood created a pattering sound as it dripped down from him, causing him to appear extremely miserable. It was He Yao!

Whoosh!

A few regretful clamoring noises rang out as everyone thought, *So, it's still He Yao that remains standing in the end?*

The lovable faces of Su Ling'er and the rest who were attentively watching this scene before them could not resist and changed.

“Hahahaha.”

Covered in blood, He Yao looked at the deep hole before him that did not appear to have the slightest activity. In the next moment, he looked at the sky and laughed loudly, his facial features distorted as he roared, “Mu Chen, aren't you very proud of yourself? However, the one that laughs, at the end, is me!”

There were several people who were sighing regretfully as they thought, *Is Mu Chen still weaker?* However, since he was able to force He Yao into such a miserable state, he could be considered as being extremely outstanding already. As long as some time was given to him, surpassing He Yao might only be a matter of time.

In the air, the faces of Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were still tranquil and calm. As they shot a look at the deep hole that did not have the slightest trace of activity, a faint smile suddenly appeared on their faces.

Screech!

A clear and resonantly long screech suddenly resounded across the skies at that moment. Instantly, all of the clamoring noises turned silent as thick surprise and joy radiated from the gazes that were showing regret earlier, and they looked towards the deep hole that did not have the slightest bit of activity.

At this instant, He Yao's face had also violently contorted.

The earth faintly trembled as a scorching heat wave rose from within the depths of the giant hole. In the next instant, everyone saw erupting black flames that blotted the skies. Within the black flames, a gigantic black bird rushed towards the sky as its shadow covered the earth.

Boom!

Across the horizon, the black flames erupted as the giant bird clad in black flames slowly flapped its giant wings. A pair of incomparably sharp eyes stared at the dumbfounded He Yao.

At this moment, the disparity of strength between the two could be seen with a single look.

“How's this possible...?” muttered He Yao as he looked towards the Nine Netherbird that seemed to not have a single trace of injury. That was his strongest attack. However, from the looks of it, it unexpectedly did not do much damage to Mu Chen!

As the black flames swept out, the gigantic body of the Nine Netherbird started to rapidly shrink. Under the shocked and astonished gazes of the people on the ground, it transformed into a thin figure.

After Mu Chen reappeared, his face seemed somewhat pale; however, his black eyes were still shining with consciousness. Compared to He Yao, his condition was much better. He Yao's previous attack truly

was incomparably tyrannical; however, he still underestimated the completely transformed Nine Netherbird, and Mu Chen, who had possessed such strong resilience and defensive capabilities.

The form of the Nine Netherbird truly was much more tyrannical than the body of a human.

“He Yao, you’ve celebrating too early. That isn’t a good thing to do.” said Mu Chen with a faint smile as he looked towards the extremely miserable He Yao.

“I don’t believe it! The current you is just spent force! Give me less of your pretentious appearance!” The capillaries in He Yao’s eyes bulged as he malevolently roared. In the next instant, he explosively shot towards Mu Chen.

Looking at the incoming He Yao, regardless of speed, attack, or strength, which had decreased too much, Mu Chen’s eyes turned emotionless. With a flick of his finger, a Spiritual Energy ray howled as it surged out, and heavily impacted the body of He Yao.

Bang!

He Yao instantly flew backwards, and miserably scraped the ground as he fell. Long cracks extended out from the location where he fell as he spurted a mouthful of blood.

At this instant, Mu Chen’s eyes turned frosty. Without the slightest shred of mercy, he flicked his finger once again, causing another Spiritual Energy ray to sweep out. Under the terror-filled eyes of He Yao, it violently impacted against his body.

Bang!

This stretch of earth trembled from the impact.

Whoosh!

A ray of light descended from the sky and encompassed He Yao within. With a whoosh, it sent him, who was already unable to move, out of the hunting grounds.

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Seeing He Yao disappearing into the distance, Mu Chen raised his head and deeply exhaled, while the paleness of his face turned increasingly thick.

This fight was not easy for him. However, fortunately, he had won in the end.

After He Yao was sent out, the region turned deathly silent as everyone cast their gazes towards the pale-faced youth. Within their eyes, a sliver of respect started to slowly erupt.

In the air, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton both started to smile.

Looks like the third slot had been won by Mu Chen, in the end.

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Chapter 322: Pressure

The astonishing battle that happened in the air finally had an ending, while the vast Spiritual Light platform had already collapsed and was destroyed at this point in time. The two deep holes had taken

up close to half of the surface of the platform, while the scary webs of cracks extending out caused them to look all the more chilling.

There was still a sea of humans that covered the mountains and the plains around the stone platform. However, the sea of humans was still in a quiet state, most likely still reminiscing the astonishing confrontation that happened in the air.

Countless gazes locked onto the figure of the youth standing in the air above them, with some having respect in their eyes. If Mu Chen had previously made people assume that he was just a Freshman; after this fight, it had truly made him into an influential figure of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

On the Heavenly Rankings, he was sufficiently capable of being placed within the top three ranks.

This kind of accomplishment made quite a few people sigh in amazement. One had to know that Mu Chen had entered the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy for, at most, half a year. However, the growth he had during this half-year had caused shock and astonishment to people.

Such an innate gift, such a monstrous talent.

“Mu Chen’s won!” Unconcealable joy and happiness erupted on Su Ling'er’s loveable face as she grabbed onto Su Xuan’s smooth wrist, while exclaiming out in excitement.

Beside her, both Li Qing and Guo Xiong had started to laugh while looking at the youth in the air with some complicated expressions in their eyes. They thought, *Ever since we returned two months ago, this fellow’s strength has already improved to such a level.*

Su Xuan had also shown a gentle smile as she cast her beautiful eyes, with a little peculiarity, at Mu Chen. Even she had never thought that Mu Chen would actually be able to defeat He Yao. After all, regardless of Mu Chen’s talent, He Yao was still a veteran amongst the influential characters at the apex of the academy.

“Looks like my third rank on the Heavenly Rankings will have to be given up...” muttered Su Xuan with a soft laugh. She did not have any unwillingness, since she did not have any particular care about it. If not for He Yao being too much of a bully, she might’ve even been too lazy to put up a fight.

In the distance, Wang Tong and the rest had also taken a deep breath of relief, before looking at the figure in the air, while smacking their lips. At this moment, the gazes they sent out had faint traces of change. When they had known that Mu Chen and Luo Li had slain that Spirit King, although they had some astonishment and admiration, it was still not as strong and intense as the feelings they got at this moment.

After all, He Yao was an influential figure at the apex within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Within the academy, the only people who could suppress him would be Shen Cangsheng or Li Xuanton.

However, there appeared a third person who could accomplish that; furthermore, he was a freshman.

The shock and astonishment that this brought forth far exceeded that of when Mu Chen had slain a Spirit King. Although, He Yao’s strength wasn’t any stronger than the Spirit King...

“Since Mu Chen has defeated He Yao, he will be awarded the third spot...” said An Ran suddenly.

Upon hearing this, the expressions of Wang Tong and the rest turned grave, as they casted their slightly fearful gazes at the majestic mountain summit that was encapsulated by clouds. On the peak of that mountain were the final protectors of this hunt.

They were the three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall.

They were strong existences that even the overlord of the Heavenly Rankings, Shen Cangsheng, had to show extreme dread. If they were unable to pass the checkpoint of the three Great Generals, all of the hard work that they had put in during the period of time in the hunting grounds would be all for naught.

At this time, Luo Li's clear eyes had also faintly contracted. She was very clear that those three held the strongest places within the entirety of the students. This represented a kind of glory, while at the same time, they also represented a gigantic pressure.

The hunt was something that was anticipated by all the students throughout the year. As well as putting in hard work, they were willing to endure the loneliness of bitter training. All of this was to astonish people within the hunt, and to obtain Spiritual Lights in the end, because the Spiritual Light Empowerment was what made people drool.

However, the three great protectors in front of them had become a giant mountain in front of all the students. They were unable to cross it, and could only entrust their hopes on the shoulders of Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuanton, as well as Mu Chen, who had just obtained the final spot.

Similarly, following this kind of anticipation, the pressure was also present. Seemingly, the anticipation felt by all of the students that had participated in this hunt had transformed into a kind of pressure, pressing down on the bodies of the three. If the three were able to obtain victory against the three great protectors in the end, they would obtain the prestige from all of the students in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, which would reach the apex. They would also gain true respect and gratefulness from all of them.

This was the glory that the victor should enjoy. However, what if they lose?

This anticipation would turn into disappointment. What kind of impact would that lead for everyone?

Luo Li gently clenched her jade-like hands as she stared at Mu Chen's figure with some graveness present in her eyes. The third spot wasn't something that was good to receive.

As Luo Li's gaze started to fluctuate, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton proceeded to descend from the sky, finally stopping beside Mu Chen. The both of them shot a peculiar look at the latter, sizing him up before saying with a smile, "Congratulations on defeating He Yao. However, we have to similarly inform you that the third spot had descended on your shoulders. I think that you should know what it represents. This isn't some terrific achievement."

Upon hearing their words, Mu Chen faintly hesitated before gently nodding his head. He naturally knew how gigantic the pressure was to possess this third spot. If he was defeated, he would gain too much disappointment from the students, and it would lead to all the efforts of everyone to go down the drain.

From the ground, Luo Li shot over and appeared beside Mu Chen. She shot a look at Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton with her beautiful eyes, without saying a single word.

Li Xuantong stared at Luo Li with a complicate gaze, before turning towards Mu Chen and said, "I think that you might still not understand the exact situation you're in. Shen Cangsheng and I had already investigated the three Great Generals. The both of us are able to resist two of them, with the final result being not a victory and not a defeat.."

Hearing his words, Mu Chen's eyes contracted. Not a victory and not a defeat. That meant that they would draw?

"According to the rules, we students have a slight advantage, which is to say that if we are able to achieve three draws, it would be our victory." Shen Cangsheng explained. With a slightly helpless smile, he continued, "That also means that Li Xuantong and I would be able to guarantee two draws. At the same time, with our two draws, the critical point would be the third fight."

A grave shadow surfaced on Mu Chen's handsome, yet pale, face, while Luo Li faintly knitted her eyebrows.

"If you are able to achieve a draw in the third fight, we would win. And, if you lose, we will all lose. The hunt this time would end here, and everyone would return with empty hands." Li Xuantong added indifferently.

Mu Chen's face changed faintly upon hearing that. In other words, what he meant to say was that the pressure that was originally on all three of their shoulders, had now been completely transferred onto Mu Chen's body. If he lost, he would have to endure the loss of all of their hopes. There might not be people who would criticise him. However, this kind of indescribable disappointment might lead to the collapse of one's self-confidence.

This kind of conclusion seemed to be even more miserable than losing to He Yao...

Losing to He Yao, he would still not be criticised by people; after all, it was a personal matter. However, if he lost at the final checkpoint, that would be equivalent to losing all the hopes and hard work of everyone.

This responsibility was somewhat too heavy.

Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong stared at the quiet Mu Chen. They had stopped their lecture, and quietly looked at him. This indescribable, yet tightly knotted atmosphere diffused out, before spreading throughout the entire stretch of the world.

On the ground, countless people looked towards the few figures that had converged in the air. They were faintly able to understand what they were talking about, and this caused the expression on many people's faces to turn grave. Bringing anticipation in their eyes, they cast their gazes towards the figures in the sky that would bear the weight of their hopes and dreams.

The fruits of bitter training they had endured would have to depend the performances of the few in the sky, who represent their greatest strength...

The loveable faces of Su Ling'er, Su Xuan and the rest had also turned grave. This spot seemed to be somewhat too heavy. Letting it drop on the shoulders of a youth that was still a Freshman was slightly too cruel.

Li Xuantong looked at Mu Chen awhile before faintly moving his gaze while saying, "If you feel that you're unable bear the responsibility of this spot, you can give it up. I think there should be no one that has the qualifications to say anything about it. After all, you're still a Freshman, as of now. There's no need to bear such stress and pressure."

At this moment, Shen Cangsheng had also smiled. The wind tussled at his scattered hair, before he patted Mu Chen's shoulder. With a disdainful look in his eye that did not have the slightest degree of reducing, he said, "There's no need for this much stress. What Li Xuantong said isn't wrong. I've almost forgotten that you're just a Freshman. If you feel that you don't have the assurance, giving up is the best choice. Worst come to worse, I'll have to put out a little more effort and put my all in my fight against Senior Lin Zheng. As if I'm scared of him."

Under this stifling silence propagating across the entire stretch of the world, Luo Li extended her tender and jade-like hand and gently held onto Mu Chen's palm. Looking at Mu Chen's forehead, which had faintly wrinkled, she gave a light smile.

Even though everyone will be disappointed, you'll always be the most dazzling in my eyes.

Mu Chen looked at Luo Li's exquisite face that was akin to porcelain, before faintly closing his eyes. The palm that held Luo Li's little hand gradually gripped tighter, before he suddenly opened his eyes.

His black pupils had changed back to its previous sharpness and brilliance, with the hesitation within already completely removed.

Raising his head, he cast his gaze towards the mountain peak that was covered in clouds. A smile rose from his handsome face as he spoke out in a gentle and soft voice, "Although I know that this will result in me bearing a lot of stress and pressure, giving up isn't my style. Furthermore, if I don't even have the courage to bear such pressure and stress, how will I be able to pursue the path to become the unrivalled expert?"

Saying those words, he turned his head towards the absolutely beautiful young girl with silver hair, and dressed in jet-black clothes. He had promised her that he would become an unrivalled expert and appear before her. He wanted to stand before her and completely shatter the pressure on her that was coming from all directions.

If he was unable to muster the courage to endure the pressure present now, how would he be able to continue along the path of an unrivalled expert?

Looking at the youth in front of them, whose imposing aura had started to rapidly rise with some astoundment, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong felt some astonishment. In the next moment, they could not resist and smiled as they thought, *This Mu Chen truly is more reliable than He Yao.*

Mu Chen gave a smile as his gaze condensed on the cloud-covered mountain peak. Faintly, he could slightly discern the three figures that were akin to demon gods. The pressure coming from them was akin to Mount Tai pressing down on him. However, the smile on his face grew increasingly thick.

"These two Seniors. Leave the third spot for me. Regardless of victory or defeat..."

Mu Chen's black eyes turned increasingly bright as he exclaimed with fervor,

“I’ll give my all!”

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Chapter 323: Last Battle

The sky became progressively dim: however, the majestic Spiritual Light Mountain became unusually lively. At this time, almost all of the students who had participated in the hunt had already rushed towards the place of the final battle.

Everyone knew that this was the most important issue, as of now, and did not continue collecting Spiritual Lights. They had to guarantee the smooth pass of the final checkpoint. Only by passing through the three final protectors would they be able to obtain the benefits of the Spiritual Light Empowerment.

According to the rules, there was only one chance to challenge the three great protectors. Therefore, if they were to lose, all of the people within this year’s hunt would return with empty hands, their year’s worth of hard work down the drain.

Being a fight of such a level, ordinary students were unable to get involved. Therefore, they could only cast their hopes on the three strongest people they knew.

Although they knew that this would create an exceeding amount of pressure on them, this was, after all, the only thing they could do.

On the small peak on the Spiritual Light Mountain, Mu Chen sat cross-legged on the edge of the cliff. Looking at the seemingly endless sea of humans, he noticed the thick apprehension and anticipation within all of their eyes.

The protectors this time were too strong. Even if Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were to collaborate, they knew that their chances of victory were still not high.

Rustle!

Soft footsteps rang out behind him, before Luo Li appeared beside Mu Chen. Taking a seat next to him, a faint smile appeared on her face as she asked, “Are you nervous?”

Hearing her question, Mu Chen helplessly shrugged his shoulders. If it concerned him, alone, he would naturally have a single fluctuation of his state of mind. However, the hundreds and thousands of people below him had cast all their hopes on his shoulders. If he were to say that he was not nervous, that would be lying.

Faintly panning his head over, he gazed at the absolutely beautiful face of the young girl, while a cherishing gaze erupted out from his eyes. He had only carried the weight of the students’ hopes. However, what about Luo Li?

She’ll become the queen of the Luo God Clan, and would carry the expectations of millions of citizens. She was their queen, and she would need to protect them.

Were he to lose, it would only result in everyone here losing a year of their bitter training. However, if she were to lose, the citizens of the Luo God Clan would be met with a cruel slaughter. The Luo God Clan would turn into a mountain of corpses and a sea of blood. That was the most bloody truth, and was something that cannot be changed.

Compared to the burden of Luo Li, his was truly not worth mentioning.

“Is it painful?” asked Mu Chen in a soft voice, extending his palm and gently caressing the young girl’s cheek.

Luo Li’s soft and lovable face curled up within Mu Chen’s bosom, as a peaceful smile surfaced on her absolutely beautiful face, gently shaking like a cicada.

Mu Chen tightly hugged the young girl in his bosom. He knew that Luo Li possessed an extremely supple and strong character. Even with such pressure on her supple shoulders that would cause normal people to collapse and crumple, she would still carry it quietly by herself. However, this made people feel even more pain in their hearts.

“Relax, I won’t lose.”

Burying his face into that delicately fragrant hair of hers, he muttered to her.

On another mountain peak, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton looked at the youth and the young girl snuggling together in the distance as the expression on their faces seemed somewhat different.

“I truly don’t know why the academy would increase the difficulty level of the final protector to such a high level this year.” Shen Cangsheng said while pursing his lips. If the difficulty was set similarly to the previous years, he would be able to deal with it sufficiently by himself. However, the difficulty level had risen multiple times this year.

The three Great Generals had come out. This was considered the first time such an occurrence happened in the past few years of the hunt.

“Only with stress would there be improvement. We can’t just let you reveal your might and prestige every year, right?” replied Li Xuanton casually.

“Wait till I finish the Spiritual Light Empowerment this time. It’s about time to settle things with that fellow, Mo Longzi.” said Shen Cangsheng with a laugh. While mentioning about Mo Longzi, a cold glint conspicuously appeared within his eyes.

“Is that fellow very strong?” asked Li Xuanton as his forehead faintly wrinkled. He hadn’t crossed hands with Mo Longzi before. However, since the latter was able to make Shen Cangsheng return with empty hands, he was obviously not someone easy to deal with.

“Yes.” Shen Cangsheng replied while nodding his head, then continued, “After all, he’s the genius nurtured wholeheartedly by the Demonic Dragon Palace. Furthermore, he’s also still not considered the strongest amongst the younger generation of the Demonic Dragon Palace. That Mo Xingtian is even more terrifying. In a duel, even I might not be his opponent.”

“Mo Xingtian.” muttering that name, Li Xuanton’s eyes contracted. That was an extremely vicious person, who was number 1 on the Bounty List. With regards to any Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy student, he represented an extreme amount of pressure.

“After this hunt, if you don’t have anything going on, you can become a team with me and head out of the academy. At that time, we can try to see if we can deal with Mo Longzi and Mo Xingtian.” Shen Cangsheng said with a smile as he extended his invitation out. Within the entire Northern Heavens

Spiritual Academy, the people who possessed the qualifications to let Shen Cangsheng extend his invitations weren't many.

Li Xuantong felt slightly emotional. However, in the next instant, he raised his head and looked towards the majestic mountain peak while saying, "We have to settle this problem in front of our eyes first. If we lose this Spiritual Light Empowerment, the plan to destroy and kill would have to be postponed for some time."

Shen Cangsheng nodded his head in approval, before turning his gaze towards the youth in the distance. For the final fight tomorrow, the pivotal key would be on Mu Chen.

The night grew dimmer as the morning radiance split the cloud layers apart, illuminating the world once again. Under the Spiritual Light Mountain, the atmosphere started to grow fiery, bit by bit, as countless scorching gazes looked towards the mountain peak.

Whoosh!

Whooshing sounds rang out in the air, before the crowd cast their scorching gazes towards the figures that appeared in the air, which were Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuantong, Mu Chen and Luo Li.

As Shen Cangsheng stood proudly in the air, he overlooked the sea of people on the ground, before slowly saying, "I think everyone should know about the final rule of the hunt. This fight is extreme, and concerns the personal benefits of every one of us. However, I'll have to remind you that the three of us don't have an obligation to bear this role. Therefore, regardless of the result, we three will not hold any responsibility. If the result is not desirable, at that time, whoever feels they can bear the role can just stand up, and we'll give the position to them."

Upon hearing his words, the entire stretch of the world turned deathly silent, as everyone quietly listened to him.

Mu Chen sent an appreciative smile towards Shen Cangsheng. Mu Chen knew that he did this to take precautions against the possibility of him losing. At that time, there would be many people who would criticise him in disappointment. Although the ending has yet to be known, Mu Chen felt very grateful towards Shen Cangsheng's intentions.

"Senior Brother Shen, please feel at ease. All of us won't take an inch and want a foot, and aren't discriminatory people. The three of you are the strongest amongst us. If even you three are defeated, we don't even have the qualifications to put up a contest. As for criticism, that is complete nonsense. I, Lu Hao, hereby say that even if we were to lose the final checkpoint, I'll absolutely respect the three of you, and would absolutely not feel resentment and indignation in my heart!" just as Shen Cangsheng's words rang out, a person from the crowd below immediately roared in reply.

"Yes!"

"We ask the three of you to try your best! Even if you three were to lose, there isn't anything worse than that!"

"Senior Brothers Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuantong and Junior Brother Mu Chen, good luck! Even if we lose, you three are the most formidable!" the clear and resonant voices of young girls caused many echos of agreement.

Mu Chen looked towards sea of people, whose spirits were continuously on the rise and gave a faint smile. Looking towards Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton, he said, "Seeing this, looks that there's no way for us to lose."

"It's good enough if you try your best."

Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton both gave a smile. Raising their heads towards the majestic Spiritual Light mountain, Shen Cangsheng said, "Let's go and take a look at exactly what areas the three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall are standing at."

As the said those words, he immediately shot forward. Transforming into a streak of light, he rushed towards the peak of the majestic mountain summit. Mu Chen, Li Xuanton and Luo Li immediately followed closely behind him, with the sea of students similarly exploding forth. Covering the earth and hiding the sky, they swept towards the mountain peak akin to a swarm of locusts.

This spectacle, was exceedingly spectacular.

.....

As everyone within the hunting grounds headed towards the mountain peak, within the northern public square of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy disturbances started to occur. At this moment, the atmosphere was considered to have reached its peak within this half a month.

Within the public square, countless scorching gazes converged towards the sky. Presently, there was a gigantic light screen, where clouds were shown within it. At this moment, they had started to become faint as the majestic mountain peak became faintly discernable as it started to appear.

This change made everyone understand that the final fight of the hunt had already arrived.

Exactly whether everyone would return empty-handed or having a rewarding journey would depend on this fight that would astonish the heavens and the earth.

However, who exactly were the three strongest people that would represent all of the contestants? There naturally wasn't any need to talk about Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton. However, will the third person be a veteran influential figure, or a dark horse that had popped out of nowhere?

Everyone was holding their breath in anticipation of this.

Gazes converged towards the surface of the gigantic light screen. As the layers of clouds retreated, the scene present within finally became completely clear.

The giant peak stood erect on the summit of the majestic Spiritual Light Mountain. Akin to pillars that supported the sky, they pierced straight through the clouds.

On the top of those three giant peaks, three figures quietly sat on the edge of the cliffs. As the mountain winds blew past, causing their clothes to flutter, an indescribable oppression started to quietly appear, enveloping the entire stretch of the world. Even the students outside of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy were able to feel some pressure.

"Those are the three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall? Such astonishing and imposing auras!"

“Their undoubtedly the top three on the Heavenly Rankings. I’m afraid that they might all possess the strength of Heavenly Completion Stage? That’s truly terrifying.”

“This final check truly is too difficult. With the three Great Generals protecting the pass, even with Senior Brother Shen and the rest, it would be difficult to pass through.”

“.....”

The faces of countless students changed as they looked, with some respect, at the three statue-like figures sitting on the top of the mountain within the light screen. Anticipation could be faintly discernable from their eyes as they awaited the incoming fight, while thinking, *That should be the highest level within our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy right?* This truly made people feel anticipation.

While everyone was waiting in anticipation, they were able to hear hurried whooshing sounds ringing out from within the gigantic light screen. They turned their attention over, only to see figures that hid the skies and covered the earth rushing forth through the lingering clouds akin to a swarm of locusts. Finally, floating in the air surrounding the mountain peak, the dense and numerous sea of humans seemingly had no end.

“They’ve finally arrived!” quite a few people could hardly restrain their excitement as they hurriedly looked over.

Under the attention of countless gazes, the sea of humans within the light screen rippled as three figures slowly swept across the gazes of the large crowd.

The front two of them were not unexpected, which were predictably Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton. After a split second of resting on them, all of the gazes turned towards the last thin figure.

As their gazes converged on the figure, the atmosphere within the northern public square seemed to have suddenly turned sluggish, since the mouths of countless people slowly dropped open.

“That’s...”

Ye Qingling and the rest had opened their eyes wide as they looked towards the familiar figure, while thick disbelief erupted from within their eyes.

“Actually Mu Chen!”

At this instant, the entire northern public square was completely shaken.

The Great Ruler

Chapter 324: Three Great General

At the peak of Spiritual Light Mountain, covered with lingering clouds, the three giant peaks, akin to pillars that propped the sky up, pierced through the clouds. As of now, however, a dense and numerous amount of figures had surfaced in the air surrounding them. With a glance, one can almost not find an end to the present crowd.

All of the students that had participated in the hunt converged there, waiting for the incoming final fight.

At this moment, gazes were sent towards the summit of the three great peaks, where three figures were quietly sitting. While the mountain winds were blowing at their clothing, their eyes were open, without even the slightest trace of change, due to the gathering of countless students. Even their breathing was calm and tranquil, without the slightest bit of disturbance.

All of the students were staring at the three figures with thick respect shown within their eyes. The three people in their sights should be the final protectors of this hunt.

They were the previous top three ranks of the Heavenly Rankings, and were now the three Great Generals of the Punishment Hall.

In the surroundings of the mountain peak, the clouds fluttered around as the sea of humans pervaded the air. However, what's strange was that there wasn't any clamoring and arguing noises present. Everyone was able to feel a faint pressure radiating from the bodies of the three figures on the top of the mountain peak. Enveloping the entire stretch of the world, it caused them to feel as if their heads were being weighed down.

Within the silence that blotted the sky, three figures slowly walked out, before stopping in the air a thousands metres away from the 3 giant peaks.

Regardless of the surroundings of Spiritual Light Mountain or the northern public square, everyone's gazes had converged onto the bodies of those three figures. Within those gazes, there was anticipation, apprehension, doubt...

However, regardless of that, those three figures, as of now, had undoubtedly become the focus of everyone's attention.

At the instant when they walked out, the three figures that were sitting on the giant peaks slowly opened their tightly closed eyes.

Bang!

The Spiritual Energy of the world seemed to have erupted and explosively swept out at this instant. Intense booming and rumbling sounds could be faintly discernable as they resounded across the world.

"Shen Cangsheng, you've finally arrived." at the middle giant peak, a male gave a faint smile as his tranquil voice slowly rang out. However, this made the hearts of countless people subsequently throb as a pressure enveloped over them.

"Haha, I've let Senior Brother Lin Zheng wait for a long time." Coming to a stop in front of the male. Shen Cangsheng cupped his hands and sent his greetings, while his eyes made a faint contraction that was unnoticeable.

That's Lin Zheng of the three Great Generals? Mu Chen thought while sending his gaze over, only to see a male dressed in a black outfit. He had a head full of white hair. Instead of a pale white, it radiated with a silvery shadow, with light circulating through it, making it seem mysterious.

At this time, he had already acquired some information about the three Great Generals. This Lin Zheng was said to be the person with the highest strength amongst the three Great Generals.

"Undoubtedly the previous number one on the Heavenly Rankings."

Mu Chen's expression slowly turned dignified, as he was able to sense a strong pressure radiating from within Lin Zheng's body. That sort of feeling was akin to a mountain range appearing above someone's head, causing people to be unable to catch their breath.

This Lin Zheng must have already stepped into the Heavenly Completion Stage. Furthermore, he might not be only at the Heavenly Completion Initial Stage...

Heavenly Completion Stage, that's the final step before Sovereign Stage. If Sovereign Stage experts were able to become a Regional Lord in a continent, then Heavenly Completion Stage experts could be considered as Regional Tyrants.

Since Lin Zheng was able to achieve a strength of Heavenly Completion Stage at such an age, that was sufficient to indicate his possession of astonishing talent...

"There's nothing that could be said for the long wait. However, since it's the final fight, we'll not throw it." A voice rang out from the giant peak on the right of Lin Zheng. Looking over, Mu Chen spotted a male dressed in red. His hair was scarlet red, akin to a burning flame. Around him, the air showed faint traces of distortion, as if created by a high temperature.

"That's Gu Tianyan, your opponent this time," muttered Li Xuanton to Mu Chen in a low voice.

Upon hearing those words, Mu Chen's eyes instantly contracted as he gravely stared at the red-haired male. The Spiritual Energy of the world around the latter seemed to be exceedingly erratic, as if it was a patch of the burning sea of flames.

This pressure coming from Gu Tianyan was not as strong as Lin Zheng's; however, it still caused a dangerous flavor to coarse through Mu Chen's body. Mu Chen knew that there would not be a single one amongst the three Great Generals that were easy to be dealt with.

"Gu Tianyan's strength should be around Heavenly Completion Initial Stage. The divine art he trains in is called the Heavenly Inflammation Divine Art. This makes his Spiritual Energy akin to heavenly flames, which are overbearing and burn with a furious intensity. Any action he makes is enough to burn and incinerate cities and mountains." Li Xuanton tried his best to give more information to Mu Chen, in an effort to allow him to muster a better response.

Mu Chen nodded his head as he thought, *Heavenly Completion Initial Stage is exceedingly strong*. This was not something that He Yao, with his half-step into the Heavenly Completion Stage, could compare to. If He Yao was allowed to cross hands with Gu Tianyan, Mu Chen could definitely confirm that He Yao would be defeated extremely miserably within five rounds.

Furthermore, Gu Tianyan's Spiritual Energy was somewhat different from the norm. Mu Chen wondered, *Compared to my Spiritual Energy that is fused with the Nine Nether Flames, exactly which one is more overbearing?*

Mu Chen stared at Gu Tianyan for a while, before looking at the leftmost giant peak. Right there, similarly, was a sitting man. This person had a head full of black hair, with a rather handsome face. Faintly smiling at the crowd, he did not show any intent to speak.

Compared to Lin Zheng and Gu Tianyan, this person clearly appeared to not want to attract too much attention. However, Mu Chen knew that if anyone underestimated him, the only thing they could say was that their heads got muddled.

“Is that Senior Brother Zhou Qing? Who’s also your opponent this time?” Mu Chen looked towards Li Xuantong and asked.

Li Xuantong turned his gaze towards the black-haired male, faintly nodded his head, then replied, “It’s said that during that year, Senior Brother Zhou Qing had a nickname within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, he was called ‘Undefeatable Mountain’...”

“Undefeatable Mountain?” Mu Chen muttered in startlement.

“The meaning is that when he fought with people, he would basically not lose.” Li Xuantong replied with a smile.

“Then why did the 1st rank in the Heavenly Rankings still belong to Senior Brother Lin Zheng?” Mu Chen asked with some doubt.

“I never said that he won.” Li Xuantong replied with a smile, as he abstrusely looked at the faintly smiling black-haired male sitting on the giant peak in the distance, before continuing, “A large majority of his fights resulted with no victories and no losses. The main reason was due to his special intentions; however, there were also other reasons.”

“The divine art he trains in is named the Undefeatable Divine Art. It sounds absolutely overbearing; however, it is an extremely gentle divine art. There isn’t any overly intense attacking moves within it, and the majority is focusing on dealing with people, before finally causing the opponent’s Spiritual Energy to be completely wasted...”

“Therefore, within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, the large majority of the people he crossed hands with would end with a draw. Therefore, other people have given him the nickname of ‘Undefeatable Mountain’.”

Hearing the explanation, Mu Chen was astonished. This so-called ‘Undefeatable Divine Art’ was unexpectedly that special and unique. However, it was very clear that, at certain times, not being defeated and not having a victory was, from some sense, already a very frightening achievement.

Zhou Qingshan, naturally, could not be overly vicious when crossing hands with the people in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. However, if he were to truly have killing intent, even that gentle divine art might reveal its malevolent side.

These three Great Generals. None of them were simple...

While Mu Chen and Li Xuantong were talking in low voices, Shen Cangsheng cupped his hands and sent a smile towards Gu Tianyan, before saying, “A victory gained by the other’s throwing is something that I also cannot stand to see. How should the later fight be fought?”

“Undeniably, you are the current 1st Rank on the Heavenly Rankings. Your courage isn’t small.” replied Gu Tianyan with a smile, while his scarlet hair appeared to be like burning flames. It could be seen that he treats Shen Cangsheng with extreme regard. The latter’s strength was something that even made

him feel dread. This made him unable to help secretly sighing in exclamation. This batch of students in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy this time seemed more formidable than theirs.

Lin Zheng made a gesture with his hands, before standing up and saying, "We've already waited here for so long. Shen Cangsheng, you three should already come up. Only by passing through us will all the students that have participated in the hunt be able to obtain the Spiritual Light Empowerment, if not..."

Before completing his words, the intent within was something everyone understood. In the next instant, Shen Cangsheng tightly clenched his fist as anticipation and nervousness erupted within his eyes.

"I invite Senior Brother Lin Zheng to bestow his guidance."

Shen Cangsheng spoke out with a large laugh, with the laughing voice filled with a powerful and free intent that showed his disdain. Clenching his palm, golden light condensed, transforming into a golden-coloured divine spear. The tip of the spear was akin to a folded lotus. Golden light circulated and radiated from it, showing off its boundless Spiritual Energy that was contained within.

Shen Cangsheng gripped the golden spear in his hands. With a move of his body, he appeared on the giant peak that Lin Zheng was on. Heavily impaling his golden spear onto the ground, a shock wave swept out, causing the surface of the summit of the mountain peak to be instantly swept clean.

The moment Shen Cangsheng moved out, he had intercepted the strongest of the three Great Generals, Lin Zheng. This did not exceed the expectations of the crowd. Being the previous 1st Rank of the Heavenly Rankings, only the current 1st Rank of the Heavenly Ranking could contend with him.

Upon seeing this, Li Xuanton patted Mu Chen's shoulders. In the next instant, his body moved, and appeared on the giant peak Zhou Qingshan was on. Cupping his hands and sending his greetings, he said, "Senior Brother Zhou Qingshan, this time, let me be your opponent. The Undefeatable Divine Art is something that I've also wanted to ask guidance from."

Zhou Qingshan continued to maintain his gentleness and gave a smile. Without saying any words, he only nodded his head. His hands faintly hung down from his body, while a warm and affable expression appeared on his handsome face.

Following the successive movements of Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton, all of the gazes in the stretch of the world instantly shot towards Mu Chen, who was still standing in the air. At this moment, faint startlement and surprise appeared within the eyes of Lin Zheng, Zhou Qingshan and Gu Tianyan.

"Don't tell me that you're letting him come up for the third slot?"

Gu Tianyan said while faintly wrinkling his forehead. Looking at Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton in the distance, he asked, "Your batch of students should not be weak to such an extent, right? Can a Heavenly Transformation Initial Stage be a representation of your strongest?"

He did not mean to look down on Mu Chen, but this was just an elaboration of the facts. After all, a youth at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase had appeared here, and this was not something that was rational.

"Senior Gu Tianyan, he'll show you something unexpected." facing Gu Tianyan's doubts, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton simultaneously smiled, by chance, before replying to him.

“Oh, really? That truly makes me want to see it.” Gu Tianyan said while raising his eyebrows. He was, similarly, not an idiot. Since even Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had spoken out, that meant to say that the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase youth in front of him should have some methods of his own. If not, those two would definitely not let the latter carry such an important burden.

Facing the doubtful gaze of Gu Tianyan, Mu Chen took a deep breath. The expression within his eyes gradually turned dignified and grave as his body slowly fluttered towards the giant peak the former was at.

Regardless of the surroundings at Spiritual Light Mountain or the northern public square, both had quietened down at this instant. Countless gazes anxiously stared at Mu Chen. Of the three fights, the one he would be in would be the most unbalanced.

Disregarding the gazes that hid the sky and covered the earth, Mu Chen tightly stared at Gu Tianyan. Slowly cupping his hands, a low and deep voice that contained not a single trace of fear resounded across the sky.

“Senior Brother Gu, Freshmen Mu Chen of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy seeks your guidance!”

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 325: Battling Gu Tianyan

“Freshman Mu Chen...”

When Mu Chen’s deep and calm voice rang across the majestic mountain peak, the expressions on Lin Zheng, Zhou Qingshan and Gu Tianyan’s faces all froze as a peculiar shadow appeared within their eyes. They never imagined that the youth in front of them was just a Freshman.

However, it was such a Freshman that had finally distinguished himself above the rest in this hunt, and had even become the representation of the strongest within the students. This kind of matter made Gu Tianyan feel truly incredulous. While the three Great Generals were still students, Freshmen didn’t even have the qualifications of participating in the hunts, even so much so as becoming the representation of strength...

“Your batch of students are also truly interesting.”

Lin Zheng shook his head, before staring at Shen Cangsheng in front of him, whose imposing manner was astonishing, and wasn’t the slightest bit weaker than himself. Speaking to him, Lin Zheng said, “However, I hope he’s truly something, If not, we’ll presume that your batch of students are truly not worthy of respect.”

“Haha!” Gripping the golden-coloured spear in his hands, Shen Cangsheng laughed heroically, before replying, “Senior brother Lin Zheng, please feel relaxed. Our batch of students will definitely win, no matter what!”

“Oh, really?”

Lin Zheng said with a smile, before taking a step forward. Boundless Spiritual Energy instantly swept out, bringing a surging pressure with it. At this instant, the clouds lingering in the sky were immediately scattered by the pressure wave that was sweeping out.

Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase.

Lin Zheng did not have the slightest intent of restraint. Taking a step forward, he had completely revealed his full strength.

Feeling the strong Spiritual Energy pressure radiating out, the faces of the countless students in the surroundings of the Spiritual Light Mountain had faintly changed as they thought, *This Senior Brother Lin Zheng is too strong. If he was placed among us students, the only person who could chat and laugh in front of him might only be Shen Cangsheng.*

“Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase. Undeniably, you’re the previous 1st Rank on the Heavenly Rankings.” a ripple seemed to spread out from within Shen Cangsheng’s eyes as a scorching intent slowly erupted from within. Grabbing his golden spear tightly, he furiously stomped his feet.

Bang!

At that very instant, the earth seemed to intensely quake, as a similar boundless Spiritual Energy furiously swept out with Shen Cangsheng in the centre.

Golden-coloured Spiritual Energy illuminated the horizon, completely resisting the Spiritual Energy pressure radiating from within Lin Zheng’s body.

Shen Cangsheng’s strength had similarly reached Heavenly Completion Middle Stage, it was not the slightest bit weaker than Lin Zheng!

“He’s too awesome!” countless students exclaimed excitedly in admiration, as unconcealable worship showed within their eyes. Although the two were of a similar level, Shen Cangsheng was, after all, younger than Lin Zheng. However, his power was not weaker than Lin Zheng. In the competition, it was clear that Shen Cangsheng had gotten the upper hand. If he were to reach the same age as Lin Zheng, he would definitely far exceed the current Lin Zheng.

The Overlord of the Heavenly Rankings sure deserved his title.

“No bad.”

Facing the Shen Cangsheng in front of him, even Lin Zheng had faintly nodded his head in approval, with admiration even showing in his eyes. He had a lot of sentiment towards the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Being able to see his Junior Brothers exceeding him, other than sighing in lamentation, he felt exceedingly gratified.

As of now, Shen Cangsheng’s strength was worthy to be treated seriously.

While Lin Zheng and Shen Cangsheng were locked in a confrontation, Li Xuanton and Zhou Qingshan had also exhibited their strongest might. The degree of Spiritual Energy of the two was slightly inferior than the former two; however, it had also reached the degree of Heavenly Completion Initial Stage, When the two boundless Spiritual Energies radiating from the latter two collided, peals of thunder seemed to form and ring out.

The opponents for these two fights were exceptionally similar to each other. Furthermore, all of them clearly possessed abundant combat experience. Added with their various skills and techniques, wanting to quickly find the victor was clearly not an easy matter.

Therefore, countless gazes started to turn and landed on the giant peak where the third fight was. Over there were the two people with the greatest disparity in strength. Of the three fights, it was clearly the place where the difference was easiest to determine

“Looks like you’ve become the most critical key.”

Gu Tianyan retracted his gaze from the other two fights in the distance and looked towards Mu Chen. With his capabilities, he was naturally able to see that the people in the two fights were of similar strength. If they continued like that, the result would most likely be a draw. And if they were both to draw, their fight over here would be the critical point to determine victory or defeat.

If Mu Chen won, all of the students would be able to smoothly pass through this hunt. If he were to lose, the result would be self-evident that everyone would leave with empty hands.

Mu Chen pursed his lips as the expression in his eyes turned dignified; however, he did not reply to Gu Tianyan.

“Although your strength doesn’t seem to be strong, your courage isn't small. This placement isn’t something that ordinary people would dare to accept.” Gu Tianyan said indifferently. He was once a student, and had also participated in the hunts, and was even the strongest student representative in that batch. Therefore, he was very clear of how much pressure that place gave. With that kind of strength, Mu Chen was still able to stand up. This kind of pressure was exceptional.

It was this point that made Mu Chen feel rather pleasing to Gu Tianyan’s eyes.

“Although this place is very stressful, someone has to stand up.” Mu Chen replied in a soft voice.

Hearing his reply, Gu Tianyan nodded his head before retreating two steps. Inserting his hands into his sleeves, his fiery-red hair was blown by the mountain winds till they resembled flames fluttering and dancing. He slowly spoke out, “ Looking at your courage, I’ll let you make the first move.”

After all, Gu Tianyan had arrogance in his blood, with his strength far outclassing Mu Chen. He was also older; therefore, he felt it was not worth his dignity to get the first attack off.

“Then, I’ll thank Senior Brother Gu.”

Mu Chen was not stupid to let go of this kind of opportunity. As of now, he was the inferior side. If he was unable to guarantee even this kind of opportunity, even Gu Tianyan might shake his head towards him.

An unreasonable person was not worthy of high regards to him.

Gu Tianyan faintly nodded his head. Obviously, Mu Chen’s decisiveness made him feel rather satisfied. If he continued to force his way in a fight, that would simply be taking everyone’s hard work and making a joke out of it.

Mu Chen took a deep breath, Without saying any more words, his body fluttered back as he retreated. In the next instant, he sat down high in the air, as his eyes slowly started to close.

Upon seeing this, Gu Tianyan was faintly startled, before a peculiar expression erupted from his eyes. This was due to him noticing Spiritual Seals starting to condense around Mu Chen's body.

"So he's a Spiritual Array Master..." Gu Tianyan understood in a flash, before an interested expression erupted from his eyes.

Mu Chen's mental state had already calmed down. He blocked all of the disturbances coming from the outside world as his mental state sunk down, trying hard to find the miraculous feeling he had felt when he touched the "Heart Eye" state.

Facing an opponent on the level as Gu Tianyan, he simply did not the slightest chance of winning, as he did not have the qualifications to drag the fight on. He had to use his genuine method the moment he took action; if not, he would not have the slightest chance of success.

Arranging a Rank 5 Spiritual Array was obviously one of the strongest methods Mu Chen had in his arsenal.

As of now, Mu Chen was a Rank 4 Spiritual Array Master. Wanting to successfully arrange a Rank 5 Spiritual Array, he had to rely on the "Heart Eye" state. However, as of now, Mu Chen simply had no guarantees in entering this state, and could occasionally touch it. Thus, the current him could only work hard in order to feel that miraculous feeling once again, and rely on it to enter the "Heart Eye" State.

Mu Chen had completely calmed down as Spiritual Seals continued to condense around his body. However, he did not have the intention of bringing this a step higher. This pace that was not hurried or rush continued to spread out.

Countless gazes were already converged on Mu Chen's body. Even on the northern public square, everyone had trained their eyes tightly onto him. All of them wanted to know exactly what Mu Chen wanted to use to contend against Gu Tianyan, whose strength was at the Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase.

On the podium in the northern public square, a few elders started to narrow their eyes as they looked at the gigantic light screen in the sky that was showing the fights of the Heavenly Completion Stages. This was already enough to spark interest in them.

"Oh?"

The eyes of Dean Tai Cang, which were as deep as the starry sky, suddenly had faint fluctuations as he looked with some astonishment at the figure of Mu Chen in the light screen. Beside him, a number of white-haired Elders started to make startled noises.

"These fluctuations..." the eyes of a white-haired Elder lit up a bit, before saying with a gentle smile, "Interesting. This Mu Chen seems to have a high talent in his training in Spiritual Arrays. He's actually able to reach the initial contact with the Heart Eye State. Not simple..."

As the voice of the white-haired Elder rang out, on the giant peak, the Spiritual Energy fluctuations around Mu Chen's body suddenly erupted out. The Spiritual Seals that were already formed shattered in an instant, before condensing again at an astonishing speed.

The number of Spiritual Seals had also explosively increased multiple times. In a short span of a number of breaths, it had exceeded over two hundred!

"Rank 5 Spiritual Array?" countless people involuntarily cried out in shock. Only when arranging a Rank 5 Spiritual Array would one need so many Spiritual Seals.

The expression on Gu Tianyan's face changed as he stared, with some astonishment, at Mu Chen. He never thought that the latter would actually be able to arrange a Rank 5 Spiritual Array. He thought, *This Mu Chen truly has some capabilities. No wonder why he would be able to allocated the third strongest representative spot.*

"Huuu!"

Around Mu Chen's body, hundreds of Spiritual Seals rushed towards the sky, before rapidly assimilating into the air. Instantly, the Spiritual Energy of the world erupted out. As Spiritual Energy swept out like gales, they took a form across the horizon.

Incomparably complicated rays of Spiritual Energy rapidly formed an outline. In the next moment, they had formed an incomparably large Spiritual Energy light array that was faintly discernable in the sky, while tyrannical Spiritual Energy fluctuations gushed out.

As the light array enveloped the horizon akin to two black lotuses, it slowly revolved, radiating with astonishing pressure.

At this moment, Mu Chen opened his eyes and looked at the formed Spiritual Array, before deeply exhaling in relief. Although the time he took was somewhat long, he was fortunately able to successfully arrange it.

"Not bad. Never would've imagined that you're capable of arranging a Rank 5 Spiritual Array..."

At this time, Gu Tianyan had slowly spoke. Raising his head to look at the incomparably large Spiritual Array, he faintly smiled while saying, "So, this is your method?"

Upon hearing his words, Mu Chen gave a faint smile. With a clench of his palm, a metallic ball, covered in rust spots, appeared in a flash. With a flick of his finger, the metallic ball shot out. Rays of Spiritual Energy that hid the skies and covered the earth erupted out. Under the shocked gazes of countless people, it rapidly took shape.

The Spiritual Energy fluctuations coming from it were not any weaker than the Rank 5 Spiritual Array that Mu Chen had just successfully arranged!

That means that this Spiritual Array was a Rank 5 Spiritual Array!

Mu Chen had, unexpectedly, thrown out two Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays at once!

As Gu Tianyan gazed at the gigantic objects in the sky, the tranquil expression on his face finally started to become grave, bit by bit.

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 326: Twin Spiritual Array!

The gigantic light array slowly rotated in the air. The frightening Spiritual Energy fluctuations radiating out from it had condensed together, causing incomparable erratic Spiritual Energy hurricanes to billow out, and even caused some distortions to appear in the sky.

When the two Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays appeared at the same time, their might was considerably astonishing.

With a trace of shock, countless people looked at the spectacle before them. Although they were able to guess that Mu Chen had some hidden tricks up his sleeves, they never expected that he would actually conjure two Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays at once...

If these two Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays were to be released, even Gu Tianyan might not dare to show the slightest bit of disdain, right?

The gazes of the countless students that participated in the hunt were turning scorching, but were not ignited with the flames of hope. Of the three fights, they were able to see that Mu Chen's one was the most important, and was even the most critical one of them.

If Mu Chen was able to fight to a draw, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton would definitely give their utmost to ensure that the final result would be a draw. That way, the students would still achieve the final victory.

At the other two giant peaks, both parties that were releasing their full might had also noticed this situation. Sensing this, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton's tensed bodies faintly relaxed by some degree. They were also worried about Mu Chen. However, seeing the spectacle before them, they knew that the latter really did leave some tricks up his sleeves.

As for Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan, both of them were slightly startled as they thought, *No wonder why Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were willing to allow a Freshman, whose strength was only at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase, to come up and fight. So, this Freshman isn't that simple after all.*

Looks like the fight this time was truly interesting.

"Two Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays..."

Gu Tianyan had also raised his head and gazed towards the two enormous objects in the sky. The Spiritual Energy pressure sweeping out of them had made his clothes violently flap. His fiery-red hair fluttered about, and his expression finally turned dignified and grave.

"Being able to cause so much activity with your strength at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase... You're truly incredible." said Gu Tianyan slowly.

"I just managed to pull a fast one. If this was a life or death battle, I might not have that long of a time to arrange my Spiritual Arrays." replied Mu Chen while shaking his head. With his current strength, arranging a Rank 5 Spiritual Array was still, somewhat, difficult. Furthermore, his success rate was not a

hundred percent. If he was unable to make contact with the Heart Eye state, he might not have been able to achieve this step.

As for the Spiritual Array Seed, that was completely relying on foreign objects. That treasure was something that Mu Chen had used to scare people. However, as of now, he had no choice but to use it.

After all, Mu Chen felt that he was not able to defeat Gu Tianyan using a single Rank 5 Spiritual Array.

“The result is more important than the process. The so-called ‘fast one’. That also depends on whether you’re capable of achieving it in the first place.” Gu Tianyan said with a faint smile. A scarlet shadow seemed to be erupting, bit by bit, from within his eyes. In the next instant, his hands started to slowly spread out. Akin to flames, scarlet-red Spiritual Energy furiously erupted from within his body.

At this instant, the temperature of this stretch of the world seemed to rise, while the ground he was standing on turned unusually dry and parched.

“Make your move. Let me see exactly how strong the might of your two Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays are!” as scarlet-red Spiritual Energy enveloped Gu Tianyan, akin to flames, his indifferent laughing voice resounded.

Taking a deep breath, Mu Chen gently nodded his head. Without saying any more nonsense, he raised his head and gazed towards the two gigantic Spiritual Arrays in the sky.

Other than the Demonic Lotus Spiritual Array, the Spiritual Array that was arranged by the Spiritual Array Seed was called the “Mysterious Yin Spiritual Array.” It was also a Rank 5 Spiritual Array. However, according to Mu Chen’s estimates, this “Mysterious Yin Spiritual Array” could only be considered as an Initial ranked one among the Rank 5 arrays. That meant that it could only achieve the prestige similar to a Heavenly Completion Initial Stage.

If the two Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays were to simultaneously erupt, they should be able to deal with Gu Tianyan, right?

As Mu Chen’s eyes sparkled, he no longer had any more hesitation. His hands instantly came together to form a hand seal, causing the two Spirit Arrays to be activated.

Boom! Rumble!

Following Mu Chen’s activation, the two gigantic Spiritual Arrays instantly started to revolve as astonishing Spiritual Energies radiated from them.

As the two gigantic black lotuses revolved, their black petals started to fold up. At their centre, a black light, which had been compressed and compressed to the extreme point where they took shape, gushed out. At the place where they collided, a glowing lotus, approximately 3 metres high, took shape and appeared. The size of this glowing lotus was not small. It pulsed akin to the beating of a heart. While it was pulsating, terrifying fluctuations started to radiate from it.

Crackle! Crackle!

At the other side, the “Mysterious Yin Spiritual Array” had also erupted, causing the chilling air from the world to condense. In the next instant, it formed a black-coloured stream in the middle of the Spiritual

Array. The stream splashed as it flowed, causing an extremely chilling air to radiate out. At this moment, even the air was frozen solid by the flowing stream.

Due to the glowing lotus that was pulsing like a beating heart, and the black-coloured water stream, the world became cold and gloomy.

“Interesting.”

Flames erupted within Gu Tianyan as he slowly clenched his hands.

“Senior Brother Gu, please!”

In the sky, with a dignified expression on his face, Mu Chen extended his thin finger and gave the air a tap. As his fingertip descended, ripples seemed to spread out from the space.

Boom!

At the place where the fingertip had tapped down, the pulsing glowing lotus shot over. Akin to a giant black python, the black-coloured stream also shot over, with the extremely cold air contained within causing even the air to get frozen.

Swish! Swish!

The two astonishing attacks streaked across the horizon, akin to lightning. Before the countless anxious gazes, they violently rushed towards Gu Tianyan down below.

The hearts of everyone watching skipped a beat.

Regardless of the surroundings of the Spiritual Light Mountain or the northern public square, everyone had opened their eyes wide and clenched their fists.

Under the attentive gazes of countless people, Gu Tianyan’s face had turned exceedingly grave. Looking at the two terrifying attacks sweeping towards him, he suddenly brought his hands together. Scarlet-red Spiritual Energy instantly erupted out, akin to an inferno.

“Heavenly Inflammation Divine Art - Flaming Dragon’s Protection!”

Following the deep voice that rang out from Gu Tianyan, boundless Spiritual Energy frantically condensed. As an astonishing dragon roar rang out, the Spiritual Energy transformed into a vivid and lifelike flaming dragon. Giving a long roar, it occupied the space below Gu Tianyan, its gigantic body sparkling with an indestructible radiance.

“He had actually used his strongest defense...”

Upon seeing this, the eyes of both Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan faintly contracted. They thought, *Looks like even Gu Tianyan is feeling some pressure. He immediately utilized his strongest defense upon making a move.*

Roar!

As the flaming dragon took sat down, two streaks of light were already howling over. Without the slightest bit of hesitation, they violently impacted against it without a single shred of mercy.

Bang!

At the instant of impact, a muffled sound that made everyone's hearts tremble rang out. In the next instant, everyone saw a gigantic Spiritual shock wave, a thousand metres high, sweeping out as cracks rapidly extended from the point of impact.

Looking at the shock wave sweeping out, Mu Chen immediately exhibited the Soaring Dragon Technique that he had prepared beforehand. As the dragon's shadow appeared, with a flash, he appeared thousands of metres away, evading the incoming blast.

After evading the shock wave, Mu Chen looked towards the giant peak with incomparable graveness showing in his eyes. He did not know exactly what result the attack that he had sent out would have.

He hoped that it would have some effect; after all, he was unable to arrange such an attack again. He was also not able to find the second Spiritual Array Seed for his use.

It was not only him who had such a thought. Countless gazes tightly locked onto the dust-filled area as everyone tightly clenched their fists. It was already not easy for Mu Chen to reach such a step. If this fight was able to end here, that would be a monumentally good thing for them.

On the other two giant peaks, both Shen Cangsheng, and Li Xuanton remained quiet without making any move. Clearly, they were all waiting for the result of Mu Chen's fight.

If Mu Chen was able to achieve a draw, as everyone hoped, it would be infinitely easier for them. If he had carelessly gave up a lost, either one of them might need to be prepared to pay a very high price.

Obviously, that was not the scenario they wanted to see.

Under the convergence of countless gazes, the dust on the giant peak finally started to slowly clear away. Following the dissipation of the dust, a figure gradually become clearer and clearer.

Gu Tianyan was still standing on the giant peak.

The hearts of countless people had seemingly turned cold at this moment as they stared astringently at the male standing on the giant peak, whose scarlet-red hair was akin to flames dancing in the wind.

Gu Tianyan was actually successful in receiving the attacks from two Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays!

He was, unexpectedly, strong to such a level?

Sigh, it's a pity.

A sigh resonated within the hearts of everyone.

While everywhere was deathly silent, Gu Tianyan faintly trembled as the sleeves around his hands instantly turned into dust. In the next instant, everyone saw fresh blood dripping from his left arm. As for the right arm, it faintly hanged down as though it had lost all of its strength.

An arm of Gu Tianyan seemed to have been temporarily crippled from the earlier collision.

Under everyone's gazes, Gu Tian Yan revolved his Spiritual Energy, causing the blood stains on his arms to gradually evaporate away. Raising his head, one could clearly see extreme graveness present within his eyes.

"Fortunately, I didn't let my guard down. If not, I might have already lost." Gu Tianyan's voice deeply rang out. If he had not cleverly utilised his strongest defense, the injuries he sustained as of now might've been even worse.

Upon hearing his words, Mu Chen gave a helpless laugh and thought, *Gu Tianyan is undeniably one of the three Great Generals. He truly is not easy to deal with.* Mu Chen had given his utmost; however, he could only temporarily cripple a single arm of the latter.

Gu Tianyan stared gravely at Mu Chen without speaking and even without making any moves. Everyone knew that's because by losing the Rank 5 Spiritual Array, if Mu Chen did not have any other methods, it would already be needless to continue this fight.

Naturally, Gu Tianyan would not give Mu Chen a second chance to arrange any Spiritual Arrays.

Within the silence that blotted the skies, under the attentive gazes of everyone, Mu Chen's eyes started to slowly close again.

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Chapter 327: Using the Black Lightning

When Mu Chen closed his eyes again, everyone was instantly shocked. Even Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantonq violently contracted their eyes. From the looks of it, Mu Chen didn't exhaust all of his abilities yet?

He still had some hidden methods?

At this time, Mu Chen, obviously, would not continue to arrange a Spiritual Array, as his speed was too slow. Furthermore, Gu Tianyan would not give him a second opportunity to do so. Therefore, he needed to utilise other methods.

However, what methods would truly allow him, whose strength was at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase, to contend against Gu Tianyan?

Nobody knew. Therefore, they could only lock their eyes tightly onto Mu Chen in the sky.

At this moment, Gu Tianyan's forehead had faintly wrinkled. Although he did not assume that Mu Chen was just putting up an act, after experiencing the Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays earlier, he would not see the latter as an ordinary Freshman again.

However, as to exactly what method Mu Chen would use to contend against him, he appeared slightly curious. After all, common methods would definitely not be able to let a person of Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase to contend with an opponent of Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase.

In the air, Mu Chen, whose eyes were tightly shut, did not make everyone wait for long. Lightning was faintly discernable around his body as it started to appear, while his skin started to turn a silvery colour, bit by bit.

The peals of thunder quietly rang out.

“Is that the Lightning God Physique?” upon seeing this, a trace of disappointment and doubt flashed past the eyes of Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton. They had also practiced the Lightning God Physique before. Although it was capable of increasing one’s combat prowess by quite a bit, it was far from being able to substitute the disparity of Mu Chen from Gu Tianyan.

If Mu Chen tried to use this to contend against Gu Tianyan, the result was already clearly evident.

In the sky, Mu Chen’s eyes slowly opened as lightning sparkled within them. Lightning arcs danced and jumped around his body as a destructive power was faintly discernible as it radiated out.

“His strength has grown.”

Gu Tianyan’s eyes faintly narrowed as disappointment flashed within them as he thought, *This is far from enough...*

The ones who felt this wasn’t only them. Even the participating students in the surroundings of the Spiritual Light Mountain faintly wrinkled their foreheads as some worry surfaced within their eyes. Although Mu Chen’s aura had grown stronger, it was clearly far from being able to contend with Gu Tianyan.

However, facing those gazes that blotted to sky, Mu Chen did not care to bother much about them, with his gaze only having Gu Tianyan present within. In the next instant, he took a step forward. With his body transforming into a bolt of lightning, he shot forward.

Gu Tianyan did not have the slightest trace of movement as he looked at Mu Chen, who was hurtling over akin to a bolt of lightning. Gently shaking his head, he thought, *Is Mu Chen trying to shatter the broken jar? However, for him to just rush over like this...*

Giving a helpless smile, he did not continue to think about it. With a twist of his palm, scarlet-red Spiritual Energy rose out, akin to dancing flames, as boundless fluctuations started to radiate out.

Whoosh!

Mu Chen’s speed was exceedingly quick. Within a number of breaths, he had seemingly appeared before Gu Tianyan. Without the slightest trace of hesitation, he immediately sent a fist rumbling out.

Spiritual Energy burning with black flames gushed out while bringing along strong fluctuations. This caused even the ground to crack under the force of his full-force attack.

The violent fist of winds caused Gu Tianyan’s hair to shock and flutter. However, the latter only shook his head gently. Clenching his finger tightly, in the next instant, Gu Tianyan similarly sent a fist rumbling out.

“Sigh.”

Looking at the fists that were about to smash together in a moment, a low sigh rang out in the hearts of everyone watching. There were even some people who had turned their heads away. In such a head-on confrontation, Mu Chen simply didn’t have the slightest chance of victory.

Wang Tong and the rest laughed bitterly, before shaking their heads and sighing.

Su Linger's lovable face turned pale at the moment. Only Luo Li, standing beside her, still had clear eyes, while tightly staring at Mu Chen, because she knew him too well...

Regardless of how difficult the situation was, he would never do an action that was absolutely pointless.

Under the unblinking gazes of countless people, Mu Chen's and Gu Tianyan's fists were about to collide. However, just at this instant, the other hand of Mu Chen quickly formed a mysterious symbol.

Humm! Humm!

Following the completion of that symbol, astonishing sounds of lightning furiously rang out from within his body. In the meridians of a part of his body, an uneven black lightning bead furiously exploded at this instant.

Bang!

At the instant when the black lightning bead exploded, an indescribably terrifying force gushed out from within, akin to a flood. Black-coloured lightning liquid overflowed, circulating erratically along his meridians.

Intense pain spread out from within Mu Chen's body, causing his eyes to turn bloodshot as the capillaries in his eyes bulged out. Despite this, he firmly resisted the pain and hurriedly displayed the Lightning God Physique, frantically absorbing the terrifying power of lightning.

Bang!

At this same instant, the fists of Mu Chen and Gu Tianyan violent collided into each other!

Black-coloured lightning suddenly gushed out from every pore of Mu Chen's body, while a faint bloody mist was even discernable.

Boom!

An astonishingly loud sound that shook the heavens and earth rang out and resonated across this stretch of the world. A violent tremor seemingly ran through the giant peak that seemed to prop the sky up, while everyone could see that the earth there had collapsed, as giant cracks endlessly extended from there like black pythons.

Waves of shattered rock shot out from the origin of impact, hiding the skies and covering the earth as they shot out in all directions, before transforming into fragments that blotted the skies with a bang.

Everyone opened their eyes wide as they stared at the place where shattered rocks continued to shoot out. The place was enveloped by the dazzling rays of erratic Spiritual Energy, causing people to be unable to exactly see what had happened within.

Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuanton, as well as Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan, locked their gazes there with graveness showing in their eyes.

At the instant when their gazes had locked onto the origin of impact, the pupils of the four violently contracted as an erratic roar of thunder furiously resounded. In the next instant, a shadow had, unexpectedly, shot out from the place of dazzling radiance.

The two feet of the figure dug into the ground, creating two foot holes in the hard stone surface, before dragging back, forming two eye-piercing marks, approximately a hundred metres long. Scorched marks were presented on the rocks along the sides of those marks.

Exactly who was that?!

Everyone's gazes instantly converged over where the figure that was shot out staggered and stumbled, before stabilising his footing. As the radiance dissipated, bit by bit, it finally revealed a conspicuous head of scarlet-red hair

That was Gu Tianyan!

The pupils of countless people violently expanded, with some even forgetting to breathe as thick shock and incredulous expressions crept onto their faces.

"How is that possible...?"

Regardless if the surroundings were the Spiritual Light Mountain or the northern public square, everyone was mumbling in disbelief. The person that was miserably flung out was, unexpectedly, Gu Tianyan?

On the podium, the gazes of the Elders watching the fight started to turn dignified at this moment.

"What's happening...?"

The four, Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuanton, Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan, looked in astonishment at the spectacle that made people feel incredulous. Even the four of them were slightly able to regain their clarity.

Previously, the two Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays were unable to force Gu Tianyan to such a miserable state. However, could this kind of head-on confrontation that should not have the slightest chance of victory, lead to such a result?

Under the shocked gazes that blotted the sky, Gu Tianyan slowly raised his head. At this moment, an obvious trace of blood dripped down from the corner of his mouth as he looked towards the direction of the giant peak with a similar shock in his eyes. From there, an erratic Spiritual Energy was still enveloping the place.

"You're truly formidable. I never imagined that you're actually still hiding an ace that's even more formidable than the two Rank 5 Spiritual Arrays..." Gu Tianyan's hoarse and deep voice rang out as he wiped away the blood stains at the corner of his mouth, while no longer appearing to be as relaxed as before.

Within the centre of the radiance where the erratic Spiritual Energy was still present, footsteps seemed to be ringing out as everyone's gazes tightly locked onto that area.

Thump! Thump!

The sounds of footsteps become increasingly heavy, within the Spiritual Energy radiance, a figure became increasingly clear. In the next moment, he stepped out of the dazzling radiance, and appeared before all of the gazes.

Hiss!

When that figure appeared, everyone instantly sucking in a mouthful of cold air.

The Mu Chen that had appeared before them had a huge change from his previous appearance. Shattered lines had appeared on his body as black-coloured lightning liquid endlessly flowed from the pores of his body, before enveloping him within.

Black-coloured lightning danced across his body, while the pair of black pupils were filled with an indescribable savageness that seemed to be the flavor of destruction.

If the previous Mu Chen gave people a gentle and calm feeling, the current him was akin to the creature that had crawl out of the depths to destroy the heavens and earth, causing people's hearts to palpitate.

"What is that...?"

Everyone looked in shock at the changed Mu Chen. The destructive energies radiating from him, was that truly something that could be displayed by a person at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase?

"That's the Lightning God Physique?" muttered Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton as their eyes were brimming with doubt. They were able to detect the familiar fluctuations from Mu Chen's body. However, this familiar Lightning God Physique was much stronger than the Lightning God Physique they knew...

Within the northern public square, countless people were still in shock, while the faces of the Elders at the podium turned grave and dignified.

"This fluctuation..."

The abstruse eyes of Dean Tai Cang faintly contracted, before saying in a soft voice, "This is the might of the Divine Black Lightning. Unexpectedly, there's a strand of Divine Black Lightning in that brat's body."

"He truly is messing around." said a white-haired Elder on the side as he shook his head, before continuing, "Although I don't know where he got that Divine Black Lightning from, its the stuff that even people of Sovereign Rank would not dare to casually touch. However, that kid actually dared to keep it within his body..."

"Haha, that Physique Cultivating Deity Tier Spiritual Art sure looks familiar."

Dean Tai Cang gave a faint smile without saying anything else. However, the gaze that locked onto the figure of the youth in the light screen radiated with increasing interest.

Looks like our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy has produced another brat with a monstrous talent.

On the giant peak, under the attentive gazes of countless people, Mu Chen slowly raised his head. With black-coloured lightning liquid flowing around him, he tightly stared at Gu Tianyan. At this moment, a hoarse voice, along with the flavor of destruction, slowly rang out.

“Let’s continue.”

As the hoarse voice rang out, Mu Chen took a step forward, with the earth seemingly vibrating at this instant.

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Chapter 328: Blood Battle

On the giant peak, destructive fluctuations gushed out from Mu Chen’s body as low and deep rumbles of thunder continuously rang out from within him. As those sounds resounded, even the sky seemed to turn dark and overcast.

Countless gazes converged on Mu Chen’s body, which was covered in black lightning liquid that was flowing across the entire surface of his body. Due to the successive shocks and astonishment they had received from him, the faces of a large number of people started to gradually turn calm. Instead, their gazes towards Mu Chen started to turn peculiar and weird, since the latter’s performance had exceeded far beyond their expectations...

“Are the current Freshmen strong to such a level?” the gazes of Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan had also turned strange. They never imagined that a Freshman, whose strength was only at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase, would actually be able to force Gu Tianyan to such a miserable state.

Upon hearing that, the gazes of Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong in the distance, intersected for a moment. Obviously, they were also unable to understand the hidden cards that Mu Chen had now displayed.

However, regardless of that, to them, this was not bad news.

The fight in front of them had seemingly turned slightly towards Mu Chen’s favor.

Staring at Mu Chen, whose current appearance had become somewhat terrifying, Gu Tianyan’s eyes turned increasingly solemn and grave. At this moment, the destructive fluctuations radiating from the former’s body had made his heart start to palpitate and tremble.

Strength of such a level shouldn’t appear on the body of a Freshman, whose strength was only at the level of a Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase.

Taking in a deep breath, scarlet-red Spiritual Energy curled onto his arms, akin to raging flames. Across the horizon, boundless scarlet-red Spiritual Energy swept out, akin to a prairie full of heavenly fire.

At this moment, he could no longer continue to show any mercy.

Boom!

As boundless Spiritual Energy gushed out of Gu Tianyan’s body, Mu Chen, who was completely covered in the black lightning liquid, had already taken a step forward. Instantly, the earth tremble as peals of thunder resounded. Akin to a black bolt of lightning, Mu Chen instantly shot out.

Looking at the black bolt of lightning heading his way, while radiating with devastating fluctuations, Gu Tianyan's eyes instantly narrowed. With a clench of his hands, scarlet-red Spiritual Energy erupted out, before transforming into a long flaming spear in his hands.

Hong!

As a tremble shook through his arms, the long flaming spear transformed into a fiery streak of light. Shattering space, while carrying along violent and explosive fluctuations, it fiercely shot towards Mu Chen.

Facing the berserking fiery long spear flying explosively towards him, Mu Chen did not show any sign of wanting to give way to it. Clenching his hand tightly to form a fist, the black lightning liquid enveloped his fist, which he violently sent rumbling towards the fiery long spear.

Bang!

As they violently collided, the fiery spear, which was capable of piercing through an expert at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase, was directly sent shooting away by Mu Chen's fist, before transforming in fluttering scarlet-red bits that blotted the sky. In the next moment, Mu Chen's figure travelled through the plume that was created. In a flash, he had already arrived right in front of Gu Tianyan.

Bang! Bang!

Without the slightest courtesy and hesitation, Mu Chen's black lightning liquid-covered fists howled. Transforming into shades, they hid the skies and covered the earth as they hurtled towards Gu Tianyan.

Every single fist sent out was abnormally frightening, with even the surrounding space showing slight traces of distortion.

If it was before, Gu Tianyan might have commented on Mu Chen's stupidity for wanting to engage in close-quarter-combat. After all, the difference in strength between the two of them was too large. Mu Chen could only rely on special methods to defeat him. In a head-on confrontation, the latter would lose without a doubt.

However, facing the attacks that Mu Chen had launched at him now, Gu Tianyan did not dare to show the slightest negligence. The current Mu Chen, who was enveloped in the black lightning liquid, was too terrifying! The strength radiating from the former was to such a degree that made even him feel a sliver of dread.

Boundless scarlet-red Spiritual Energy erratically gushed out from Gu Tianyan's body. In an instant, his arms were covered in a majestic layer of scarlet-red crystals; the embodiment of the degree of condensation of his Spiritual Energy.

After unleashing all of the Spiritual Energy within his body without any restraint, Gu Tianyan's gaze started to turn scorchingly hot, and fighting intent erupted from his eyes.

Roar!

A howl resounded from his throat as he too took a step forward. Sending his fists howling out, they seemed to have transformed into a boundless sea of fighting intent as they violently rumbled out.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Seemingly in an instant, fists of the two collided into each other. Akin to meteors striking the earth, they erupted with extremely astonishing erratic fluctuations.

Everyone watching could only see the black lightning, as well as the scarlet-red Spiritual Energy, frantically erupting about, and the figures of the two violently collided into one another. As fist shadows dissipated, everyone could see the deep and enormous holes that they created around the surrounding earth.

Countless people became tongue-tied as they watched the crazily clashing figures hidden behind the the erratic eruption of Spiritual Energy. The raw confrontation when fists smashed against flesh caused the hearts of countless people to feel fear and trepidation.

No one would have guess that this fight would be violent and ferocious to such a degree.

Bang!

Under the countless gazes that showed fear and trepidation, the fists of the two, whose eyes had already turn red, violently smashed against each other in the erratic eruption of Spiritual Energy.

Shock waves visible to the naked-eye swept out, and the entire stretch of the earth there instantly cracked and shattered.

Bang! Rumble!

Destructive black lightning seemed to flash within Mu Chen's eyes as the black lightning liquid started to squirm and wriggle on his arm, causing destructive energies to gush out from within.

Bang!

Once again, Mu Chen's black lightning-covered fist smashed straight against Gu Tianyan's scarlet-red crystal-covered fist.

Black-coloured ripples radiated out as Gu Tianyan's face instantly changed, some cracks had, unexpectedly, started to appear on the scarlet-red crystal on his fist.

The destructive fluctuations within the black lightning liquid continued to ceaselessly pervade him. Under these destructive fluctuations, the Spiritual Energy within Gu Tianyan's body started to rapidly get destroyed and defeated.

"Go back!"

A hoarse roar furiously rang out from Mu Chen's mouth, causing the black ripples to violently tremble. Instantly, the crystal layer on Gu Tianyan's arm completely shattered, while his body was flung back a thousand metres by the former's fist.

As Gu Tianyan was sent flying, Mu Chen's feet dug deep into the hard rock ground below him by the rebounding force, causing him to almost flip backwards.

"He sent Gu Tianyan flying yet again!"

Shocked, clamoring voices rang out once again from the surroundings of the Spiritual Light Mountain as excitement and strong emotions surfaced within the eyes of countless students. No one would have imagined that the current Mu Chen would be frightening to the point he was actually able to send Gu Tianyan retreating in a head-on confrontation.

Under the soaring atmosphere, Mu Chen pressed his hands on the ground, and pulled himself out from the earth as a bit of the black lightning liquid flowed out.

Raising his head, he looked towards Gu Tianyan, who he had sent flying. At this moment, there weren't any traces left of the initial expression he had in the beginning of the fight, since blood was continuously dripping from his arms. Not only was his clothing tattered, his head of fiery-red hair had turned messy and charcoal black.

The energy contained by shattering that black lightning bead had far exceeded Mu Chen's expectations. This energy was too terrifying. Even with him learning the Lightning God's Physique, there were still some pretty serious internal injuries within his body.

Thinking about it, if he didn't learn the Lightning God's Physique, and possessed the ability granted by it to absorb the strength of lightning to temper his fleshly body, the current him would've been completely fried by the energy of the black lightning and turn into ashes.

Regardless of that, he was unable to maintain this state for too long. As of now, his current body was simply unable to endure the devastating black lightning that was wreaking havoc.

"I have to end this fast."

Instead of succumbing to the intense pain radiating from within his body, it had caused Mu Chen to maintain his calmness at all times. Eyes sparkling, he did not allow the advantage that he seemed to have gained to flood his mind, as he firmly decided to prevent this fight from dragging on any longer.

Bang!

Just as this thought flashed past Mu Chen's mind, an exceedingly erratic Spiritual Energy fluctuation suddenly rushed to the heavens in the far away sky. Raising his head, Mu Chen saw that the horizon present before him had already turned into a purgatory of flames.

Under the burning horizon, Gu Tianyan stood erect. As of now, his eyes were scarlet-red, as if flames had erupted from them. Staring tightly at Mu Chen, a hoarse sound rang throughout the horizon.

"Mu Chen, with your strength at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase, you're the first person that is able to force me to such a stage!"

"I admired your capabilities! In this fight today, if you're able to receive this move of mine, it'll be considered your victory!"

Upon shouting those words, Gu Tianyan did not show the slightest hesitation. Rapidly placing his hands together, he formed a seal. Following the seal's formation. The scarlet-red Spiritual Energy that blotted the horizon hid the skies and covered the earth as they rapidly converged in his hands.

Bang! Bang!

As the scarlet-red Spiritual Energy crazily converged, a scarlet-red halberd, approximately ten metres long, was faintly discernable as it finally formed within Gu Tianyan's hands.

The long halberd was akin to a twisting fiery dragon, looking exceedingly malevolent and sinister. Its entire body was scarlet-red, as if it was made entirely of scarlet-red crystals. As the fiery dragon slowly wriggled and squirmed, indescribably erratic fluctuations started to ripple and undulate.

Roar!

As the fiery dragon roared, the entire stretch of the world seemed to be in a fiery and scorching state.

"He even had to use *that* move..." the eyes of both Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan contracted. Both of them had deep understanding of Gu Tianyan, and naturally had ample knowledge of his skills and abilities. The move the latter was using right now was considered the strongest attack in his arsenal.

At the beginning of the fight, who would have expected that Gu Tianyan, who had victory grasped within his hands, would be forced to such a stage?

Both Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong had also raised their heads and stared gravely at the horizon. Anyone could tell that at this stage of the fight, both parties had already brought out all of their trump cards. In this fight today, even if Mu Chen were to lose, there would be absolutely no one that would mutter half a word of doubt...

"Looks like this is his final move."

Following the appearance of the fiery dragon halberd, Gu Tianyan's face turned somewhat pale. As his scarlet-red eyes stared at Mu Chen, he furiously took a step forward. As a tremble shook through his arm, the long halberd erupted with scarlet-red light that blotted the skies.

"Great Heavenly Fiery Dragon Halberd!"

Roar!

Within the sea of flames, a dragon roar seemed to resound as the flames that blotted the sky erupted out. Transforming into a scarlet streak of light, the fiery dragon halberd shot across the horizon, before enveloping Mu Chen within its light.

Within the scarlet streak of light, the fiery dragon spread its jaws and claws open as the dragon roar shook the earth.

Raising his head, Mu Chen looked at the scorching gale blowing at him, causing the earth around him to be roasted to the point of cracking and shattering. Within his black eyes, the destructive black lightning started to grow increasingly erratic.

Placing his palms together, the black lightning liquid started to flow within his palms, before fiercely forming a seal with his hands.

At this moment, Spiritual Energy erupted from his back, before transforming into a starry sky. Within the starry sky, Spiritual Energy the blotted the sky gushed out as a tiger and a tortoise stepped out from within, appearing simultaneously.

Roar!

Moo!

As they roared and howled together, countless nervous and emotional gazes immediately swept over, while noticing the black lightning twisting and arching around their bodies.

A dragon, a tiger and a tortoise.

Shattering the skies, under the gazes of countless people who were close to suffocating under their pent up breaths, they furiously collided against each other!

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Chapter 329: Victory

The skies turned dark and overcast, while every single gaze in the surroundings of the Spiritual Light Mountain was focused on the air above the giant peak. There were two frightening attacks that caused everyone to shudder and tremble. They howled, before violently colliding like two comets that streaked across the skies.

In that instant, an intense shock wave rang and resounded across the entire hunting grounds.

The dazzlingly intense light produced was akin to a scorching sun, sending its intense rays of light that shattered the darkness of the world. Under the eye-piercing light, the eyes of countless people could not help turning narrow.

Boom!

As the intense sun surfaced in the sky, the dragon, tiger and tortoise released all of the strongest energies contained within them without the slightest bit of restraint. This caused an approximate thousand metre wide Spiritual Energy storm to form, and faint traces of distortions could be faintly discernable in the surrounding space.

Everyone tightly stared at the incomparably large Spiritual Energy storm. As the Spiritual Energy within it grew increasingly erratic, the storm started to distort, traces of it being unable to contain the energy within it any longer.

Creak!

As the distortions present within the Spiritual Energy storm reached its limit, before the crowd could react, it exploded, causing thousand metre wide Spiritual Energy ripples to sweep across the skies.

That was a rather spectacular scene.

Being at the front most position against the shock waves, Mu Chen and Gu Tianyan both bore the greatest brunt of it. Although the two of them had done their utmost to defend against them, they were still sent flying the instant they made contact with them.

Bang! Bang!

As the bodies of the two flew out, the neighbouring mountain peaks were all smashed through by them.

Bang!

Finally, the two of them smashed straight into the inside of the two mountain peaks. Rocks rolled down, covering and burying the both of them up. While both of them had miserable outcomes, the people close to the giant peak were akin to small fishes stuck in churning waters as each of them was sent tumbling into a pitiful state. There were some that were even more unlucky, being sent twisting in the air while spurting out blood from their mouths.

However, it was fortunate that this was, after all, just the aftermath of the collision, with not much destruction being caused. After a few minutes, the devastating Spiritual Energy storm started to slowly get weaker, bit by bit.

Only when that happened did the surrounding crowd start to regain their senses, and turned their gazes towards the giant peak. Unable to bear it, their mouths started to twitch. As of now, the lowering giant peak was in a completely ruined state, with giant cracks extending from it, akin to a spider web, covering it entirely.

The collision between the two had seemingly destroyed the entire towering giant peak.

This caused quite a few people to feel shock and astonishment within their hearts. The destructive power of these two people was too terrifying...

“What about the two of them...?”

Someone thought about the two main characters, before hurriedly turning their gazes towards the two collapsed mountain peaks in the distance. Those students that participated in the hunt were, as of now, incomparably nervous and anxious. Mu Chen’s victory or defeat concerned all of them being able to acquire the Spiritual Light Empowerment. As of now, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong had yet to make their move, as even they were waiting, waiting for Mu Chen to give some closure for them...

As long as Mu Chen was able to finish his fight with a draw, all of the students there would basically achieve a definite victory in the combined results. However, if Mu Chen lost, they would need to win a fight amongst the last two. Furthermore, thinking about the need for them to defy the heavens to pull off a reversal, this would be an extremely difficult task to accomplish for even Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong.

After all, both Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan, who had yet to make a move, weren’t people that were easy to deal with.

At this moment, the expressions on Shen Cangsheng’s and Li Xuantong’s faces turned increasingly grave and solemn. Locking their sights on the two collapsed mountain peaks, even with their strong emotional control, their hearts started to beat faster.

Contrary to them, Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan remained more calm and collected. However, their tight and unwavering gazes reveal their concern for the result.

The entire stretch of the world turned quiet again, while everyone awaited the result. However, the pressure coming from the surroundings was extremely fierce, causing people to be unable catch their breath.

This atmosphere was similarly present in the northern square, since everyone was staring tightly at the gigantic light screen in the sky, while tightly clenching their hands. The previous fight had admittedly caused them to feel shock, as well as sighing in admiration. However, regardless of that, the result was the most important.

Crash! Boom!

Under the attentive gazes of countless people, rocks started to suddenly shift and roll down from one of the collapsed mountain peaks, causing everyone's gazes to hurriedly turn over. Over there, a scarlet-red Spiritual Energy rushed to the skies, before a figure rushed out from within the collapsed mountain peak.

"That's Gu Tianyan!" someone exclaimed.

The scarlet-red light slowly dissipated, revealing Gu Tianyan. As of now, his entire body was covered in blood, with his face appearing exceedingly pale. The Spiritual Energy surrounding his body appeared extremely weak and exhausted, without being as strong as his initial appearance.

Obviously, the previously astonishing clash was not something light for Gu Tianyan.

Upon noticing the reappearance of Gu Tianyan, the hearts of countless students could not help sinking. Although he had suffered serious injuries, he was still not at the stage where he was unable to continue the fight...

As for Mu Chen...

Looking at the other collapsed mountain peak that was showing no signs of activity, their palms were all filled with sweat.

This kind of silence, continued for a short moment.

Creak!

At the other collapsed mountain peak, the rocks started to shift and roll down. Everyone's eyes turned large when they noticed a weak black ray of Spiritual Energy rushing out from within the layer of rocks that were pushed apart.

Within the black Spiritual Energy, a figure stumble and staggered as he shot through the air, before stopping a short distance away.

It was Mu Chen.

However, as of now, he was entirely covered in blood, with rather serious and terrible-looking wounds on his body. Compared to Gu Tianyan, he obviously appeared more miserable and pitiful.

However, even though he had suffered such serious injuries, he still stood perfectly straight in the air. As of now, the youthful figure appeared exceedingly thin. As his tattered clothing fluttered in the wind, his miserable-looking appearance was unexpectedly unable to conceal the imposing aura that made people's hearts palpitate.

Due to his injuries, the eyes of the youth had appeared dark and dim. Staring fiercely at Gu Tianyan in the distance, they appeared akin to a ferocious gaze of a wolf or a tiger.

Countless gazes blankly stared at the youth that still stood up on the sky, covered in fresh blood. The silence continued for a long moment, before it was broken by the earth-shattering cheers.

Facing Gu Tianyan's strongest attack, Mu Chen had managed to successfully endure it!

He did not collapse!

Countless students were emotional to the point that their faces were turning red as they waved their hands in the air. Their gazes looking at the thin figure in the sky were filled with admiration and worship. These kinds of gazes had already resembled those that were used when they looked at Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton, and no one else.

"Too awesome..."

The faces of the three Wang Brothers had also turned red, and their expressions were filled with emotions. As of now, their eyes were filled with respect. Mu Chen's performance in this fight had completely won them over.

Naturally, they knew that the people being conquered would be many of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students. From this day onwards, Mu Chen's place within the academy might not be much weaker than Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton.

Even influential characters like Su Xuan and He Yao had already been tossed far, far away by Mu Chen.

Su Ling'er had also started to cheer, with her lovable face turning red, while emotionally grabbing onto Su Xuan's wrist. Previously, she had almost suffocated, while watching the fight. If Mu Chen had lost in the final exchange, she would have simply lost her life.

Su Xuan gently nodded her small head as she looked at Mu Chen's figure with a gentle smile on her face. Who would have thought that a few months ago, this Freshman was still an unknown person within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy? However, now...

Perhaps he would become the fastest improving Freshman in the history of the Northern Heaven Spiritual Academy.

Contrary to everyone, Luo Li did not show the same level of emotions as the others. Staring quietly at Mu Chen, a faint upwardly-curling arc appeared at the corners of her small red lips. She had always believed that the youth that she loved would be someone that became as dazzling as the stars.

Regardless of before, or now, or even in the future...

""Hu~.""

Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton both exhaled a quiet breath of relief as they looked at Mu Chen's figure. Unable to help it, they nodded their heads as they thought, *That fellow truly makes people have a whole new level of respect for him.*

In the sky, Gu Tianyan had also looked with complicated emotions at the battered and exhausted youth, whose eyes were still shining exceedingly bright. Hearing the deafening sounds of cheering coming from the surroundings, he could not help letting out a bitter laugh. When he was still a student, there were a lot of people then that had cheered for him in the same manner. However, as of now, the positions were reversed...

“Senior Brother Gu, did you have a great fight? If you feel that it’s not enough, I might be able to accompany you for a move or two more.” From a distance, Mu Chen slowly wiped away the bloodstains at the corners of his mouth as he spoke out, while a smile that was hard to raise appeared on his mouth.

Upon hearing that, Gu Tianyan made a laugh, before slowly relaxing his body. Gesturing with his hand, he said, “It’s alright. If I continue to say anything more, I’m afraid I’ll invoke the anger of the crowd. Furthermore, I said earlier that if you’re able to receive that move of mine, you’ll be the victor of this fight.”

After saying those words, Gu Tianyan’s gaze turned serious as he stared at Mu Chen. Cupping his hands, a low and deep voice slowly rang throughout the sky.

“I’ve lost this fight.”

His actions had shown that he had already placed Mu Chen on equal grounds to himself. As of now, to him, the latter was no longer just a Freshman of Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase.

“Thanks for going easy, Senior Brother Gu.”

Without being unreasonable, Mu Chen gently nodded his head. He had risked his life for this fight. But, it was all worth it.

Following his words, the cheering voices in the surroundings instantly rose another notch as countless people became so emotional that their faces turned red.

“Mu Chen won!”

“Mu Chen won!”

As countless sounds of cheering resounded, even the students at the northern square, who had not participated in the hunt were feeling abnormally emotional. This fight was sufficient to make their hot blood boil.

On the podium, a few elders had also faintly nodded their heads. Obviously, they felt extremely satisfied by the fight that had just occurred.

“Dean, looks like our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy has another new monstrous talent. Congratulations...” said a white-haired old man sitting beside Dean Tai Cang.

As of now, there was also a faint smile present on Dean Tai Cang’s face as he looked at the youth in the light screen, before slowly replying, “For the sake of that Ji Xuan, Saint Spiritually Academy had not hesitated to use those underhanded moves. However, I have to tell them that our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s Mu Chen isn’t any weaker than him...”

While deafening cheering sounds resounded around them, on the giant peaks, both Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had smiled and laughed. In the next moment, they turned around, looking at Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan, who had slightly complicated expressions on their faces.

“Senior, the next fights, should be our turn now...”

The Great Ruler

Chapter 330: The End

On the two giant peaks, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton respectively looked towards Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan. As of now, the expressions on their faces were undeniably much more relaxed than before, stemming from their self-confidence.

Although Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan weren't so easy to deal with that even Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were not daring to even say they were absolutely able to defeat them, to them, achieving a draw in such a fight wasn't something difficult.

Of the three fights, Mu Chen had already won one. Even if they were to both draw, or lose one fight, in the end, they would still achieve victory.

Naturally, losing one match was something that they would obviously not do. In front of them, Mu Chen had become so miserable just to achieve a win. If they were to lose, they would truly be unable to explain themselves in front of all the students.

Looking at each other in the eyes, Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan both gave helpless laughs. They never imagined that the final checkpoint would come to such a stage...

In the surroundings of the Spiritual Light Mountain, the cheering sounds that had lasted for quite a while gradually grew softer as everyone looked excitedly at the confrontations happening on the other two giant peaks. With the advantage on their side, after Mu Chen's victory, they had already seemingly won half of the final fight.

As long as no aberrations happened during Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton's fight, victory would definitely be theirs.

Looking at the scene before him, Mu Chen finally relaxed his body completely. What happened after this was already none of his concern. He had already done what he was able to do, and he had completely achieved his goal.

Upon completely relaxing, the weakness of his body instantly surfaced from the depths, causing him to stagger and stumble.

Suddenly, a clear and beautiful fragrance blossomed from behind him as Luo Li appeared beside him. Without any scruples on the blood that covered his entire body, her white and slender hands supported Mu Chen's body, before resting him on her lovable body.

As Luo Li supported Mu Chen, she looked at the heart-wrenching injuries present on his body. These were all caused by the black lightning's energy, causing them to look extremely horrifying. For the sake of enduring such power, Mu Chen had shouldered an extreme amount of pain and suffering.

“Are you alright?” asked Luo Li softly, concern flashing within her clear and limpid eyes. Although she was not willing to have Mu Chen engage in such life-threatening fights and earnestly wished to help him, she knew...that she couldn't interfere in these kinds of matters. It wasn't a question of the dignity of a male, but a responsibility.

This was the responsibility that Mu Chen had embraced, and he needed to face it by himself. Similarly, he would not wish for anyone to interfere and take action, including her.

Smiling, Mu Chen extended his hand to embrace Luo Li's slender waist, with his body seemingly pasted on her soft and delicate body. At this moment, his body would faintly tremble from time to time, originating from the intense pain radiating from within his body. These tremors were extremely minute, causing others to be unable to discover them. Luo Li was only able to feel them when he rested on her, causing her to feel even more concern for him.

“Everything that happens from now is of no concern to me.” said Mu Chen while looking at the two giant peaks in the distance. Regardless of the results of the final fights, he was unable to interfere at all.

“You've already completed the most important part. There shouldn't be much more suspense in the following two fights.” Luo Li said with a slight smile as she continued, “Congratulations. As of now, you've truly become an influential character at the peak of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.”

“I don't care about such things.” replied Mu Chen as he stared at Luo Li's beautiful and exquisite face, before continuing to say slowly, “ For me, you came to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. This has already consumed your training time. Although I've done nothing about this, I can at least do my utmost to reduce your losses...I don't care about other people getting their Spiritual Light Empowerment; however, that's something that you definitely need to have.”

Hearing his words, Luo Li gawked. Looking at the youth, although, he had some bloodstains on his face, it was still as handsome and dashing. A slightly acidic feeling rose on her small nose. *Was this the reason why you would risk your life...?*

“I don't think that I've lost anything. On the contrary, during these past few years, especially the time within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, I've never felt more happiness in my entire life.” said Luo Li gently as a gentle and beautiful smile blossomed on her face.

Hearing her words, Mu Chen smiled as the arm wrapped around Luo Li's waist slowly grew tighter, seemingly as though he wanted to sink her into his body.

As Mu Chen continued to enjoy the gentle and fragrant embrace, under the gazes of countless people, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong slowly took a step forward on the two giant peaks.

Bang!

Boundless Spiritual Energy shot through the skies as the pressure coming from the two strong Spiritual Energies flooded out. Instantly, the entire stretch of the sky was enveloped under the Spiritual Energy fluctuations radiating from the two.

Obviously, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong had already prepared to use their full strength in their fights.

Contrary to expectations, facing the strong Spiritual Energy pressing down on them, the expressions on Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan still remained calm and unchanged.

“Senior Brother Lin Zhen.”

“Senior Brother Qingshan.”

Cupping their hands at the same time, both Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong roared in a low voice, “Please give your guidance!”

Bang!

As they roared, the expression within the eyes of the two instantly became fierce and sharp. Stomping their feet on the ground, their figures instantly shot out as the Spiritual Energy that hid the skies and blotted the earth rapidly converged together.

Looking at the two shooting towards them with fierce fighting intent erupting from them, Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan shot a look at each other. After helplessly shrugging their shoulders, they made a move. Unexpectedly, out of everyone’s expectations, they had taken a step back.

Facing the attacks of Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong, they had unexpectedly retreated?

Whoosh!

Clamoring noises instantly resounded across the world. Although Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong were strong, they were obviously incapable of scaring Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan away.

Feeling somewhat shocked, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong both halted in their steps. Looking at the two who had retreated and unable to detect the faintest traces of fighting intent from them, they started to wrinkle their brows, obviously unable to understand their intent.

Facing the doubtful stares coming their way, Lin Zheng gave a helpless smile and said, “There’s no need to continue fighting.”

“For this last checkpoint, let’s consider it your win.” said Zhou Qingshan while shrugging his shoulders.

Upon hearing their replies, both Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong gawked, something which was replicated by all of the students around the Spiritual Light Mountain. A split second later, furious sounds of cheering that shook the skies erupted out.

Lin Zhen and Zhou Qingshan had actually admitted defeat on their own accord!

That would mean that they have passed through the last checkpoint! All of them would obtain their Spiritual Light Empowerment! Their year’s worth of bitter training wasn’t wasted!

“They’ve given up, huh...?” Mu Chen also felt somewhat shocked. However, it was too much of a surprise for him. Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan were obviously not weak. However, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong were not the slightest bit weaker than them. Even if the former two were to utilise all of their cards, they might only be able to achieve an evenly matched situation. However, this kind of result would already be unable to create the slightest bit of change in the entire situation.

Of the three fights, Mu Chen had won his, while Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had both achieved draws. Therefore, once this result was out, it was already unable to be changed. Since that was the case, there was simply no point for this confrontation to continue.

However, Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan's straightforwardness was something that made Mu Chen feel slightly intrigued. He had assumed that they would cross hands for at least an exchange before choosing to give up on the fight. He never imagined that the fight would be over before it even began...

Obviously, both Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton were having the same thoughts as Mu Chen, since their jaws were slightly hanging down. Not only did everyone have a feeling that they had no choice but to withdraw due to this unexpected turn of events, it truly made people fall into a bad mood.

They were originally planning to enjoy the fights to their hearts content. However, they never thought that Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan would not give them such a chance...

"So, this ends like that, huh?" said Shen Cangsheng as he restrained the boundless Spiritual Energy radiating from him.

Hearing those words, Lin Zheng smiled in acknowledgement. With a flick of his finger, a ray of Spiritual Energy shot towards the sky, before exploding in midair. In the next moment, as the surrounding space started to faintly distort, two old figures slowly appeared from within.

Upon them appearing, a hoarse voice rang out, "Since Lin Zheng and Zhou Qingshan have given up, the victors for the final fight goes to the side of the students. According to the rules, all of the students will be able to obtain the chance of Spiritual Light Empowerment."

Hearing the final verdict of the two Elders, countless students reacted instantly by emotionally cheering out loud.

Waiting for the cheering voices to gradually decline, the two Elders turned towards Mu Chen, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton and said, "You three have achieved victory in the final fights; therefore, you three will get your deserved rewards."

One of the Elders waved his sleeve, causing three bright and resplendent rays of light to shoot out, before transforming into three clumps of light in front of them. Within the clumps of light, one was able to see approximately three metres tall clear and sparkling Spirit Crystals. There seemed to be liquid slowly flowing within them, and they radiated with extremely strong and pure Spiritual Energy fluctuations.

These were Spirit Crystals of Spirit King level. Furthermore, from the thickness of the Spiritual Energy present, it was clearly much stronger than the Spirit Crystal that Mu Chen had obtained from killing the Spirit King from before.

"The Spiritual Light Empowerment the three of you will receive is different from the rest of the students. After three days, head to the Punishment Hall. There will be Elders there who will personally take action to help with your Spiritual Light Empowerment." said one of the Elders with a smile.

Hearing the Elder's words, the students in the surroundings were casting envious gazes towards them. However, all of them knew that this was something that Mu Chen and the other two deserved. Without

them, all of the people there would have already lost their qualifications to undergo the Spiritual Light Empowerment.

Looking at the clear and sparkling Spirit Crystal in front of him, Mu Chen faintly hesitated, before asking, "Elders, would it be possible to transfer such a Spiritual Light Empowerment to another person?"

Upon hearing Mu Chen's question, Luo Li's beautiful face faintly changed, before instantly being suppressed by Mu Chen's glare.

The two Elders had also gawked upon hearing his question, before they turned and shot a look at Mu Chen and Luo Li. From the looks of it, they seemed to have some inkling of understanding, since they replied with a faint smile, "It's not only you three that are entitled to such a special Spiritual Light Empowerment. There's another criteria that can be fulfilled to obtain it, which is to obtain a complete Spirit Crystal of the Spirit King. Only when one has one of these would this criteria be fulfilled."

With a thought, he immediately brought out his half of the Spirit Crystal of the Spirit King out. Luo Li had also fished her half out. Placing the two halves together, they seamlessly fused together.

Extending her jade-like hands, Luo Li received the completed Spirit Crystal. With the gentle light radiating from it, it caused her youthful and absolutely beautiful face to appear exceptionally soul-stirring.

"Elders, would this be alright?" Mu Chen asked with a smile.

"Mu Chen, for the Spiritual Light Empowerment, the more Spirit Crystals, the greater its effect." seeing Mu Chen handing over half of a Spirit Crystal to Luo Li without the slightest hint of hesitation, the two Elders could not help feeling slightly surprised before speaking their thoughts.

Mu Chen declined to comment on their words. Although the Spiritual Light Empowerment was admittedly important, in his eyes, it was clearly not the slightest bit as important as Luo Li.

Tugging her slender and jade-like hand against Mu Chen's palm, a gentle ripple undulated within Luo Li's clear and limpid eyes as she stared at him.

After seeing Mu Chen's determination, the two Elders did not continue to say anymore. Retracting their gazes, a strong and vigorous voice resounded in the ears of every single student.

"Since the results of the final fight are known, I will now announce that this hunt is officially over!"

As the last of his words rang out, countless rays of bright and resplendent light erupted erratically from the horizon. As they shot out, everyone was enveloped under their light.

Under the envelopment of the light, Mu Chen unfurled his hands and looked towards the expansive space before him. Instantly exhaling a deep breath of relief, he was finally able to exit from there.