

Great Ruler 341

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Chapter 341: Academy Exchange

The craze brought forth by the Hunting War had lasted for approximately one month in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, before it finally started to dissipate. As the Heavenly Rankings headed towards stability, the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy headed towards its usual peacefulness once again.

In this peace, there were some matters whose announcements had attracted people to enthusiastically discuss. One of them being that Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had collaborated and formed a team, and had taken the task of killing Mo Longzi from the Mission Hall.

This matter had immediately caused an uproar in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Mo Longzi's terrible name could be said to be very fierce within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. It's said that as long as those students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that were training in the outside world ran into him, almost all of them would either be sadistically tortured to death, or suffer an extremely miserable death. This caused an implacable hatred within the student masses. However, although Mo Longzi was savage and cruel, his strength was exceedingly tyrannical. Within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, the number of people who were able to be a threat to him would only be two, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton.

In the past, Shen Cangsheng would head out alone, by himself. However, he had returned without any results. This time, he had finally collaborated with Li Xuanton. Obviously, they had decided on a plan that they had to get rid of this poison of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

The 1st and 2nd Rank of the Heavenly Rankings collaborating was something beyond worth seeing. However, it was helpless for the masses, as they were unable to follow the two, and could only quietly wait within the academy for the good news. All of them believed that Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton, this astonishing and absolute duo, would definitely not return with empty hands.

However, it's obvious that this kind of news would not come so soon. Therefore, approximately ten days after Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had left the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, much of this craze had also gradually faded away to peacefulness.

However, after this matter, there was another one that had broken the peacefulness of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, yet again.

It was well-known by everyone that there were countless spiritual academies within the Great Thousand World. Although the names of the Five Great Academies had the greatest reputation, this did not mean that there were truly no other spiritual academies whose strength was on par with the Five Great Academies.

There were a few similarly strong spiritual academies whose strength were not weaker than the Five Great Academies. However, their reputation and fame were, all in all, somewhat weaker. Therefore, when people often talked about spiritual academies, the Five Great Academies would be the most easily remembered by people.

Due to this point, it had undoubtedly stimulated those strong academies that had the qualifications to challenge the Five Great Academies, but were somewhat only lacking in fame and prestige. They had thought of all sorts of methods, and searched for geniuses all over the place in an attempt to rely on them to promote the academy's name as those geniuses rose.

Naturally, this kind of fame and reputation had to rely on the namesake of the "Five Great Academies".

Therefore, this had led to the creation of the so-called "Academy Exchange". Simply speaking, after a certain period of time, there would be some strong academies who would bring their teams towards the "Five Great Academies" and use them as a pretext to call for students to compare notes. From its appearance, it looked good-natured. However, the competitive and provocative intent contained within was already self-evident.

Although the "Five Great Academies" were clear about these so-called "Exchanges", they did not have any means to reject them. After all, their opposition's reasons were truly high sounding and dignified. Being the Five Great Academies, their prestige and reputations were at stake. Therefore, they did not have any reason to reject.

Similarly, after more than a month since the end of the Hunting War, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy welcomed an Academy Exchange. This undeniably caused the peaceful Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy to become restless and disturbed once again.

Quite a few outstanding students started to roll their sleeves up for action and were prepared to reveal their abilities in this Academy Exchange. They wanted to let those fellows understand that the quality of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy wasn't something that any random spiritual academy could compare to.

Being one of the Five Great Academies, they naturally had their own kind of arrogance. Perhaps, they were very ordinary within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. However, regardless of that, they had all surmounted all difficulties to be able to become students of this academy. This was what they drew their arrogance from.

Therefore, this Academy Exchange was something the student masses of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had risen their heads and looked forward to, unhurriedly as it arrived.

This year, the academy that was undergoing the Exchange with the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy. It was a strong spiritual academy that sat within the Ancient Cauldron Continent. It's said that the fame and reputation of the Ancient Cauldron Continent was lower than the Northern Heavenly Continent. However, underestimating a spiritual academy that took its name from the continent it was on due to this lower fame and reputation might be a rather stupid thing to do.

Therefore, during this period, all the students within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy would pay attention to this matter. The degree of attention had even exceeded that of the Hunting War.

After all, regardless of the changes that happened due to the Hunting War, the most outstanding person was still a person of their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. However, in such an Exchange, if they were to lose, that would sully the fame and reputation of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Regardless of a single defeat, all of their faces would turn ugly.

Therefore, at this time, the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy were extraordinarily cooperative. Regardless of the contradictions within the internal factions, they had to deal with this Exchange before settling their disputes. If not, they would incur the despise and contempt of all the students.

As a result, this exchange had proceeded as planned.

The location of the Exchange was set up in the northern square. It could be seen that the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had regarded this exchange exceedingly important. After all, this concerned the fame and reputation of their spiritual academy.

To a founding spiritual academy, fame and reputation were very important matters.

For such an exchange, to put it nicely, one can call it as somewhat of a little public shaming venue. If the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was unable to defend this place, it would have quite a bit negative effect towards the fame and reputation of their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Following the launch of this Exchange, the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy became more solemn and serious. This was due to the sensations they got from the students of the Ancient Cauldron Academy that had come over. These students seemed to have undergone rigorous screening and selection process, as none of them appeared to be easy to be dealt with.

This exchange had continued for three whole days.

On the first day of the exchange, both sides had sent their experts out. However, none of them were able to gain any superiority. A few of the outstanding and famous students on the Heavenly Rankings obtained some victories, as well as some losses. On a whole, the situation could be said as being stable.

However, this result caused the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy to withdraw their contempt and scorn. This Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy had come prepared. Added with the fact that their 1st Rank and 2nd Rank on the Heavenly Rankings, Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton, were outside of the academy on a mission to kill Mo Longzi, obviously, they could not come back on such a short notice. Furthermore, Mu Chen, who had achieved widespread fame and stepped into the 3rd Rank of the Heavenly Rankings, had mysteriously disappeared for over a month, with no one knowing where he went.

With their three strongest people not present, if they continued with their negligence, wanting to achieve victory in this Exchange might truly become a difficult task.

Thus, on the second day, the top ten ranks within than Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's Heavenly Rankings, He Yao, Su Xuan, Xu Huang, Zhao Qingshan and the rest of the top ranked students all came out. With such a lineup, Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy final managed to achieve an overwhelming victory and suppressed the grandeur of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy back down.

However, this kind of suppression only lasted for a day. On the third day, the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy did not continue to send out more outstanding students. In fact, they had only sent one person out.

However, it was this one person that had started his challenge from the 9th Rank of the Heavenly Rankings. Within a short span of a day, under the countless horrified gazes of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students, he had successively defeat Mu Fengyang, Xu Huang, Zhao Qingshan, Su Xuan and the rest of the outstanding students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy...

The entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was in an uproar due to that.

More than half of the top ten within the Heavenly Rankings that took action were eliminated by that person. Moreover, that person's actions were very fierce and vicious. Seemingly all of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students that lost to him had suffered serious injuries. This kind of violent and vicious way had incurred the combined wrath and anger of the student masses of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. However, they still had no way to deal with that person's strength.

Therefore, they could only place their final hope on the shoulders of He Yao, who had yet to lose.

However, in the end, this kind of hope was still mercilessly shattered.

He Yao was able to contend with the opponent, and had used all of his means and methods. However, due to a wrong move, he still regretfully lost. Therefore, the top ten of the Heavenly Rankings had seemingly been completely wiped out.

The voices from the entire side of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students were instantly extinguished. Obviously, no one thought that there would actually be such a situation in this Exchange.

On the contrary, the atmosphere on the side of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy was in high spirits. Some of their students already had contempt and disdain in their gazes as they looked at the students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. In their hearts, they had truly believed that their Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy had already exceeded the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy in terms of strength, and was already sufficient to replace this academy from one of the Five Great Academies.

After this fight, every student from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy came to know the vicious person that had seemingly caused a complete wipeout to the top ten within the Heavenly Rankings. It was a youth by the name of Liu Zheng. His talent was absolutely astonishing. Furthermore, what made people feel shocked and astounded was that he was once chosen by the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. However, in the end, he was unable to pass through the evaluations. After being eliminated, he had switched to the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy..

Yet, this student that was previously being eliminated had appeared once again in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. This was an unexpectedly present scenario. With such a mocking irony, it caused a fiery pain within the hearts of all the students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

No wonder why this fellow would be that vicious when he made his moves! He was relying on this to take revenge on the fact that their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had no eyes!

The students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy were all furious and angry. Those evaluations could not be considered as completely fair, as it relied on both strength and luck. Although this Liu Zheng had shocking talent, what he was lacking was only some luck. Speaking of that, there

simply wasn't anyone to blame. However, from the viciousness shown in his attacks, he appeared to have excessive grievances.

Feeling furious, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students continued to search for their finest students that have yet to make their move. However, following that, they discovered that other than the trio of Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuanton and Mu Chen being missing, there seemed to be no student who was stronger than He Yao in their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy...

This result caused all of them to tear up. Could it be that this Exchange would end with such a depressing result? If that were to happen, once the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy leaves, they might immediately proclaim about it wantonly. At that moment, the fame and reputation of their Northern Heavens Spiritual ACademy would suffer a serious blow. This might even affect their prestige, as well as their ranking within the Five Great Academies...

However, hope would always inadvertently appear. Just as all of the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy were in tears, Su Xuan had recommended a person that had incurred the agreement of the masses.

That person was naturally the only one, other than Mu Chen and the other missing two, within the top ten of the Heavenly Rankings that had yet to take action.

That person, was the one and only Luo Li.

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Chapter 342: Liu Zheng

Northern Square.

As of now, this square, which was devoid of people after the end of the Hunting War, had once again become the focal point of countless people, due to the arrival of the Exchange.

The attention it gained seemed even more fervent and passionate than the Hunting War.

This was due to the whole Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy unanimously gathering together to face a foreign opponent.

The Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy was already pressing the top of their heads. If they were not able to return the expression that filled their faces back to their opponents, they might truly become the laughingstock of the Five Great Academies, and would receive the ridicule of everyone.

This was absolutely not something that the arrogant Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy could endure.

A sea of humans pervaded the vast and expansive square. Over 90% of the people there were students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Only within the northwest corner was a small group of people that were inharmoniously present.

They were the students from the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy.

Those students wore green-coloured robes, with males and females present. However, the majority of them had their arms folded in front of their chests, while a cold smirk appeared on their faces as they looked towards the large and imposing number of Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. *So what if you*

have more people? You're still unable to defeat Senior Brother Liu Zheng! In this Exchange, our Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy will step on your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy!

If they were able to step on the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and have a prominent and outstanding performance in the Great Academy Competition half a year later, then, maybe their Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy might be able to take over the place of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy!

“Senior Brother Liu Zheng, you just have to defend us for one more day for our Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy to achieve victory! At that time, let’s see if they have anything else to say!”

“Hmph, all of these Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students are just reluctant to admit their mistakes, like saying that their strongest students aren’t around. Senior Brother Liu Zheng had been fighting since yesterday till now. So those so-called ‘Top Ten’ of your Heavenly Rankings, aren’t they just completely useless?”

“Exactly, even if the top three of your Heavenly Ranking came today, Senior Liu Zheng will make them scam with their tails between their legs like usual!”

“Haha.”

“.....”

The mockery and loud laughter coming from those Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy students rang out with restraint, which immediately incurred the wrath and fury of the student masses of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Ever since the appearance of that Liu Zheng, their attitudes had appeared extremely rampant. However, due to the drop in results, although the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students had bellies full of fire, they were unable to let it out, with the only thing they could do was let their eyes sprout with flames.

On the square before them stood a man in green robes, whose his arms were crossed before him. With his back ramrod straight, he stared indifferently at the furious Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students, while a cold smirk appeared at the corner of his mouth.

This is the spiritual academy that I've dreamt of entering? From the looks of it, it doesn't seem as awesome as in my dreams.

He wanted to let the people of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy know that losing him, Liu Zheng, showed how blind they were!

Within the very front of the student masses of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was the current gathering spot for the most elite people within the student body. He Yao, Su Xuan, Xu Huang and the rest of the veteran elite students, as well as those new elites like Zhao Qingshan, had all crowded around there. However, at this time, the expressions of their faces weren’t a pretty sight to behold.

“Su Xuan, have you already sent people to inform Luo Li? Will she come?” asked Xu Huang in a low voice as he looked at Su Xuan. As of now, other than Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuanton, as well Mu Chen, who had mysteriously disappeared for over a month, of the top ten within the Heavenly Rankings, there was only Luo Li, whom hadn’t taken action, left.

“I’ve already sent the message out. Although Luo Li usually doesn’t like to fight with people, this matter concerns the face of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. She should come.” Su Xuan replied while nodding her small head.

“Is there any use for her to come? This Liu Zheng’s strength should be at the Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase. He’s not weaker than Li Xuantong. Without speaking about Luo Li, even if Mu Chen comes, I’m afraid that he might not even be able to achieve a victory. After all, this isn’t a friendly comparison.” After all that had happened, He Yao had maintained some distance from Mu Chen. With Luo Li having that kind of relationship with the latter, although he knew that the situation before him was suitable, he still could not resist to mention it.

Su Xuan shot an indifferent glare at him and said, “If you think you’re capable, all of us will let you continue.”

Hearing her words, He Yao turned sluggish. Clenching his teeth, he turned his head around. Although he was exceedingly close to the Heavenly Completion Stage, he was still unable to take that step forward. If not, he would have already defeated Liu Zheng.

Silence filled the crowd as everyone felt slightly sullen. These people from the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy truly knew when to pick a challenge. Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong had just left the academy, while that Mu Chen had mysteriously disappeared. They had chosen such a time to send their attack, causing them to be caught unprepared and simply unable to muster any defenses.

While provocative and furious gazes were exchanged between the students from both academies, their higher-ups were both similarly seated on the chief podium within the northern square. Although the atmosphere there wasn’t as incisive and competitive compared the atmosphere between the students, it was clear that there wasn’t any friendliness, either.

“Haha, Headmaster Tai Cang, looks like our Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy has come at an unfortunate time for you guys. The talent of that brat, Liu Zheng is extremely high. However, he’s too arrogant. I’ve originally wanted him to meet up with the most elite students within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and rely on them to file down his haughtiness,” said a rather fleshly man with a grin as he sat on the chief podium.

“You must be joking, Dean Fei. Exchanges are only small competitions to compare notes. When mutually comparing notes, finding one’s weaknesses would be enough. Why bother about filing down other’s haughtiness, right?” Dean Tai Cang replied with a faint smile.

The fatty who appeared to be a merchant was the Dean of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy, and was named Fei Qingsong. Although his appearance wasn’t awe-raising, he was a figure at the extreme peak within the Ancient Cauldron Continent. If not, he wouldn’t be able to become a Dean of an academy. Therefore, anyone who underestimated him due to his appearance might get killed with a single strike from him, without knowing exactly what had happened.

“Dean Tai Cang’s bearing is better,” said Fei Qingsong while still beaming at both corners. Patting his big and coarse palm onto the table, he said, “Looks like our Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy has an unfair advantage in this Exchange. Please feel relaxed, Dean Tai Cang. When I go back, I’ll reprimand those little fellows, and make them tightly seal their mouths up. Haha.”

A faint smile still lingered on Dean Tai Cang's face without any warmth or rage. Only the Elder sitting beside him started to frown and wrinkle his brows. That was the Hall Master of the Punishment Hall, Mo You. Faintly moving his lips, a sliver of a sound rang within Dean Tai Cang's ears.

"Dean, I've already passed this news to Lord Northern Sea. However, as of now, there hasn't been any reply...and I don't know exactly whether Mu Chen will appear..."

Hearing those words, Dean Tai Cang faintly nodded his head without being detected.

"Dean Tai Cang, are there any other students that want to make a move from your North Heavens Spiritual Academy? If not..." Fei Qingsong said with a face beaming with smiles. However, before he could finish his statement, his eyes started to faintly narrow. Turning his head towards the skies in the northern direction, he saw a streak of light shooting over. Like a graceful swan, it landed within the northern square under the countless gazes from the surroundings.

As the light dissipated, it revealed the slender physique of a young girl. Wearing an outfit that was black as ink, with silvery hair flowing down from her head, and a delicate and exquisite face, she brought along an extremely unique aura that made her seem to be independent of the world around her as she appeared within everyone line-of-sight.

The originally clamoring northern square seemingly turned much quieter at this instant. Regardless of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy or the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy, astonishment and shock flashed within the eyes of the students from both sides.

"She's arrived!"

Upon seeing this, a tremor went through the minds of Su Xuan and the rest.

"What? There truly isn't any other student left from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that has yet to make a move? I've waited for so long just for a girl?" Liu Zheng was also faintly stunned by Luo Li's appearance. However, in the next moment, bring along cold laughter, his voice rang out.

Luo Li's clear and limpid eyes quietly stared at Liu Zheng. However, she did not respond with any words, with only her jade-like hand slowly covering her Luo Shen Sword.

"10th Rank on the Heavenly Rankings, Luo Li, seeks your guidance." Luo Li's gentle and clear voice slowly fluttered throughout the square.

"10th Rank on the Heavenly Rankings? Even your 4th Rank, He Yao, had lost under the hands of Senior Brother Liu Zheng. What can she, the 10th Rank, do?" At this time, some of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy students managed to regain their clarity, before tugging their mouths. Discussions rang out in succession as they thought, *Could it really be the honey trap of the legends?*

While the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy students were undergoing their discussions, a gaze quietly shot out from within their ranks. Finally, it converged on the lovable body of the absolutely beautiful girl with an outstanding character within the square.

There seemed to be a peculiar and ruminating smile contained within that gaze.

Luo Li, you really are here...

Within the square, Liu Zheng coldly stared at Luo Li, whom was elegantly standing not too far way, before slowly saying, "I'm a person that doesn't know how to show mercy. Don't assume that I'll let you off just because you're pretty. Therefore, if you don't wish to damage your face, it's best that you step down, now."

Luo Li's eyebrows faintly bunched up before replying in a gentle voice, "Please."

Hearing her reply, Liu Zheng's expression gradually grew cold. With a cold snort, he took a furious step forward. Instantly, boundless Spiritual Energy shot to the sky as overbearing Spiritual Energy pressure came enveloping over.

Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase.

The expressions of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students turned solemn and grave. This Liu Zheng was truly fierce and vicious. However, his strength was also extremely tyrannical.

Su Xuan, He Yao and the rest were also staring at the square. Even they had never seen Luo Li truly take action before. However, she was able to collaborate with Mu Chen to kill a Spirit King. Thinking about that, her true strength shouldn't be just that little bit that was revealed. Naturally, they were also unable to fully determine exactly how strong Luo Li was. Only when she truly took action would they be able to tell.

I hope she has also concealed her strength.

Su Xuan thought as she gave a soft sigh in her heart. That Liu Zheng's moves were extremely heavy. If he hurts Luo Li, at that time, when Mu Chen arrives, no one knows how mad and furious he would be. As of now, she can only hope that Luo Li's strength would be able to give all of them a surprise.

Standing arrogantly in the square, boundless Spiritual Energy swept out from Liu Zheng. Staring at Luo Li, a cold and sinister light erupted from his eyes. As long as he was able to defeat this final opponent, the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy should have no words left to say, right?

"The Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy is nothing more than this."

A ridiculing smile appeared at the corner of Liu Zheng's mouth as he said in a soft voice, "Since I'm unable to meet up with your top three of your so-called 'Heavenly Rankings', I'll just have to step on them one by one during the Great Academy Competition half a year later."

Hearing his words, a chilling intent flashed within Luo Li's clear and limpid eyes. Staring at Liu Zheng, her jade-like hand slowly grasped the Luo Shen Sword tightly. In the next moment, everyone could feel a similarly boundless Spiritual Energy sweeping out from her body, akin to a storm.

The density and strength of the Spiritual Energy had similarly reached the Heavenly Completion Stage!

The eyes of countless Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students instantly grew wide open. No one would have guessed that other than Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong, the 10th Rank on the Heavenly Rankings, Luo Li, would actually have such astonishing strength!

She's simply even better than Mu Chen at concealment!

However, Luo Li treated the countless shocked gazes that were converged on her as nothing. Staring at Liu Zheng, whose face had similarly changed, her clear and cold voice, followed by the melodious and sharp ring of a sword, resounded across the horizon.

“To deal with you, I only need...”

“One sword!”

Boundless Sword Qi rushed through the skies.

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Chapter 343: The Might of One Sword

Buzz!

A clear sword ringing sound accompanied the boundless Sword Aura as it shot directly through the clouds. The swift and fierce Sword Aura undulated in the skies, causing the skies to seemingly turn dark and gloomy.

The originally clamoring sounds that pervaded the air in the square had stopped upon this happening.

Regardless of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy or the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy, the faces on all of the student had a shadow of graveness. No one would have imagined that this young lady that seemed outstanding in both her temperament and beauty would actually be able to display such an astonishing and imposing manner.

However, with such strength, how was she still ranked as the number ten on the Heavenly Rankings?

This was absolutely enough to target the top three rankings!

Su Xuan, He Yao and the rest were all in shock with amazement displayed on their faces. This was especially true for He Yao, he had a vexatious expression on his face. Amongst the students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, there were merely two people who could be said to have truly stepped into the Heavenly Completion Stage.

Those two were Shen Changsheng and Li Xuanton. Even Mu Chen, who had various methods and exceedingly strong combat prowess, was too far away from the Heavenly Completion Stage with regards to his true power.

Originally, He Yao had assumed that Mu Chen would be the third person to step into the Heavenly Completion Stage. However, who could have thought that Luo Li, someone who had extremely little occasions to cross hands with people and someone that revealed her true strength in extremely few occasions, would actually possess such frightening strength?

This pair of lovers were simply abnormal!

Were they not afraid of their diaphragms feeling unbearable by hiding like that? There were a few people who were secretly clenching their teeth, because this was obviously quite a big blow to them.

However, other than those few depressed people, the absolute majority of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students had joy and happiness rushing out of their eyes. Luo Li's strength was this strong, in that case, that Liu Zhen could no longer continue to be that insolent anymore!

"Hmph, a single sword? You're too arrogant!"

Under the innumerable attentive gazes from the surroundings, the startled expression of Liu Zhen disappeared as he snorted with a cold laugh. This Luo Li's strength had truly far exceeded his expectations; however, it was still at the Initial level of the Heavenly Completion Stage. If she wanted to defeat him by using a single sword, that was simply an enormous joke!

However, Luo Li seemed to have not heard his cold laughter. Clenching the Luo Shen Sword in her jade-like hands, her slender fingers ran across the sword sheath. In the next instant, a cold light blossomed as the Luo Shen Sword left its sheath once again.

Upon its appearance, the entire world seemed to have turned cold and frosty.

A Sword Aura blotted the skies as a 300 metre long gargantuan light blade shot into the skies. The boundless and majestic Sword Aura started to condense at an astonishing speed. In a short few breaths, the 300 metre long gargantuan light sword started to condense and form a river of Sword Aura.

With its appearance, a frightening Sword Aura started to radiate from it.

As he looked at the river of Sword Aura, there was a faint change in the expression on Liu Zhen's face. A chilling intent arose from his skin as an extremely dangerous fluctuation started to erupt from his heart.

Seeing that, Luo Li gently strutted forward. With a light tremble of her jade-like hands, the longsword in her hand was gently thrust out.

Buzz!

The longsword buzzed and screamed as if something was resonating with the sword. In the sky, the river of Sword Aura started to surge downwards, turning into an eye-catching light beam. Carrying along an indescribably swift and fierce Sword Aura, it swept fiercely towards Liu Zhen.

A single sword turned into the Luo River.

Bang!

Ten thousand strands of Sword Aura surged forward, and before the river of Sword Aura descended towards the ground, the earth was already sliced to a disastrous state. At this time Luo Li had displayed all of her strength and put everything into this move. Therefore, this time, it was much stronger than the previous time in the Hunting War!

Liu Zhen raised his head, the image of the river of Sword Aura reflecting off his pupils. At this time, his gaze had turned extremely grave as he thought, *This single sword truly is astonishing.*

However, wanting to make him, Liu Zhen admit defeat was not that easy to do!

A cold glint surged out from within his eyes and with a grasp of his hand, a scarlet spear suddenly appeared within it. From the spear in his hand, an erratic Spiritual Energy fluctuation swept out, like flames.

“Fire God’s War Spear!”

All of the Spiritual Energy exploded from within his body without a trace of restraint as scarlet-coloured Spiritual Energy shot up towards the sky. With a frontal thrust of his spear, the air within the region seemed to have been pierced through and was ruptured by it.

BANG!

Everyone present could see the dreadful flames erupting explosively from within Liu Zhen’s body as a scarlet light engulf the heavens and earth like the rage of the fire god. Carrying along torrential amounts of angry flames, it violently collided against the river of Sword Aura.

BANG!

At the instant of the collision, the Sword Aura and the scarlet light exploded. The Sword Aura wrecked havoc across the area, causing the earth to instantaneous shatter and crumble as a gigantic fissure rapidly extended on the ground.

At this moment, the Scarlet light suddenly shattered.

As the Sword Aura swept across, it actually managed to thoroughly slice and break down the scarlet-coloured Spiritual Energy that was akin to flames.

A dumbstruck look appeared within Liu Zhen’s eyes as he thought, *Her Sword Aura is so swift and fierce and it has far exceeded my expectations.*

His hand started to tremble as he explosively retreated, not daring to have the resolve to face that sharp edge again.

Swish!

However, just as he started to retreat, and his imposing manner had weakened, a beautiful, graceful figure shot towards him with. The Sword Aura that blotted the skies seemed to follow the beautiful figure as it started to surge towards her.

Akin to lightning, the Sword Aura tore space apart and headed directly towards Liu Zhen as he stared at it with an aghast look.

That speed was too quick, and he could only watch helplessly as the sharp edge rapidly grew larger in his view; however, he did not have a single trace of energy left to evade it.

As the sword light swept forward, the body of the sword, which rippled like water, patted Liu Zhen’s chest before the Sword Aura erupted out.

BANG!

Liu Zheng flew across the sky, before landing disastrously on the outside of the arena. A mouthful of fresh blood violent spurted out as his face turned deathly pale, while his eyes became filled with terror and relief that he had survived.

He had previously tasted the feeling of death when the Sword Aura struck him. If Luo Li wanted to kill him, he would have absolutely no way to live.

The victor had appeared too quickly.

The grace of that single sword was only felt by a minority of people. However when Liu Zhen disastrously landed on the ground, everyone present already knew who the victor was. Therefore, cheers of joy that shook the world instantly rang out from the location of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Su Xuan, He Yao and the rest wore expressions of astonishment as they stared at the beautiful figure in the arena with somewhat peculiar gazes. Who would have thought that this young lady, who had only followed quietly behind Mu Chen, would actually hide such strength?

All of them had underestimated her.

She did not only possess a beauty and temperament that stole people's breaths away, her strength was equally breathtaking.

"She truly is formidable," exclaimed Xu Huang with a sigh. This batch of Freshmen were truly outstanding. Having one Mu Chen was already enough, and now, who would have thought that this girl, who was usually quiet, would actually be that terrifying?

It looked like she had purposefully restrained her sharp edge when standing beside Mu Chen and acted introvertly. Yet, just like the uncommon sword in her hand, there would be a day that she would reveal her sharp edge.

And that was today.

While the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy were cheering, the students of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy wore indeterminate and downcast expressions. At the beginning, they were still feeling excited; however, who could have imagined that after a short moment, there would be such a thorough reversal in the situation?

Liu Zhen of the Heavenly Completion Stage had actually been defeated in such a short amount of time.

On the podium, the smiling face of the Dean of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy, Fei Qingsong, slightly twitched, before saying with a smile, "Undoubtedly one of the five great academies. Who would have thought that there was actually such a formidable person, other than the Top Ten on the Heavenly Ranking that had yet to reveal themselves?"

Dean Tai Cang smiled as he looked towards the young lady standing in the arena and replied, "You're overpraising, Dean Fei. Luo Li dislikes fighting, and if not for her emotions being different from other days, she would not have taken action."

Fei Qingsong also smiled. Narrowing his eyes, he said, "She is called Luo Li? Hmm... That sword that she had executed. It made me recall the Luo Shen Sword Technique of the Luo God Clan... Could it be that she is a member of the Luo God Clan?"

Dean Tai Cang refused to comment and replied, "Since Liu Zhen was defeated, this Exchange should end here. Both parties had their wins, and Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy sure is strong and robust."

"Haha, wait a moment," said Fei Qingsong with a grin, "Dean Tai Cang, we, the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy, still have people that have yet to fight... I didn't say that Liu Zhen was the strongest student of our Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy... Furthermore, although you all have a member of the Luo God Clan... Haha... We also have a student with a special background."

Upon hearing his words, Dean Tai Cang could not resist wrinkling his forehead.

This Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy had surely come prepared.

On the arena, Luo Li slowly started to restrain the Sword Aura that surrounded her body as she quietly looked towards Liu Zhen, who looked like a sorry figure and said, "Your Spiritual Energy is superficial. It seems that there was someone who had forcefully risen your strength. With your original capabilities, you don't have the qualifications to challenge the Top Three of the Heavenly Rankings within our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

An ugly expression appeared on Liu Zhen's face as he wanted to curse out. However, due to that previous fierce and swift sword of hers appearing in his mind, he was unable to speak at that moment. That faintly trembling appearance had lost all of its previous awe.

The students of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy clenched their teeth; however, there was still no one who dared to open their mouths and speak. Even Liu Zhen was defeated, and it was obvious that they were not able to achieve victory against Luo Li.

Luo Li looked towards the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy students, who were suppressing their rage and anger, before gracefully turning and walking away with the longsword in her jade-like hands. Although she did not like to fight with people in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, she was still a student here and would naturally not stand at a corner and watch the people from the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy come there and humiliate the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. However, since she had already achieved her objective, she would not continue to stay in the arena.

Looking at Luo Li, who had turned her body and walked away, Liu Zhen clenched his fists, before finally calming down. A disappointed look appeared within his eyes as he understood that he truly was not a match for Luo Li.

"Haha..."

However, just as Luo Li had taken two steps, a soft laughing voice slowly rang out from within the group of students of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy.

Upon hearing that laughter, a slight pause occurred in Luo Li's footsteps.

After hearing the laughter, unexpectedly, those few Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy students had a cold shiver run up their bodies as the expressions on their faces changed.

Innumerable gazes shot towards the direction of the laughing voice.

At the rearmost position within the group of Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy students, a figure slowly stood up and walked through the group. Finally standing in front of Liu Zhen, he casually said, "Useless."

A faint tremor ran through Liu Zhen; however, he could only unwillingly lower his head.

The figure strode passed Liu Zhen and slowly walked onto the arena. Raising his head, a handsome face was revealed. On his face was a pair of scarlet pupils that looked akin to blood, which made them particularly eye-catching.

"Haha, Luo Li... the next Empress of the Luo God Clan. I never imagined that you would actually be at this place..."

Luo Li turned around. When she spotted the scarlet pupils of the man in front of her that were akin to blood, an endless chilling intent erupted from within her clear and limpid eyes.

Her jade-like hand slowly gripped her longsword tightly as a cold voice filled with chilling intent spilled out from those red lips.

"Blood God Clan..."

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 344: Xue Shi

"Blood God Clan..."

When those three words rang out from Luo Li's lips, the absolutely beautiful face of the girl had already turned ice-cold. Swift and fierce killing intent had even erupted from within her eyes. This kind of emotion and state of mind was rarely displayed by her.

The handsome youth gave a faint smile. Wearing a striking set of blood-red robes, an aura reeking of blood seemed to radiate from his entire body, while the pair of eyes that seemed to be coloured with fresh blood appeared extremely mysterious and strange.

"Look's like the news that we've gotten out really is real. Being the next Empress of the Luo God Clan, you've not properly received the inheritance under the protection of Luo Tianshen, and have run all the way to this Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy..."

The handsome youth smiled and said, "Is this your escape?"

Luo Li's jade-like hand slowly gripped the Luo Shen Sword tightly as her expression grew even more cold and frosty.

"That's right, I've forgot to introduce myself. My name's Xue Shi. A member of the Blood God's Royal Clan," the handsome youth faintly bowed forward, appearing modest and cultured. However, the unconcealable aura of blood radiating from him caused people to feel wary and vigilant.

Like the Luo God Clan, the Blood God Clan was one of the four God Clans in the Western Heaven World.

The person in front of them had unexpectedly come from the same place as Luo Li.

“Xue Shi? I’ve never heard of such a name within the Blood God’s Royal Clan. Looks like your status within the Blood God Clan isn’t high, right?” said Luo Li in a cold and detached voice as she stared at the handsome youth in front of her.

Hearing her reply, a cold glint flashed within the blood red eyes of the handsome youth. With an increasingly thick smile, he replied, “ If I’m able to capture you, my status would naturally be different.”

“By yourself?” gripping her long sword tightly, Luo Li slowly spoke out.

“Haha, being able to be crowned as the next ‘Luo Empress’ by Luo Tianshen, naturally, I dare not show any contempt towards you. However, your age is, after all, too young, and you’ve not even received a single inheritance...” replied Xue Shi as he licked his lip, while his blood-red pupils stared at Luo Li. At this moment, a thick bloody light erupted from his palms, radiating with bloodthirsty fluctuations.

“As for me, I’ve already received the inheritance once. Therefore... you have to be careful, and don’t get killed by me. Otherwise, you’re Luo God Clan will truly be finished.”

“You don’t have to worry about that,” replied Luo Li indifferently.

Xue Shi responded with a smile. However, there was not the slightest bit of laughing intent within his eyes. In the next instant, he took a step forward. Bloody Spiritual Energy that blotted the skies gushed out from him, and the originally bright skies were instantly dyed blood-red.

Thick auras of fresh blood rippled and undulated across the heavens and earth.

The fluctuations of that boundless Spiritual Energy was unexpectedly more tyrannical than Liu Zheng’s!

These fluctuations seemed to already be at the brink of reaching Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase!

This fellow was even more formidable than Liu Zheng.

The expressions of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy student masses had also violently contorted at this moment, while shock erupted from within their eyes. No one would have guessed that there would actually be a person within the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy that was even stronger than Liu Zheng!

Graveness had also flooded the expressions of Su Xuan and the rest. This Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy truly had the intent to give their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy a fierce kick to the face.

“When did the people of the Blood God Clan run into the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy?” At the chief podium, Dean Tai Cang stared at Xue Shi, before casually asking this.

“Haha, isn’t your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy the same? Nowadays, our Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy can be considered to have some fame and reputation. Even some of those strong clans are willing to let their members come to our spiritual academy to train and cultivate...” replied Fei Qingsong with a beaming smile.

Dean Tai Cang did not respond with any comment. However, he thought, *For the sake of raising their fame and reputation, the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy really did whatever they could...*

The Hall Master of the Punishment Hall, Mo You had also wrinkled his forehead. This Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy truly was somewhat indiscriminating.

However, being the overlords of the north, there's nothing they could say, but only hope that Luo Li would be able to stabilise the situation. However, dealing with that member of the Blood God Clan seemed to be easier said than done...

On the square, Luo Li's eyes faintly narrowed. If this Xue Shi's strength was to progress one step further, he would be able to break through to Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase. Furthermore, his Spiritual Energy was even stronger than Liu Zheng's.

From the perspective of stages, he and Liu Zheng were both at the Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase. However, Luo Li knew that Liu Zhen was absolutely not Xue Shi's match. After all, regardless of their appearance of strength, Xue Shi was a member of the Blood God's Royal Clan...

Therefore, the latter was not someone that Liu Zheng could compare to.

"Luo Li, let me see exactly how formidable the next Empress of the Luo God Clan is," said Xue Shi as he locked his blood-red eyes on Luo Li, while the smile at the corner of his mouth grew increasingly bloodthirsty.

Luo Li's charming face grew increasingly frosty as the boundless quantity of swift and fierce Sword Aura rushed to the skies once again.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

As the Sword Aura that blotted the skies converged, the sword river condensed once again. Obviously, Luo Li did not have any intent to show any mercy. Upon launching her attack, she had used her killing move.

"Wanting to use a single sword to deal with me? Haha! Let us see, exactly who's single move is superior!"

With a sinister smile, a chilling light erupted from the blood-red eyes of Xue Shi. In the next instant, his figure explosively shot forward as a Blood Aura that blotted the skies immediately surged forth. Akin to a sea of blood, they hid the skies and covered the earth as they swept towards Luo Li.

As Luo Li's jade-like hand faintly trembled, her charming figure shot out similarly at the same time, while the sword river howled as it swept out. Seemingly merging together, a sword light that carried along a swift and fierce Sword Aura surged out, splitting the horizon apart.

This sword of hers appeared to contain a much thicker and colder killing intent than her previous one.

Seeing this spectacle unfolding before them, everyone opened their eyes wide. Both parties had no intention of warming up. Upon taking action, they had planned to use their killing moves to inflict serious injuries to one another!

"Sword of the Blood Sea!"

The sea of blood and the sword river seemingly collided together in an instant. As the two incomparably violent and explosive attacks collided, within the sea of blood, Xue Shi gave a sudden cold roar. With a

clench of his palm, a longsword that seemed to be forged from fresh blood had condensed within. Bringing along a torrential Blood Aura, he thrust his sword out.

Ding!

As the sea of blood and the sword river pervaded out, the two longswords furiously collided against each other.

The earth below the two cracked and shattered, while distortions seemingly appeared in the air.

The two longswords vibrated intensely as their tips pressed against one another, with one side filled with boundless Spiritual Energy, while the other being filled with erratic bloodthirstiness. Two Sword Auras that were similarly filled with extremely strong destructiveness smashed against one another. The devastation brought forth instantly caused deep fissures to form on the earth around them.

As Xue Shi's arm violently shook, his blood-red eyes sparkled, while a sinister smile rose from the corner of his mouth.

Suddenly, the sea of blood behind him churned and roll, before transforming into a screen of blood. Within the screen of blood, there seemed to be a pair of soldiers condensed from fresh blood as they howled and exited. At the back of the powerful current were gigantic cities. Those cities were sparkling with gigantic lightning flags, where a golden-coloured dazzling word was present.

Luo

As the current of blood surged forth, those cities were instantly destroyed. Countless people turned into bloody waters under the current, while mournful cries of despair rang out from within.

"Luo Li, take a look! As of now, the territories of your Luo God Clan are continuously being devoured. Those citizens that have worshipped your Luo God Clan are continuously being bathed by blood!" roared Xue Shi with a sinister smile. With a demonic sound, the laughter rushed toward Luo Li.

Seeing the images of bloody seas within the screen of blood, Luo Li's mind violently shook, while a distressed mood rushed towards her mind, causing her Sword Aura to collapse.

At the moment when her Sword Aura collapsed, Luo Li was able to sense and understand that her opponent was disrupting her mind. This was the method that the Blood God Clan was the most adept at.

However, at this moment, she was already a step too late.

"Haha, you're too tender, after all."

Said Xue Shi with a sinister chuckle. At the instant where the Sword Aura that completely surrounded Luo Li faintly weakened, the blood sword in his hand instantly erupted with a Blood Aura that blotted the skies. As the sword light howled further, it pierced through Luo Li's defenses, causing the blood light to impact against her delicate figure.

Whoosh!

Luo Li's delicate figure instantly flew out. However, at that very instant, with a raise of her jade-like hand, a ray of sword light pierced through Xue Shi's shoulder at lightning speed.

As the Sword Aura devastated the surroundings, the two figures flew out.

Luo Li's body landed directly out of the square. Descending, her charming face was filled with a slightly frosty expression, while blood flowed along her slender jade-like fingers before dripping onto the ground.

On the square, Xue Shi had stabilised his body. A sword slash was present on his shoulder, with fresh blood staining his robes. However, he did not give the slightest care about his injury. As a blood light erupted out, the blood around his shoulder completely retracted within his body. Even his injury was rapidly healing itself.

"Haha, Empress Luo is truly soft-hearted. Only such a scene is able to shake your mind and concentration. In the future, when you're in charge of the Luo God Clan, how can that be a good thing?"

A smirk appeared on Xue Shi's handsome face as he stared at Luo Li, who was sent flying off of the square with ridicule in his eyes. Continuing his statement, he said, "One cannot have such compassion if one wants to become the ruler of a clan."

Luo Li's charming face instantly turned cold as she gripped her longsword tightly. If not for Xue Shi's method that had shook her mind and disrupted her concentration, it was absolutely not possible for him to force her off the square.

"Shameless!" Roars of fury and anger instantly erupted from the side of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students. This Xue Shi was too despicable! He had actually used such an underhanded method!

However, facing their condemning roars, Xue Shi did not give the slightest bit of care. With a ridiculing smile, he said, "Victory and defeat has been decided for his match. If there are still students of your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that are not convinced, you can come up by all means. By then, you'll be able to clearly understand whether I've only those few means and methods."

The expressions of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students turned ashen in anger as they thought, *This Xue Shi is simply more repulsive and abominable than the previous one, Liu Zheng.*

However, although they were angry and furious, at this time, almost all of the elite students of their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy had already taken action. Even Luo Li, who had demonstrated her extraordinary skill and talent, had been forced off the square by Xue Shi. According to the rules, she had already lost the qualifications to continue fighting.

Therefore, aside from feeling angry and furious, there was no one that could step out from their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. All of their faces appeared extremely sullen as they thought, *If only one of the Top Three ranks on the Heavenly Rankings were here! We'd like to see if these fellows would be that rampant then!*

"I know that the Top Three ranks on the so-called 'Heavenly Rankings' of your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy aren't here. Since that's the case, I'll give you all a chance. For three days, we'll be right here. Within these three days, you guys can try all you want to call them back."

A mocking arc rose from the corner of Xue Shi's mouth as he said, "Naturally, as long as they truly dare to appear..."

Upon saying those words, he did not continue waiting. Turning around, he proceeded to leave the square.

However, just as Xue Shi had turned around, at the chief podium, a faint smile suddenly surfaced on the face of Dean Tai Cang. Standing by his side, Fei Qingsong also seemed to have sensed something, since he had knitted his brows together.

Humm. Humm.

The space above the northern square started to distort and warp, while peals of thunder seemed to ring out from within.

This sudden spectacle immediately attracted the attention of everyone as shocked and startled gazes panned over.

Xue Shi's footsteps had also froze as his blood-red eyes faintly narrowed. Raising his head, he stared at the distorted space. From there, lightning lights sparkled around as a thin figure slowly walked out from within.

Following the appearance of the figure, peals of thunder seemingly resounded across the skies as familiar Spiritual Energy fluctuations radiated across the heavens and earth.

Feeling those Spiritual Energy fluctuations, countless Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students furiously rose from their seats while unconcealable joy and surprise erupted from their eyes.

These fluctuations... they're Mu Chen's!

He had finally appeared!

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 345: Appearance

In the air above the northern square.

As the space distorted into a whirlpool shape, a thin figure slowly walked out from within. At the moment when it stepped out, Spiritual Energy fluctuations that felt familiar and tyrannical to everyone rippled and undulated across the stretch of world.

"Mu Chen!"

At this moment, the eyes of countless Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students were all wide open as ecstasy uncontrollably erupted from within. Those Spiritual Energies were too familiar to them.

"Mu Chen's arrived!"

"He's finally here?"

"It's good now! Let's see if those fellows from the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy dare to continue being that rampant!"

Earth-shatteringly passionate and fervent voices rang out around the northern square as everyone's faces were brimming with joy and surprise. As of now, Mu Chen's reputation and prestige were no

weaker than Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton. When the latter two were not at the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, Mu Chen's prestige was obviously the greatest.

During the final fight of the Hunting War that day, he had thoroughly cemented himself at the apex position within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

That position was something that even He Yao was unable to strive for.

"This fellow... he's finally appeared..." Su Xuan and the rest felt as though a heavy rock had been lifted off their backs. Mu Chen's appearance had undeniably given every student a dose of adrenaline.

Beside her, He Yao's expression started to waver between cloudy and clear. However, in the end, he did not say anything out loud. As of now, regardless of prestige or strength, Mu Chen was already above him, Even though he was unresigned, there was nothing that he could do.

Within the square, Xue Shi stared at the figure that had stepped out from the spatial whirlpool across the horizon with faintly narrowed eyes. From the passionate and fervent voices that rang out of his surroundings, he was able to realise the identify of the latter.

This is Mu Chen, 3rd Rank on the Heavenly Rankings?

After realising that, a cold laugh rang out from Xue Shi. Indeed, he wanted to see exactly how capable the 3rd Rank on the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy's Heavenly Rankings was to actually inspire such confidence in them.

The entire square was enveloped by this passionate and fervent atmosphere. This caused Mu Chen, who had appeared in the air, to faintly feel some bafflement. Just an instant ago, he had just exited his long and deep state of training...

However, after leaving his training state of mind, without even having the opportunity to say his thanks to the bald old man, the latter had shattered and cracked space apart, before throwing him in.

Therefore, he had appeared at this location.

"What's the matter?"

Mu Chen muttered with a slightly wrinkled forehead as he looked towards the northern square below him. After undergoing closed-state training for over a month, there shouldn't be any big incidents happening in the academy, right? Why was it so lively down there?

Mu Chen's gaze swept across the northern square below him. In the next instant, a chill suddenly erupted from within his eyes.

He had spotted Luo Li standing below the square. Currently, eye-piercing blood was dripping from the latter's jade-like hands.

Luo Li's injured?

A wave of anger flashed within Mu Chen's eyes as his figure instantly shot forward, before appearing before Luo Li. Faintly frowning, he asked in a low and deep voice, "What happened?"

Upon seeing the appearance of Mu Chen, a shadow of happiness flashed within Luo Li's eyes. Gently wiping away the blood stains on her hand, she replied with a faint smile, "It's just a small injury, nothing of any importance."

"Who did it?" Mu Chen asked in a deep voice. As of now, there were not that many people who dare to provoke them within this Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, right? Could it be He Yao? Hadn't that fellow fought enough?

"I did it." At this moment, an indifferent voice rang out from close by.

Slowly turning around, Mu Chen looked towards the square, and imprinted the youth with blood-red eyes, who was clad in blood-red robes and standing with his hands behind his back, within his eyes.

"Who are you?" Mu Chen asked while his forehead faintly wrinkled up. The person before him was extremely unfamiliar, and he had never seen such a person within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy before.

Whoosh!

From a short distance away, Su Xuan shot over, before descending beside Mu Chen. In a low voice, she explained the whole story of what happened to him. As she continued her recount, Mu Chen's expression grew increasingly ugly.

This was especially so the moment when he heard that the youth with blood-red eyes before him had used such a despicable method to cause Luo Li to lose her concentration, injuring her shoulder and forcing her out of the square. As of now, the expression on his face was as dark and overcast as a thunderstorm.

"Sorry. We've originally planned to not let Luo Li get entangled with this. However, we truly had no one else to rely on. Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had temporarily left the academy, while you have been missing..." said Su Xuan with some regret.

"Senior Sister Su Xuan, I'm also a student of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Protecting its name is also my duty," Luo Li's voice gently interrupted Su Xuan's apology.

Mu Chen nodded his head faintly, while his originally dark and overcast expression slowly returned to calmness at this moment. With a soft voice, he said, "You two step back of first. Next, let me take over."

Seeing that Mu Chen was that calm, while having such chilling intent gushing out from his voice, Su Xuan and Luo Li both knew that the former had become angry. Next, he would take action.

"Careful, he's a member of the Blood God Clan, one of the four God Clans in the Western Heavenly World," reminded Luo Li. Although this Xue Shi had used some despicable methods, anyone who neglected his strength due to this might have to pay serious consequences.

Hearing her reminder, Mu Chen gently nodded his head. Blood God Clan, huh? Although they're influential fellows, they didn't have the qualifications to extend to such a place. Since they'd extended to such a place, Mu Chen didn't mind to chopping this extension off.

Due to Luo Li, Mu Chen did not have the slightest bit of favorable impressions towards the other three God Clans in the Western Heavenly World.

Luo Li and Su Xuan proceeded to retreat, leaving Mu Chen alone, standing in the square. Upon seeing this scene, the atmosphere within the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy instantly flared up and became more fervent.

“Brother Mu, beat that wretch to death!”

“Make them scam out of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy with their tails between their legs!

“.....”

Various kinds of voices and words rushed towards the sky. Those students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy all appeared to be psyched up, since all of them appeared to be emotional and excited.

The students of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy looked at each other. Obviously, they had never imagined that the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, who had all looked sullen and were about to die, would change and have such confidence.

Could it be due to that youth by the name of Mu Chen?

They casted their doubtful gazes towards the youth, who was slowly walking towards the square. He’s that young? At that age, he obviously didn’t have the look of an elite student that had a bountiful experience.

On the chief podium, Fei Qingsong faintly narrowed his eyes as he stared at the figure of the youth. With a smile, he said, “Is this Mu Chen person the 3rd Rank on your Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s Heavenly Rankings? However, his strength...seems to be far from enough.”

With his eyesight, he was naturally able to tell that the current Mu Chen had not even reached the stage of Heavenly Completion Stage. Seemingly more than half of the Top Ten ranks of the Heavenly Rankings were even stronger than him.

With a faint smile, Dean Tai Cang replied, “There are times when looking only at the cover would cause one to suffer a crushing defeat.”

“Oh?”

Fei Qingsong’s eyebrows jumped, before saying with a smile, “Then, I really have to see exactly what capabilities this Mu Chen has...he’s the 3rd Rank on the Heavenly Rankings, right? Haha. Dean Tai Cang, if you are to lose again, you might not be able to say anything more. As for Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton, I think that Xue Shi and their group would compare notes with them in the future...”

Hearing his words, Dean Tai Cang smiled, without saying anything in response, and cast his gaze that was filled with interest towards the youth on the square. As of now, the latter seemed to be much more stronger than a month ago. However, he did not know if this time, would the latter be able to fill the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy with shock once again?

Under the fervent atmosphere, as well as the doubtful gazes of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy, Mu Chen walked onto the square and stood at a distance not far from Xue Shi. At this moment, those pair of black eyes radiated with an indifferent chilling glint.

“The 3rd Rank of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy doesn’t seem to be as strong as I’ve expected,” said Xue Shi as he stared at Mu Chen. He was unable to feel any Spiritual Energy fluctuations radiating from the latter’s body that was comparable to his own.

“You should not have injured her,” said Mu Chen slowly as his pupils faintly drooped down.

“Oh?”

Xue Shi’s eyebrows were faintly raised up. Staring at Mu Chen with his blood-red eyes, he smiled and said, “She truly is very formidable. If she used her true power, even I might not be her match. However, she’s still somewhat too soft-hearted. Even I am easily able to shake her mind...That is her weakness.”

“Therefore, I’ll have you pay some price for that.” Mu Chen seemed to not care about Xue Shi’s voice. Minding his own business, his voice softly rang out.

“Haha...”

Xue Shi gave a smile, one that contained thick bloodthirstiness. Tilting his head to stare at Mu Chen, he replied, “Just based on you? Who do you think you are?!”

As his last words rang out, the smile on Xue Shi’s face had completely disappeared, being replaced by a cold and sinister expression. He dreaded Luo Li, and, therefore, used that underhand method against her. However, who did the fellow in front of him think he was...daring to be pretentious in front of him!

“You’re looking to die!”

The blood-red colour within Xue Shi’s eyes intensified, as blood-red Spiritual Energy that blotted the skies swept out from him. A thick smell of blood permeated the skies, while strong Spiritual Energy pressure came enveloping over. Compared to before, this was even stronger.

Obviously, this Xue Shi already had the intent to kill.

Outside of the square, Su Xuan and the rest had grave expressions on their faces. The strength of this Xue Shi seemed to be even stronger than Gu Tianyan by a sliver. They truly didn’t know exactly how Mu Chen would deal with him. After all, this time won’t be a friendly comparison of notes, like last time.

For the sake of achieving victory in this fight, both sides would use any methods.

Whoosh!

Under the pressure from the blood-red Spiritual Energy that blotted the skies, Mu Chen slowly exhaled a clump of white air. Raising his head, black lightning seemed to gush out from the depths of his black eyes.

Abruptly clenching his fists tightly, Spiritual Energy similarly erupted from his body without the slightest restraint.

Boom!

Burning with black flames, Spiritual Energy akin to smoke plumes gushed out and rushed across the horizon. Pervading out, without caring about the pressure coming from the blood-red Spiritual Energy, it shot straight up like a pillar of light, with nothing that could shake it.

Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase!

Clamoring instantly arose from the entire square, with the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy students gawking and feeling shocked first. In the next moment, mocking arcs appeared, bit by bit, on the corners of their mouths.

How exactly did someone become the 3rd Rank of the Heavenly Rankings with such strength?

Their gazes turned to mockery and ridicule as they looked towards the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. However, to their surprise, they saw that the students of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy were using mocking gazes to stare back at them, as though rejoicing in the misfortune that was about to befall the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy students.

This group of idiots. They dared to even send a Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase person up. They're truly asking for trouble...

"This group of morons...when Mu Chen was at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase, he's already able to fight equally with Senior Brother Gu Tianyan..."

The silent words in the students' hearts erupted out at this moment. However, no one spoke them out. As of now, the atmosphere was subtly causing people to feel comical.

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Chapter 346: Divine Seal of the Vermillion Bird

Two boundless and tyrannical Spiritual Energies rippled and undulated across the air above the northern square. As the Spiritual Energies pressed against each other, a hurricane seemed to have formed, crazily blowing across this stretch of the world.

"Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase..."

A dark and chilling glow surfaced within Xue Shi's blood-red eyes. Staring at Mu Chen, whose Spiritual Energy had completely erupted, the sinister arc on the corner of his mouth grew increasingly thick. His feelings were indeed correct. That fellow in front of him, Mu Chen, simply hadn't broken into the Heavenly Completion Stage.

Where exactly did this fellow at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase get the courage to jump and hop around in front of him?

Xue Shi, who had never experienced Mu Chen's astonishing road of combat results, wouldn't know. Similarly, those students from the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy would also not know...

However, the students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy knew.

Bang!

Without wasting any more time talking nonsense, Xue Shi did not care whether the person in front of him, Mu Chen, was truly formidable or just acting pretentiously. As long as he took action, he would naturally come to know. Therefore, taking a step out, he started to form a hand seal. In the next instant, a blood-red glowing Spiritual Energy that lingered across the horizon gushed out. Instantly, the smell of blood reeked out, before transforming into a gigantic hand print that descended from the sky.

Bang! Rumble!

As the blood waves gushed out, the bloody handprint howled as it descended, causing even the air to be pressed to the point of exploding, while a gigantic hand impression formed on the earth below Mu Chen.

This move by Xue Shi had made the expressions of quite a few people turn grave. Previously, against Luo Li, his attacks were too vicious, resulting in people simply unable to understand how strong he was in those brief glimpses. However, after truly revealing his extraordinary strength, everyone finally knew that his strength of being exceedingly close to Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase was not baseless.

Bang!

Raising his head up, Mu Chen looked towards the bloody handprint that was about to press down on him. Spiritual Energy burning with black flames spread out like a sea of fire. In the next instant, a starry sky surfaced behind him, before a white tiger treaded the air and appeared.

Four Divine Constellations Scripture, White Tiger Divine Seal!

Mu Chen's fist rumbled out as the White Tiger Divine Seal transformed into a black streaking fiery meteor. Splitting the horizon apart, it smashed head-on against the bloody handprint.

Bang!

Incomparably erratic Spiritual Energies impacted one another, before surging out across the horizon. As the gigantic Spiritual Energy shock wave spread out, the earth instantly cracked and fissured. Despite this, the two figures within the square stood firmly and majestically, without moving a bit.

To them, this kind of shock wave didn't create the slightest bit of sway.

As the Spiritual Energy fluctuations within the square slowly dissipated, everyone got a glimpse of the earth, which had already cracked and fissured into little pieces. Panning their gazes towards the two figures that had yet to move, their expressions turned grave.

A gentle breeze blew by, swirling up the broken pieces of rock, causing them to flutter in the air.

As the two figures within the square interlocked their gazes, black pupils and blood-red pupils, a chillingly cold shadow abruptly flashed from within.

Bang!

The two of them seemingly moved at the same time, akin to two streaks of light shooting out. Heading towards the middle of the expansive square, they smashed head-on against each other.

Black flames and the bloody light rushed towards the sky, each filling their half of the horizon.

At the point of contact between the black flames and the bloody light were two figures sending their shadowed fists howling out. Carrying along churning Spiritual Energies, they smashed against one another.

Remnant shadows appeared as the two figures continued with their exchange. Akin to the collapse of mountains, low and deep sounds of fists and legs colliding rang out, bringing along with them extremely heavy sensations of strength. The two of them had unexpectedly chosen the most violent and vicious way of bare-handed combat.

This was an extremely eye-stimulating way of combat.

Everyone's gazes were firmly locked onto the two indistinct figures within the square, as erratic Spiritual Energy continuously erupted from them like storms, before violently smashing into each other.

As the two figures continued their successive exchanges, wave after wave of Spiritual Energy shock waves extended out, smashing and splitting the earth apart.

Whoosh!

In the earliest moments of this confrontation, the figure burning in black flames appeared to be somewhat suppressed, as the blood-red glowing Spiritual Energy eruptions were having the absolute superiority. This made many students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy clench their fists tightly.

Fortunately, however, their worries did not last for very long. After being suppressed time after time, the figure clad in black flames grew increasingly brilliant, while his attacks gradually became more violent and vicious. At the end, the pressurising situation was completely broken.

Bang!

The two figures continued their exchange as their fist winds violently slammed against each other, causing the ground they were standing on to collapse. This caused them to retreat, skidding on the earth as they drew back hundreds of metres, leaving behind long marks.

Countless people held their breaths in silence, not even daring to inhale loudly.

Those few students from the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy were totally dumbfounded. This was the first time they'd ever seen someone who's able to fight equally with Xue Shi in such an intense brawl. Furthermore... Xue Shi's current opponent was only at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase. In the past, when he had faced opponents of that stage, he would seemingly dominate and achieve victory.

At the front ranks of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy students, a grave expression was present on Liu Zheng's face. Looking at the figure of the youth in the distance, he thought, *This 3rd Rank on the Heavenly Rankings is truly formidable...*

Liu Zheng was not weak; therefore, he was naturally able to clearly see the entire process of this bout of an exchange. At the beginning, Xue Shi seemed to always be the one that initiated the offensive. Mu Chen was somewhat in the disadvantage with his initial defense. However, as time went by, this disadvantage became smaller and smaller. The latter had started to become increasingly proficient with the control over his strength. At the end, there was not much of a difference between the two, with neither one being able to even gain a bit of superiority.

At this moment, on the opposite side of Liu Zheng, Su Xuan and the rest quietly sighed in relief.

“He’s familiarising himself with the sudden increase in energy within his body.”

Luo Li explained in a soft voice. She was too familiar with Mu Chen, after all. Previously, he had clearly used Xue Shi to help himself break in the sudden increase in strength due to his closed up training. This was the reason why he was being suppressed at the beginning of the fight. However, once he had managed to gain total control of the strength in his body, the violent and vicious Mu Chen of the past was clearly back.

Su Xuan and the rest all nodded their heads. In any case, Mu Chen had dared to engage in a fierce fight with Gu Tianyan when his strength was at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Initial Phase. As if it would be easy for him to be suppressed by Xue Shi.

“You’ve some ability.”

On the expansive square, a dark and overcast shadow erupted on the handsome face of Xue Shi. Staring tightly at Mu Chen, he had finally understood why Mu Chen was able to become the 3rd Rank on the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy’s Heavenly Rankings. Although the latter was at the Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase, his Spiritual Energy was somewhat strange. Furthermore, his fleshly body seemed to also be very strong. No wonder why the latter had such confidence.

“However, even if you rely on those, I’m afraid that you’ll still be unable to safely walk away from here!”

A chilling intent erupted from within Xue Shi’s blood-red eyes. The true combat capability of this Mu Chen had truly exceeded the outward appearance of his strength. However, wanting to rely on that to defeat him would truly be too naive.

“Blood God’s Art, Blood River Piercing Heavens!”

Xue Shi’s body shot towards the sky. With a pat of his palm, a bloody light that blotted the skies converged over, before transforming into a churning river of blood. As the river of blood snaked around him, it appeared akin to a blood dragon, while an astonishing aura of blood radiated from it.

“Suppress!”

Xue Shi roared furiously, sending his palm patting out. Carrying along with an extremely astonishing and tyrannical power, the churning river of blood, condensed from the boundless Spiritual Energy, pressed straight towards Mu Chen.

Everyone was able to tell that Xue Shi had already planned to use his true strength to deal with Mu Chen once and for all.

However, Mu Chen wasn’t someone that he could suppress just like that. Although this Xue Shi might be stronger and even more overbearing than Gu Tianyan by a sliver, the current Mu Chen could be said to have grown more tyrannical by a number of times since the Hunting War.

“This time, it isn’t your turn to suppress others!”

Mu Chen’s figure explosively retreated, before forming a seal using his hands that caused people to feel dazzled. In the next instant, churning Spiritual Energy burning with black flames akin to flooding waters erupted from him.

A starry sky started to condense behind him, once again. As the black flames rippled, an extremely astonishing Spiritual Energy fluctuation rushed to the skies.

Screeee!

A clear and resonant cry resounded out. In the next moment, a giant fiery-red bird emerged from within the starry sky. The giant bird was clad in burning flames, making it appear like a Divine Beast living within fire. With a flap of its wings, the temperature of the entire stretch of the world instantly rose explosively. Even the surrounding space started to distort due to the heat radiating from it.

“That is...”

As Su Xuan and the rest looked towards the giant fiery-red bird that emerged from the starry sky, all of their expressions were in faint shock.

“Four Gods Constellation Scripture, Divine Seal of the Vermillion Bird!”

With an expressionless face, Mu Chen furiously sent his palm patting out. In the next instant, the starry sky behind him shattered and collapsed. Flapping its extremely magnificent flaming wings, the giant fiery-red bird brought forth a terrifying temperature that was sufficient to raze the heavens and earth. Under the countless gazes from the surroundings, it viciously slammed against the torrential river of blood heading towards him.

Following Mu Chen’s increase in strength, the Four Gods Constellation Scripture’s Divine Seal of the Vermillion Bird became increasingly tyrannical. The control he had over this Divine Art could be said to have increasingly neared perfection!

Chi! Chi!

As the two forces smashed head-on, the river of blood instantly erupted with a bloody mist that filled the skies. Unexpectedly, the river of blood that was condensed from the boundless Spiritual Energy was being dispelled at an astonishing rate.

At this moment, the expression on Xue Shi’s face finally had some changes. His river of blood was created from Spiritual Energy. Even if it was tossed within a sea of fire, nothing would happen to it. However, before his eyes, it was actually being burnt down and destroyed by his opponent’s giant bird.

Exactly what kind of Divine Art did his opponent use?

“Suppress!”

Regardless of that, Mu Chen did not give him much time to ponder and think. With a cold and frosty expression on his face, Mu Chen gave a backhanded slap. In the next instant, a blazing inferno erupted from the Vermillion Bird. Sweeping out, it immediately evaporated the river of blood away.

Screech!

After evaporating the river of blood away, without dissipating, the Vermillion Bird transformed into a fiery-red streak of light and split the horizon apart. Finally, under Xue Shi’s rapidly contorting gaze, it violently impacted against his body.

Bang!

Flames instantly erupted across the horizon, appearing extremely dazzling.

Countless students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy started to loudly cheer. Mu Chen's counterattack was so beautifully done that there's not a single thing that people could fret about. In contrast, as for the students from the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy, their faces were somewhat pale, while no longer having the provocative looks on their faces.

"Formidable..." Unable to resist, Su Xuan and the rest sighed out in admiration.

Contrary to them, Luo Li raised her lovable face and stared fixedly at the place where flames permeated its entirety, while her eyebrows started to knit.

Mu Chen had also raised his head. Black lightning flashed within his black eyes as he stared at the place where the flames were raging. At this moment, his indifferent voice resounded out.

"If you're unable to even block this move, I think it's best that you scam out of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy."

Hearing Mu Chen's words, all of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy students were stunned. Unexpectedly, that Xue Shi hadn't been defeated yet?

Countless gazes swept across the horizon towards the place burning with flames. As of now, the flames had truly started to dissipate, bit by bit. In the next moment, everyone was able to see a figure that was wrapped within a blood-red armor. Like a god of slaughter, it slowly appeared within the sky.

At this moment, the smell of blood within this stretch of the world seemed to become increasingly thick.

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Chapter 347: Blood Gods Armor

As the aura reeked in blood pervaded out across the sky, everyone's gaze had converged in the air. There, as the flames shrunk and disappeared, a figure clad in a blood-coloured armor appeared before their eyes.

This blood-coloured armor appeared extremely malevolent and sinister, while its blood-like colour was extremely eye-catching, making it appear as though it was condensed from blood. The surface of the armor was covered with pointy spikes that were incomparably sharp. With a single look, one could tell that they contained astonishing killing power.

There were also many groups of mysterious runes glowing and sparkling, and permeating with traces of malevolence.

This armor was completely like an outstanding weapon for killing people.

It was malevolent and reeked of blood.

As Luo Li stared at the blood armor, her pupils started to contract. With a soft voice, she muttered out, "He's actually produced a Blood God's Armor..."

“Blood God's Armor?” Su Xuan and the rest voiced out in doubt. Obviously, this was foreign and unfamiliar to them. Although, they were similarly able to sense how frightening that blood armor was.

“It's a unique cultivation technique of the Blood God Clan. It's able to allow one to refine one's body and blood into the shape of armor. This would lead to a great increase to one's fighting strength. At the same time, both offense and defense would be strengthened.”

Luo Li explained in a soft voice, “With Xue Shi's strength, once he activates that Blood God Armor, even if he was to face against a person at the Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase, he would still be able to put up a fight.”

After hearing up to that point, Su Xuan and the rest's expressions faintly change. Indeed, to actually possess such skills and hidden cards, this Xue Shi was undeniably a member of the Blood God Clan.

“Then, Mu Chen...” Su Xuan voiced out with some worry.

Contrary to her, looking at the thin figure in the square, Luo Li gave a faint smile. Confidence that was even more than Mu Chen could muster was present within those clear, limpid pupils of her as she replied, “He will not lose.”

Seeing Luo Li's response, Su Xuan did not continue asking anymore. Indeed, although this Xue Shi was not easy to deal with, was Mu Chen ever a simple person? Ever since he entered the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, there wasn't a single person that could truly really suppress this ferocious tiger that was starting to reveal its towering and outstanding ability...

Although this Xue Shi was formidable, within the eyes of Su Xuan and the rest, this still might not be enough!

Within the square, where countless gazes had converged, Mu Chen was also staring at the blood armor-clad Xue Shi floating in the air, while a minute trace of astonishment flashed similarly within his eyes. Obviously, he had also detected the unusualness of that blood armor.

“This Blood God Clan... They truly do have some unique aspects...”

“Being able to force me to summon this Blood God's Armor out, you're not considerably bad.” Within the air, Xue Shi lowered his head while sending his cold and sinister gaze at Mu Chen. As his low and deep voice rang out, a stench that reeked of blood pervaded out.

“Once the Blood God's Armor is summoned, it needs to be soaked in the enemy's blood...” Saying that, Xue Shi slowly clenched his fist tightly. Waves of blood gushed out from his body, causing the sky to be incomparably stained in a bloody aura.

“Therefore, I'll use your blood to honor it!”

Bang!

Just as Xue Shi's last word rang out, a chilling light erupted abruptly from within his blood-red eyes. Taking a step forward, a tearing sound rang out from his body as he shattered through space. In a flash, he appeared before Mu Chen as his fist went rumbling out.

Fresh blood seemed to wriggle and squirm on his malevolent fist, while a frightening fluctuation rippled as it was condensed.

Roar!

However, in the instant when Xue Shi's fist rumbled out, a light erupted similarly out of Mu Chen's body, while the shadow of a dragon seemingly took form. As a dragon roar resounded, a remnant shadow had already appeared at his original position.

Bang!

As Xue Shi's fist descended, a bloody light gushed out, smashing the remnant shadow directly into bits. The ground below it had also collapsed, causing gigantic fissures to rapidly branch out.

At this moment, Mu Chen's figure appeared tens of metres away. Looking at the rapidly extending fissures on the ground, his expression froze for an instant. After summoning that Blood God's Armor, Xue Shi's power had truly risen by a notch.

"You think you can run away!"

As Xue Shi's fist landed on thin air, a ridiculing smile flashed within his eyes. Being bestowed with the Blood God's Armor, not only did it increase his strength, his speed had similarly increased. Mu Chen was simply dreaming trying to escape using his movement technique.

Humm.

A bloody light blossomed from Xue Shi's body. In the next instant, Xue Shi's figure disappeared from where he was at. Like a spectre, the next time he reappeared was right in front of Mu Chen. Bringing along a bloody light, an incomparably vicious fist if wind rumbled out once again.

A faint light flashed within Mu Chen's eyes. Continuing his decision to not confront the current Xue Shi head-on, he activated the "Dragon Soaring Art". As his speed explosively increased, he swiftly retreated, closely evading the gale that was sufficient to cause serious injuries to a person on the same level as He Yao.

Swish!

However, just as he retreated, Xue Shi's figure followed suit and stuck to him. Fists of wind permeated by bloody lights smashed through the air, causing even space to be shaken to the point of slightly distorting.

Swish! Swish!

Within the expansive square, the two figures had seemingly pushed their speeds to the utmost limit, as remnant shadows appeared one after another. The speed that the two displayed caused countless students to feel dumbfounded.

"So fast." Su Xuan and the rest sighed in admiration. Following the high-speed evasion and pursuit by the two, even they were only able to faintly discern two indistinct figures. Their speed was too fast.

"However, Mu Chen's evading all the way..."

As Su Xuan and the rest focused their gazes towards the square, anyone would be able to tell that the current Mu Chen was being completely suppressed. After summoning the Blood God's Armor, Xue Shi's strength had increased by quite a bit. With such sharp attacks coming from him, even Mu Chen did not dare to casually confront them, with the only thing he could do was to evade.

However, this was not a long term solution...

Furthermore, this would help ignite the flames within those fellows from the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy. As of now, their eyes were already radiating with light, waiting for the instant Mu Chen would make a mistake.

Luo Li was also staring at the square tightly. However, she wasn't as anxious and worried as Su Xuan and the rest. Contrary to them, she was able to sense that although Mu Chen was continuously evading, his movement's weren't frantic and disordered. During his evasions, there was also quite a pause between them. Obviously, he should be planning something, instead of frantically evading at all directions after being suppressed by Xue Shi.

Although she wasn't too clear as to what Mu Chen was doing, since the latter had decided to do such a thing, naturally, there should be a reason. Being extremely familiar with Mu Chen, she knew that Mu Chen would never do anything that had absolutely no meaning.

At the northern square, countless students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy were staring tightly at the middle of the square, while a cold sweat covered their palms. The escape and pursuit happening within the square was too astonishing, to the point of shaking their souls. As long as the two made the slightest bit of contact, the result might be earth-shattering.

Right now, everyone was looking at the two figures flashing and darting around like spectres with bated breath.

Bang!

The moment Xue Shi's fist rumbled out, a bloody light smeared across Mu Chen's chest as it headed towards its target. Relying on the impact, the latter retreated explosively once again. However, Xue Shi was able to sense that the Spiritual Energy around Mu Chen had fluctuated for an instant. Obviously, it had been shaken by the aftermath of his blow.

This caused a sinister and cold shadow to flash within Xue Shi's eyes.

Boom!

Boundless blood waves violently gushed out from within Xue Shi's body, before transforming into a pair illusionary blood wings that were faintly discernable. With a flap, his speed dramatically increased once again.

Chi!

Seemingly transforming into a streak of blood-red light, he appeared before Mu Chen in a blink of an eye. From his speed, one could tell that it had risen much, much higher.

"Although your movement technique is mysterious, it's a pity that I've already seen through it!"

As the black pair of eyes interlocked with the blood-red ones, a malevolent smile rose from the corner of Xue Shi's mouth. Previously, although he managed to entangle Mu Chen, he discovered that the latter had learnt a mysterious movement technique. Therefore, he had restrained himself from going all out in an attempt to identify the underlying patterns and key points. After breaking all the mysteries, it was time for him to unleash an all out killing move.

It had to be said that Xue Shi's combat experience was extremely rich. It's no wonder why he could become the person at the apex within the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy.

A chillingly cold expression was present in Mu Chen's eyes as he looked towards Xue Shi, who had gotten very close to him. The latter's aura that reek of blood had already lunged forward. However, there wasn't any anxiousness or frantism expected to be present in the latter's eyes.

"How long are you going to keep up the act in front of me?"

A cold smile flashed within Xue Shi's heart, while a killing intent surged within his eyes. Without the slightest bit of hesitation, he tightly clenched his right hand. As a bloody light encased his fist, a clear and distinct spike that reeked of blood surfaced. It obviously looked like it had sufficient killing power.

The malevolence within Xue Shi's eyes became increasingly thick. With a low and sinister laugh, he sent his fist rumbling out. As the bloody light that's attached to it extended out, a blood seal could be faintly discerned as it formed, while a torrential bloody aura permeated from it.

"Blood God's Armor, Blood God's Spiritual Seal of Destruction!"

Bang!

As a bloody aura gushed out of it, a fist of wind covered in a bloody light that looked akin to a pillar of blood shattered through the air. Under the countless shocked gazes below, it violently rumbled down towards Mu Chen's head.

From the looks of it, it was sufficient to cause Mu Chen's head to explode.

"Our game has come to an end!" roared Xue Shi as a bloody light radiated from his eyes, while a malevolent and vicious expression covered his entire face.

This fist of his would definitely kill Mu Chen.

As the bloody light rapidly grew bigger in Mu Chen's vision, a cold and sinister arc started to climb at the corner of his mouth. In the next instant, Xue Shi seemed to see a black-coloured lightning bolt crazily flash within the former's eyes.

In fact, black-coloured lightning started to arc across the surface of Mu Chen's body, while seemingly radiating with a destructive flavor.

Bang! Rumble!

A peal of thunder suddenly resounded across the world as black lightning arcs appeared exceeding sudden around Mu Chen's body. Bolts of black lightning twined across his body, while the originally jet-black pair of eyes appeared even more deep and unfathomable.

At this moment, his body seemed to have expanded in size, causing his clothing to rip. Within the ripped seams of his clothing, one could slowly and faintly discern something akin to a lightning mark appearing...

“Your Blood God's Armor... has also been seen through by me...”

“Therefore, it should end right now!”

As the mocking arc grew increasingly higher at the corner of his mouth, Mu Chen clenched his fingers tightly together. Without the slightest bit of hesitation, black lightning bolts arced and danced across his fist, before crazily condensing together. In the next instant, they formed a black-coloured lightning sun within Mu Chen's fist.

Boom!

As Mu Chen's fist rumbled out, under the countless gazes and bated breaths of everyone, the black lightning sun rumbled violent towards the fist condensed with Xue Shi's full power.

At the next instant, the black lightning and the fist covered in blood smashed violently against each other!

Bang!

An enormous sound resounded as the earth that both of them stood on instantly shattered and exploded.

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Chapter 348: A Fist Shattering the Armor

The black lightning and the bloody light shattered the air apart, bring along incomparably rampant fluctuations as they violently collided like two meteors above the square.

Boom!

At the instant of the collision, even the earth seemed to shake intensely for a moment, while the ground within the square immediately collapsed. The black lightning light, as well as the extremely scarlet waves of blood, crazily erupted from within the centre of the square, corroding and trying to obliterate each other.

The ground under the feet of Mu Chen and Xue Shi turned into dust, layer by layer. The hard rock within the ground had seemingly turned into tofu, causing their feet to leave deep gouges within them.

The fist wrapped with a lightning bolt and the fistprint pervaded with blood were deadlocked in the air, while radiating with terrifying fluctuations, causing even the surrounding space to be shaken to the point of forming distortions.

Seeing this, Xue Shi's face turned dark and overcast. The fist that he assumed would end this fight had unexpectedly been completely blocked by Mu Chen with his fleshy body. Furthermore, from the head-on impact of their fists, the latter's black-coloured lightning bolts had actually dissipated some of the bloody aura enveloping his fist.

A considerably frightening power was contained within that black lightning.

“Die for me!”

With a roar, a Bloody Aura torrentially gushed out from within Xue Shi’s body. In an instant, his entire arm seemed to be condensed with blood, reeking of blood and was eye-catching, while radiating a thick and intense flavor of blood.

Across him, black lightning seemed to flash within Mu Chen’s black pupils. At this moment, destructive fluctuations started to spread out from his body, while the clothing around his upper body seemed to tear and disintegrate.

Following the disintegration of some of his clothing, one could see a black lightning rune surfacing on his chest.

At this moment, the black lightning rune was sparkling with bits of lightning light, before suddenly lighting up completely.

Thunder God Physique, Mono Rune Lightning Physique!

Relying on his month-plus training, while adding the supplementary effects of the Lightning God’s Lotus, Mu Chen’s Thunder God Physique had finally reached the true realm of the First Rune!

At the instant when the Lightning Rune lit up completely, Mu Chen’s body seemed to become thick and sturdy. Encased in black lightning, he appeared to be a god of lightning that had descended onto the world.

Boom!

As the rumble of thunder intensely shook the air, a lightning bolt erupted from within Mu Chen’s eyes as he sent his fist rumbling out.

“Scram!”

Accompanied by a clap of thunder, his explosive roar resounded out. In the next instant, churning with black lightning and radiating within unblockable grandeur, Mu Chen’s fist violently rumbled towards the blood-armored fist of Xue Shi.

At the instant of contact, Xue Shi’s face finally contorted as he became overwhelmed with shock. He was finally able to sense a frightening amount of power pouring out akin to an avalanche from Mu Chen’s fist.

Under that absolute power, his boundless blood-filled Spiritual Energy was smashed back in an instant.

This is bad!

Those words rang out involuntarily within Xue Shi’s heart. However, before he was able to even try to think about how Mu Chen’s sudden attack became so frightening, with a move, he had already explosively retreated.

However, why would Mu Chen, having a similarly rich combat experience, give him such a chance? Having endured for quite a long time, and having even activated his Thunder God Physique, he condensed his strongest power and sent blow after blow smashing down on Xue Shi!

Bang!

Therefore, at the instant when Xue Shi had just started to retreat, the power coming from Mu Chen had already smashed against him without any restraint.

Boom!

In the next instant, everyone was able to see black lightning rapidly spreading out all of a sudden at an astonishing speed. At this moment, the Spiritual Energy permeated by the bloody light was completely suppressed by it.

As a fist went rumbling across, black lightning surged forth.

Crack!

The armor covering Xue Shi's fist seemingly shattered in an instant. Those malevolent spikes on it were also completely destroyed by the impact of the black lightning.

The black lightning was akin to a furious dragon that was planning to destroy the heavens and earth, brandishing its claws and opening its mouth, rampaging about without an ounce of fear.

Bang!

The blood armor covering Xue Shi's entire arm was completely shattered, while a mouthful of blood was crazily spurted out by him. Like a stone that was being slapped, he shot backwards, before finally gouging a deep hundred metre long track on the ground.

At this moment, the sudden clap of thunder ringing in the square rapidly disappeared.

Following that, the black lightning and the bloody light had also started to slowly vanish, bit by bit. Nevertheless, the surroundings of the northern square were unexpectedly still in absolute silence, since everyone one was staring blankly at the square, eyes brimming with shock and terror.

In the square, Mu Chen was still maintaining his position with his fist extended out. The ground in front of him had a fissure running hundreds of metres long, with a stretch of ruins present at its end.

He had actually managed to send Xue Shi flying with a single fist!

Not only were the people from the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy dumbfounded, even those students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, whom had faith and confidence in Mu Chen, had their jaws hanging wide open. The previous scene where Mu Chen had sent Xue Shi flying with his fist truly possessed too much of a shock to their eyes...

"How could that fist be that formidable?!" Su Xuan and the rest had shock similarly present within their eyes. That fist Mu Chen had sent out was absolutely enough to cause serious injuries to even a person of Heavenly Completion Stage Initial Phase.

“That fellow’s strength has increased again...” The faces of the people who had some disputed with Mu Chen, Zhao Qingshan and He Yao, appeared slightly pale. As of now, the gazes they sent towards the former were now filled with a sliver of dread. The current Mu Chen had become even stronger than a month ago.

Unknowingly, this former Freshman, had already gradually surpassed them, and was even leaving them far, far behind.

Within the silence-filled square, gaze after gaze started to turn to the opposite direction of Mu Chen. The ground there had already collapsed. Within the giant pit, a figure was present. Staggering and stumbling, it appeared somewhat miserable as it stood up.

That was Xue Shi. As of now, his body was covered in blood, while his right arm hung lifelessly down, as though its bones were shattered by Mu Chen’s fist.

More than half of the Blood God’s Armor on Xue Shi’s body had already shattered, appearing extremely dim, as though it could dissipate at any time.

Obviously, the frightening attack from Mu Chen had caused considerably serious injuries to him.

“How’s this possible...?”

Xue Shi looked in disbelief at his lifeless right arm. His Blood God’s Armor was actually destroyed by Mu Chen...that was the Blood God’s Armor that was capable of enduring the furious attacks of a Heavenly Completion Stage Middle Phase expert...This Mu Chen was only at Heavenly Transformation Stage Late Phase! How could the latter break apart his Blood God’s Armor?

“You’ve lost.”

An indifferent expression filled Mu Chen’s eyes as he stared at Xue Shi. At this moment, the latter had already landed outside of the square. According to the rules, he had already lost this fight.

Hearing Mu Chen’s words, Xue Shi’s face instantly contorted, while fury erupted from his eyes. He was a member of the majestic Blood God’s Royal Clan! How could he lose to such a youth of no status and reputation?

“I’ll kill you, bastard!”

With a furious clench of his hand, a long spear that appeared to be condensed from blood appeared within his hand. In the next instant, he had unexpectedly shot it out. A cold glint slightly appeared as the long spear within his hand was thrust straight at Mu Chen’s throat.

Whoosh!

Upon seeing that Xue Shi, who had already lost the right to continue battling, had unexpectedly attacked without abiding to the rules, everyone in the surroundings of the square instantly started clamoring, before furiously shouting and cursing out.

Indifference remained in Mu Chen’s eyes as he looked at Xue Shi shooting over to him. With his Blood God’s Armor broken, the latter’s speed had become slower. Added with his serious injuries, he was not insufficient to be a threat.

Swish!

As Mu Chen slightly moved his body, the eyes of Xue Shi contracted abruptly, as the former's figure had already appeared right beside him.

"I've said that since you've hurt her, you'll have to pay the price...now that you've broken the rules first, you can't blame me..."

Now being very close to him, a swift and fierce expression akin to a blade erupted from Mu Chen's handsome face, while a cold and sinister arc rising from the corner of his mouth. Obviously, the intent to kill had surfaced towards the fellow that had injured Luo Li with such despicable methods.

Furthermore, he wasn't person of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Therefore, Mu Chen would not show a shred of mercy.

Feeling the deep killing intent harbored in Mu Chen's words, Xue Shi finally regained his clarity. Shock and terror instantly flashed within his eyes as he thought, *This Mu Chen was actually deliberately waiting for me to break the rules?*

Only when he broke the rules would Mu Chen be able to unscrupulously attack. Even if the latter truly killed him, Mu Chen would still have an excuse.

"This bastard!"

Chilling intent erupted for Xue Shi's heart as he involuntarily cursed out. In the next moment, he saw Mu Chen's palm print, encased in black lightning, violently descend towards his chest.

The ferocity of that attack was extreme.

"Stop!"

However, just as Mu Chen was about to land his palm on Xue Shi's chest, an explosive roar abruptly resounded across the horizon. In the next instant, Mu Chen felt an indescribable pressure sweeping out. Under this pressure, his body started to become sluggish.

"Haha, Dean Fei. You've broken the rules by interfering in an exchange between students." However, just as the pressure had enveloped him, a calm and faint sound of laughter rang out, causing the pressure on Mu Chen's body to dissipate completely.

Mu Chen's body had recovered to his usual condition.

As a cold glint flashed within his eyes, his palm landed without any hesitation on Xue Shi's chest. As a clap of thunder resounded out, a slender finger of his suddenly turned into a deep jet-black colour as it silently stabbed out.

Successfully landing his strike, a sensation of danger suddenly erupted out from Mu Chen's heart, causing him to react immediately and shot back out. At that instant, he was able to see a fat figure appearing beside Xue Shi, before grabbing the latter within his hand.

"Such a vicious brat!"

The figure was naturally the Dean of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy, Fei Qingsong. Looking at Xue Shi, whose aura was faint, his chest collapsed and close to death, his face instantly contorted, before fiercely glaring at Mu Chen.

The Spiritual Energy of the world seemingly condensed into something substantial at this moment, before pressing towards Mu Chen in an attempt to crush him.

Mu Chen instantly felt as though his body had entered into a swamp, while being unable to move. This caused a huge change to his expression. This force was something that he absolutely couldn't offer any resistance against.

However, just as the Spiritual Energy of the world was pressing down on Mu Chen, a majestic and imposing figure appeared before him. With a wave of his sleeve, the pressure that blotted the skies instantly dissipated like smoke in thin air.

Dean Tai Cang appeared before Mu Chen, while looking calmly at Fei Qingsong in front of him. At this moment, akin to the rumbling of heavenly lightning, his indifferent voice rang out across this stretch of the world, immediately causing even the Spiritual Energy of the world to churn and boil erratically.

"Dean Fei, just because our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy would treat people with respect, do you truly assume that our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy is easily bullied?"

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 349: Untitled

As though carrying the prestige of the heavens and earth, Dean Tai Cang's firm and forceful voice spread out across the entire northern square. Every other sound was being suppressed at this moment. Even the Spiritual Energy fluttering about the world was churning and flaring up.

Out of fear, countless students maintained their silence, while shock and terror filled their faces. At this moment, they were able to feel as though they had lost the control of their bodies, while the Spiritual Energy within their bodies had traces that seemed as though they would rebel at any moment.

If Dean Tai Cang was to slightly release his killing intent, the Spiritual Energy within their bodies might instantly rebel. At that time, without even needing him to take action, they would be tossed around and killed by their own Spiritual Energy.

Therefore, as the students looked at one another, they were able to see the unconcealable shock present in each other's eyes. Was this the strength of Dean Tai Cang? Indeed, it was frightening...

Across from him, a faint change was also present on Fei Qingsong's face. The majority of the strength of Dean Tai Cang's roar had headed straight towards him. While others viewed it as a roar, within his eyes, it was akin to a roar from a furious dragon, brimming within frightening fluctuations.

This sound wave attack that was unable to be detected by others caused even him to feel a heart full of graveness.

The fatty flesh on Fei Qingsong's face shook, before his gaze turned sharp and fierce. With a wave of his sleeve, the space fluctuations caused the sound waves coming from the roar to be completely blocked. Lowering his head, he shot a look at Xue Shi, whom he had grabbed in his hand. At this moment, the

latter had already fainted from his serious injuries. Those injuries were serious to the point of sending a shiver across his face. Obviously, the injuries that Xue Shi had received were extremely serious. That Mu Chen had clearly wanted to take his life.

“Dean Tai Cang, we’ve come from afar to your place. However, this student of your academy is so vicious. Won’t he lose the face of your great academy?” Fei Qingsong questioned in a deep voice. All in all, he did not dare to shed all pretense of cordiality with Dean Tai Cang at this place. Firstly, this was the territory of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Secondly, being able to become one of the Deans of the Five Great Academies, how could Dean Tai Cang have an undeserved reputation?

Although their Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy could be considered to have some hidden cards up their sleeves, it was obvious that they were incomparable to the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.

Regardless of the question, Dean Tai Cang’s face still maintained his previous calm, gentle and indifferent expression. With a faint smile, he replied, “The previous Exchange should have already ended. However, that Xue Shi had still continued to break the rules and attacked. Mu Chen attacking in self defense is a reasonable reaction.”

“If you really want to discuss this matter, you’d have to start from Xue Shi breaking the rules. Mu Chen isn’t to blame.”

Hearing his reply, the face of Fei Qingsong twitched uncontrollably for a few times. From the looks of it, this Dean Tai Cang did not plan to let Mu Chen give him an account... this showed that he wanted to shelter Mu Chen.

Although this Dean Tai Cang appeared good-natured and gentle, he was, in fact, extremely overbearing.

This ignited the flames within Fei Qingsong’s heart, causing his face to instantly appear somewhat dark and overcast.

“Dean Fei, this Exchange can be considered to have already ended. Both sides have their victories, and we’re unable to differentiate a final victor. However, your Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy truly has numerous talents. In the next Great Academy Competition, your academy should have a pretty good performance.” Clearly ignoring the dark expression on Fei Qingsong’s face, Dean Tai Cang’s voice and his faint smile already indicated his intent of wanting to send them off.

Fei Qingsong’s face instantly turned ugly. Nevertheless, there would be no face to gain, even if he was to stay behind. With a wave of his sleeve, he coldly snorted, “Since that’s the case, I’ll have to thank the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy for the reception. After the Great Academy Competition, our Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy would seek guidance again for this matter.”

In response, Dean Tai Cang gave a faint smile.

In the next instant, Fei Qingsong shot a fierce glare towards Mu Chen, who was standing behind Dean Tai Cang. However, the latter shot a smile back towards him in response, causing his anger to reach a level where his fat started to shake.

Snort!

With a quiet snort, Fei Qingsong grabbed the heavily injured Xue Shi and descended towards the location of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy students, before waving his sleeve.

“Let’s go!”

Boundless Spiritual Energy light swept out from Fei Qingsong’s sleeve, before completely enveloping all of those students. In the next instant, they transformed into a streak of light, and shot out of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy at lightning speed.

Whoosh!

Following the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy’s crestfallen departure, the northern square instantly erupted with astonishing and earth shaking cheers. Countless scorching gazes were focused on the slender youth in the middle of the square. Compared to before, a trace of genuine worship and respect was present within them.

The absolutely breathtaking scene of the latter sending Xue Shi flying off the square, was still imprinted in their minds.

Hearing the deafening cheers and roars from the students, Mu Chen started to smile, before staring at the direction where Fei Qingsong and the rest of the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy people had left with slightly narrowed eyes. That Xue Shi was quite a problematic guy. However, it was a pity he wasn’t able to kill the latter.

Regardless of being unable to kill him, that Xue Shi was still in deep shit. Previously, when Mu Chen had landed his palm on him, he had activated his “Divine Black Lightning Poison Finger”, sending a trace of lightning poison into the latter’s body. Although it wasn’t lethal, it might lead to sufferings when the latter trained and cultivated in the future.

“Although they’re not big, you’re methods are quite vicious.” Suddenly turning around, Dean Tai Cang spoke towards Mu Chen in a faint tone.

Mu Chen’s heart immediately gave a slight jump. Although his poison finger was veiled by his pat, with Dean Tai Cang’s strength, he might not be able to mask it from the latter...

Looking at Dean Tai Cang’s face, which was unable to show whether he was happy or angry, Mu Chen was also unable to know what this great Dean was thinking, with the only option he had being to remain silent.

“However...at times, when you’re not vicious, you’ll get eaten by others.”

Seeing Mu Chen’s nervous and tense state, Dean Tai Cang finally let out a laugh. Sounding a little delightful, he said, “Not bad. Facing a fellow that dared to ridicule the honor and dignity of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, it’s best to either kill or waste him. If anything happens, I’ll always be able to handle it for you.”

Hearing Dean Tai Cang’s words, Mu Chen became dumbfounded. Unexpectedly, this Dean that had always appeared to be an exceedingly capable and outstanding person had spoken such words. However, while feeling stunned, he had also quietly sighed in relief. From the looks of it, Dean Tai Cang didn’t mind the methods that he had used.

“In reality, this kind of Exchange didn’t have any benefit to us. If they won, they would proclaim their success wantonly without restraint, and use this to smear the name of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy.”

With a smile, Dean Tai Cang continued speaking, “In the past, we didn’t really care much about it. However, these fellows had come just at the moment when Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton had left the academy. If not for you, we might have truly let them escape with it. Therefore, you can be considered to have made a contribution to our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. Don’t worry about me thinking about punishing you.”

“Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton have left the academy?” Mu Chen asked in shock.

“Yes. They’ve teamed up and taken the Bounty Mission to kill Mo Longzi,” replied Dean Tai Cang as he faintly nodded his head.

“Mo Longzi...” muttered Mu Chen as his eyes faintly contracted. Previously, he had also met up with that fellow. If not for Shen Cangsheng managing to rush over in time, he might have been in considerable danger. However, as of now, his strength was much more intrepid compared to a few months ago. If he met with Mo Longzi now, it’s also not necessary for the latter to be able to take his life.

“As of now, your experience is, after all, still shallow. In the future, if you wish, you can take this level of a Bounty Mission,” said Dean Tai Cang with a smile. Although Mu Chen’s current strength was already at a considerably intrepid level, he did not plan to allow the latter to undergo an overly dangerous mission. If anything were to happen to him by any chance, it would be quite a big loss for their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. After all, compared to Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton, Mu Chen was still just a youth.

“Therefore, what you should do now is strive hard and train. I know about some of your matters in the Spiritual Road. That opponent of yours isn’t simple...” said Dean Tai Cang with a faint smile.

Hearing those words, Mu Chen’s eyes instantly contracted. That opponent of his...was he talking about Ji Xuan?

“That Ji Xuan was personally received by the Dean of the Saint Spiritual Academy. Therefore, the Saint Spiritual Academy would naturally put in great effort to nurture him. Added with his absolutely peak talent, with his Heaven Grade Spiritual Pulse, his future achievements would be quite high. The most outstanding student from the Saint Spiritual Academy in the coming Great Academy Competition might even be him,” replied Dean Tai Cang.

Mu Chen gently nodded his head. He naturally didn't doubt Ji Xuan’s talent. At that time, people like Jie Ao and Yang Hong were all his loyal followers. This was sufficient to prove the capability and methods of the latter.

In the year within the Spiritual Road, other than Luo Li, who had previously caused a headache for Mu Chen, the only one who was of quite a high threat to him as Ji Xuan. In the end, he had even schemed to have Mu Chen forced out of the Spiritual Road. Those methods and schemes utilised by him were extremely deep and concealed.

As of now, Ji Xuan had already entered the Saint Spiritual Academy, one of the five Great Academies. As of now, compared to his achievements in the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, exactly who among the two of them had the upper hand?

Although Mu Chen wasn't a person that would seek revenge for the smallest grievances, grudges and gratitude were things that he remembered very clearly. That Ji Xuan was his true enemy, and was even the kind that would send his enemy to death once a chance presented itself to him. Therefore, once they met during the Great Academy Competition, it would definitely be a life-or-death fight.

Once he had the chance, Ji Xuan would definitely not show any mercy. Similarly, Mu Chen would not have the slightest bit of hesitation.

"I know." Mu Chen replied and nodded his head. He was very clear on how formidable Ji Xuan was. Therefore, he would naturally not relax his vigilance. Against this enemy of his, no one understood him better than Mu Chen.

"The Saint Spiritual Academy would give huge support to Ji Xuan. Since you're a student of our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, we'll naturally not do nothing about it."

With a beaming smile, Dean Tai Cang continued speaking, "I know that you've gotten quite a few benefits from Northern Sea, and have a substantial increase in strength. However, it seems that you're also a Spiritual Array Master, am I right? As of now, you should still be hovering and stagnating at this aspect, right?"

Dean Tai Cang's eyes were that sharp and acute. With a single look, he could tell that it was seemingly hard for Mu Chen to advance further in this aspect. After all, he was lacking guidance from people.

A faint light flashed within Mu Chen's eyes as he hastily nodded his head.

"Northern Sea doesn't even understand a bit about Spiritual Arrays. Therefore, he's unable to offer any help to you."

Dean Tai Cang retrieved a jade slip from within his robes, with the words "Tai Cang" seemingly etched onto it. Handing it to Mu Chen, he said, "Tomorrow, you'll take this jade slip and find Elder Ling Xi. She's the person with the highest attainments in Spiritual Arrays within our Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, and should be able to provide some help to you."

Hearing those words, Mu Chen was filled with joy. As of now, what he needed most was the guidance of a great Spiritual Array Master. This move by Dean Tai Cang was simply assistance at a timely moment.

"Dean, thank you very much."

Mu Chen hastily took the jade slip over and voiced his gratitude.

Waving his hand, Dean Tai Cang replied, "There's no need for thanks. What I need isn't that, but a Freshman of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy by the name of Mu Chen that is able to suppress the most monstrous talent of the Saint Spiritual Academy during the Great Academy Competition."

Faintly smiling while looking at Mu Chen, he asked, "So, what do you think? Can you achieve that?"

Clenching the jade slip and giving it a soft rub, an unruly arrogance and the sharpness of a youth rose from the corner of his mouth.

“Please feel relaxed, Dean. During the Great Academy Competition, just leave that Ji Xuan to me.”

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 350: Ling Xi

As the night grew darker, the clear and cold moonlight enveloped the entire Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. However, even though it was already well into the night, the gigantic spiritual academy was still filled with vitality as figures shot across ceaselessly.

The Exchange that had ended today had undoubtedly caused the emotions within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy to flare up and boil. The scene of the final reversal caused many students to boil and turn restless. Originally, all of them had assumed that they had let the Ancient Cauldron Spiritual Academy get the long end of the stick. Although a loss like that would not let people assume that their Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy was no longer capable, those slanderous rumors would always raise the ire of people.

Mu Chen had returned and defeated the strongest student from the opposite side with an immensely strong attack. This kind of reversal caused many students from the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy to feel exceedingly elated and inspired. Naturally, relying on this fight, Mu Chen’s 3rd Rank on the Heavenly Rankings had already become impossible to shake. There were even some students that estimated, and were shocked to discover, that the current Mu Chen had already started to gradually catch up to Li Xuantong.

According to the rate of Mu Chen’s increased strength, perhaps it wouldn’t take too long before the 3rd Rank on the Heavenly Rankings to take a shift forward. This might even happen before a year’s worth of time... There was even the possibility of him rushing towards the Overlord’s Rank within the Heavenly Rankings that was guarded by Shen Cangsheng after so many years.

At that time, there would definitely be an incomparably spectacular fight between tigers and dragons.

...

Within the little building in the Freshmen Area, a young girl was standing elegantly. Clasp the black longsword in her jade-like hands, Luo Li’s gaze was focused on it, while one could notice the absent-mindedness present within her eyes. After quite a long time, she gave a faint sigh.

“What’s the matter?” A low and gentle voice rang out behind her as Mu Chen extended his arm around the young girl’s slender waist.

“Looks like the news about me leaving the Luo God Clan is already spreading.” replied Luo Li as she gently leaned within Mu Chen’s bosom, while her eyebrows started to faintly knit together. If her grandfather, Luo Tianshen, was to know about this matter, the time of their agreement might be immediately brought forward.

She was the Queen of the Luo God Clan, and was the only person within the Luo God Clan that could shoulder them. If some mishap was to even occur to her, the Luo God Clan would truly collapse and be wiped out.

At that time, the millions of citizens within the Luo God Clan would suffer the ruthless massacre from the other three Great God Clans.

To the Luo God Clan, she was truly too important.

Therefore, once that Xue Shi wakes up, he would definitely report this news back to the Blood God Clan. At that time, the Luo God Clan would definitely catch wind of it. Therefore, even if she wanted to conceal this matter, she was unable to conceal it for long.

Hearing her words, the arm wrapped around Luo Li's slender waist tightened, while fury quietly rose within his eyes. If he had known this earlier, he would have truly killed that fellow. Although, he also knew that wanting to kill Xue Shi in front of Fei Qingsong seemed to be an impossible task.

As Luo Li nestled in Mu Chen's embrace, her fine and exquisite little face rested against his chest, rubbing her face up and down like a little kitten. She was very clear about the immense pressure that she would have to bear if she were to return to the Luo God Clan once again. This kind of pressure was sufficient to cause an ordinary person to immediately break down and collapse.

However, the lives and deaths of millions of her citizens were all under her control.

Furthermore, at that time, she would no longer have such a heartwarming embrace for her to rely on. At that time, the only person she could rely on was herself. At that time, there would no longer be anyone that would feel heartache to the point of feeling more hurt and infuriated whenever she gets bullied.

Mu Chen looked towards the delicate and porcelain-like face within his embrace, before starting to turn silent. He knew that the day where they had to part would come. Furthermore, this separation might be for a very long time, with her not having another chance to slip out to find him.

Before possessing sufficient strength, he was also unable to find her. If he did, not only would he not be able to provide any help to her, he would even become a burden. Although she wouldn't mind that, obviously, Mu Chen would absolutely not want to see that scene.

"I'll accompany you for this period of time."

Mu Chen let his hand flow through Luo Li's long silvery-like hair, enjoying the perfect feeling in his palms. Looking up into the sky, he exhaled a long breath of air. *Luo Li, I'm already doing everything I can to run along the path of an unrivalled expert. I'll continue to run like that, all the way to the point where I can truly stand in front of you and shatter anything that blocks you with a single palm of mine!*

...

The next day, after accompanying Luo Li in the Freshmen area for over half a day. This continued till the young girl became slightly angry, and said that he was being too annoying and making her unable to train. Only then did he leave her alone, while feeling hurt that he was actually being ignored and avoided.

After leaving the Freshmen area, Mu Chen found his bearings and started heading towards the northern side of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy. According to Dean Tai Cang, that Elder Ling Xi should be living around there.

Mu Chen already knew about some information regarding Elder Ling Xi from his conversation with Dean Tai Cang and the others yesterday, the majority coming from Ye Qingling. That's due to the fact that the Elder that had taken Su'er under her wing was the exact same Elder Ling Xi.

That Elder stayed deep within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy and rarely went out, and it was extremely rare for students to catch a glimpse of her, with the number of people being able to obtain her guidance on Spiritual Arrays being even less. Within the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy, if anyone wanted to obtain some guidance from the Elders, one would need extremely high amounts of Spiritual Values. However, this Elder Ling Xi had a completely firm personality. She didn't even care if one had Spiritual Values, causing countless students to be unable to shed tears, and were helpless without any other alternative.

In view of this, Mu Chen felt slightly apprehensive about this. This Elder had an overly excessive personality. He didn't know if the Dean's words would have any effect...

Holding onto this apprehension, and after approximately ten minutes, Mu Chen started to descend towards the peak of a cloud-covered mountain. An elegant courtyard stood erect on the summit of the mountain. Clouds lingered around it, giving it an extremely quiet and serene feeling.

As Mu Chen descended before the courtyard, he noticed that the main doors were tightly shut, while there was nobody around to greet him. Making a bitter laugh, he retrieved the jade slip given to him by the Dean yesterday, before saying in a respectful voice, "This student's name is Mu Chen, and I've come on the behest Dean Tai to meet with Elder Ling Xi."

Wrapped with Spiritual Energy, Mu Chen's voice rang out within the quiet and serene courtyard. Nevertheless, there was still no activity present within. Regardless of that, he didn't get anxious over it. Standing outside of the door, without moving an inch, he held the jade slip out, appearing extremely respectful.

Within his respectful stance, he waited for nearly half an hour's worth of time.

Just as the half an hour mark gradually went by, a ray of light shot out from within the depths of the courtyard. Immediately enveloping the jade slip within Mu Chen's hands, it retrieved it before heading back. At the same time, the tightly shut courtyard doors started to slowly open, bit by bit.

Huuu.

Seeing the courtyard doors open, Mu Chen quietly breathed a sigh of relief. *Looks like the Dean's jade slip has a bit of use. If it didn't, even if I stood here for an entire day and night, this eccentric Elder wouldn't even bother with me.*

Mu Chen strode forward, crossing over the courtyard doors before walking into the depths.

Past the courtyard was a secluded and winding small path made of broken stones, with a clear lake by its side. Taking a look at his surroundings, Mu Chen proceeded to follow along this small rocky path.

And this walk became one that was nearing half an hour's of time.

This small rocky path seemed to continue forever without end. Regardless of how Mu Chen walked, he was unable to walk out of it. At this moment, his expression had turned completely solemn. Obviously, he was able to feel the strangeness of this place.

As he stopped his footsteps and wrinkled his brows tightly, he thought, *Is this... to test me?*

Taking a look at his surroundings, he gave a flick of his finger, and explosively sent Spiritual Energy shooting out towards every direction. However, without shooting out far into the distance, all of them dissipated in the air. From the looks of it, this region seemed to be an isolated space.

“Is this a Spiritual Array?”

Mu Chen muttered to himself, as he scanned the surroundings around him acutely. Nevertheless, he was unable to discover any fluctuations caused by Spiritual Seals permeating within the air. In this place, there weren't any traces of Spiritual Arrays.

After thinking deeply for quite a while, he made a sudden step back.

Following his step back, the surrounding scene turned slightly illusionary. In the next instant, he discovered that he had appeared at the location where he was right after stepping past the main doors, with the little rocky path in front of him. At his back, the doors of the courtyard were still open, seemingly telling him that if he wasn't able to head forward, he should immediately turn around and leave.

He couldn't walk forward, and he wasn't willing to turn around and leave.

Was there a third way for him to walk?

This place was definitely strange. However, it's just that Mu Chen had yet to discover it.

As he thought about it, his eyes faintly narrowed. After a while, his gaze suddenly turned towards the clear lake beside the little rocky path. As his eyes sparkled, he took a step forward, and heavily landed within the lake.

As his feet descended, there wasn't any water splashing out. At this instant, Mu Chen's taut body finally relaxed. *Indeed, it's like that...*

Without stopping in his tracks, he walked straight into the lake, causing the lake water to slowly submerge him, bit by bit.

At the moment when Mu Chen was completely submerged by the lake water, his surroundings seemed to faintly ripple and fluctuate. In the next moment, he started to feel them turn illusionary, with the little rocky path and the lake already dissipating away.

What appeared before him was an elegant and refined bamboo building, with the words “Ling Xi's Courtyard” being displayed.

Elation filled Mu Chen as he could tell that he had passed the slightly strange place.

Suddenly, Mu Chen's gaze turned towards the front of the bamboo building, only to see a beautiful girl dressed in white sitting quietly there. The girl was extremely youthful, with her skin akin to snow,

twirling eyebrows with a serene and quiet gaze, while radiating with an icy and indifferent aura that would repel people to a thousand miles away.

Upon seeing her, Mu Chen instantly gawked, before cupping his hands and saying, "This student..."

Before he could finish his words, the girl dressed in white gave him an icy glare. With a wave of her jade-like hand, the bamboo door instantly closed shut.

Mu Chen was stunned.

"Eh, Big Brother Mu Chen?" while Mu Chen was still stunned, a young and happy voice suddenly rang out from behind.

Turning his head around, the first thing he saw was Su'er, dressed in white, standing right behind him, who currently had her eyes wide open with happiness and surprise as she looked at him.

"Big Brother Mu Chen, why are you here?" asked Su'er happily in surprise.

Feeling helpless, Mu Chen replied, "I'm here to find Elder Ling Xi to teach me about Spiritual Arrays... however, I didn't see anyone..."

"Hasn't Elder Sister Ling Xi been here all along?" replied Su'er in confusion, as she pointed towards the bamboo building.

"This place? Elder Sister Ling Xi?"

Mu Chen immediately gawked, before an incredulous feeling erupted out from his eyes as this moment. Staring blankly at the tightly closed bamboo doors, he thought, *That beautiful girl in white is that Elder Ling Xi?*