

Great Ruler 581

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Chapter 581: Earth

“As you wish.”

When Mu Chen’s voice spreads to the horizon, experts of all sorts abruptly shrank their eyes as they looked at the mysterious and slender youth. Mu Chen’s acceptance of the challenge was out of their expectations.

However, anyone could see from the current situation that Ji Xuan was forcing Mu Chen to fight with him alone. With Mu Chen’s cultivation at Spiritual Energy Disaster, he was on the weaker side.

Perhaps Mu Chen had the means to compensate for that weakness. However, that could only be used on ordinary experts. Facing the monstrous Ji Xuan, he would understand how hard it was to compensate for the gap between them.

Who dared to say that Ji Xuan did not have his own means as well?

“Mu Chen.”

Xu Huang and the rest looked at Mu Chen with worry. Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton also exchanged looks with their brows furrowed. Clearly, they were not in favor of Mu Chen’s fight with Ji Xuan.

Earlier, when they confronted Ji Xuan, they understood very well what sort of horrifying strength that youth possessed.

Wen Qingxuan took a glance at Mu Chen, her rosy lips quivered. However, her expression was heavy as she maintained her silence without a word. She knew that the current Ji Xuan could not be compared to all the other opponents that Mu Chen had encountered so far.

“That fool.” Wu Yingying could not help grinding her pearly-white teeth as she heavily stomped her feet.

“, if he is a fool, then the amount of normal people could be numbered.” Wu Ling laughed as he turned his head towards Wen Busheng, who was wearing a harmless smile that stood beside him, with a smile as he asked, “What is Brother Wen’s view on this?”

Wen Busheng originated from the Undefeated Spiritual Academy. Although the name of the Spirit Academy was extremely lavish, the reputation of the Spiritual Academy was extremely low. The strength of that Spiritual Academy was barely fulfilling the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament. But no one could have imagined that this youth from that particular Spiritual Academy could lead his team to Rank 8 in the point rankings.

It was not an easy task to achieve such a feat as it was a qualification to partake in the finals. Thus, many teams had targeted their team, but not a single one had succeeded in their objective.

The result made it clear that this team from a small-sized Spiritual Academy was the biggest black horse in this tournament.

Hearing Wu Ling's words, Wen Busheng's harmless smile that hung on his face slightly froze as he replied, "Ji Xuan is very formidable."

As he spoke, he made a pause before continuing his words, "However, Mu Chen... is very hard to deal with. Despite the fact that he only possesses the cultivation of Spiritual Energy Disaster, I could feel that the danger coming from him is not any weaker compared to Ji Xuan."

"This confrontation... will be very interesting. But the outcome would have to depend on Mu Chen's performance."

Hearing his evaluation, Wu Ling smiled as he lightly nodded his head. He focused his attention onto that area as he mumbled, "This will be very interesting..."

Under the countless gazes of all sorts, Mu Chen slowly moved forth.

Ji Xuan was looking at Mu Chen with both of his eyes narrowed from smiling as his gaze flickered, "You are truly extraordinary to have made it this far with your cultivation of Spiritual Energy Disaster."

Mu Chen was also staring back at Ji Xuan. However, he did not speak a word as he flew up into the horizon with a stomp of his feet, standing in the sky. Clenching his fist, black-colored lightning surged out of his body, bring along the roaring of thunder.

"Let's go, I will take a look at how much you have improved all these years." Mu Chen said as he slowly extended his palm out.

Ji Xuan smiled in response without any warmth. In the next instant, everyone could clearly see torrential Spiritual Energy sweeping out of his body.

Rumble! Rumble!

Majestic and powerful Spiritual Energy swept out like the ocean, bring along rumbling sounds. Spiritual Energy pressure also spread out as it engulfed the horizon.

Everyone's faces slightly changed at the Spiritual Energy pressure as it made their bodies feel heavier.

The Spiritual Energy cultivation that was displayed by Ji Xuan was at Second Grade Spirit Disaster. However, he clearly already possessed the qualification to attempt to break through the Third Grade Spirit Disaster. Thus, ordinary Second Grade Spirit Disasters were not his opponents.

"What powerful Spiritual Energy."

Someone could not restrain themselves from muttering in a soft voice. In the current Great Spiritual Academy Tournament, those with Second Grade Spirit Disaster were the top tiers. However, the current Ji Xuan that stood before them had already surpassed that level and would come in contact with Third Grade Spirit Disaster very soon.

The moment he made a breakthrough to the Third Grade Spirit Disaster, the last step that countless people have yearned for would be right before him, the Sovereign Realm!

Mu Chen stared at Ji Xuan, who had powerful Spiritual Energy circulates around him. However, there wasn't any astonishment displayed on his face as it wasn't surprising for Ji Xuan to possess such strength with his talent.

Rumble!

The lightning around Mu Chen became increasingly dense as lightning gathered at his chest, slowly forming into six lightning runes. In that instant, the entire sky turned dark as it seemed as if lightning bolts were swimming about in the sky.

As the black lightning traveled across Mu Chen's body, he also emitted powerful strength that could flatten a mountain range.

Mu Chen stood in the sky, the Spiritual Energy around him wasn't as powerful when compared to Ji Xuan, but the veins underneath his skin were wiggled as if they were worms. His physical body quietly jolted as the energy ripples exploded the space around him.

"He actually managed to cultivate his physical body to such a degree..."

Hovering on the sky far away, Liu Qingyun looked at the ripples of energy around Mu Chen as a flash of astonishment flickered in his eyes. His gaze was even heavier as he stared at Mu Chen.

Before achieving the Sovereign Realm, it was extremely hard to cultivate the physical body. It was much harder compared to cultivating Spiritual Energy. Thus, it was the reason why not that many people paid so much time to cultivate their physical body before achieving the Sovereign Realm.

"I wonder if your physical body can withstand the impact of my Spiritual Energy?" Ji Xuan faintly smiled as he stared at Mu Chen.

"We'll know after we try." Mu Chen extended his palm as he made a provoking gesture.

"Such courage you have."

Ji Xuan's mouth curled into a cold arc as his gaze turned colder. No one saw him moving, but the torrential Spiritual Energy swept forth like an ocean. Spiritual Energy attacks amounting to a dozen shot forth with astonishing speed at the size of roughly a thousand feet. With a flash, it had already arrived above Mu Chen.

"Sacred Light Wheel!"

Ji Xuan clenched his fist as the dozen Spiritual Energy attacks combined together, forming into a Sacred Light Wheel that measured up to a thousand feet above Mu Chen. As the light wheel spun, it turned into a light as it flew down with some rustling sounds coming from it.

Ji Xuan was clearly vicious with his means as he did not show any signs of movement to hint his attack.

Lightning exploded on the surface of Mu Chen's body. He clenched his fist as black lightning runes slowly extended onto his arm as he threw a fist out.

Rumble!

The roars of lightning shook the horizon.

A colossal black light flew from Mu Chen's fist as it roared, which resounded throughout the horizon, clashing against the light wheel.

Boom!

Black and white light tangled together up in the sky, before it dissolved, turning into a violent storm that swept out.

As the storm swept out, Mu Chen's figure abruptly disappeared from his original location.

Rustle!

Mu Chen's figure reappeared at the rear of Ji Xuan. There wasn't any expression worn on his face as he quickly made that instantly made a starry sky form behind him.

"Four Gods Constellation Scripture!"

"Lightning God's Fist!"

Mu Chen sent out images of beasts with his left hand, while his right sent out lightning. Two tyrannical attacks instantly engulfed Ji Xuan.

"Sacred Light Shield."

Ji Xuan extended his hand as brilliant white light gathered, before turning into a huge shield. On the shield, it was filled with sacred runes that made it look impregnable.

Boom!

Mu Chen's tyrannical attack heavily clashed against the shield. However, he was not able to pierce through it, only able to make the light shield slightly shake.

Ji Xuan's methods vastly outstripped all of his opponents in the past. Not only did he possess powerful Spiritual Energy, the technique in which he cultivated in was also not your ordinary stuff. His fighting strength was acclaimed as the peak of perfection.

"Sacred Light's Hand!"

After withstanding Mu Chen's attack, Ji Xuan pushed his palm out as the gigantic Sacred Light's Hand appeared above Mu Chen as it slammed down, causing the nearby air to explode from the force.

Boom!

Another black lightning soared into the sky as it confronted the Sacred Light's Hand.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The exchange of the two people was extremely fast. In just a dozen breath's time, they had already exchanged dozens of moves. Black light exploded as the sacred light dissipated, causing the entire horizon to be dark and distorted from the two horrifying attacks.

Countless gazes filled with shock were directed towards the fierce exchange between the two, to the point that even a few experts that had broken through to Second Grade Spirit Disaster had the corner of their mouths twitching, since the exchange was simply too terrifying.

During their exchange, Mu Chen was clearly taking more hits. However, with his powerful physical body, he managed to withstand it. Therefore, neither side was on the advantageous side in their fight.

“There won't be any outcome if the two of them were to continue in such a manner,” said Wu Ling as he watched the battle from afar.

Wen Busheng lightly nodded his head. Shortly after, his eyes instantly shrunk as he slowly spoke, “So they must reveal some of their cards.”

When Wen Busheng spoke, white light abruptly gathered in the sky that looked like a blazing sun that was shone onto the land, along with fearsome Spiritual Energy ripples soaring into the sky.

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Chapter 582: Third Grade Spirit Disaster VS Hepta Rune Lighting Physique

Buzzz.

Brilliant white light rays that looked like a blazing sun as rays of light shone into this horizon.

The bizarre scene instantly attracted the attention of everyone.

Boom!

Mu Chen wore a serious look in his eyes as he clenched his fist and sent it out. In an instant, lighting that seemed like an enraged dragon roared as it charged forth along with boundless Spiritual Energy as it sped towards Ji Xuan, who was emitting the endless brilliance.

Ji Xuan stood in the sky and was at the center of the brilliant light as powerful Spiritual Energy fluctuated in his surroundings. His long black hair was fluttering as a chill filled his eyes.

He raised his head as he fixed his gaze onto the incoming black lightning, his mouth curled into a ridiculing smile as he moved, bursting forth.

Rustle!

His figure instantly appeared before the black lightning as he casually pushed his palm out towards the black lightning.

Bang!

Brilliant white Spiritual Energy erupted in the form of a light beam. Wherever the white light traveled, it destroyed the rampaging black lightning in its way.

“Mu Chen, do you truly think that my strength is only Second Grade Spirit Disaster?”

Destroying the lightning with a single palm, Ji Xuan's robes fluttered along with his black hair. He looked down, from up high, on Mu Chen, who was standing before him, as he had a profound smile on his face.

Hearing Ji Xuan's words, countless experts that were present in this place had their hearts jolted as they became dumbstruck. The meaning behind Ji Xuan's words... could it be that he had already broken the threshold to Third Grade Spirit Disaster?

The gaze of Luo Li, Wen Qingxuan and the rest narrowed as their expressions became a little heavy at this instant. Ji Xuan had, indeed, concealed his true strength...

Up on the horizon, Ji Xuan lightly smiled and made a holding gesture with his hand. In an instant, a terrifying Spiritual Energy pressure spread out as the pressure increased several folds compared to before.

In addition, the boundless white Spiritual Energy was like an ocean around Ji Xuan as it constantly waved, emitting violent energy.

Compared to before, his Spiritual Energy was a lot more robust.

"I never imagined, in my wildest imagination, that Ji Xuan broke through to Third Grade Spirit Disaster... what a deep and immeasurable fellow. No wonder he could firmly occupy the Numero Uno spot. This doesn't spell good for Mu Chen..."

Sighs resounded around this horizon. The sudden surge of Ji Xuan's strength broke the deadlock between the two in an instant.

If Ji Xuan did possess the strength of a Third Grade Spirit Disaster, it would be impossible for Mu Chen to resist him.

"How are you going to resist me now?"

Ji Xuan's gaze was sharp as he looked at Mu Chen. Shortly after, his hand seals changed as a wave of majestic Spiritual Energy swept out with light gathering together. Forming into a huge light seal above Mu Chen.

The light seal emitted a brilliant light as it fell down. The frightening energy had instantly locked a few thousand feet, with Mu Chen in the center, not allowing him to have the slightest chance of escaping.

Compared to before, Ji Xuan's attack was way more powerful. If Mu Chen still used his previous method to forcefully withstand it, he would definitely be injured.

The instant Mu Chen fell into the disadvantageous position in this confrontation, perhaps the outcome would be decided.

Mu Chen raised his head as his black pupils reflected the brilliant light. The colossal light seal rapidly expanded in his pupils. The pressure that was brought by that attack made the surrounding space around him locked. So much so that even the black lightning that was flickering on his body was suffering under the pressure.

This was how powerful a Third Grade Spirit Disaster was.

That attack was not something that his Hexa Rune Lightning Body could confront. The Ji Xuan that stood before him was indeed, an enemy that would require him to give it his all.

Haaaaaa.

Mu Chen deeply sucked in a mouthful of air as he slowly closed his eyes under the countless astonished gazes.

“Is he giving up?” Far away in the horizon, Xue Tianhe stood in the sky as his scarlet pupils looked at Mu Chen in indifference as he muttered to himself, “Is someone that received the love of Luo Li so weak?”

“Seems like the influence of expelling him out of the Spiritual Road is great.” Yun Fang of the Nine Cauldrons Spiritual Academy mumbled with a faint smile. If Mu Chen’s cultivation was not disrupted for a year, the current him might not be weaker than Ji Xuan. However, it was a pity that there were no “ifs” in this world...

“Mu Chen, he...” The faces of Xu Huang and the rest were filled with anxiety. In strength had instantly flipped the board around.

Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong also wore heavy expressions on their faces, since they never expected Ji Xuan to be so powerful to the point that he had already managed to pass through the threshold of Third Grade Spirit Disaster. Even in the entire Great Spiritual Academy Tournament, he is the first person that has managed to break through to Third Grade Spirit Disaster, right?

Luo Li and Wen Qingxuan did not speak, but their charming gazes were fixed onto the scene in the sky. Clearly, they had revealed the worries that they had in their hearts. Ji Xuan was an opponent that no one could belittle.

Rumble!

Just when everyone in this region was astonished by Mu Chen’s actions, the sky instantly darkened. Thereafter, someone realized that thunderclouds had appeared above them, without them knowing, as lightning flickered in the thunderclouds with deep roars of thunder resounding.

Tsssssssi!

As the lightning flickered, a colossal bolt of lightning suddenly fell from the sky, tearing apart the horizon, before heavily hitting Mu Chen’s body under the numerous dumbstruck gazes.

The black lightning almost buried Mu Chen’s figure within. Rays of lightning spread out as they sparkled. The violent ripples caused by it had also made the surrounding space boiling.

However, the black bolt of lightning did not last a long time as it vanished in a rapid speed. The lightning seemed to have been attracted as it was being rapidly absorbed into Mu Chen’s body.

In the blink of an eye, Mu Chen’s figure reappeared before everyone’s eyes.

There weren’t any changes in his body, except for the fact that the black lightning that covered his body from before had vanished without a trace.

Right at this moment, Mu Chen slowly opened his tightly shut eyes.

Rumble!

It was as if lightning was being born in his black pupils. Shortly after, he stomped his feet, causing the space beneath him to be distorted. Thereafter, with a rustle, he soared into the horizon.

Boom!

Mu Chen's clothes were shredded apart. As his clothes were torn apart, everyone could see the lightning runes that appeared on his chest.

And there were a total of seven !

Rune Lightning Physique!

Boom!

Roars of thunder rang across the horizon as Mu Chen's figure turned into a bolt of black lightning. Within the black lightning, it contained indescribable overbearing power.

Boom! Boom!

The bolt of black lightning that Mu Chen had formed soared. In the next instant, it had already heavily clashed with the colossal light seal that was falling.

"Break!"

In the instant the two forces clashed, a deep voice suddenly rang out.

The black lightning seemed like a spear of the lightning god that was about to pierce through this horizon, causing this horizon to be instantly darkened. What followed after was even more astonishing, since everyone could see cracks appearing on the light seal as it rapidly expanded.

Crack!

A clear and crisp sound rang out as the black lightning pierced through the light seal.

The faces of everyone, drastically changed.

The bolt of lightning pierced through the light seal, before it slowly dissipated in the sky. Following the dissipation, Mu Chen's topless, figure appeared once again. His black pupils looked as if there was a world of lightning in them as his gaze made others feel fearful.

Beneath him, the light seal exploded as it shattered.

Countless gazes were being widened, bit-by-bit, while following the shattering light .

Ji Xuan's attack actually collapsed!

"How is that possible...?" An exclamation resounded as the voice was shaking. The current Ji Xuan had already used his strength as Third Grade Spirit Disaster. But despite so, he was unable to defeat Mu Chen?

"His physical body grew stronger." Wen Busheng wore a heavy expression as he looked at the topless and slender figure, Mu Chen. The latter's Spiritual Energy did not grow much, but his physical body was several times more powerful compared to before.

Wu Ling also lightly nodded his head in agreement. "He is indeed not someone so easy to deal with. Seems like the both of them had cards up their sleeves..."

"Haaaaaa."

Shen Cangsheng and the rest breathed out a mouthful of air in relief. Shortly after, their hearts were filled with shock. Comparing Mu Chen to the strength he had when the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament had just begun, he actually grew so powerful.

"This fellow truly has the same character as Ji Xuan. Both of them like to hide their cards up their sleeves." Wen Qingxuan snorted. However, in contrast to her words, her anxious expression was slightly relieved.

"I'm afraid that not even you know how many cards he has hidden up his sleeves, Luo Li."

Luo Li did not reply, but she gave a shallow smile in response.

Under the countless dumbstruck gazes, Mu Chen and Ji Xuan faced off in the sky. One of them had an ocean of Spiritual Energy around him, while the other had lightning runes on his body, both appearing extremely overbearing.

"Truly formidable." Ji Xuan stared at Mu Chen as a chill flowed from his eyes. However, he still had a smile maintained on his charming face.

"Did you truly believe that the strength of my physical body was only at such a level?" Mu Chen faintly smiled as he returned Ji Xuan his words.

"It's still too early for you to be rejoicing."

Ji Xuan smiled as light circulated in his eyes. "Truth be told. If this is your limit, then you will still remain here today."

Mu Chen slowly extended his hand out as he formed bizarre seals with his fingertips as something like a bladed edge that could even make Ji Xuan feel startled burst from his eyes.

"Now then, it's my turn to attack."

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Chapter 583: Retaliate

"Now, it will be my turn to attack!"

When Mu Chen's deep voice resounded, numerous experts present in this horizon narrowed their gaze the whole time, the way Mu Chen fought was Ji Xuan attacking while he defended.

And now, was he finally going to change his way of fighting?

But, even if his physical body had grown stronger, was he truly able to contend against Ji Xuan, who had already achieved Third Grade Spirit Disaster?

Upon the horizon, Ji had surging in his surroundings had his eyes flickered upon hearing Mu Chen's words. Shortly after, he chuckled, "I'll be anticipating, then."

He crossed his arms, not having any intention of obstructing Mu Chen. Although it was out of his expectation when Mu Chen's physical body grew stronger, it was still too naive for Mu Chen to think that he would fear him based on that.

Mu Chen wasn't bothered with Ji Xuan's chuckle since he was already forming blurry seals with his hand when he spoke earlier.

As his hand seals changed, a dark-green halo spread out with his palm in the center.

"Tree Planting Art!"

Mu Chen barked inwardly in his head as the dark-green halo was seen expanding. Under the countless dumbstruck gazes, the green light fell from the sky. A rustling sound was heard before a vast dark-green forest rose up from the ground.

The forest was filled with gigantic trees with light circulating on their surfaces.

"This is..."

The sudden appearance of the dark-green forest made everyone widen their eyes in shock. However, their expressions changed, not knowing whether to laugh or cry when they could not sense any dangerous ripples coming from the forest.

"Really... what a convenient way of growing trees."

Someone couldn't resist commenting. This was the first time that they had witnessed such a bizarre method, being able to grow a forest in a move.

But, then again, they knew that this wasn't created by Mu Chen out of nothing. As such means of creation wasn't something that they could achieve at their current level.

The forest should be something that Mu Chen had prepared long ago as some unusual Spiritual Artifacts did possess such capabilities. Forming a small interspatial realm where one could keep living things in it.

Luo Li and Wen Qingxuan were exchanging looks since this was the first time that they had seen Mu Chen executing such... a peculiar method.

Shen Cangsheng and the rest quietly wiped their cold sweat. If it wasn't for now not being the right time, they might have laughed out loud.

Mu Chen, who stood on the horizon, wasn't bothered by the unusual gazes of everyone as he glanced down at the vast forest. Thereafter, his hand seals changed again.

Buzzz! Buzz!

Following the change of his seals, dense, dark-greenish light surged forth from the forest. The light was filled with vigorous Spiritual Energy.

The Spiritual Energy was filled to the brim with life force. Compared to the natural mottled Spiritual Energy, it vaguely possessed a fine spirituality.

“Something’s not right.” The gaze of Wu Ling and the rest who were staring at the dark-green forest suddenly narrowed, along with their expressions becoming a little heavier. They seemed to have sensed something.

Dark-green light spread out from the forest like an ocean as a peculiar pressure began being emitted.

The whispers started to die off since they were starting to feel that something wasn’t right. Mu Chen definitely had a reason for creating such a huge forest, not simply for viewing purposes.

Upon the horizon, Mu Chen’s expression was calm. Shortly after, his slender fingers quietly intertwined.

Divine Wood Scripture!

Whoosh!

The gigantic trees in the vast forest started to explode as the dark-green spiritual ocean soared up as it suddenly gathered towards Mu Chen.

Rumble!!

The torrential Spiritual Energy gathered beneath Mu Chen’s feet, it was like a sheet of the ocean. The dark green was filled to the brim with life force. The of the Spiritual Energy even made Ji Xuan’s face slightly change.

He felt danger from the Spiritual Energy.

Haaaaaa.

Mu Chen sucked in a mouthful of air as he fixed his cold gaze towards Ji Xuan as he faintly smiled. However, his smile seemed like there was a blade hidden in his smile, “It’s your turn to be receiving attacks from me.”

“Lesser Divine Art - Divine Wheel of the Heavenly Wood!”

Mu Chen’s eyes suddenly turned cold as his hand seals changed. The dark-green ocean beneath his feet soared up to the sky in an instant as it gathered at a rapid speed. Thereafter, a wooden light wheel with the size of a few thousand feet started to form under the countless startled gaze.

wheel quietly hovered above Mu Chen’s head. Although the dark-greenish color made it look as if it was made of wood, it was emitting an unstoppable fluctuation, seems like a deity conducting divine punishment!

The faces of everyone turned heavy. Even those as strong as Wu Ling, Wen Busheng, Liu Qingyun and various pinnacle experts of the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament had slightly narrowed their eyes.

The Divine Wheel of the Heavenly Wood that was created by Mu Chen was a genuine Lesser Divine Art. Adding on to the energy that it had absorbed from the Divine Wooden Scripture and the fact that these two Divine Arts were of the same origin, the of this Lesser Divine Art was much more powerful to all the other times that Mu Chen had used it due to the fact that the two Divine Arts complemented each other.

Faced with this sort of fearsome attack, even an expert that had stepped into the Third Grade Spirit Disaster would be afraid.

“He truly is not simple, to possess such means.” Xue Tianhe slowly said as he stared at the scene. Even he could sense danger from Mu Chen’s attack. That fellow was indeed able to match evenly with Ji Xuan and stand out from the masses.

Up in the sky, the smile that was hung on Ji Xuan’s face slowly faded. He stared at Mu Chen as he clenched both of his fists, causing the white Spiritual Energy around him to grow stronger. Clearly, he sensed how powerful Mu Chen’s attack was.

“Go!”

Mu Chen finally extended a slender finger under the countless startled gaze pointing down, his chilling voice resounded.

Buzzzzzz!

Following the action of Mu Chen pointing his finger down, the colossal and antique wheel started to slowly spin as the rotation quickly accelerated at a rapid speed.

Buzz! Buzzzzzz!

The divine wheel turned into a dark-green arc as ear-piercing buzzes were emitted from it. Even the space had traces of being sliced on the region of the blade.

Woooooooooosh!

The divine wheel flew out when the rotation had reached its limits.

Boom!

The speed of the divine wheel was indescribable, looking like it had teleported. In a flash, it pierced through the space as it appeared barely three hundred meters away from Ji Xuan.

“Sacred Light Divine Art - Sacred Light Guardian!”

Ji Xuan’s face turned heavier as his hand seals changed, following a bark that resounded.

Woooooooooosh!

A sacred light that engulfed the heavens and earth surged forth from his body as it expanded around his surroundings at an astonishing speed. In the blink of an eye, it had taken the form of a colossal sacred light image. That image had spread out its wings as it protected Ji Xuan.

Boom!

When the sacred light image made its appearance, the divine wheel had also suddenly swept forth. It seemed like a collision from a meteorite as it clashed against the colossal wings.

Indescribable light exploded as it covered even the sun. This entire region was covered in a dazzling light that made others find it hard to even open their eyes.

Rumble!

The intense dazzling light only lasted for a few breath's time, before everyone could sense a fearsome Spiritual Energy tornado that swept out.

Boom! Boom!

The ground cracked along with the surrounding mountain peaks being sliced off...

Countless people that were closer flew away from the shock. Only several experts who possessed decent strength could barely stabilize their bodies. However, a smear of shock was on their faces.

The clash was simply too startling.

The shock wave of the Spiritual Energy that wreaked havoc lasted for a few minutes, before gradually dying down. When the heavens and the earth had its serenity restored, a complete disorder appeared before everyone. The sight of the crack that was roughly ten thousand feet wide made the eyes of those looking at it twitch.

Rustle!

However, their lines-of-sight only stopped on the ground for an instant, before directing their gazes up.

On the horizon, stood two figures. However, the both of them were sent flying thousands of meters apart. The colossal sacred light image around Ji Xuan was also dissipating before his figure was revealed to everyone.

More than half of his clothes were torn apart, his face was dark as he viciously stared at Mu Chen's eyes.

"He blocked it."

When everyone saw Ji Xuan's current state, they could not help exclaiming. At the same time, they felt fear in their hearts. Ji Xuan was simply too formidable. Even when he was faced with such a fearsome attack from Mu Chen, he could still defend himself.

However, the reason why Ji Xuan was able to defend himself was due to the fact that he grasped a Divine Art. Furthermore, it was a defensive-type Divine Art. Otherwise, he would definitely be wounded.

Nevertheless, Ji Xuan was able to defend himself from Mu Chen's attack.

"Formidable."

Ji Xuan stared at the traces of blood on his arm as he directed his dark gaze towards Mu Chen. He eerily smiled. "You are indeed formidable. To be able to unleash an attack of this level with your cultivation at Spiritual Energy Disaster."

"However... I still have to tell you with regret that it was still impossible for you to harm me, even if you have mastered a Divine Art!"

"And now, what other moves do you have?"

When he spoke to the end, Ji Xuan's gaze was thoroughly filled with a chill.

Mu Chen's black pupils were looking at Ji Xuan in calm. Shortly after, a peculiar smile surfaced on his handsome face as he lightly said, "It's still too early for you to rejoice."

Hearing his words, Ji Xuan's pupils instantly narrowed as he sensed something. He raised his head and saw that after the layers of white clouds were torn apart, black thunderclouds appeared that were hidden behind the layers of white clouds. The black lightning in the thunderclouds looked like a colossal dragon as it rolled, emitting destructive power.

At this instant, a voice quietly rang out in Mu Chen's heart.

"Lightning Controlling Art!"

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Chapter 584: Concealed Trump Cards

Rumble!

A huge sound rang out, sounds of enraged lightning instantly resounded between this heaven and earth. The roar made even the sky tremble in that instant.

Black thunderclouds were stacked in the sky as a colossal black lightning that looked like a black dragon was wiggling in the thunderclouds, emitting ripples of destruction.

Everyone was dumbfounded by the sudden scene. Even those as powerful as Wu Ling, Xue Tianhe, and Liu Qingxun were shocked since they did not sense any peculiar fluctuations earlier.

"What a sly method."

Liu Qingyun spoke with a heavy voice. At this instant, he finally understood what was going on. The divine wheel that Mu Chen had used wasn't his final move. The true ultimate technique was the lightning that was hidden behind the divine wheel.

Mu Chen used the divine wheel to cover it up. When he was drawing in the boiling Spiritual Energy between this heaven and earth, he secretly covered up this ultimate technique of his.

"What a deep scheme." Wu Ling faintly sighed. The previous attack was already so frightening. However, Mu Chen was not complacent by it and had hidden a bigger ultimate technique behind his first...

Facing the revealed and hidden twin attack, even if someone had managed to withstand the first one, it would be impossible to defend against the second that was hidden away.

Rumble!

Just when everyone was shocked at the appearance of the thunderclouds, Mu Chen's cold gaze was already fixed onto Ji Xuan, whose expression was a little ugly at the moment.

"Lightning Controlling Art - Go!"

Without any superfluous words, his hand seals changed as he drew down his slender fingers.

Boom!

The black thunderclouds were instantly torn apart as a loud roar resounded across this horizon. When everyone raised their heads, the black lightning looked as if it was conducting lightning judgment as the colossal black lightning fell.

Tsssssssssi.

The speed of the falling lightning was so extremely fast that it was impossible to avoid. In the places that the lightning had swept past, space was distorted and looked like a glass that was about to shatter at any moment.

Because the black pillar of lightning had extremely fast speed, it had appeared above Ji Xuan in a flash. Currently, the amount of Spiritual Energy around Ji Xuan was frozen still. Because he had to defend himself against the Divine Wheel of the Heavenly Wood from Mu Chen earlier, he had to circulate the Spiritual Energy within his body, which caused it to be sluggish for an instant.

Furthermore, when Mu Chen's attack came, it was the exact moment that the Spiritual Energy within Ji Xuan's body was unable to restore back to its peak.

All of this could be said as invulnerable.

This attack was the true ultimate move that Mu Chen had been brewing!

The faces of everyone froze at the sight as they stared at Ji Xuan, who was engulfed by the black lightning pillar. After dominating the Numero Uno slot for so long and having not been defeated before, was he going to lose today?

Faced with the attack that Mu Chen had perfectly grasped the chance to use, even someone like Ji Xuan had to be defeated, right?

Bang!

Under the countless gazes that had all sorts of moods, the black pillar of lightning finally fell as it hit Ji Xuan, completely engulfing his body.

The black pillar of lightning fell from the sky as if it was a pillar that could prop up the sky as it pierced the heavens and earth. It could clearly be seen from anywhere within a fifty-meter radius.

Liiiiiiii!

Just when the black lightning pillar shot at the location where Ji Xuan was at, a primordial bird's cry rang throughout this region.

That cry was extremely ancient, with an indescribable ferocity. As if a primordial beast was waking up.

Boom! Boom!

Spiritual Energy in this region exploded from the bird's cry. Sound waves that could be seen with the naked-eye swept out, causing the surrounding space of a few hundred meters to have traces of distortion and was twisting.

Mu Chen's figure trembled as he flew away. His feet were sliding on the sky for a thousand meters before he was able to stabilize himself.

When he managed to stabilize his figure, his facial expression was heavy. His eyes were fixed on the black lightning. Clearly, the fearsome cry originated from that location.

“What is that...?” Mu Chen’s brows were furrowed as his palm lightly touched the Mustard Seed Bracelet. When the primordial cry rang out, he sensed that the black egg that was the Nine Netherbird had jolted a little.

All the eyes in this region were looking at the black pillar of lightning. Evidently, the bizarre change-of-event earlier had attracted their attention.

Under the countless gazes, the black pillar slowly dissipated as the lightning scattered. As the lightning pillar started to dissipate, a human figure that was faintly discernible appeared in their eyes.

Everyone widened their eyes in that instant, whereas Mu Chen’s eyes narrowed.

Lightning dissipated as Ji Xuan’s figure appeared before everyone’s eyes. However, going against everyone’s expectations, there wasn’t any injury on his body.

His current state was the same as before, not even his skin was charred by the lightning. Under that fearful attack, he was actually unharmed!

“How is that possible?!” Xu Huang exclaimed as his face drastically changed, along with the rest.

Faced against Mu Chen’s attack that was unleashed at a perfect timing, even a Third Grade Spirit Disaster would have to pay the price from it. But, right now, how was Ji Xuan still fine?

Luo Li’s curved eyebrows slightly knitted together as she became submerged in her thoughts. Thereafter, she gave a glance at Wen Qingxuan and saw the smear of shock that flashed through the latter’s eyes.

“That primordial cry from before...” Luo Li said softly.

“It seems to be similar to the super Spiritual Beast Ranked 8th on the Myriad Beast Record, the Primordial Skydragon Hawk...” Wen Qingxuan lightly nodded her head as she continued, “But I have no idea how Ji Xuan was able to unleash that cry. Did he have any treasures in his possession that were linked to the Primordial Skydragon Hawk?”

Luo Li faintly shook her head. Ji Xuan was indeed, someone hard to deal with. She originally thought that Mu Chen’s plan was perfect, but who could have expected that it was countered at the crucial time?

An uproar exploded in this region. Everyone was startled by the fact that Ji Xuan was unharmed. At the same time, they could not help feeling respect in their hearts. This fellow that was the Numero Uno of the point rankings was indeed, too ferocious to the point that even such an attack could not do anything against him. In the entire Great Spiritual Academy Tournament, who else could rival him?

Whereas experts on the level of Wu Ling, Wen Busheng, Xue Tianhe, Liu Qingfun and Fang Yun have a heavy expression as their eyes flickered when they looked at Ji Xuan.

Up in the sky, Mu Chen was also closely staring at Ji Xuan. There wasn’t any expression on his face. His attack that should have guaranteed his victory was actually mysteriously countered. This made the degree of danger he had for Ji Xuan in his heart rise.

Far away, Ji Xuan was also standing in the sky. Although he had managed to defend himself against Mu Chen's fearful attack, he wasn't pleased, from the look of his face, as a dark killing intent filled his eyes as he stared at Mu Chen.

"Mu Chen, you have indeed surprised me!" Ji Xuan's eerie voice was filled with killing intent as if it could pierce through the clouds in the sky.

Right now, he clearly wished he could tear Mu Chen to pieces.

Just to deal with Mu Chen, he had revealed too much of his trump cards. Earlier, he nearly revealed the trump card that he had hidden the deepest.

Before the finals, revealing too much of his trump card wasn't good news for Ji Xuan. After all, aside from Mu Chen, there were many other pinnacle experts in the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament that were also not easy to deal with.

Especially Luo Li and Wen Qingxuan... the level of danger he had for the two girls wasn't any inferior to Mu Chen.

If he revealed too much of his trump cards, the danger that he would face in the finals would be greater.

Originally, he intended to get rid of Mu Chen while his Spiritual Energy cultivation was still lacking. But who could have expected that Mu Chen could confront him to such a degree...?

Mu Chen looked at Ji Xuan, whose eyes were filled with killing intent, as he laughed, "You have surprised me quite a bit as well. Seems like you are still hiding your trump cards. Why don't you use them and see if you can get rid of me?"

Ji Xuan's pupils narrowed as his killing intent spiked.

Luo Li felt the violent killing intent coming from Ji Xuan as she tightly gripped her Luo God Sword, a chill flowing in her eyes. Wen Qingxuan, who stood by her side, had also tensed her body.

This entire region seemed as if it was engulfed in Ji Xuan's violent killing intent as everyone was shocked to the point that they could not speak.

Mu Chen's gaze was calm as he looked at Ji Xuan, who looked a little terrifying. After a long time, he suddenly lightly smiled. "Stop showing a strong front. Since you no longer dare to attack, let's call it off."

The corner of Ji Xuan's mouth twitched as he loosened his fist.

He knew that it was impossible for this match to carry on unless they were going to risk revealing all of their trump cards. If that was the case, it would definitely not be good news for them in the finals.

In addition, he understood that Mu Chen wasn't an easy opponent from their battle earlier. Although he had his trump cards, he could not guarantee that Mu Chen had used all of his trump cards as well. If he still hid some of his cards, the final result would be the two of them suffering and neither side wins. Thus, it was not good news for Ji Xuan.

He could guarantee that the instant he was injured, no one would give him a chance to make a comeback, be it his opponent or his so-called 'alliance mates'.

Thus, he could no longer continue this battle anymore.

The terrifying killing intent that was emerging from Ji Xuan withdrew at a rapid speed. When the pressure in this heaven and earth dissipated, everyone felt inwardly relieved.

Only those pinnacle experts were somewhat disappointed as their gazes flickered.

Ji Xuan deeply glanced at Mu Chen before turning around and left. At the same time, his eerie voice rang out between this heaven and earth.

“Mu Chen, I will let you taste thorough defeat in the finals. Enjoy your last moments.”

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Chapter 585: End of show, for the time being

As Ji Xuan’s team left, his cold voice that contained dense killing intent still echoed in this region for a long time.

Under that dense killing intent, countless teams in this region were shocked without words as they exchanged looks.

Although the current scene seemed as if Ji Xuan was forced to retreat, no one thought that he looked miserable, since they could all feel that Ji Xuan had yet to use his true strength.

The primordial hawk cry earlier was the best proof. As everyone knew how powerful Mu Chen’s black lightning was, Ji Xuan was still able to withstand it unharmed...

The trump card that Ji Xuan had concealed was clearly very fearsome.

But, under the current situation, it was a shackle for him not being able to unleash his trump cards without any worries, since his opponent was likewise not a fish that laid on the chopping board.

Although Mu Chen’s strength only appeared to be Spiritual Energy Disaster, his fighting power was something that could heavily change the expression of any expert here and cautiously deal with them.

Naturally, an opponent like Mu Chen was someone that even the monstrous Ji Xuan would have to fear a little, fearing for a tragic battle.

If that was the case, even if he had managed to defeat Mu Chen, he still had to pay a huge price for it. When it comes down to that, he still had to deal with the enraged Luo Li and the Wen Qingxuan, whose stances were unknown.

Facing the two absolute beauties, even Ji Xuan was not confident that he could win. Unless if he were to risk it all...

Under that circumstances, Ji Xuan had no choice but to retreat.

Although Ji Xuan had retreated, everyone knew that this confrontation had not ended yet. It was just pushed back a little... because Ji Xuan was waiting, waiting for the finals.

At the finals, he would be able to reveal all of his trump cards without any fear.

At that time, it was another story if Mu Chen would still make Ji Xuan afraid...

When that time comes, it would definitely be a ferocious battle.

Up in the sky, Mu Chen was calmly looking at Ji Xuan as he departed. He slowly eased his tense body as a faint smear of paleness flitted across his face.

It was a great exhaustion for him to execute three Divine Arts, the Divine Wheel of the Heavenly Wood, Divine Wood Scripture, as well as the Lightning Controlling Art, with his cultivation at Spiritual Energy Disaster.

It was also fortunate that he was able to reach Spiritual Energy Disaster, allowing the Spiritual Energy within his body to grow by several times. If he was still at the Human Body Disaster, it would definitely be impossible for him to achieve such a feat.

He directed his sight towards the direction that Ji Xuan left with a calm expression. However, hints of sharpness were surging in the depth of his eyes.

The confrontation could be considered a little as having a strong start, but a weak finish. However, it had also allowed him to know how powerful Ji Xuan was. This opponent of the past had become so deep and unpredictable now.

“What a formidable opponent.”

Mu Chen slowly clenched his fist as he muttered to himself, “Spiritual Energy Disaster is still insufficient...”

During their confrontation, Mu Chen could feel that Ji Xuan had hidden many things. The depth of his strength shouldn't be at this level. Thus, it made Mu Chen feel for the first time that his strength was still insufficient, especially his Spiritual Energy. Compared to Ji Xuan, who was at the Third Grade Spirit Disaster, he was still too inferior.

Although he could shorten the distance with his physical body, Spiritual Energy was the most crucial. If he wished to unleash more powerful trump cards, he would require the larger support of Spiritual Energy.

Thus, if he wished to thoroughly defeat Ji Xuan, he would definitely have to raise his strength.

Mu Chen inhaled a mouthful of air as he suppressed the waves in his heart as he softly muttered, “The Finals... it should be very soon. Ji Xuan, let us unleash all of our trump cards at that time and let us see who will have the last laugh.”

The silence in this region lasted for a long time. The torrential killing intent had also thoroughly dissipated, allowing all the powerful teams to be relieved.

They exchanged looks as they strangely looked at Mu Chen, who was up in the sky. Some teams had already started to leave. As the battle had already ended, there was no reason for them to remain any longer, in case they would be targeted by the other powerful teams.

Having this thought, whooshing sounds rang out in the sky as the other teams left in an orderly manner. Even when they left, they maintained their guard to the highest level.

In just a few minutes, this region that had gathered countless teams had emptied out, leaving behind the destruction and the broken mountain peaks as proof that a huge battle had occurred in this location.

“Haha, you're indeed formidable for someone that is fancied by the next Empress of the Luo God Clan.” Xue Tianhe said as he smiled towards Mu Chen.

Mu Chen faintly glanced at Xue Tianhe as he replied, “Your Blood God Clan must be bored to have traveled such a distance just to participate in the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament.”

“Even the next Empress of the Luo God Clan is here, there’s nothing odd of us being here.”

Xue Tianhe then directed his gaze towards Luo Li as a chill flashed across his scarlet pupils. He pursed up his lips as he smiled, “She’s the hope of the Luo God Clan now. If I could kill her, the Luo God Clan would be thoroughly hopeless...”

As he spoke, Mu Chen’s gaze turned extremely terrifying. The gaze that he had used to look at Ji Xuan earlier was vastly incomparable to his current one as it had made Xue Tianhe narrow his eyes.

“Then I can only slaughter your trash here.”

A savage smile surfaced on Mu Chen’s charming face. A red light flashed across his pupils as torrential killing intent spread out.

The startling killing intent that was suddenly unleashed by Mu Chen made everyone here alarmed. They involuntarily shifted their gazes towards Xue Tianhe’s party. Clearly, they were unaware of how Xue Tianhe’s party suddenly provoked Mu Chen to such a degree.

Luo Li’s figure moved as she appeared beside Mu Chen. Her crystal-clear pupils were exceptionally cold at this moment as her hand that was gripping her Luo God Sword had tiny tremblings as a sword cry rang out.

Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuanton, Su Xuan and the rest below were also fixating their eyes on Xue Tianhe’s party.

Wen Qingxuan swept a gaze at Xue Tianhe as she softly snorted. A golden warspear appeared in her hand as it was inclined, pointing downwards. The golden battle armor wrapped around her as it flaunted her startling figure.

When Xue Tianhe saw the reaction that the other party had from his words, he narrowed his eyes as he looked at Liu Qingxun and Fang Yun.

“Haha.”

When Liu Qingxun and Fang Yun saw Xue Tianhe’s gaze, they smiled. However, they did not have any intentions to help as they tapped their feet on the air and flew away.

Although they were in alliance with Ji Xuan, they did not have much of a relationship with Xue Tianhe. Thus, it was impossible for them to fight with Mu Chen just for Xue Tianhe.

Especially when Mu Chen had revealed his strength that could cause even them to feel fear.

After all, entering the finals with their strength was a certainty. Therefore, they did not want to offend Mu Chen anymore right now.

Mu Chen gave a look at Liu Qingxun and his group, but he did not obstruct them. At this point in time, he did not wish to fight with those top teams, since it would only push them closer to Ji Xuan.

When Xue Tianhe saw Liu Qingyun and his group leave, his gaze was dark as he issued a cold snort. He tapped his feet on the air as a blood river swept out, engulfing him and his team.

“I’ll let you guys enjoy this for now. I will not allow any of you to smile in the finals.”

Xue Tianhe’s cold voice resounded as the blood river exploded into a bloody light as it flew away, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

Although he wanted to deal with Luo Li, the other party’s formation was too powerful. If they were to fight in that situation, they would definitely lose. Thus, Xue Tianhe could only sullenly escape with his team.

Mu Chen did not obstruct Xue Tianhe’s party as they left since he knew that this wasn’t the right time yet.

“If I come across them in the finals, they can dream of returning to the Blood God Clan!” Mu Chen’s eyes were filled with killing intent. Although it would be a little troublesome to kill here, the rules would be gone in the finals.

Clearly, he couldn’t wish harder to slaughter the Blood God Clan that had their eyes on Luo Li.

Luo Li turned her head as her cold gaze rapidly turned gentle. Her rosy lips lightly rose as she looked extremely charming with her smile.

“Why are you so angry?” Luo Li slightly tilted her head. Looking at Mu Chen, there were hints of a smile in her crystal-clear eyes.

It must be because of the shocking killing intent that had suddenly surged out from Mu Chen that made her in a good mood.

“Those bastards are putting their ideas on my wife, how can I not be angry?” Mu Chen snorted.

“Nonsense, who is your wife?” Luo Li’s face was red as she looked at Mu Chen, looking angry and shy at the same time.

Mu Chen chuckled as his heart was stirred by the rare looks of Luo Li being shy and he couldn’t help extending his hand, grabbing the shy girl’s hand into his.

Luo Li was slightly startled. After all, there were too many people present here and on the spot, she struggled a little. But when she saw the hints of paleness hidden on Mu Chen’s face, she stopped her struggle as she bit down on her lips, staring at the direction that Ji Xuan left with a cold gaze.

“Cough.”

A dry cough suddenly resounded. When Mu Chen raised his head, he saw Wu Ling smiling as he appeared before him. Behind Wu Ling, stood a voluptuous girl wearing a fresh red long dress that did not have any expression on her face. However, her eyes were faintly staring at him.

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Chapter 586: The Unfathomable Ji Xuan

“Brother Wu Ling, Brother Wen.”

Mu Chen stared at the decent-looking youths before him as he smiled as he cupped his hands towards Wu Ling as well as Wen Busheng next to him. “I have to thank the both of you this time.”

The formation of the two sides was important in this fight with Ji Xuan. If it wasn't for the fact that he had managed to pull Wu Ling and Wen Busheng to his side, the one that would be fighting today would not have been Ji Xuan alone, but his entire alliance.

The eyes of that scheming fellow were extremely vicious. The instant he felt that he could deal with Mu Chen if all of them had joined hands together, he would definitely not hesitate.

However, the appearance of Wu Ling and Wen Busheng had strengthened the formation of Mu Chen's party. This made Ji Xuan's alliance know that even if all of them had attacked, there wouldn't be any benefits today. Thus, those fellows chose to watch from the side as they did not see any advantages.

When Wu Ling heard Mu Chen's words, he smiled, “Brother Mu is being too polite. If it wasn't for Yingying adding fuel to the fire, I would also hesitate a little.”

Mu Chen was a little flabbergasted as he looked at Wu Yingying. Clearly, he never thought that this girl, who had prejudice of him, would choose to help him.

When Wu Yingying saw his gaze, she snorted in response.

“Thanks.” Mu Chen sincerely thanked her.

Wu Yingying cast her lips aside. Just when she wanted to mock him out of habit, a smear of redness involuntarily flushed across her face when she saw the gentle smile on Mu Chen's face as she swallowed her words and changed them, “That Ji Xuan isn't a good guy as well. But if we allow him to carry on pulling people to his side, it will not be advantageous to us.”

“I was thinking for my Martial Spiritual Academy, I was not trying to help a lecher like you.” Wu Yingying snorted as she pridefully raised her chin.

Mu Chen coughed as he was a little embarrassed by the name that Wu Yingying was calling him, especially when Wu Ling's suspicious gaze was looking at his direction.

Wu Yingying blushed, even more, when she realized her words as she turned her head away in guilt, not daring to look at her own brother.

“We did nothing to help. Brother Mu is truly hiding deep ability, truly worthy of being the Blood Calamity of the Spiritual Road.” Wen Busheng laughed as he looked at Mu Chen with interest.

“Brother Wen is not simple as well.” Mu Chen smiled in response as he swept his gaze on Wen Busheng. Thereafter, his gaze stopped at the latter’s fair right hand. That hand was exceptionally perfect as it was glittering like a gem, flickering with faint luster. Mu Chen could sense dangerous ripples from his right hand.

“I’m just lucky.” Wen Busheng smiled as he covered his right hand with his sleeve and did not explain much. Mu Chen also wasn’t bothered by it as everyone had their own secrets.

“Perhaps the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament will enter the finale in the remaining time left.” Wu Ling looked at Mu Chen as he said, “In this period of time, perhaps there might be countless powerful teams targeting the Top 8 in the rankings. We can’t be certain that Ji Xuan doesn’t have any plots in his retreat this time. Thus, I feel that we can work closer together in the remaining time left.”

Wen Busheng nodded his head in agreement. Their reveal this time had angered Ji Xuan. If Ji Xuan plans to deal with them, it would definitely be troublesome for them.

Although they weren’t any pushovers, they did not wish to confront with the monstrous Ji Xuan at this timing.

Mu Chen nodded his head as well, it was always better to have a friend.

Seeing as no one had any disagreements, Wu Ling smiled as he took out three dark-red jade pendants with light circulating on their surfaces. “This is the Messaging Jade that I have obtained from a ruin. If anyone of you encounters trouble, all you have to do is activate it and the two other jade pendants will be able to sense it.”

“Furthermore, when we are ready, we can also use it as a signal to burn the Academy Plaques to start the finals.”

To start the finals, half of the Top 16 teams have to burn their Academy Plaques. The moment this requirement is fulfilled, the Top 8 teams would then enter the finals.

Mu Chen took a glance at Wen Qingxuan, who was behind him, as the two of them nodded their heads, before taking a jade pendant from Wu Ling, while Wen Busheng took the other.

“Haha, today’s event can be considered an end. We no longer have any reasons to stay here.”

Seeing as the agreement was made, Wu Ling casually laughed as he made a little chat before bidding his farewell, leading Wu Yingying, whose face was still a little red, as they left.

After Wu Ling had left, Wen Busheng also bid farewell as he left.

Staring at their leaving figures, Mu Chen felt relieved. The paleness that he had been suppressing on his face spread out as his figure staggered a little involuntarily.

When his body staggered, Luo Li quickly supported Mu Chen’s arm. When Wen Qingxuan saw Luo Li’s reaction, she quietly withdrew her hand that was extending forth. A charming smile surfaced on her face as she teased, “So you are just forcefully holding yourself up.”

“Truly Ji Xuan.” Mu Chen said with a soft voice as he continued, “If the battle went on, it would be tough to end it.”

He had exhausted too much of his Spiritual Energy. If they were to carry on fighting, he would have to start fighting for his life. After all, Ji Xuan was powerful.

“You don’t have to undervalue yourself. Ji Xuan didn’t look that good in your battle as well since he was forced to reveal some of his hidden cards during the last attack. Otherwise...” Wen Qingxuan replied.

Luo Li nodded her head at Wen Qingxuan’s words. The two earth-shattering attacks from Mu Chen could be called perfect. One was revealed, while the other was hidden away, the timing was excellent as well. If it wasn’t for that primordial hawk’s cry, Ji Xuan would definitely be heavily injured.

“Ji Xuan had concealed his genuine trump card.” Mu Chen said slowly as his black pupils flickered with a chill. He had heard the primordial hawk’s cry as well, sensing an indescribable danger coming from it at the same time. The danger that he felt far surpassed all those he had faced so far in his generation.

Luo Li pondered for a brief moment, before speaking up, “If I am not wrong, there’s a high chance that the cry was from the Primordial Skydragon Hawk, Ranked 8 of the Myriad Beast Record.”

“Primordial Skydragon Hawk?”

Mu Chen narrowed his eyes at Luo Li’s words as his gaze was a little shaken. No wonder there were movements from the egg of the Nine Netherbird. So that hawk cry actually had such a shocking origin.

The Primordial Skydragon Hawk was Ranked 8 of the Myriad Beast Record, three ranks higher compared to the Nine Netherbird. In the Great Thousand World, the Primordial Skydragon Hawk possessed resounding fame. It was a powerful beast compared to the rest. Even Sovereign Realm experts would be afraid to provoke it.

“Could it be that Ji Xuan had ingested the Primordial Skydragon Hawk’s Soul Essence in the past?” Mu Chen muttered to himself as his gaze flickered.

In the Spirit Stage of the Spiritual Energy cultivation path, one had the ability to ingest the Soul Essence of a Spiritual Beast. However, there was a limit to the Soul Essence. After all, when one gets stronger, the Soul Essence that one had refined before would gradually lose its effect. Thus, many people who had refined Soul Essences have all lost their effect when they grew stronger.

However, it wasn’t an absolute situation... when the Soul Essence that one had refined was powerful to an extent, the power would still be present, becoming a powerful method for cultivators.

Take Mu Chen’s Nine Netherbird for example...

If Ji Xuan possessed that sort of strength, he should have refined a powerful Spiritual Beast’s Soul Essence when he was in Spirit Stage. For example... the powerful Primordial Skydragon Hawk.

Naturally, with his strength at Spirit Stage, it was absolutely impossible for him to refine a Primordial Skydragon Hawk with his own strength, just like how it was impossible for Mu Chen to refine the Nine Netherbird. Thus, there should be a powerful expert that had aided him.

Ji Xuan’s background must be rather complicated.

“That’s highly possible.” Luo Li and Wen Qingxuan nodded their heads with heavy expressions. If that was the case, then the difficulty of handling Ji Xuan would without a doubt increase.

Mu Chen breathed out a mouthful of air as his gaze became a little shaken. However, there wasn't any fear in his eyes. After all, even if Ji Xuan possessed the Soul Essence of the Primordial Skydragon Hawk, he possessed the power of Nine Netherbird as well.

Furthermore, he had a Bloodlink Bond with the Nine Netherbird, the both of them were similar to a single body. So Mu Chen would be more perfect at fusing with the power of the Nine Netherbird.

Certainly, the Primordial Skydragon Hawk was ranked higher compared to the Nine Netherbird. However, that doesn't mean that it was more powerful compared to the Nine Netherbird. After all, when Spiritual Beasts reached that level, it would be hard for them to differentiate their levels when they fight.

The most crucial point was that Nine Nether... was no longer a Spiritual Beast as she had successfully evolved into the Nine Netherworld Bird. Rising to the levels of Divine Beasts. The instant she awakens, she would possess strength comparable to Sovereign Realm!

"How interesting."

Mu Chen pursed his lips as he smiled. He looked at the direction that Ji Xuan had left as a chill flickered in his eyes, before turning around and left for the opposite direction with a wave of his hand.

Seeing his action from below, Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuantong and the rest followed behind him.

Ji Xuan, let us see who will have the stronger trump card in the upcoming finals.

No matter what... I will beat you this time!

Let the grudges from the Spiritual Road end once and for all in the finals!

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Chapter 587: Fighting for Numero Uno

The battle between Mu Chen and Ji Xuan had spread throughout the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament in a few days. Everyone was aware of the astonishing battle between the two powerful figures.

What made others feel even more astonished was the fact that Ji Xuan, who held the Numero Uno of the point rankings for a long time had actually retreated from the fight, as the fame possessed by both parties were not equal.

Although Ji Xuan did not lose the battle as he retreated, it did show the fear he had for Mu Chen had grown to the extent that he would have to be cautious to deal with Mu Chen, even if he had to lose some of his fame.

Thus, Mu Chen's fame grew to a frightening extent in just a few days time. So much so that he was famed to the point that he could rival Ji Xuan.

At this moment, every single team was well-aware of Mu Chen's name as it was like thunder piercing the ears.

Even if the battle between Mu Chen and Ji Xuan sparked many discussions, the ripple caused by the battle started to quickly die down as the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament entered the most chaotic stage.

There wasn't an exact time for the tournament to end, but as long as eight of the Academy Plaques of the Top 16 were ignited, the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament would enter into the final stage. Because of that, everyone could vaguely feel that the final stage would be approaching soon.

The elimination rate of the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament was too harsh. Countless teams had participated, those that could successfully ascend to the next stage were only eight teams.

That sort of elimination rate was simply too frightening.

That was precisely the reason why this period was the most chaotic moment of the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament. The eyes of many teams had turned red in order to fight for points.

The result of this was endless chaotic battles to the point that every single spot of this Shattered Continent's central region had battles breaking out.

All the capable teams had their eyes redden as they hunted for prey. At the same time, without their knowledge, they were already preyed on by teams that were stronger than them when they were searching for prey...

In this period of time, there wasn't a definite classification between the hunters and the hunted.

As the chaotic battles spread throughout the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament, there were drastic changes to the Top 16 spots as well. The points were crazily jumping every single moment...

Right now, those in the Top 8 were all familiar teams.

Rank 1, Saint Spiritual Academy - Captain Ji Xuan. [108,000 points]

Rank 2, Myriad Phoenix Spiritual Academy - Captain Wen Qingxuan. [90,000 points]

Rank 3, Martial Spiritual Academy - Captain Wu Ling. [83,000 points]

Rank 5, Blood Spiritual Academy - Captain Xue Tianhe. [70,000 points]

Rank 6, Nine Cauldrons Spiritual Academy - Captain Fang Yun. [65,000 points]

Rank 7, Undefeated Spiritual Academy - Captain Wen Busheng. [62,000 points]

Rank 8, Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy - Captain Mu Chen. [60,000 points]

...

The current Top 8 were all occupied by the best eight teams in the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament. Behind the Top 8, there were teams frantically dashing towards the dividing line. However, they were short-lived as they were stunningly buried by the other dark horses and were reduced to merely mediocre.

Shen Cangsheng's team managed to reach Rank 10. However, it was tough for them to climb further as they did not possess any qualification to go into the Top 8, even from the fact that the strength of their

team was pretty strong. After all, there were too many powerful teams suddenly emerging in this period of time.

If it wasn't for the fact that they had been together with Mu Chen, their outcome would also be being buried by the other dark horses.

The entire Great Spiritual Academy Tournament carried on in the madness. Even if many teams knew that their efforts would all be in vain, they refused to give up so easily...

Flames of war expanded throughout the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament.

...

Boom!

Violent Spiritual Energy soared up into the sky in these plains as more than ten human figures charged towards the slender figure with their eyes reddened, unleashing their powerful Spiritual Energy attacks as they burst forth in waves.

Boom!

However, there wasn't any effect from their attacks. That slender figure merely took a step forth and there was dark lightning that seemingly flew from his body.

Brilliant lightning spread out, sending the dozen or more figures flying back from the impact with blood spurting from their mouths. At the same time, those dozen or so figures drew marks of over a hundred meters in length on the ground.

Lightning dissipated as a charming face of a youth was revealed. Aside from Mu Chen, who else could it be? He was smiling as he looked at those unfortunate fellows. He made a gripping gesture as three Academy Plaque flew from their sleeves into his hand.

Without batting an eye, he took the points as he stared at his Academy Plaque that had thousands of additional points as he helplessly flung the corner of his lips to the side. He flicked his fingers as he threw back the three Academy Plaques.

He turned around after dealing with those fellows, there was a similar battle as well. Luo Li, Wen Qingxuan and the rest were surrounded by a dozen or more teams. Although the other party had the advantage in numbers, the outcome was close to being one-sided.

Although these teams that were preyed upon by Mu Chen's group had decent strength, it was not on the level comparable to his. Thus, the battle only lasted for a few minutes before it ended.

Luo Li, Wen Qingxuan and the rest divided the Academy Plaques and obtained points.

"That fella Ji Xuan is pretty quick in his actions."

Wen Qingxuan approached as she gave a glance to her Academy Plaque with her brows narrowed. There was an increment of over 20,000 points for Ji Xuan, his speed of increasing his points was faster compared to them.

Shen Cangsheng and his team looked at the points possessed by the Numero Uno of the point rankings as they involuntarily sighed. That frightening amount of points was something that could make those looking at it feel their scalp tingling.

Mu Chen looked at Ji Xuan's name for a long time, before smiling and said, "No worries, we'll work harder than."

Wen Qingxuan shifted her charming gaze towards Mu Chen as she hesitated for a brief moment. "Hey, I will not be taking the biggest share in our collaboration anymore."

"Hmm?" Mu Chen was startled by her words.

"I'm well-aware that you are trying to return me the Numero Uno. But I feel that the points are already sufficient. Right now, your main objective is to surpass him." Wen Qingxuan responded as her fine fingers pointed at the Numero Uno on the Academy Plaque.

During this period, Mu Chen had given the majority share of the points that they had obtained from assaulting the other teams to Wen Qingxuan. Whereas he only obtained a sufficient amount to maintain at Rank 8.

"Right now, the Numero Uno doesn't mean much." Mu Chen spoke indifferently.

When Wen Qingxuan saw how indifferent Mu Chen was, she was a little furious as she refused him, "Since you are planning to fight with Ji Xuan, you shouldn't be so passive about it. Even if the point rankings don't have much meaning behind it right now, are you okay with him surpasses you by that much? Even if you are okay with it, I... I'm not."

Mu Chen was a little astonished as he looked at Wen Qingxuan, muttering how weird she was. Here, he was trying his best to push her up to Numero Uno and she was unhappy because of it?

Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong exchanged a glance as they spoke out as well, "Captain Wen Qingxuan is right in her words. If you are not planning to fight with Ji Xuan for real, then it doesn't matter if his points surpassed us by this much. But since the fight has already started, then you should suppress the other party with your full strength."

"Perhaps you are not concerned about the points. But who knows if Ji Xuan and his team are mocking you right now seeing your points at Rank 8..."

Seeing as they were taking it so seriously, Mu Chen's mood changed as well as he hesitated for a brief moment, before looking at Luo Li and sought her opinion. "What do you think?"

"I trust in your decisions."

Luo Li shallowly smiled as she held Mu Chen's hand with her ice-cold hands and said with a soft tone, "But, Mu Chen, I have always considered you to be more outstanding than him."

"Do you remember what you had said to me back in the Spiritual Road?"

Luo Li's crystal-clear pupils were looking at Mu Chen as she smiled, "You told me at that time that... you will bring me to stand in the brightest spot in the Spiritual Road."

Her words heavily struck Mu Chen's heart as he blankly stared at the charming face of the girl. Certain old memories resurfaced from the depths of his mind.

At that time, he was still very young and behaved befitting of his age. It was a dark night with a warm bonfire that was lit up. At that moment, he was a little drunk from the alcohol that he had fished out from the tree hole. He held onto the young girl's hand as he spoke directly to her. "I will lead you to stand at the brightest spot in the Spiritual Road."

However, he wasn't able to fulfill his promise as he was expelled from that event...

When he left, the young girl's figure looked especially lonely.

Mu Chen slowly clenched his fist as a peculiar feeling surged forth in his heart, traveling into his brain. Not knowing when it had started, the blood in his body was boiling.

"I'm sorry." Mu Chen responded with a soft tone.

Luo Li smiled at Mu Chen's apology as she shook her head.

"I wasn't able to fulfill my promise to you in the past..." Mu Chen's gaze shifted towards the Numero Uno on the point rankings. As he stared at the name, a fire blazed in the depths of his pupils.

"This time... I will not break my promise."

"The Numero Uno of the point rankings... is mine!"

The Great Ruler

Chapter 588: Splitting in two ways

The objective was certainly a problem for Mu Chen's current team to aim for Numero Uno in the point rankings. After all, there was an enormous distance between their points compared to Ji Xuan

Mu Chen was well-aware that the huge gap between them wasn't something that could be pulled closer through ordinary means.

Therefore, they couldn't afford to use ordinary methods at this point in time.

It was a common knowledge to everyone that the Top 16 had the most points in the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament. Generally speaking, the Top 16 teams represented the strongest teams in the tournament.

Thus, very few teams had the Top 16 as their targets. The majority of the participating teams would search for the teams that they could handle based on their strength to seize points, few would attempt to target the Top 16.

They knew that there was a certain degree of danger to it and thus, they did not aim for those top teams.

If Mu Chen wished to chase after Ji Xuan, he could only take the risk and hope for victory. As a result, he placed his targets on the Top 16 teams that were ranked after the 8, with Shen Cangsheng's team aside.

Furthermore, Mu Chen no longer collaborated with Wen Qingxuan in this mission. He only took along Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuanton, Su Xuan and Xu Huang for it.

He did not even bring Luo Li along as he required her and Wen Qingxuan for another task, to cause trouble for Ji Xuan.

He did not need the both of them to defeat Ji Xuan. Based on their strength and the support of their teams, they could definitely cause some trouble for Ji Xuan. At least they would be able to greatly decrease their efficiency of gaining points.

Generally speaking, it wasn't too wise for them to split up in this period of the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament. After all, they could be targeted by the other teams that had teamed up. However, Mu Chen wasn't worried about this factor as he had great confidence with Wen Qingxuan and Luo Li. With the two of them uniting, they were a force that not even he could defeat.

Therefore, Mu Chen was more assured of them both compared to himself.

As for seizing points, that would have to depend on Mu Chen's capability.

...

Violent Spiritual Energy swept out in the plains.

There were a dozen or more figures in the path of the Spiritual Energy. It was clearly a gang up as there were over twenty people in the surroundings. As for their target, it was naturally the team that was trapped inside their encirclement.

Despite the fact that they were at the disadvantage in terms of numbers, the shocking fact was that the group that ganged up on them was the one slowly losing.

"Sssssssss!"

A sharp explosion of wind roared as a human figure mysteriously appeared. He held a black long spear in his hand, the spear tip was extremely sharp, like a hawk's beak. Even space was torn apart as Spiritual Energy flowed.

That figure had powerful ripples of Spiritual Energy around him. He had simply charged into the encirclement, breaking the formation as light spears shone.

The group that was involved in the encirclement was in chaos. No matter how their Captain tried to yell, they weren't able to unite their attacks.

That human figure relentlessly pursued them and in just a few minutes, the majority of the encircling team was wounded by him. Lastly, there was a painful howl as their Academy Plaque was seized.

"Tsk, tsk, did you think that you would be able to hunt us, the Demonic Vulture Spiritual Academy just because you found help? How stupid!"

That figure halted, revealing his skinny and shriveled body. It was a youth dressed in black robes with a pair of gloomy-looking eyes. He had an aquiline nose as he ruthlessly trampled on a person to the point that blood was spewed from his kick.

“Haha, Boss, we have obtained another 2,000 points.”

From the rear of that black-robed youth, four figures skimmed over. They looked at their Academy Plaques as they grinned, “If this goes on, we might be able to catch up to Mu Chen, who is at the 8th Rank.”

“Mu Chen? Hmph, that fellow has been in the limelight a lot, recently.” When that black-robed youth heard that name, he coldly snorted as he spoke with jealousy in his tone.

“Hehe, Boss, you are not weaker compared to him. It was just that we have not encountered him. Otherwise, we would witness for ourselves how powerful Mu Chen is.” Hearing the words of the black-robed figure, the four other teammates immediately gave praise.

Hearing the praise, the black-robed youth’s face became a little better. Just when he was about to speak, his gaze suddenly changed as he raised his head, looking at the hillside not far away, there were several figures that slowly appeared in flashes.

“Haha, since you guys want to be witnesses, why don’t we make it today? I, Mu Chen, am looking forward to it.” A clear and bright laughter resounded from the hillside. A youth with a slender and tall figure appeared in the sight of the Demonic Vulture Spiritual Academy’s team.

“Mu Chen?!”

Hearing that name, not only did the faces of the four members of the Demonic Vulture Spiritual Academy drastically change, even the mouth of the black-robed youth was slightly trembling.

“Mu Chen, we have always minded our own business. What are you trying to do by suddenly appear here?” The black-robed youth spoke with a heavy voice as his eyes flashed with alertness. Clearly, the person before him did not come with good intentions.

“I just want to borrow the Academy Plaque from Captain Xu Yao.” Mu Chen lightly smiled as he glared at the black-robed youth before him. The team before him wasn’t a nameless one.

Captain Xu Yao of the Demonic Vulture Spiritual Academy, was ranked 9th in the point rankings with 40,800 points.

The highest ranking that this team of the Demonic Vulture Spiritual Academy had reached their peak was Rank 6. However, as the competition became more and more intense later on, they were starting to be surpassed and fell to Rank 9 as of today.

However, the strength of this team was extremely powerful. Shen Cangsheng’s team had encountered them in the past and fought as well. However, they weren’t able to gain any advantage from them and they had to retreat.

Clearly, this team was the first prey chosen by Mu Chen.

“Haha, so you are after our points. Captain Mu Chen, your appetite is pretty big!” Xu Yao furiously smiled. He knew the rules and that those of the Top 16 would generally not interfere with each other as each of them was powerful. At this point in time, paying a considerable price just to deal with their team was absolutely unwise. Thus, from his point-of-view, Mu Chen was blinded by points.

Mu Chen did not reply as he smiled, he chose to speak with his actions.

He took a step forth as black light exploded on the surface of his body. Seven lightning runes surfaced on his chest and at the same time, a scarlet pillar of light soared up into the horizon from his head, taking the form of a titanic demonic pillar.

Mu Chen clearly did not intend to take his time as he pushed his Lightning God's Physique to its limits from the start and he even summoned the Great Meru Demonic Pillar right from the start.

He planned to end this battle as fast as possible.

"Go!"

Mu Chen did not have any expression on his face as he flew out at lightning speed with a stomp of his foot. He hugged towards the empty air before him as the Great Meru Demonic Pillar fell from the sky, a huge shadow drawn out by the pillar was shrouding towards Xu Yao's team.

At his rear, Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuanton and the rest of his team had also pushed their Spiritual Energy to the limits as they exploded forth.

Seeing the torrential waves of killing intent from Mu Chen's team, the faces of Xu Yao's team turned extremely ugly.

With that, Spiritual Energy that was even more violent compared to before exploded in this region.

When the battle ended, huge cracks appeared on the plains that looked like spider webs. The wretched sight was heart-alarming.

Mu Chen stood in the sky as the lightning around him had already dissipated. He grasped the air as an Academy Plaque streaked out, landing in his palm from Xu Yao's sleeve, who was embedded in the cracks on the ground.

Mu Chen indifferently took the points from the Academy Plaque. In an instant, the points in his Academy Plaque that was roughly around 60,000 grew to 80,000. His ranking also followed as he flew up from Rank 8 to 6.

"Thanks for that."

Mu Chen threw the Academy Plaque back to Xu Yao as he cupped his hands and flew off. Shen Cangsheng and the rest slightly tidied themselves as they followed behind.

They had to rush to the location where their next prey was at.

As Mu Chen and his team left, Xu Yao gave out an enraged roar. The roar was similar to the roar of a beast.

...

At the same time, Mu Chen defeated Xu Yao.

In another location in the central region, several figures stood in the sky, it was Ji Xuan's team.

“Captain, the points of Mu Chen’s team have suddenly soared, they are currently at Rank 6...” Behind Ji Xuan, the youth named Mu Feng said with his brows narrowed.

Ji Xuan’s eyes narrowed from his words as he took out his Academy Plaque and looked at it for a long while, before replying, “Xu Yao of Rank 9 was suddenly kicked out of the Top 16...”

“Mu Chen is actually so daring to target a team of this level?” Mu Feng exclaimed.

Ji Xuan’s eyes flickered as he coldly smiled, “Seems like he’s trying to aim for the Numero Uno of the point rankings, how naïve he is...”

“What should we do, then?” Mu Feng asked.

“We will start targeting the teams after the Top 8 without any reservations. We will target them all!” Ji Xuan’s cold voice rang out.

“Great!” Mu Feng grinned.

Ji Xuan waved his hand and just when he was about to move, his eyes narrowed before his hand could fully wave down. He slowly raised his head as he saw a light appearing from the mountain peak. Thereafter, the two leaders of the team were clearly in their sights.

“Wen Qingxuan!”

“Luo Li!”

When Mu Feng saw the two familiar figures, his face instantly changed.

“You guys don’t have to harass the other teams now.”

Wen Qingxuan laughed as she looked at Ji Xuan. Thereafter, she tightened her grip on the warspear as she spoke, “But then again, if you guys are eyeing on the points we have, then go for it. We’ll see who’ll be able to defeat the other.”

Ji Xuan’s face slowly turned icy.

Mu Chen, what a good strategy!

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 589: The price to pay for rapidly rising in the ranks

In just one day, there was a drastic change to the Top 16 in the point rankings. Clearly, it had also caused a storm of commotion in this vast central region.

They realized that aside from one team of the Northern Heavens Spiritual Academy that was after Rank 8, the rest of those that were in the Top 16 after Rank 8 were all kicked out of the point rankings.

Those replacing them were powerful teams that had newly appeared.

If it was just one or two teams, the changes might not attract that much attention. After all, the battle for points right now in the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament was simply too intense, even those powerful teams could be easily dragged down.

However, when the changes were all at the same time, there would, without a doubt, be astonishments. Especially when they saw the team that was on Rank 8 soaring on the point rankings at a terrifying speed. In the end, that team managed to surpass the Rank 3, Wu Ling. When that team was able to stand firmly on Rank 3, the exclamation of astonishment became heavier.

At this point of time, even a retard could tell why those powerful teams were kicked out...

The cause of this was the one that recently had his name spreading throughout the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament, Mu Chen!

“That fella is abnormal. How could he defeat so many powerful teams in one day? Was he not afraid that he would meet with unexpected failure?”

The entire Great Spiritual Academy Tournament was in a clamor. It was out of their imagination that Mu Chen would be insane to such an extent, to the point that he would place his targets onto those powerful teams.

In addition, the terrifying fact was that he succeeded!

In just one day, Mu Chen had defeated seven teams that had experts of Second Grade Spirit Disaster in them!

The achievement made many others dumbstruck as his actions were a little insane. Was Mu Chen not afraid that those powerful teams would put up a life-and-death struggle that would result in his defeat?

In this current situation, the instant Mu Chen was gravely injured, there would be many powerful teams aiming at him... precisely so, that was the reason why those teams in the Top 8 did not lay their hands on those teams as they were afraid as well.

They did not dare to try it, despite knowing that it was an efficient way of obtaining points.

However, no one had expected that the method which they dared not to try was attempted by Mu Chen and he succeeded.

...

At a lonely peak.

Wu Ling was looking at the team that had surpassed him on the Academy Plaque as he helplessly cast his lips aside.

“What is Mu Chen trying to do? Why did he suddenly go crazy, is he trying to snatch the Numero Uno from Ji Xuan?” Wu Yingying, who was behind Wu Ling said in doubt.

“That should be his objective.”

Wu Ling smiled, “Didn’t you notice that the efficiency rate of Ji Xuan’s team slowed down? I heard that they are under pressure at this moment. Wen Qingxuan and Luo Li joined hands to obstruct Ji Xuan. Although it is a little problematic for them to get rid of Ji Xuan with their strength, there is nothing Ji Xuan can do if the two of them are just intending to cause trouble for him. Haha, they are trying to give Mu Chen time.”

“The grudges between those two has been fully unveiled. In the Spiritual Road, Ji Xuan schemed against Mu Chen once and this time, Mu Chen is returning the favour.”

“However, Mu Chen must have a huge amount of exhaustion as well to challenge so many powerful teams in a day. If he is injured, the other powerful teams would definitely be eyeing him.” Wu Yingying said worriedly.

She was well-aware that no matter how powerful Mu Chen was, there would definitely be a considerable amount of exhaustion for him to challenge so many powerful teams. Furthermore, Luo Li and Wen Qingxuan weren't by his side at the moment. Thus, he was probably being targeted by many teams.

Those powerful teams would definitely not allow Mu Chen to recover his strength. Therefore, this period of time was the most dangerous for their team.

“Right now, the difference between Ji Xuan and Mu Chen's points is only around 20,000.” Wu Yingying stared at the Academy Plaque. Ji Xuan still held the Numero Uno with over 130,000 points, whereas Wen Qingxuan occupied the second with 110,000 points. Mu Chen on the other hand, was just a little lower compared to her.

In just one day, Mu Chen managed to jump from Rank 8 to 3, pulling the enormous distance between him and Ji Xuan closer.

“His strategy half-succeeded. Right now, he must be thinking about how to keep his points under his huge amount of exhaustion.”

Wu Ling said with a faint tone, “Perhaps Wen Qingxuan and Luo Li are rushing over to protect Mu Chen right now to intimidate the other teams that are eyeing him. However, Ji Xuan will definitely not allow them to successfully leave.”

Wu Yingying nodded her head as well. Mu Chen's current state might be the worst considering that the battles he had gone through.

“Hmm?”

Wu Ling suddenly exclaimed as his gaze was focused, staring at the Academy Plaque.

“What is it?” Wu Yingying hastily questioned.

“Finally, it seems that a powerful team could not hold it anymore.” Wu Ling pointed towards the Academy Plaque. It was a familiar team that was rapidly approaching Mu Chen.

That team was Rank 6 on the point rankings, the team from the Nine Cauldrons Spiritual Academy with the Captain being an ally of Ji Xuan, Fang Yun!

“Fang Yun is going to attack Mu Chen!” Wu Yingying's face instantly changed.

...

Whooooooosh!

Screeches of wind resounded in the blue sky.

Mu Chen's figure rapidly flew with Shen Cangsheng, Li Xuantong and the other two closely following behind. The Spiritual Energy ripples around them were a little chaotic at this moment.

They defeated seven powerful teams in one day. Although Mu Chen handled the strongest person in the opponent's team, Shen Cangsheng and the rest dealt with the remaining enemies.

Therefore, they had a huge amount of exhaustion. In addition to the lack of time, the Spiritual Energy within their bodies could not recover.

At the same time, they did not dare to remain in one location for too long as they knew that there were many eyes staring at them.

Shen Cangsheng looked at Mu Chen before him. Although the youth maintained a calm expression, he knew that Mu Chen had the greatest exhaustion as he ended his battles as soon as possible. Thus, he exhausted a lot of his strength.

"Mu Chen, Luo Li and Wen Qingxuan must have been hindered. Otherwise, their speed would not be so slow." Shen Cangsheng inhaled a mouthful of air as he said with a heavy voice, staring at the Academy Plaque.

Mu Chen lightly nodded his head. Ji Xuan wasn't someone that was easy to deal with. Knowing this, he definitely wouldn't let Luo Li's group leave and regroup with them so easily.

"We have to find a place to recover ourselves. Otherwise, we won't be able to last for long." Li Xuantong spoke with a heavy expression, "I can feel that many teams are secretly approaching us."

"Yeah, follow me. When we reach there, our mission can be considered a success." Mu Chen nodded his head as he increased his speed.

When Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuantong heard his words, their minds jolted as they quickly followed behind.

The group of five traveled at a rapid speed. Along the way, they met some teams that were greedily looking at them. But because of Mu Chen's fearsome power, no one dared to obstruct them.

As they traveled at rapid speed, Mu Chen's speed started to slow down after half an hour. The end of his sight was a pitch-black forest.

The forest was vast and covered with spike trees with a peculiar ripple lingering within. Those thorny trees shaped this forest similarly to a hedgehog.

This forest wasn't unfamiliar at all, it was the spike trees forest of the Divine Wood Mountain. In this forest, there was the Hidden Spiritual Courtyard.

This was Mu Chen's destination, since he knew that the power of this forest was able to seal Spiritual Energy. Anyone that went in could not use their Spiritual Energy. Thus, if they could go in, they would be thoroughly safe. As long as no one bothered them, they would be able to recover their energy. When they had thoroughly recovered, those eyeing fellows would no longer be able to target them anymore.

"Go in!"

Mu Chen made a gesture towards his team. The four people rejoiced as they increased their speed and was about to enter the spike forest.

“Careful!”

However, just when they was about to land, Mu Chen’s face suddenly changed as his body flashed, appearing right at the front as black lightning exploded off him.

Boom! Boom!

A shocking Spiritual Energy swept out from a mountain peak as it heavily bombarded Mu Chen. Black lightning flickered as it withstood the bombardment. However, Mu Chen’s figure slightly trembled.

His gaze was dark as he stared at the mountain peak. There were several people at the location and the one leading was familiar to him, Fang Yun of the Nine Cauldrons Spiritual Academy.

Fang Yun was holding onto a Divine Cauldron, glittering with spiritual light as he looked at Mu Chen with a smile hung on his face.

“Captain Mu Chen, I have been waiting here for quite some time.”

[The Great Ruler](#)

Chapter 590: Dragon

Outside the black spike forest stood Mu Chen’s group of five. Mu Chen’s brows were slightly narrowed as he looked ahead. On the hillside, Fang Yun was smiling as he looked at him with four of his teammates behind him eyeing their group, as well as powerful Spiritual Energy ripples around them.

The direction of Fang Yun and his team blocked off the path for them to enter the forest. If they intended to enter the forest, they would have the pass-through Fang Yun’s team.

From the looks of it, Fang Yun had been waiting for a long time.

“Haha, Captain Mu Chen, you can’t blame me for this, you can only blame yourself for being too greedy.” Fang Yun smiled as he looked at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen narrowed his eyes as he spoke, “Seems like Captain Fang Yun is not intending to let me pass?”

Fang Yun lightly shook his head as ferocity flashed past his eyes, looking at Mu Chen. The gentle smile still hung on his face as he replied, “Captain Mu Chen, I know that you are formidable. But after going through seven battles, I believe that you have exhausted a huge amount of your energy dealing with those Captains, right? Do you still have half of your fighting strength right now?”

“Furthermore... even if you managed to maintain your strength, your teammates are already a spent force. If you want to fight with us, I believe that your chances of winning aren’t too high.”

Mu Chen’s expression was indifferent as Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton’s gazes grew colder behind him, tightening their grip on their long spears.

“Therefore, I have to ask Captain Mu Chen to hand your Academy Plaque over to me.” Fang Yun extended his hand to Mu Chen as he laughed, “Don’t try to resist. Right now, there are many people eyeing your team as well. I’m afraid that your team can’t go through another round of exhaustion.”

A wind breezed by, but it wasn't able to scatter the frozen atmosphere at this moment.

Fang Yun wore a cold smile on his face. His gaze stared straight towards Mu Chen. Admittedly, after the fight with Ji Xuan, Mu Chen's fame had soared to the peak. However, he, Fang Yun, was not a weakling as well. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to come this far.

The two gazes interweaved in the air as sparks flickered.

"From the looks of it, you guys don't seem too interested in my suggestion." When Fang Yun saw that Mu Chen had no intentions of handing over his Academy Plaque, he helplessly smiled. However, there wasn't any warmth in his smile.

"Since that's the case, then I can only help myself to it."

Fang Yun slowly lifted his palm up. On his palm, there was a palm-sized Divine Cauldron with spiritual light flowing on the surface. Ancient runes were imprinted on the bronze cauldron, looking vivid and life-like. Roars of a dragon could be heard as if it came from the surface of the cauldron.

This Divine Cauldron quietly floated on Fang Yun's palm. Although there weren't any terrifying ripples coming from it, Mu Chen could sense the dense danger.

"Divine Artifact?" Mu Chen said softly as his eyes narrowed, looking at the bronze cauldron in Fang Yun's hand.

Mu Chen had a Quasi-Divine Artifact, the Black Tortoise Seal. However, he could vaguely sense that the cauldron in Fang Yun's hand was more formidable compared to his Black Tortoise Seal.

The Black Tortoise Seal was a Quasi-Divine Artifact. Therefore, didn't that imply that this bronze cauldron had already surpassed the level of Quasi-Divine Artifact and reached the Low Rank Divine Artifact?!

Low Rank Divine Artifact, entering the category of Divine Artifact, possessing unmeasurable power!

"Haha, this is the Divine Artifact of our Nine Cauldrons Spiritual Academy, a Low Rank Divine Artifact, the Dragon-Tiger Divine Cauldron..." Fang Yun looked at Mu Chen as he indifferently said, "Mu Chen, did you think that there was no one in the Great Spiritual Academy Tournament that could deal with you, just because you could fight with Ji Xuan on an equal level?"

Low Rank Divine Artifact - Dragon-Tiger Divine Cauldron.

When Fang Yun spoke the name, the look on Shen Cangsheng and the rest involuntarily changed. Although they had yet to witness the might of Fang Yun's cauldron, the word Divine Artifact was sufficient to instill fear in their hearts. The Divine Artifact was a powerful term in the Great Thousand World, no matter where it was.

Those that possessed a Divine Artifact could even challenge those stronger than themselves.

Shhhhhhhhu! Suuuuuuu!

Just when Mu Chen and Fang Yun were facing off, there were screeches of wind ringing from the far away horizon. Streaks of light could be seen from far away, traveling at a rapid speed.

Clearly, those were probably teams that were after Mu Chen's team.

Those teams stopped a distance away from the spike tree forest as they threw their gaze over. When they saw that Mu Chen's team was obstructed by Fang Yun, excitement surged in their eyes.

Mu Chen's current state wasn't good. If he could battle with a powerful expert like Fang Yun, he would have to pay a huge price. At that time, they would have their opportunity.

"Fang Yun actually took out his Dragon-Tiger Divine Cauldron... seems like even he fears Mu Chen." The eyes of some were sharp as they saw through the bronze cauldron in Fang Yun's palm with a glance.

"Mu Chen is not an easy opponent. Even if his state isn't in tip-top shape, it would be stupid to underestimate him. But clearly, Fang Yun isn't someone like that."

"Haha, fight. Fight as ferocious as possible, best if the both of them are gravely injured. At that time, we will have our opportunity."

"..."

Whispers were coming from far away and the gazes directed over weren't good.

Mu Chen had already taken notice of those distant people. Shen Cangsheng and Li Xuanton exchanged a glance as their hearts felt heavy.

Fang Yun was smiling as he looked at Mu Chen's team. Thereafter, his hand seal changed and the bronze cauldron flew out from his hand. Spiritual light spread out as the bronze cauldron expanded in size, instantly expanding to over a few hundred meters in diameter.

Above the bronze cauldron, spiritual light expanded, emitting unspeakable dignity from it. Even the space showed signs of vague distortions from the dignified ripples.

"Go!"

Fang Yun had an indifferent expression as the bronze cauldron flew out with a rustle, appearing above Mu Chen's team. Thereafter, a fearsome suppressive power that was similar to a mountain was being emitted.

Bang!

When the cauldron pressed down, the space instantly exploded as the shadow engulfed them, causing the faces of Shen Cangsheng and the rest to drastically change from the pressure.

The cauldron had still not landed, yet it was already so terrifying. The might of a Divine Artifact truly was outstanding.

Mu Chen's gaze was cold as he watched the cauldron fall. He waved his sleeves as a brilliant spiritual light shot forth in a streak of light as it clashed against the cauldron.

Boom!

A crisp metallic ringing resounded as the ear-piercing sound waves caused an explosion in this space. An energy fluctuation that could be seen with the naked-eyes exploded, spreading to a scope of a few thousand meters.

Everyone raised their heads, looking at the two colossal objects. There were a dark cyan-colored stone seal and a bronze cauldron...

At this instance, both objects were emitting terrifying Spiritual Energy ripples as they clashed. Every single time they clashed, it would stir up a Spiritual Energy tornado.

The stone seal was the Black Tortoise Seal, a Quasi-Divine Artifact in Mu Chen's possession.

However, the formidable Black Tortoise Seal had finally met its match. No matter how it emitted spiritual light, it was unable to defeat the bronze cauldron. On the contrary, it showed little signs of being suppressed by the boundless spiritual light...

"Haha, Quasi-Divine Artifact? But it seems to be a little inferior compared to a genuine Divine Artifact." Fang Yun watched the scene as he smiled.

Rustle!

Mu Chen faintly glanced at Fang Yun as he stomped his feet. His figure flew towards his target, Fang Yun.

"If you are at your peak, maybe I might not dare to confront you. But to act so recklessly at your current state, are you not being a little too overconfident?" When Fang Yun saw Mu Chen flying towards his direction, he coldly smiled without any panic.

"Palm of the Divine Cauldron!"

Fang Yun's hand seal changed as a boundless Spiritual Energy storm swept from his body, turning into a titanic bronze hand. On the bronze hand, imprints of a dragon and tiger could be vaguely seen on it.

"Go back!"

Fang Yun barked as the titanic bronze hand heavily pressed down towards Mu Chen, along with boundless fearsome power.

Fang Yun was ruthless in his attacks as he knew that Mu Chen's Spiritual Energy had undergone a huge exhaustion. If they were to forcefully clash, the latter would definitely not be able to fight with him.

At the rear, the faces of Shen Cangsheng and the rest drastically changed when they saw Fang Yun's ruthless moves. From the strength of Fang Yun's attacks, that fellow must be endlessly approaching Third Grade Spiritual Disaster.

If Mu Chen was at his peak, he might not have any troubles dealing with Fang Yun. However, he had a huge amount of exhaustion in his Spiritual Energy in his current state. Therefore, the fighting power that he could exhibit was also weakened.

Rumble!

Mu Chen raised his head and looked at the titanic hand that was pressing down. However, going against Fang Yun's expectations, there wasn't any panic on his face.

"You are still going to pretend at this time?" Fang Yun's expression turned cold. His mind stirred as the titanic bronze hand became even more violent.

"Even if my current state isn't good, it is still not something someone like you can make use of!"

A mocking smile surfaced on Mu Chen's indifferent expression. Thereafter, he started to form bizarre seals with one of his hands.

Boom!

In the instant Mu Chen had completed his hand seals, the heavens and earth seemed as if they had violently jolted. Thereafter, everyone could feel the sky turning darker.

Rustle!

Far away, those teams that were watching the fight had their facial expressions drastically change when they raised their heads.

In the spike forest, those spike trees that were flickering with radiance were suddenly rapidly withering away. As those trees withered, black Spiritual Energy soared into the sky, looking like black tidal waves.

It was a scene that looked like a black flood had fallen from the sky in destruction.

Fang Yun's face changed as well from the sight of it.