

## L. Wyatt 1401

### Chapter 1401: Epilogue

Amidst the thunder and lightning, the bandit, in a timely manner, spotted the arrow shot by Wyatt Barnes, ducked his head, and tumbled awkwardly to the ground.

However, he barely dodged Wyatt Barnes' True Energy arrow.

In the air, a few strands of long hair floated down.

"Late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm!"

Seeing the bandit evade the arrow, Wyatt Barnes was not disappointed but instead, his eyes brightened.

In an instant, he shot out another arrow.

His body followed the trajectory of the arrow!

Wyatt Barnes leapt up, following the arrow and before blink of an eye, landed steadily in front of the bandit who had just awkwardly got up from his roll, standing before him.

At this moment, the bandit also noticed Wyatt Barnes; his face changed color dramatically, "Was it you who shot the stealthy arrow just now?"

"Late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm, 7 merit points."

Wyatt Barnes looked at the bandit with eyes like a hunter who had just spotted his prey, twinkling like two bright stars in the night sky.

"Boy, you dare to ignore me! You're courting death!"

Being at the late-stage of Transcending Mortal Realm, the bandit had an arrogance extraordinaire, and upon seeing Wyatt Barnes ignoring him, rage surged within him.

Bang!!

He stamped his legs on the ground, cracking the earth beneath him, then charged towards Wyatt Barnes like a cannonball.

In his hand, a large saber appeared.

The True Energy on the saber surged wildly, and its aura expanded, transforming it into a massive saber several feet long, aiming to split Wyatt Barnes in half as it thundered down upon his head.

"Die!"

As the saber fell, the bandit grinned ferociously, as if he had already seen the scene of the young man in purple being cleaved into two in front of him.

Confronted with the bandit's saber, Wyatt Barnes remained composed.

His body followed the trajectory of the arrow!

Another arrow shot forth, and Wyatt Barnes, stepping on the arrow, barely dodged the bandit's cleaving saber, reaching a spot just to the side of the bandit in an instant.

Meteor Arrow Rain!

With a raise of his hand, Wyatt Barnes fired off an arrow.

The bandit's face changed dramatically as he realized the situation, and he looked up to see a rain of arrows, whistling down from the sky with tremendous momentum, like a meteor shower pouring down.

Faced with the relentless torrent of arrows falling from the sky, the bandit didn't dare to slack off, swiftly swinging the saber in his hand to block every arrow in the relentless barrage.

Meteor Strike!

Just as the bandit was resisting the rain of arrows and attempting to flee, Wyatt Barnes made his move again.

Whoosh!

A single arrow penetrated the bandit's forehead, killing him.

To a Martial Artist in the late-stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm who was not at the peak, they were like weaklings before Wyatt Barnes, barely worth mentioning.

"Wyatt Barnes, that bandit actually dodged your arrow just now."

At this moment, Edward Watson, who had caught up, spoke with some surprise.

To know, along the way, the bandits they encountered were almost invariably killed by Wyatt Barnes with a single arrow... and now, this was the first bandit to dodge an arrow shot by Wyatt Barnes.

"He is a Martial Artist of the late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm."

Wyatt Barnes grinned.

"Late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm!"

Suddenly, whether it was Edward Watson or Jemma Clifford who had also caught up, their eyes lit up.

This was the first late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm bandit they had encountered.

"If we include this one, it looks like we have 39 merit points."

Edward Watson said excitedly, even if the points were divided among the three of them, he still could get 13 merit points... and 13 merit points, when converted into the Main Mansion's 'merit points' of Hill Mountain City, that would be 1300 points.

"Continue."

Wyatt Barnes leaped into the air once more, traveling from tree to tree, his 'Mysterious Eye' in his left socket always slowly rotating.

Of course, the rotation was slow.

Otherwise, his mental strength could not keep up.

Because of 'conserving' energy, until now, Wyatt Barnes had only used up one-fifth of his mental strength, leaving four-fifth to squander at will.

Where Wyatt Barnes and his companions passed, it was as if they were reaping the lives of bandits.

Of course, the one acting was always Wyatt Barnes.

"I really don't understand why Wyatt Barnes needs to cooperate with others... along the way, the other two haven't made a move at all."

Hidden in the shadows, a silver-armored middle-aged man trailing behind the trio of Wyatt Barnes couldn't help shaking his head.

"People say 'It is better to die under the flowers than to be a ghost in loneliness'... This Wyatt Barnes, for the sake of a woman, has made such a choice; it's truly speechless."

Another silver-armored middle-aged man also shook his head.

Clearly, they thought that Wyatt Barnes, smitten by Jemma Clifford's beauty, hence cooperated and helped her.

"Indeed. If it weren't for this woman, our City Lord's challenge today, the 'first place', would undoubtedly be his."

The former spoke again, implying 'women are the root of trouble.'

From the beginning to the end, they could see it was not Wyatt Barnes and Jemma Clifford carrying an 'encumbrance', but rather Wyatt Barnes alone carrying two 'burdens.'

"However, his eyesight is really astonishing... we hadn't even noticed someone ahead, but his arrow had already shot out. Except for that bandit in the late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm, all the other bandits were killed by his arrow."

"Indeed, even I cannot achieve that! His eyes, they simply don't seem human... How can human eyes see that far."

...

The two middle-aged men in silver armor who were hidden in the dark, recording the accomplishments of Wyatt Barnes and his companions as well as protecting them, were discussing through the transmission of True Energy.

From the beginning until now, they had all realized that Wyatt Barnes' "eyesight" far surpassed that of ordinary people.

Perhaps their strength exceeds that of Wyatt Barnes.

But when it comes to eyesight, they are often inferior.

Just as Wyatt Barnes was sweeping through the ranks, in various other directions, figures dashed at speeds not slower than Wyatt's, heading toward the deep valley.

Ranked second amongst the Thirteen Protectors, 'Baer Bear' led the charge.

Following closely behind was 'Ingot Gold', ranked third.

Subsequently came 'Arthur Davidson', ranked fourth, and 'Jan Clark', ranked fifth.

Along the way, they encountered a few Transcending Mortal Realm late-stage bandits, as well as a large number of early and mid-stage ones, and they also scored quite a few merit points.

However, both Arthur Davidson and Jan Clark, despite each killing a late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm bandit, also sustained serious injuries.

"People from Hill Mountain City's Main Mansion are nothing special!"

Accompanied by a mocking laugh, a figure flew backwards with a 'bang', crashing heavily into the ground, spitting blood messily from his mouth.

As he watched the late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm bandit advancing with murderous intent, step by step, Fenny Graham's expression was extremely unsightly.

"Wyatt Barnes... it's all because of you! If it weren't for you, even if I couldn't beat him, I could have at least fought to a draw!"

Confronted with the bandit who wanted to kill him, Fenny Graham gritted his teeth in rage, but the person he truly resented at the moment was not the bandit before him, but Wyatt Barnes.

In his view.

If it weren't for Wyatt Barnes seriously injuring him the day before yesterday, forcing him to take on today's trial with an injured body, he wouldn't have ended up in such a dire situation.

Just as the bandit was about to kill Fenny Graham, a silver figure appeared.

"One of the thirty-six personal guards of the City Lord's Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City!"

Seeing the young man in silver armor, the bandit's expression changed dramatically and he hurriedly turned to flee.

All he could think of now was one thing.

Flee!

To escape far away!

But could he really escape?

The silver-armored youth disappeared from his original spot and when he reappeared, he was already blocking the bandit's path. Before the bandit could even beg for mercy, he was slain.

The whole process was smooth as flowing clouds and water.

"You're eliminated."

After killing the bandit, the silver-armored youth gave Fenny Graham a cursory glance and said so.

Fenny Graham, with a gloomy face, stood up, turned around, and walked back the way he came...

He knew he was doomed not to become the disciple of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

"12 merit points..."

Thinking of the merit points he earned, Fenny Graham's mood grew even gloomier.

And while Fenny Graham was being eliminated.

In another place, Foresty Crawford was also seriously injured by a late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm bandit. Fortunately, he was saved by one of the thirty-six personal guards, although he was subsequently eliminated as well.

When Fenny Graham and Foresty Crawford walked out of the valley, they discovered that four people had been eliminated before them... these four were the least ranked among the Thirteen Protectors.

However, these four were merely mid-stage Transcending Mortal Realm Martial Artists.

Realizing this, the look on both their faces turned somewhat ugly.

"Damn it! Wyatt Barnes hasn't come out yet..."

Seeing that Wyatt Barnes hadn't been eliminated, they couldn't help feeling annoyed.

While they greatly wished for Wyatt Barnes to die inside, they knew that with the safeguard of members of the thirty-six personal guards, it was impossible for Wyatt Barnes to die there... Now, they could only hope that Wyatt would be eliminated sooner.

Regrettably, they were destined to be disappointed.

Just as Wyatt Barnes and his two companions were nearly at the end of the valley, the other four also reached the end of the valley and saw each other.

"Wyatt Barnes! Jemma Clifford!"

Four pairs of eyes simultaneously fixed on Wyatt Barnes and Jemma Clifford, while Edward Watson, who stood beside them, was outright ignored.

"Wyatt Barnes, I didn't expect you to be so lucky to have made it this far... I thought you had already been eliminated midway."

Jan Clark said mockingly with a sneer on his face.



"My luck has always been good; nothing surprising about that," Wyatt Barnes cast a glance at Jan Clark, "On the contrary, it truly surprises me that you made it this far."

"Hmph!"

Jan Clark huffed, turning his attention to Jemma Clifford by Wyatt's side, "Jemma, you should have cooperated with me... Working with Wyatt Barnes along the way, you probably didn't earn many merit points, did you?"

As he finished speaking, Jan Clark's face showed a mocking smile directed at Wyatt Barnes.

Hearing Jan Clark's words, Wyatt Barnes did not respond.

But Edward Watson, who was following beside Wyatt Barnes and Jemma Clifford, almost burst out laughing... Working with Wyatt Barnes and not getting many merit points?

"Hahaha..."

Just as Jemma Clifford's expression turned grave, about to say something, a wild laughter emerged from deep within the valley, drawing closer and closer.

Shortly after, a figure appeared before Wyatt Barnes and the others.

It was a middle-aged man dressed in a grey robe with several knife scars on his face, giving him a ferocious appearance.

"Being able to come here shows your strength is not bad... Regrettably, you are destined to die here today!"

The newcomer scanned Wyatt Barnes and his party unabashedly.

Chapter 1402: Please Don't Interfere

"Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection!"

Wyatt Barnes' heart trembled.

Employing the 'Heavenly Eye,' he immediately probed into the cultivation realm of the ferocious-looking middle-aged man in grey... He was a strong practitioner at the Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection!

"He is a bandit at the Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection."

Looking at the middle-aged man in grey, Wyatt revealed a touch of apprehension in his eyes.

"If you want us to die here, let's see if you have the strength!"

Jan Clark scoffed coldly.

At this moment, Jan Clark's gaze was fixed on the man in grey, completely oblivious to the grim and vigilant expressions that overcame Ingot Gold and Baer Bear.

Even Arthur Davidson paused his ready movements upon seeing the changed expressions of Xiong Quan and his partner.

"I'll show you right away!"

The middle-aged man in grey revealed a fierce smile and without any noticeable action, he vanished like a gust of wind, reappearing in front of Jan Clark.

"So fast!"

The speed of his movement caused everyone's faces to change color.

A small vortex appeared in his left pupil as he activated the 'Mysterious Eye,' and upon capturing the fleeting silhouette of the man in grey, Wyatt felt his psychic energy drain by half.

The psychic energy he spent at this moment was nearly equivalent to what he had expended along his entire journey!

"Is this the speed of someone at Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection?"

Wyatt's heart quavered.

At Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection, not only are there numerous 'Saint Veins' opened, but the 'Sea of Energy' is also vast to the point of exaggeration, containing True Energy far exceeding those at the later stages of Transcending Mortal Realm, let alone the mid-stages.

A Martial Artist at Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection, with True Energy surging from within, whether in strength or speed, has reached an extremely terrifying level.

This was something Wyatt noticed during yesterday's exchange between Ling Yun and Kai Simmons.

"The strength of this Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection bandit is probably even above Ling Yun!"

By comparing this bandit with 'Ling Yun,' the number one among the thirteen guardians, Wyatt arrived at a startling conclusion.

If it had been the past him, he might not have been able to discern this.

But now, armed with the 'Mysterious Eye,' he easily noticed this point through its activation.

Whoosh!

Jan Clark's expression dramatically changed.

He never expected that as soon as the middle-aged man in grey finished speaking, he would already be in front of him.

"Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection!"

Now, he also guessed the opponent's cultivation level, his face filled with horror.

In an instant, the True Energy under his feet surged, ready to use his movement techniques to flee.

However, as he attempted to move, he found his opponent's hand, large as a fan palm, enveloping him with such speed that he had no chance to dodge.

At this moment, Jan Clark's face was painted with the color of despair.

Bang!!

A loud noise erupted, followed by a vast wave of energy that made the clothes of everyone present flutter in the wind.

The next moment, everyone saw.

In front of Jan Clark, a silver figure had appeared, a middle-aged man clad in a silver armor, blocking the palm of the man in grey.

One of the thirty-six personal guards who followed Jan Clark had finally appeared at the critical moment, saving Jan Clark's life.

The man in grey shuddered, his face darkened as he looked at the man in silver armor, "One of the thirty-six personal guards from Hill Mountain City Lords' Main Mansion? Didn't your Hill Mountain City Lord's Main Mansion ask us to handle those entering the valley? Why are you intervening?"

"You dealing with them is your business. Protecting them is my business... The City Lord said that as long as you can eliminate all of them, you will be spared,"

After casting a faint glance at the man in grey, the man in silver armor looked towards Jan Clark, "You've been eliminated."

With an ugly expression, Jan Clark had no choice but to turn and leave with the man in silver armor.

As he left, he did not forget to glance back fiercely at Wyatt Barnes.

"Using me as a test stone?"

At this moment, the man in grey finally realized, it turns out, the Hill Mountain City Lord's Main Mansion had used him as a 'test stone.'

"You guys must be from the Hill Mountain City Lord's Main Mansion's Hidden Dragon Camp, right?"

Regaining his composure, the man in grey swept his gaze over Wyatt and the others, asking in a deep voice.

"Hmph! Even if you don't say it, I can guess,"

With a cold snort, the man in grey continued, "Even though I can't kill you, not a single one of you will pass through my hands... I will eliminate all of you!"

As he spoke, a strong confidence shone in the eyes of the man in grey.

Upon hearing the words of the man in grey, Ingot Gold's face changed, and he shouted loudly, "Everybody, we must join forces now."

By now, whether it was Ingot Gold, Baer Bear, or Arthur Davidson, they had all confirmed the cultivation level of the man in grey: Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection.

In face of a Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection powerhouse, none of them alone was a match.

Only by joining forces did they stand a chance.

"Join forces?"

Upon hearing Ingot Gold's words, the man in grey couldn't help but let out a cold chuckle before once again disappearing from the sight of Baer Bear, Ingot Gold, Arthur Davidson, Jemma Clifford, and Edward Watson.

With the 'Mysterious Eye' activated, Wyatt Barnes barely captured the silhouette of the man in grey, who, in the blink of an eye, appeared in front of Ingot Gold and struck out with his palm.

Boom!

The True Energy surged in the sacred glove, forming a solid palm print that was about to fall upon Ingot Gold.

Bang!!

Another middle-aged man in silver armor appeared, blocking the palm of the man in gray, a member of the thirty-six royal guards.

"Eliminated."

The middle-aged man in silver armor looked at Ingot Gold and said coolly.

Ingot Gold's face showed helplessness and a wry smile; he could not react in time to his opponent's speed.

Though he knew that those who had reached Small Perfection in the Transcending Mortal Realm were strong, he didn't expect them to be this strong.

In the blink of an eye, his opponent had already reached him.

"Eliminated!"

"Eliminated!"

...

After Ingot Gold was eliminated, several more indifferent voices rang out; it was Edward Watson, Jemma Clifford, Arthur Davidson, and Baer Bear who were successively eliminated.

Among them, only Baer Bear held out until the second move before being eliminated.

"What incredible speed!"

Before leaving, Baer Bear glanced at the afterimage trailing the arrow, his expression grave, "This Wyatt Barnes is even faster than I am."

The afterimage trailing the arrow, was indeed Wyatt Barnes.

With Jemma Clifford and Edward Watson eliminated and the presence of the royal guards, they were not worried about Wyatt's safety.

Of course, they didn't believe Wyatt could deal with the bandit that had reached Small Perfection in the Transcending Mortal Realm.

"It seems no one can claim these 20 points."

A middle-aged man in silver armor stood on a tree nearby and shook his head slightly.

The 20 points were the points awarded for killing a bandit that had reached Small Perfection in the Transcending Mortal Realm.

Now, amongst the thirteen protectors of the Hidden Dragon Camp, only Wyatt Barnes remained... Although Wyatt's strength was commendable, and he could defeat the average late-stage Martial Artist of the Transcending Mortal Realm.

However, that did not mean Wyatt could contend with those at Small Perfection.

"His speed is even slightly faster than Baer Bear, who ranks second in speed among the thirteen protectors... No wonder this Wyatt Barnes has lasted until now. But his speed is nothing before this late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm bandit."

The middle-aged man in silver armor, one of the thirty-six royal guards, continued shaking his head.

He was on high alert, ready to save Wyatt at any moment.

From Wyatt's current speed, he could tell... The strength that Wyatt was displaying was at most at the peak of the late Transcending Mortal Realm stage, a far cry from Small Perfection.

"Young man in purple, only you are left... Once I eliminate you, I will regain my freedom."

The bandit that had reached Small Perfection in the Transcending Mortal Realm, the man in gray, looked at Wyatt Barnes, who was racing like an arrow, his eyes glowing with cold light mixed with excitement.

"Are you so confident that you will regain your freedom?"

Finally, Wyatt came to a stop and stood at a distance from the man in gray, confronting him from afar.

"I admit, you're faster than that brawny lad just now... However, your strength is only at most at the peak of late Transcending Mortal Realm. My strength is nearing the peak of Small Perfection. In my eyes, you're like an ant that I can trample as I please."

The man in gray sized up Wyatt, speaking leisurely.

"Then by all means, give it a try."

Wyatt narrowed his eyes, speaking indifferently.

At this point, he had no plan to continue using his movement technique... because he knew that even if he did, he wouldn't be able to keep up with the speed of the man in gray.



After all, the opponent was at the level of Small Perfection in the Transcending Mortal Realm.

He had been using his movement technique to prevent the man in gray from targeting him prematurely.

He was biding his time, letting the man in gray eliminate others first.

Now that the others were eliminated, there was no need for him to continue using his movement technique to evade.

"Where does this Wyatt Barnes get his confidence?"

The middle-aged man in silver armor hidden in the shadows saw the confidence shining in Wyatt's eyes and couldn't help but frown.

"No matter what happens later, please don't interfere."

At that moment, a voice reached the ears of the man in silver robe.

He recognized it as Wyatt's voice... Wyatt was communicating with him using True Energy.

Wyatt Barnes was asking him not to interfere?

"Aren't you afraid of dying?"

The man in the silver robe frowned, asking back with True Energy.

"I won't die."

Wyatt replied with True Energy again, his tone full of strong confidence.

"Hmph!"

Simultaneously, the man in gray, infuriated by Wyatt's 'provocation,' finally lost his restraint and, with a cold snort, shot out like a bolt of lightning.

His speed was so fast that it produced a fleeting screech in the air.

He was targeting Wyatt's location.

Facing the aggressive man in gray, Wright's right eye captured no trace, but in his left eye, Wyatt could clearly see the figure of the man in gray.

In the blink of an eye, his left eye saw the man in gray arriving in front of him.

Boom!

As the man in gray reached him, a palm, already prepared, surged with True Energy and slammed down towards Wyatt like a Five Finger Mountain.

Just as the man in gray's palm was inches away from Wyatt, the middle-aged man in silver armor hidden in the shadows darkened his face, realizing he had missed the ideal moment to intervene.

"Wyatt Barnes, if you get killed, you can only blame yourself."

The middle-aged man in silver armor thought to himself.

Chapter 1403: Exposure

The mid-aged man in grey struck out with his palm, transforming into a Five Finger Mountain that sought to suppress Wyatt Barnes.

The full power of the Small Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm was completely unleashed!

In pursuit of ultimate freedom, the mid-aged man in grey held nothing back in his attack.

Just as the palm of the mid-aged man in grey was about to land on him, the small vortex in Wyatt's left eye rapidly spun faster and faster.

In an instant, the remaining mental energy of Wyatt was nearly totally drained by the small vortex.

Mysterious Eye!

Spatial Displacement!

Amidst the flash of lightning, the palm strike originally destined for Wyatt Barnes bizarrely shifted, grazing his body as it passed.

The vast force caused the air to tremble, emitting thunderous explosive sounds.

"How is this possible?!"

At the same moment, the mid-aged man in grey's face drastically changed.

However, he was now being carried away by his own full-powered palm strike, leaving himself wholly exposed in front of Wyatt Barnes.

In the blink of an eye, amidst the flash of lightning, True Energy within Wyatt Barnes's Qi Sea burst forth unreservedly through the thirty-two Saint Veins, swiftly converging onto his right hand.

At the same time, he fully drew the Sun Shooting Bowstring, following with an immediate release.

Clang!

Hum!

An arrow of solidified True Energy whizzed forth, decapitating the mid-aged man in grey before he had the chance to retract his True Energy and defend, severing his head from his body.

Thud!

The head of the mid-aged man in grey fell to the ground, and blood gushed from his bisected body, staining the earth red.

Wyatt Barnes moved aside just in time as the body of the mid-aged man in grey flew past due to the inertia of that palm.

The thief at the peak of the Small Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm died just like that, dead to the core.

Silence.

The scene was enveloped in dead silence; one could likely hear a pin drop.

"That... that..."

Hiding to the side, the mid-aged bodyguard in silver armor, one of the thirty-six close guards, stared blankly at the scene before him, unable to regain his senses for a long time.

When Wyatt Barnes told him not to intervene, he thought Wyatt was being overconfident.

He watched as Wyatt Barnes was about to be killed, and because of what Wyatt had said earlier, he did not offer timely help... He thought Wyatt would be slain by that peak Small Perfection thief of the Transcending Mortal Realm.

Who would have imagined that at the last moment, the thief – as if bewitched – abruptly changed direction in his ferocious palm strike, swinging it toward the side of Wyatt Barnes.

In that instant, even he didn't notice how the thief changed direction.

In his view, the hand of the thief seemed to disappear in the air on the spot, and at the same time reappeared on the side, almost avoiding Wyatt.

He simply couldn't comprehend what had happened.

Following that, he saw Wyatt Barnes capitalize on the opportunity of the thief's missed full-strength palm strike and decisive lack of defense, and ruthlessly executed him.

As a being at the peak of the Small Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm, he understood clearly that the turning point of it all laid in that misplaced palm strike of the thief.

Logically, that palm strike should have been enough to kill Wyatt Barnes.

Yet at the critical moment, it bizarrely missed Wyatt.

And precisely because that strike missed, the thief was killed by Wyatt Barnes.

"Could it be... that Wyatt Barnes knew all along that this situation would arise?"

Remembering the True Energy voice transmission from Wyatt Barnes earlier, his heart jolted, giving rise to an unbelievable thought, "Could it be... his own doing?"

He dared not think further.

If it was truly Wyatt Barnes's doing, what kind of terrifying tactic must it have been?

In that moment, a glint of greed imperceptibly ignited in the depths of the silver-armored mid-aged man's eyes.

"If it really is Wyatt Barnes's doing... if I could obtain it, could I not contend with the great perfectionists of the Transcending Mortal Realm while being at the peak of small perfection?"

With that thought, the silver-armored mid-aged man felt a surge of excitement, "Then my strength as a member of the Dark Sky Guard would be no lesser than the majority of those within the top ten guards!"

The Dark Sky Guard, ranked eighteenth among the thirty-six close guards of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, possessed the cultivation of the peak Small Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm.

"Hmm?"

Wyatt Barnes, his mental energy nearly drained, had a slightly pale complexion; meanwhile, he became even more watchful of his surroundings... he sensed an intense gaze.

Currently, with his mental energy completely depleted, his strength was somewhat affected.

Now, even if an average late-stage Martial Artist of the Transcending Mortal Realm made a move against him, he might not necessarily be a match.

"Could it be one of the thirty-six close guards?"

Wyatt Barnes's mind became alert.

Whoosh!

After the appearance of the Dark Sky Guard, Wyatt Barnes became more cautious, noticing the subtle glint of greed in the other's eyes, "Greed? What does he want?"

"Could it be... he noticed the signs just now? Does he have designs on me?"

With that thought, a heaviness sank into Wyatt's heart.

While the Dark Sky Guard approached discreetly, Wyatt Barnes took several steps back.

"Eh."

And just then, a light exclamation came from the sky, causing the Dark Sky Guard's expression to shift and halting his advance towards Wyatt Barnes.

"Heavenly Guard!"

Looking up, Wyatt Barnes saw the looming figure of the Heavenly Guard and immediately breathed a sigh of relief.

He knew that now, with the arrival of the chief of the thirty-six close guards, the 'Heavenly Guard,' the silver-armored mid-aged man would no longer dare act as before.

However, Wyatt Barnes was aware that the Heavenly Guard only resolved his immediate crisis.

Since the other had given rise to greed, it was unlikely to be so easily suppressed.

"Big brother."

Facing the Heavenly Guard, the Dark Sky Guard respectfully bowed.

"Dark Sky Guard?"

The Heavenly Guard stepped down from the air and landed next to Wyatt Barnes and the Dark Sky Guard, looked at the Dark Sky Guard, frowned, and asked, "Did you kill this Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection bandit?"

"No."

The Dark Sky Guard shook his head, then turned to Wyatt Barnes and said, "He killed him."

Dark Sky Guard!

Upon the arrival of the Heavenly Guard, and the moment he greeted the man in the silver armor, Wyatt Barnes learned the name of the man in the silver armor.

"Dark Sky Guard... Named after the thirty-six Heavenly Stars, Dark Sky Guard seems to be ranked 'eighteenth'."

Wyatt Barnes thought to himself.

"Wyatt Barnes?"

At the same time, reminded by the Dark Sky Guard, the Heavenly Guard turned to Wyatt Barnes, his face showing astonishment, "You killed this Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection bandit?"

"Mhm."

Wyatt Barnes nodded, and upon seeing the shock and puzzlement on the face of the Heavenly Guard, Wyatt Barnes added, "He just had a fight with others and expended much of his strength... I was lucky to have killed him."

Lucky?

Hearing Wyatt Barnes's words, the Heavenly Guard showed disbelief and gave Wyatt Barnes a deep look.

"The test is over, you may leave now."

After a moment, the Heavenly Guard declared.

"It's over? So soon?"

Wyatt Barnes was startled.



"Inside this valley, there was only one Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection bandit hiding at the end of the valley... All other bandits have been killed by you guys."

The Heavenly Guard said, "So, there are no more bandits left in this valley, there's no point for you to stay here."

Wyatt Barnes suddenly understood.

As he left with the Heavenly Guard, Wyatt Barnes clearly noticed the Dark Sky Guard's intense gaze falling on him occasionally from behind.

"It seems that it's best not to use the Mysterious Eye in front of others if possible... otherwise, sooner or later it will bring trouble upon me."

Wyatt Barnes's heart sank as he thought to himself.

He had guessed that it was the final misplaced palm of the Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection bandit that had revealed something, and the Dark Sky Guard had taken notice of it.

The Dark Sky Guard probably thought that it was some special technique of his and started coveting it.

"I'll have to be careful in the future at the City Lord's Main Mansion... This Dark Sky Guard, if he doesn't find an opportunity today, will certainly find one to make trouble for me later!"

This wasn't hard for Wyatt Barnes to deduce.

Perhaps the Dark Sky Guard wouldn't kill him at first, but would certainly demand that he hand over the 'spatial displacement' technique.

Although he knew that the spatial displacement was a technique derived from the Mysterious Eye and was not replicable.

But the Dark Sky Guard didn't know that!

"When the time comes, if I can't hand it over, I fear it may threaten my life."

Wyatt Barnes inwardly remarked.

Under the leadership of the Heavenly Guard, Wyatt Barnes left the valley and returned to the outside of the valley.

"Where is everyone?"

When he came outside, Wyatt Barnes found the area empty of people, including the other thirty-six relatives of the guards, all of whom had left.

"The City Lord has taken them back to Hill Mountain City."

As if seeing the confusion in Wyatt Barnes's eyes, the Heavenly Guard reminded him.

"Now, follow me back to Hill Mountain City... I will report the results of this test to the City Lord."

Calling out to Wyatt Barnes, the Heavenly Guard stepped into the air to lead the way.

Wyatt Barnes closely followed behind.

Behind Wyatt Barnes, the Dark Sky Guard also soared into the sky, clearly also intending to follow the Heavenly Guard and Wyatt Barnes back to Hill Mountain City, to return to the City Lord's Main Mansion.

In Hill Mountain City, at the City Lord's Main Mansion, the Council Hall.

"City Lord!"

Suddenly, a loud and respectful voice came from outside, drawing the gaze of a group of people in the Council Hall.

Inside the Council Hall, the City Lord of Hill Mountain City sat at the head of the table, majestic and imposing.

Below him, there stood eleven young men and one young woman... It was the eleven of the thirteen bodyguards who had just returned from outside, as well as Edward Watson, an ordinary member of the Hidden Dragon Camp.

"Come in!"

Hearing the voice outside, the City Lord of Hill Mountain City spoke indifferently.

"Lord Heavenly Guard!"

As a figure first entered the Council Hall, many greeted respectfully.

Soon, the people there noticed that right behind the Heavenly Guard followed a figure cloaked in purple.

It was none other than Wyatt Barnes, the sixth-ranked among the thirteen bodyguards of the Hidden Dragon Camp.

"Wyatt Barnes."

Seeing Wyatt Barnes, smiles appeared on the faces of Jemma Clifford and Edward Watson.

Of course, Wyatt Barnes's arrival was a case of 'joy for some, sorrow for others'.

For Jan Clark, Foresty Crawford, and Fenny Graham, who had unresolved hatred with Wyatt Barnes, seeing him appear made them itch with irritation.

"City Lord, today's test results and rankings are all out," said the Heavenly Guard upon entering the Council Hall, reporting to the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

"Speak."

The gaze of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City lit up with rarity.

#### Chapter 1404: 93 Points Score

"The person with the highest score in today's test is 'Baer Bear,' who obtained a total of 36 points. The second-highest is 'Ingot Gold,' with a total of 32 points."

In the Council Hall, the Heavenly Guard spoke out loud.

As soon as the voice of the Heavenly Guard fell, gazes fell upon Baer Bear and Ingot Gold.

"It is no wonder they are ranked second and third amongst the thirteen guardians, each taking first and second place in today's test."

Many people sighed in admiration.

"The two of them will become the disciples of the City Lord."

Even more people showed faces full of envy.

Of course, there were also some who showed bitter smiles and helplessness.

Baer Bear smiled, very pleased with himself.

Though Ingot Gold was not as exaggerated as Baer Bear, the curve of his mouth was enough to show how delighted he was.

"From today onwards, Baer Bear and Ingot Gold will become my disciples."

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City said.

But his gaze subliminally swept over Wyatt Barnes, filled with a tinge of disappointment.

Because the City Lord of Hill Mountain City had said early on that he would only accept the top two performers of today's test as disciples... Hence, the Heavenly Guard did not announce the ranks and scores of the others.

As the City Lord of Hill Mountain City spoke, gazes once again fell upon Baer Bear and Ingot Gold, filled with envy, jealousy, and resentment.

"For the rest, I will have your scores recorded and passed to the 'Hall of Merit'. You can collect the corresponding merit points for the scores you obtained today in three days."

The Heavenly Guard looked towards Wyatt Barnes and the others, saying.

At that moment, the spirits of the people were once again lifted.

"One point of score is worth a hundred merit points... I have eight points of score, which can be exchanged for eight hundred merit points, hehe."

A mid-stage Transcending Mortal Realm Martial Artist among the thirteen guardians chuckled.

"I have one more point of score than you. That's worth nine hundred merit points."

Another mid-stage Transcending Mortal Realm Martial Artist also laughed.

"Heavenly Guard, Baer Bear, and Ingot Gold will stay... The rest, return to the Hidden Dragon Camp."

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City spoke indifferently, his voice spreading throughout the entire Council Hall.

Just as people were shaking their heads in resignation, preparing to leave, a figure stepped forward and said to the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, "My Lord, all the scores of our three-person team were obtained by Wyatt Barnes alone."

"I request that our team's score be entirely attributed to Wyatt Barnes."

The person speaking to the City Lord of Hill Mountain City with a bowed posture was 'Jemma Clifford'.

In her opinion, had it not been for the points Wyatt Barnes earned by killing the bandits being shared with her and Edward Watson, Baer Bear would not have been today's top scorer.

"Jemma Clifford."

Wyatt Barnes frowned, not expecting Jemma Clifford to explain on his behalf.

"Yes, My Lord. All of the scores were solely obtained by Wyatt Barnes... I am unworthy of them."

Edward Watson clenched his teeth and also stood out.

Although he was eager for the merit points, it was difficult for him to just watch as Wyatt got 'eliminated' without feeling uneasy.

In his eyes,

Wyatt Barnes was the most qualified to become the City Lord of Hill Mountain City's disciple out of everyone present today.

"Hmph! The rules were clearly set by the City Lord himself early on. Do you think this is child's play? Do you really think the City Lord would believe your claim that Wyatt Barnes obtained all the scores by himself?"

Jan Clark scornfully mocked.

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City sat at the leading seat and remained silent; perhaps he didn't hear what Jemma Clifford and Edward Watson said, or perhaps he simply didn't care to pay them any heed.

"Let's go."

Wyatt Barnes furrowed his brow, called out to Jemma Clifford and Edward Watson, and then was the first to turn around and leave the Council Hall.

He hadn't expected Jemma Clifford and Edward Watson to make such a move.

He had absolutely no interest in becoming the City Lord's disciple.

Seeing that the City Lord of Hill Mountain City ignored them, Jemma Clifford and Edward Watson exchanged a bitter smile and then had no choice but to follow Wyatt Barnes and leave.

However, in their hearts, they were already filled with regret for having joined the test with Wyatt Barnes and having held him back.

The others followed and left the Council Hall.

"That Jemma Clifford, thinking that saying a few words could make Wyatt Barnes become a disciple under the City Lord? How ludicrous!"

Foresty Crawford sneered coldly.

"Thinking they could use their earned scores to push Wyatt Barnes 'up the ranks'... It's laughable they had the nerve to say that"

Fenny Graham said disdainfully.

"Wyatt Barnes, I'm sorry... it's my fault for dragging you down."

On the way back to the Hidden Dragon Camp, Jemma Clifford apologized to Wyatt Barnes.

"The one who should be saying 'sorry' is me... I didn't expect that our scores wouldn't even rank us second."

Wyatt Barnes sighed.

In one aspect, he had miscalculated.

He didn't realize that the bandit in Small Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm was the last one.

Starting from their entrance into the valley, sweeping through and including the killing of the Small Perfection Transcending Mortal Realm bandit, he had earned a total of 93 score points... Divided into three parts, each person would have 31 points.

And, Ingot Gold, ranked second among the thirteen guardians, happened to have 32 points, one more than each of the three of them.

"We together have only 73 score points. Divided into three parts, each person has only 24 points, which is a substantial distance from 'second place'."

Edward Watson chuckled bitterly.

Neither he nor Jemma Clifford knew about Wyatt Barnes killing the Small Perfection Transcending Mortal Realm bandit.

However, Wyatt Barnes didn't plan to explain.

In three days, when Edward Watson and Jemma Clifford exchange their score points for merit points, they would naturally come to know all of this.

"I believe sooner or later, the City Lord will find out about you getting those 73 points all by yourself," Jemma Clifford said. "Throughout our journey, one of the two thirty-six guards hiding in the shadows and protecting us witnessed you in action and knows that you alone earned those 73 points."

"If the City Lord learns about all this, he will surely take you in as a disciple by exception," Jemma Clifford added, only now realizing this possibility.

During the meeting in the Council Hall, her emotions got the better of her, which is why she spoke so abruptly to the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.



Just as Jan Clark said.

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City might not believe her words.

Only when the words come from the thirty-six guards will the City Lord trust them.

"That's correct," Edward Watson nodded in agreement with Jemma Clifford's words.

Wyatt Barnes shrugged his shoulders, with an indifferent expression on his face.

If there was anything he regretted, it wasn't that he missed the chance to become the disciple of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, but rather that he missed the chance to repay Jemma Clifford for her kindness.

He had already made up his mind.

If, as Jemma Clifford and Edward Watson had mentioned, the City Lord of Hill Mountain City wanted to take him on as a disciple by exception, he would definitely seize the opportunity to repay Jemma Clifford's kindness.

Not long after, Wyatt Barnes and his companions returned to the Dragon Hiding Camp and went back to their respective wooden huts.

After Wyatt Barnes and his companions returned, Jan Clark, Foresty Crawford, Fenny Graham, and others also arrived one after another.

"Baer Bear and Ingot Gold have become disciples of the City Lord?"

The other members of the Dragon Hiding Camp were not surprised by this result.

Council Hall.

After Baer Bear and Ingot Gold completed their ceremony of acknowledging the City Lord of Hill Mountain City as their master, they stood respectfully to one side.

Their master had not dismissed them, and they did not dare to leave on their own.

"How many merit points did Wyatt Barnes and Jemma Clifford earn together?" the City Lord of Hill Mountain City asked, turning his gaze to the Heavenly Guard.

For a moment, both Baer Bear and Ingot Gold also looked at the Heavenly Guard, their gazes filled with a blend of curiosity.

In their eyes, Wyatt Barnes was doubtlessly an astonishing talent.

They too were eager to know how many merit points the group that included such a prodigy had acquired.

"93 points."

The Heavenly Guard's mouth twitched slightly before he finally said, under the gaze of the three.

points?

As soon as the Heavenly Guard finished speaking, Baer Bear and Ingot Gold were stunned. It took them a moment before they could gasp in shock, their faces revealing astonishment and disbelief.

"93 points? Are you sure there's been no mistake?" asked the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, furrowing his brows.

"No mistake," the Heavenly Guard replied. "Originally, they had acquired 73 points... but because that outlaw at the Small Perfection stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm died at the hands of Wyatt Barnes, they ended up with 93 points."

"Divided equally, that's 31 points per person."

As he spoke, the Heavenly Guard glanced at Ingot Gold, seemingly conveying to him how precarious his 'result' was, almost slipping away from becoming the 'second' in today's trial.

However, Ingot Gold failed to notice the Heavenly Guard's gaze.

He was completely stunned.

"That outlaw at Small Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm died by the hands of Wyatt Barnes?"

At that moment, whether it was Ingot Gold or Baer Bear, the words spoken by Ingot Gold earlier reverberated in their minds, leaving them unable to calm down for a long time.

"Was what Jemma Clifford just said true?" the City Lord of Hill Mountain City asked again.

At this moment, both Baer Bear and Ingot Gold, temporarily suppressing their agitated emotions, turned their gaze towards the Heavenly Guard once more.

They remembered that Jemma Clifford had said earlier that all the merit points earned by their three-person team had been acquired by Wyatt Barnes alone.

They had not known the total points earned by the team, but now that they did, a shiver ran through them. "Did Wyatt Barnes alone really earn 93 points?"

They felt their heartbeats accelerating like never before, as if their hearts might jump out of their chests at any moment.

"It's true," the Heavenly Guard nodded, confirming this.

He too had been shocked when he first learned of this... but upon finding out that Wyatt Barnes had killed the outlaw at Small Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm, he became numb.

Wyatt Barnes was someone who could not be judged by common sense.

This was his recognition of 'Wyatt Barnes'.

"One person, gaining 93 merit points... With the martial prowess of the mid-stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm, he killed an outlaw at Small Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm?" murmured the City Lord of Hill Mountain City to himself, his eyes filling with intense fervor as he spoke.

Baer Bear and Ingot Gold exchanged glances, seeing shock and disbelief reflected in each other's eyes.

At some point, a bitter smile had appeared on their lips.

"Both of you may leave for now... Ask Wyatt Barnes to come to the Council Hall; tell him I am waiting for him," the City Lord of Hill Mountain City soon instructed Baer Bear and Ingot Gold.

"Yes, Sir," the two responded respectfully and immediately left the Council Hall, hurrying back to the Dragon Hiding Camp.

"Wyatt Barnes, the Master wants you to come to the Council Hall," declared Baer Bear and Ingot Gold, who had become the focus of most Dragon Hiding Camp members, as they sent their True Energy-infused voice into wooden hut number six, where Wyatt Barnes stayed.

Chapter 1405: Debt-Free and Carefree

Wyatt Barnes was just preparing to enter the Jewel Tower when he heard voices outside.

He recognized them as the voices of Baer Bear and Ingot Gold.

The 'Master' they referred to was undoubtedly the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

"So soon?"

Wyatt Barnes was somewhat surprised.

Without guessing, he knew why the City Lord of Hill Mountain City was looking for him.

Just as Jemma Clifford had said.

Once the City Lord of Hill Mountain City knew of his 'battle achievements' in the valley, he was almost certain to accept him as a disciple... after all, his achievements were even more exaggerated than Baer Bear's.

Besides, there was something even Jemma Clifford didn't know.

That was, he had killed the bandit who was at the Small Perfection stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm.

With the skills of the mid-stage Transcending Mortal Realm, to kill someone at the Small Perfection stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm... his talent and strength were enough to draw unprecedented 'attention' from the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

Stepping out of the cabin, Wyatt Barnes happened to see Baer Bear and Ingot Gold arriving at their respective cabins.

"Wyatt Barnes, you are simply a 'freak'!"

The True Energy voice transmission of Ingot Gold timely entered his ears.

Although Baer Bear didn't say anything, his gaze towards Wyatt Barnes was also extremely solemn.

Wyatt Barnes leaped down from the platform, preparing to leave the Hidden Dragon Camp.

Just as he was about to exit the gate of the Hidden Dragon Camp, a figure like a ghost suddenly appeared before him, blocking his path.

"So fast!"

Seeing the one of the thirty-six personal guards, 'Guardian Harvey', appear before him, Wyatt Barnes was secretly alarmed, "This speed isn't something that a Martial Artist with the Small Perfection stage of Transcending Mortal Realm could achieve."

Out of curiosity, Wyatt Barnes activated the 'Heavenly Eye'.

In an instant, he scrutinized Guardian Harvey's cultivation level.

"Transcending Mortal Realm Big Perfection?"

Wyatt Barnes was taken aback, not expecting Guardian Harvey to have also made a breakthrough.

It should be noted, when he first arrived at Hidden Dragon Camp and saw Guardian Harvey, he had used 'Heavenly Eye' to inspect him.

At that time, Guardian Harvey was only at the Small Perfection stage of Transcending Mortal Realm.

Guardian Harvey came quickly, and left just as swiftly.

Just as Wyatt Barnes regained his composure, Guardian Harvey had already departed.

"What's going on?"

"Wasn't Guardian Harvey stopping Wyatt Barnes from leaving? Why isn't he stopping him now?"

...

The crowd of Hidden Dragon Camp members who had originally planned to watch the excitement suddenly felt a great disappointment.

Only Wyatt Barnes knew, it must be either Baer Bear or Ingot Gold who told Guardian Harvey the 'reason' for his departure from the Hidden Dragon Camp... with the summoning from the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, how could Guardian Harvey dare to stop him?

Leaving the Hidden Dragon Camp and returning to the Council Hall, Wyatt Barnes knew he had guessed correctly.

"Wyatt Barnes, I wish to take you as my disciple. Are you willing?"

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City, squinting his eyes, straightforwardly asked Wyatt Barnes.

"Lord of the City, if I agree to become your disciple, what benefits will there be?"

Upon hearing the City Lord of Hill Mountain City's inquiry, Wyatt Barnes also asked straightforwardly.

No sooner had Wyatt Barnes spoken than Heavenly Guard's expression changed, barking angrily: "Wyatt Barnes, don't get cocky! It's a blessing of three lifetimes for you that the City Lord wishes to take you as a disciple."

He hadn't expected Wyatt Barnes to be so bold as to bargain with the City Lord.

Wyatt Barnes ignored the Heavenly Guard, continuing to face the City Lord of Hill Mountain City calmly, as if waiting for his response.

After a brief pause, the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, interested, asked: "What benefits do you want?"

"Lord of the City truly is straightforward!"

Wyatt Barnes's eyes lit up, "The benefits I want are not many... I only hope that the Lord of the City can promise me one request."

"Speak."

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City said.

"Lord of the City, I hope you can protect Jemma Clifford, ensuring she does not become a victim of family disputes in Jade Trust Town."

Wyatt Barnes said earnestly.

In front of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, aside from this, he asked for nothing else.

"Jade Trust Town?"

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City frowned, "Is Jemma Clifford from Jade Trust Town?"

As the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, he had some impressions of 'Jade Trust Town'.

"Yes."

Wyatt Barnes nodded, "Jemma Clifford is a member of the Clifford Family from Jade Trust Town, and also the strongest of the younger generation in Jade Trust Town! The other two families opposing the Clifford Family are all wanting her dead."

"What is she to you? To have you do so much for her?"

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City's eyes held a hint of ambiguity.

"She is my friend... I help her, not for anything else, only to repay a favor."

Wyatt Barnes stated.

"Really just an ordinary friend?"

The gaze of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City became even more ambiguous.



"Really."

Wyatt Barnes nodded calmly, his heart not stirring the slightest ripple.

And what he said was the truth, he had no feelings for Jemma Clifford.

"Heavenly Guard, immediately transmit my command to Jade Trust Town... If any mishap occurs to Jemma Clifford, my mansion of the Hill Mountain City City Lord will exterminate those two families hostile to the Clifford Family."

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City looked at the Heavenly Guard, ordering.

"Yes."

Upon hearing this, the Heavenly Guard immediately withdrew, leaving the Council Hall, clearly to convey the command of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

For a time, in the vast Council Hall, only Wyatt Barnes and the City Lord of Hill Mountain City remained.

"I've seen the teacher."

Wyatt Barnes paid his respects to the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

"Teacher?"

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City frowned, he did not expect Wyatt Barnes to address him as 'teacher'.

Teacher and Master, although very similar, also have great differences... Compared to 'Master', 'teacher' is undoubtedly much more casual.

Generally speaking, one can only have one Master.

Even if one wishes to take a second Master, it requires the consent of the first Master; otherwise, it would be considered a great disrespect.

But 'teacher' is different.

Teacher does not have so many formalities.

As long as it is an elder who has taught and guided one substantially, they can be called 'teacher'.

"Do you have a Master?"

After a while, the City Lord of Hill Mountain City relaxed his brows and asked.

"No."

Wyatt Barnes shook his head.

"Then why don't you address me as 'Master', but as 'teacher'?"

As the City Lord of Hill Mountain City asked, his tone became more severe and dissatisfied.

"The teacher, one who imparts knowledge and resolves doubts... In my eyes, a Master is like a bright light in the night, guiding me forward. A teacher, on the other hand, is someone who has helped me during my growth."

Wyatt Barnes said truthfully.

For this reason, in his heart, even if he acknowledged the City Lord of Hill Mountain City as his teacher, the City Lord would only be his 'teacher', not his 'Master'.

The term 'Master' is too heavy.

"It seems, you mean I can't teach you anymore?"

A cold light flickered in the eyes of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, his tone getting deeper.

"If the teacher could become the guiding light leading forward... At that time, I would naturally be willing to address you as 'Master'. But for now, you are still a teacher."

Facing the increasingly displeased City Lord of Hill Mountain City, Wyatt Barnes's expression remained as calm as ever.

"Hmph! You may leave."

The City Lord of Hill Mountain City huffed.

"Yes."

Wyatt Barnes didn't say much, and after responding, he turned and left, exiting the Council Hall.

Watching Wyatt Barnes's figure disappear, the gloom on the face of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City vanished, replaced by a smile, "Truly a unique young fellow."

"With the cultivation of mid Transcending Mortal Realm, killing a Martial Artist of Small Perfection in Transcending Mortal Realm... It seems, this youngster has quite the secret."

Towards the end, the City Lord of Hill Mountain City was almost murmuring to himself.

"Jemma Clifford's matter is finally resolved."

On the way back to the Hidden Dragon Camp, a smile hung on Wyatt Barnes's face; he had finally repaid the favor he owed Jemma Clifford.

Without debts, one feels light.

At this moment, Wyatt Barnes felt as light as a feather.

"In three days, I will check the Hall of Merit."

After returning to Hidden Dragon Camp, a thought crossed Wyatt Barnes's mind.

In three days, he could use the 'points' he earned from today's trial to exchange for 'merit points'... and then, use these merit points to obtain some items from the City Lord's mansion.

Perhaps, he might find something he desires.

While Wyatt Barnes entered the second floor of the Jewel Tower to continue his practice... an order, issued from the Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City, was sent far and wide.

It reached all the way to 'Jade Trust Town'.

Jade Trust Town, also known as 'Jade Trust Island', is an island located not far outside the Martial Dao Sacred Land.

Today, Jade Trust Island was not quiet.

Only because an 'envoy' from the Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City came with an order from the City Lord.

"Descendant of the Clifford Family, 'Jemma Clifford', is a member of the Hidden Dragon Camp of Hill Mountain City Main Mansion... If anything happens, the Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City will intervene, annihilating the two major families opposing the Clifford Family."

This was the original message of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

After the order was issued, the whole Clifford Family was boiling, each member of the Clifford family was inexplicably excited.

They, the most outstanding descendant of the Clifford Family, were under the protection of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

Unlike the excitement of the Clifford Family, the other two major families were very gloomy, as if they had just held a funeral.

"The Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City, protecting Jemma Clifford?"

They could not understand why the City Lord of Hill Mountain City would protect Jemma Clifford.

"Investigate! Send people to investigate!"

"We must find out why the City Lord of Hill Mountain City would protect Jemma Clifford... Also, stop any covert actions targeting Jemma Clifford by those undercover from Hill Mountain City."

...

Orders were passed down from the two major families, and people from these families began to head towards the Martial Dao Sacred Land.

At the same time, people from the Clifford Family also left Jade Trust Island.

The Clifford Family also wanted to know what exactly was going on.

By the time Jemma Clifford knew all this, it was already three days later.

"The City Lord issued an order to protect me?"

Upon first hearing the news, Jemma Clifford was somewhat dumbfounded.

However, she quickly came to her senses, realizing this all must be somehow related to Wyatt Barnes.

"Wyatt Barnes, it was you... right?"

Seeing Wyatt Barnes walking slowly out from hut number six, Jemma Clifford couldn't help but ask for confirmation.

"Hmm?"

Looking at the excited face of Jemma Clifford, Wyatt Barnes was momentarily stunned.

He had just come out of the Jewel Tower and was initially slow to react, not understanding the meaning behind Jemma Clifford's words.

It was only after Jemma Clifford spoke again that he began to realize.

Chapter 1406: Hall of Merit

"Hmm."

Upon learning that Jemma Clifford was asking about the protection offered by the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, Wyatt Barnes nodded.

"Thank you."

Jemma Clifford showed a trace of gratitude and sincerely thanked him.

"You left the cabin... Are you also planning to go to the Hall of Merit?"

Wyatt Barnes changed the subject and asked.

"Hmm."

Jemma Clifford nodded.

"I've already used my chance to leave once every three months... I don't know if I can still go out."

Suddenly, Wyatt Barnes thought of this issue.

"I heard... that as long as you go and register with the person in charge and exchange for merit points at the Hall of Merit, it does not count as going out."

Jemma Clifford said.

"If that's the case, then there's no problem."

Wyatt Barnes smiled, then walked with Jemma Clifford into the pavilion on the side of the high platform.

After registering with Guardian Harvey, they left the Hidden Dragon Camp.

After leaving the Hidden Dragon Camp, they headed to the 'Hall of Merit'.

The Hall of Merit of the City Lord's Mansion is an independent pavilion with four stories.

The pavilion has an ancient charm, appearing simple and unadorned.

Just as they entered the first floor, Wyatt Barnes saw a familiar figure coming out to meet them, "Ingot Gold?"

"Senior Brother Barnes."

At this moment, Ingot Gold also saw Wyatt Barnes, a bright smile appearing on his face.

Senior Brother?

Hearing Ingot Gold's address, Wyatt Barnes was stunned, as was Jemma Clifford.

"I'm two years younger than you and my strength is not as good as yours, it's only natural to call you 'Senior Brother'."

Ingot Gold said with a smile.

Only then did Wyatt Barnes remember that Ingot Gold, like him, was also a disciple of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

"Junior Brother Ingot."

A smile also appeared on Wyatt Barnes's face.

"Senior Brother Barnes, I've already exchanged for what I wanted... I'll take my leave first."

Ingot Gold greeted Wyatt Barnes and nodded to Jemma Clifford, then left the Hall of Merit.

"Wyatt Barnes, am I hearing things? Ingot Gold called you Senior Brother? And he admits that his strength is inferior to yours?"

Jemma Clifford looked at Wyatt Barnes with a face full of surprise, "Did you spar with him?"

Since she knew she was protected by the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, Jemma Clifford realized that it's highly likely Wyatt Barnes had become a disciple of the City Lord and also asked the City Lord for a favor on her behalf.

And that favor was to get the City Lord to protect her.

However, while she knew that Wyatt Barnes should have become a disciple of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, she did not expect Ingot Gold to respect him as 'Senior Brother'.



"No."

Wyatt Barnes shook his head.

"No? Then..."

Jemma Clifford wanted to ask further, but was interrupted by Wyatt Barnes, "You'll know in a bit."

Jemma Clifford looked puzzled, but did not ask any further.

"31 points? Are you sure there's no mistake?"

In front of the counter on the first floor of the Hall of Merit, Jemma Clifford looked at the staff member with astonishment.

"No."

The staff member shook his head, "Your three-person team earned a total of 93 points from the test three days ago... You claim one part, which is 31 points."

"31 points can be exchanged for 3,100 merit points, would you like to exchange?"

The staff member asked.

"Wait a moment..."

Jemma Clifford shook her head, a bit slow to react, "I remember, our three-person team only got 73 points in total... 93 points? Where did the extra 20 points come from?"

Suddenly, a flash of insight struck Jemma Clifford, and she stared at Wyatt Barnes beside her as if seeing a ghost, "Wyatt... Wyatt Barnes, you... you couldn't have killed that Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection bandit, could you?"

Killing the Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection bandit would indeed yield 20 points.

As soon as she finished speaking, Jemma Clifford's breathing hastened, her autumnal eyes fixated on Wyatt Barnes, not missing any expression on his face.

Not until she saw Wyatt Barnes nod did she fully confirm it.

"Wyatt Barnes, you..."

Now, Jemma Clifford really didn't know what to say, her heart shaken and her face showing only a bitter smile.

She finally understood why Ingot Gold would respect Wyatt Barnes as 'Senior Brother'.

"Go ahead and exchange for merit points,"

Wyatt Barnes said with a faint smile, reminding her.

"Hmm."

Upon Wyatt Barnes's reminder, Jemma Clifford came back to her senses and exchanged all 31 points for merit points, totaling 3,100 merit points.

After Jemma Clifford finished exchanging, Wyatt Barnes also followed suit and exchanged his merit points.

"The merit points are stored inside this?"

Looking at the crystal card in his hand, Wyatt Barnes revealed a look of surprise.

When he injected True Energy into the crystal card, the number '3100' would appear, which was the exact value of merit points.

"The crystal card has Saint Markings engraved within."

Jemma Clifford didn't seem at all surprised, as she explained to Wyatt Barnes.

"Saint Markings? Does this mean this was made by a Saint Rune Master?"

Wyatt Barnes was even more surprised.

As far as he knew, there seemed to be no 'Saint Rune Masters' in Hill Mountain City.

As Wyatt Barnes voiced his doubts, Jemma Clifford smiled and said, "Wyatt, this crystal card isn't something made by the Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City."

"Not by the Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City? What do you mean?"

Wyatt Barnes was taken aback.

"This crystal card comes from the 'Seven-Flow Power' above Hill Mountain City, including the contribution points within, which also originate from that Seven-Flow Power."

Jemma Clifford explained: "That Seven-Flow Power is a powerful Sect. It governs Hill Mountain City and seventeen other surrounding cities."

"Just like the Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City, the Main Mansion of the other seventeen cities are also Eight-Flow Powers, each controlling a Holy Stone mine of the eighth grade."

Jemma Clifford continued: "Every three years, the eighteen cities must hand over a large amount of 'Seventh Grade Holy Stones,' as well as recommend young talents."

"That Seven-Flow Sect will grant a certain amount of 'merit points' to each city based on the quantity of Seventh Grade Holy Stones contributed and the quality of the recommended young talents."

"It is said that the Main Mansions of these cities can use these merit points to borrow Top-grade Human-level martial arts from the Seven-Flow Sect's library, or exchange for Top-grade Human-level Sacred Artifacts and high-tier Pill Medicine."

Jemma Clifford said all this in one breath.

"A Seven-Flow Sect, controlling eighteen cities like 'Hill Mountain City'?"

"The Seven-Flow Sect possesses Top-grade Human-level martial arts, as well as Top-grade Human-level Sacred Artifacts and high-tier Pill Medicine?"

Hearing Jemma Clifford's words, Wyatt Barnes sorted through the information one by one, his heart filled with shock.

"Wyatt, with your talent, you will definitely be recommended by the Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City to the Seven-Flow Sect... As for me, I'm afraid I'll never have that chance."

As Jemma Clifford spoke to the end, her face was filled with self-mockery.

"Recommended to the Seven-Flow Sect?"

Wyatt Barnes's eyes brightened with a look of anticipation.

Arriving at the Martial Dao Sacred Land, he naturally wanted to rise up all the way... Only by standing higher can one look further and find his parents faster.

Moreover, to return to Earth, according to Elder Fire, he must keep getting stronger and even stand at the peak of this planet.

To him, the Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City was nothing more than a 'stepping stone'.

Water flows downward; people strive upward.

That is the unchanging 'ultimate truth.'

"Let's go up to the second floor and see what we can get with our merit points."

Seeing that Jemma Clifford seemed a bit downhearted, Wyatt Barnes changed the subject and suggested.

The first floor of the Hall of Merit of Hill Mountain City's Main Mansion was where one claimed 'merit points.' The second, third, and fourth floors were places to exchange for things with merit points.

Upon reaching the second floor, Wyatt Barnes discovered that this was the place for borrowing sacred martial arts and Taoist Techniques.

"So many Holy Simplicities?"

After walking around the second floor, Jemma Clifford couldn't help exclaiming in surprise.

The Hall of Merit's second floor was lined with nearly a hundred Holy Simplicities containing sacred martial arts and Taoist Techniques... Jemma Clifford's 'Clifford Family,' though a Nine-Flow Power, only had a few Holy Simplicities.

And all were merely Lower-grade Human-level Holy Simplicity of martial arts and Taoist Techniques.

"Ninety percent of these Holy Simplicities are Lower-grade Human-level Holy Simplicity of martial arts and Taoist Techniques... The remaining ten percent are the ones containing Middle-grade Human-level Holy Simplicity of martial arts and Taoist Techniques."

After touring the second floor with Jemma Clifford, Wyatt Barnes also noticed this.

There was an old man walking around the second floor of the Hall of Merit, inspective and silent throughout.

Wyatt Barnes knew clearly that this old man was definitely a powerful protector of the second floor of the Hall of Merit.

Activating his 'Heavenly Eye,' Wyatt Barnes quickly discerned the old man's cultivation level... a full-fledged Transcending Mortal Realm!

Apart from the old man, at the four corners of the second floor of the Hall of Merit stood a young man clad in silver armor each, their faces stern, eyes unfaltering.

"Four Transcending Mortal Realm of Small Perfection."

Just by seeing the silver armor on the four young men, Wyatt Barnes guessed their identities; they were members of Hill Mountain City's Main Mansion's thirty-six Protective Guardians.

"Elder, how many merit points does it take to borrow sacred martial arts from the second floor of the Hall of Merit?"

When the old man neared Wyatt Barnes and Jemma Clifford, Jemma Clifford asked.

"Borrowing Lower-grade Human-level sacred martial arts costs 100 merit points per time. Borrowing Middle-grade Human-level sacred martial arts costs 1000 merit points each time. The Holy Simplicities cannot be taken out of the Hall of Merit."

The old man stated calmly.

"1000 merit points to borrow once?"

Jemma Clifford exclaimed in shock upon hearing this.

You must know that to memorize the contents of a Holy Simplicity housing sacred martial arts, one would generally need to borrow it five times to completely memorize everything.

The first time one looks at a Holy Simplicity, it only shows the content of reaching the first realm 'Initial Glimpse' in technique cultivation.

To see the content for the second realm 'Slight Achievement,' one must first cultivate the technique to 'Initial Glimpse'... And so on and so forth.

Therefore, at least five borrowings are required to learn a complete set of sacred martial arts.

To learn a complete set of Middle-grade Human-level sacred martial arts would cost 5000 merit points, no wonder Jemma Clifford was frightened.

However, a smile appeared on Wyatt Barnes's face.

"1000 merit points to borrow once?"

It must be known that he was different from the average Martial Artist.

Most Martial Artists need to borrow sacred martial arts five times to see the full content in a Holy Simplicity.

He, with his extraordinary spiritual force, only needed once to memorize all the sacred martial arts within a Holy Simplicity.

Chapter 1407: Sacred Grade Pill Medicine

"Silver Cloth Shirt!"

Without any hesitation, Wyatt Barnes directly approached the Holy Simplicity that contained med-tier Saint-tier martial arts techniques.

His target was the med-tier Saint-tier martial arts technique that recorded the 'Silver Cloth Shirt'.

Silver Cloth Shirt is a 'defensive move' among the med-tier Saint-tier martial arts techniques. It is also the upgraded version of the 'Bronze Cloth Shirt' that he practices.

Damien Lynch told him this.

Soon, Wyatt Barnes found the Holy Simplicity that recorded the 'Silver Cloth Shirt'.

"Senior."

Holding the Holy Simplicity, Wyatt Barnes looked towards the elder not far away.

Whoosh!

The elder vanished from his spot and reappeared before Wyatt Barnes, with a spirit crystal card appearing in his hand.

Wyatt Barnes also took out his own spirit crystal card.

When he was on the first floor of the Hall of Merit, Wyatt Barnes personally witnessed a staff member transfer 3,100 merit points into his crystal card.

So, following by example, he placed his own crystal card close to the elder's crystal card.

However, he had no idea what to do next.

Suddenly, Wyatt Barnes found himself a bit embarrassed.

"Merge your spiritual energy into it, and think about transferring 1,000 merit points to me."

Seemingly seeing through Wyatt Barnes's embarrassment, the elder reminded him.

Upon hearing this, Wyatt Barnes immediately merged his spiritual energy into the crystal card in his hand, intending to transfer 1,000 merit points to the elder's crystal card.

In a flash of thunder and lightning, his crystal card flickered, and a beam of light shot into the elder's crystal card.

With Wyatt Barnes's True Energy infused into the crystal card, the displayed balance showed only '2100', representing 2,100 merit points.



"It's that simple?"

Wyatt Barnes looked surprised; he hadn't thought transferring merit points with a spirit crystal card would be so simple.

"From now on, you may consult the Holy Simplicity in your hand."

The elder spoke.

Wyatt Barnes nodded, then merged his spiritual energy into the Holy Simplicity he held.

In an instant, the information within the Holy Simplicity poured into Wyatt Barnes's mind, becoming an inseparable part of his memories.

However, among the vast information, only the details about the defensive move 'Silver Cloth Shirt' were useful to Wyatt Barnes; the rest were of no use to him.

In order not to raise the elder's suspicion, Wyatt Barnes did not rush to put down the Holy Simplicity.

Usually, a martial artist would need at least fifteen minutes to memorize all the techniques in a Saint-tier martial arts to the level of 'glimpsing the threshold'.

While Wyatt Barnes held the Holy Simplicity pretending to be 'absorbed', Jemma Clifford was not idle either. She chose a Jade Slip containing med-tier Saint-tier martial arts and transferred 1,000 merit points to the elder.

Immediately afterward, she began to consult the contents of the med-tier Saint-tier martial arts within the Holy Simplicity.

After nearly a quarter of an hour, Wyatt Barnes was the first to come back to his senses and discreetly returned the Holy Simplicity to its original place.

Suddenly, Jemma Clifford also came to.

By now, she had memorized the contents of all the moves in the med-tier Saint-tier martial arts to 'glimpsing the threshold' in her mind.

As for the content beyond that, she couldn't see it for the time being.

Therefore, she could only return the Holy Simplicity first.

After Wyatt Barnes and Jemma Clifford returned their Holy Simplicity, they continued to ascend and quickly arrived at the third floor of the Hall of Merit.

The third floor of the Hall of Merit is where one can exchange merit points for sacred weapons.

Surprisingly, more than 90% of the sacred weapons displayed on the third floor were 'Top-grade human-tier sacred weapons,' each shimmering with an intimidating luster.

"Senior, how many merit points are needed to exchange for a top-grade human-tier sacred weapon?"

Jemma Clifford asked the elder who was patrolling the third floor of the Hall of Merit.

"2,000 merit points,"

The elder said calmly.

"2,000 merit points?"

Jemma Clifford's eyes widened, "That expensive?"

However, the elder did not respond to her, wearing an expression that seemed to say 'don't exchange if you think it's too expensive.'

Although she found it expensive, Jemma Clifford eventually chose a top-grade human-tier sacred weapon to exchange for with merit points... For a moment, her crystal card was left with only 100 merit points.

"Truly like returning to the start of the liberation."

Witnessing the balance indicated on Jemma Clifford's crystal card, Wyatt Barnes shook his head.

Hearing Wyatt Barnes's words, Jemma Clifford, whose heart was bleeding, came back to reality and asked, "Wyatt, what did you just say about returning to the start of the liberation? What does that mean?"

'Returning to the start of the liberation' is an idiom from Earth's H Kingdom, the motherland of Wyatt Barnes in his previous life, which of course Jemma Clifford wouldn't know.

"It means to be reduced back to the original state."

Wyatt Barnes explained.

With this explanation, Jemma Clifford could understand.

While her heart was bleeding, the smile on Jemma Clifford's face reappeared as she looked at the top-grade human-tier sacred weapon in her hand.

The top-grade human-tier sacred weapon in her hand was also a long whip.

Just like her previous weapon.

It was precisely because this top-grade human-tier sacred weapon was handy for her that she had made the firm decision to make the exchange.

"Wyatt, aren't you exchanging?"

Seeing that Wyatt Barnes not only did not select a top-grade human-tier sacred weapon but did not even look at those sacred weapons, Jemma Clifford couldn't help but ask.

"Let's go to the fourth floor."

Wyatt Barnes smiled and said.

"Wyatt Barnes, I just saw a strong bow over there, a top-grade human-level Holy Weapon... Are you really not going to exchange for it?"

Jemma Clifford asked again for confirmation.

Wyatt Barnes shook his head.

What a joke!

The Sun Shooting Bow he held was a weapon that was countless times better than a top-grade human-level Holy Weapon. He had no need to waste merit points to exchange for an inferior weapon.

Since he did not plan to exchange, Wyatt Barnes took the lead in leaving the third floor of the Hall of Merit and headed straight to the fourth floor.

Jemma Clifford tightly followed him.

The second floor of the Hall of Merit was the place to borrow Emperor Grade martial arts with merit points.

The third floor was the place to exchange for Holy Weapons with merit points.

The fourth floor, if nothing unexpected, should be the place to exchange Pill Medicines with merit points.

As it turned out, Wyatt Barnes had guessed correctly.

The fourth floor of the Hall of Merit was indeed the place to exchange Pill Medicines with 'merit points'.

"One-star Holy Grade Pill Medicine? Two-star Holy Grade Pill Medicine?"

Upon arriving at the fourth floor of the Hall of Merit, Wyatt Barnes had gained a certain understanding of 'Holy Grade Pill Medicines,' knowing that they were classified into nine levels, from 'one-star' to 'nine-star'.

Among them, one-star was the lowest level, and nine-star was the highest.

And the fourth floor of the Hall of Merit provided one-star Holy Grade Pill Medicines and two-star Holy Grade Pill Medicines, which could be obtained in exchange for merit points.

"Indeed, it is much stronger than Emperor Grade Pill Medicines."

Upon inspecting the one-star Holy Grade Pill Medicine with his spiritual power, Wyatt Barnes easily found that the medicinal power contained within was far superior to Emperor Grade Pill Medicines.

Of course, within the Martial Dao Sacred Land, there was no such term as 'Emperor Grade Pill Medicine;' the same medicines were referred to as 'Innate Pill Medicine' in the Martial Dao Sacred Land.

"One piece of one-star Holy Grade Pill Medicine requires the exchange of twenty merit points. One piece of two-star Holy Grade Pill Medicine requires the exchange of one hundred merit points... that's really a sky-high price!"

Wyatt Barnes' mouth twitched slightly as he thought to himself.

Whether it was one-star or two-star Holy Grade Pill Medicines, among them were medicines for healing injuries and others that could enhance sensitivity to Spiritual Energy in a short amount of time.

The former was for healing wounds.

The latter was to aid in cultivation.

"Eleven 'two-star healing pills' and ten 'two-star sensitivity pills'."

Wyatt Barnes looked at another elder who was patrolling the fourth floor of the Hall of Merit and said.

The moment he stepped onto the fourth floor of the Hall of Merit, he had already used the 'Heavenly Eye' to investigate the elder, knowing that this elder was the same as the ones on the lower two floors, all existing at the Great Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm.

Wyatt Barnes chose 'two-star Holy Grade Pill Medicines,' costing one hundred merit points each.

Twenty-one pieces, exactly 2100 merit points in total.

Wyatt Barnes transferred all the remaining merit points in his crystal card to the elder's crystal card in one go and smoothly obtained the Holy Grade Pill Medicines he wanted.

"Two-star Holy Grade Pill Medicines that are two levels higher than Emperor Grade Pill Medicines... I wonder about the exact strength of their medicinal power."

After Wyatt Barnes put away the twenty-one Pill Medicines, he was eager to return.

Now, he just wanted to go back and test the 'medicinal power' of the two-star Holy Grade Pill Medicines.

Seeing Wyatt Barnes's extravagant behavior, the corners of Jemma Clifford's mouth twitched imperceptibly.

At the same time, she used her remaining 100 merit points to exchange for five one-star Holy Grade Pill Medicines.

Three one-star healing pills and two one-star sensitivity pills.

After exchanging everything they intended to, Wyatt Barnes and Jemma Clifford prepared to leave.

The two departed from the fourth floor of the Hall of Merit and headed back the way they came, stopping at the staircase on the third floor.

Just because they ran into an 'acquaintance.'

"Miss Jemma, congratulations... You actually gained the City Lord's protection."

The person Wyatt Barnes and Jemma Clifford ran into was none other than Jan Clark, ranked fifth among the Thirteen Protectors of the Hidden Dragon Camp.

Now, Jan Clark was beaming with a smile as he congratulated Jemma Clifford.

However, Jemma Clifford did not pay him any attention.

The reaction from Jemma Clifford made the smile on Jan Clark's face completely freeze.

As Jan Clark's smile disappeared, his gaze shifted from Jemma Clifford and landed on Wyatt Barnes, filled with a murderous intent as if he wished he could kill Wyatt there and then.

Wyatt Barnes faced Jan Clark with an indifferent expression, not the least bit intimidated.

"Wyatt Barnes, if you are still a man... when you get back to Hidden Dragon Camp, challenge me and fight for my number five wooden cabin!"

Jan Clark stared at Wyatt Barnes with cold eyes, his confrontational True Energy transmitting into Wyatt's ears in a timely fashion.

From just this sentence by Jan Clark, it was clear.

He still didn't know about Wyatt Barnes being exceptionally taken as a disciple by the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

And that was indeed the case.

Since returning to the Hidden Dragon Camp three days ago, Jan Clark had been secluded in his cabin until today, because he planned to visit the Hall of Merit. He had only just left the wooden cabin and the Hidden Dragon Camp.

During this time, he had heard about the City Lord of Hill Mountain City publicly offering protection to Jemma Clifford.

But as for the news of Wyatt Barnes becoming a disciple of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, it had not yet spread, so he was unaware.

Otherwise, he surely wouldn't have had the nerve to provoke Wyatt Barnes.

"I'll be waiting for you in Hidden Dragon Camp."

Wyatt Barnes's expression remained unchanged, but within the depths of his eyes, a wisp of anger flared, indicating his current emotions clearly.

Even a clay figurine has a point of anger!

This Jan Clark had provoked him time and time again, truly treating him like a soft persimmon that could be kneaded at will?

"I hope you remember what you've just said today... Don't hide in your wooden cabin when I return."

Jan Clark smiled, a sneer of successful scheming.

Chapter 1408: The Death of Gideon Cruz

After giving Jan Clark a deep look, Wyatt Barnes continued to walk downward, leaving the Hall of Merit.



During this process, Jemma Clifford turned her head to look at Jan Clark's back, showing a trace of pity in her eyes.

Even 'Ingot Gold', who ranks third among the thirteen protectors, must address Wyatt Barnes as 'senior brother'... And yet, Jan Clark dares to provoke Wyatt?

She couldn't help but admire Jan Clark's courage.

Of course, she did not remind Jan Clark.

She held no favorable opinion of Jan Clark.

After leaving the Hall of Merit, Wyatt Barnes and Jemma Clifford returned to their secret camp but did not hurry back to their wooden hut; instead, they stood in front of the wooden hut as if waiting for something.

The movements of the two quickly drew the attention of many.

"What are Wyatt Barnes and Jemma Clifford doing?"

"I don't know."

"They must have just come back from the Hall of Merit... surely they must have exchanged for quite a few items. Shouldn't they be going back to their wooden hut to check the items now?"

...

The members of the secret camp in the decrepit wooden huts area looked puzzled.

It wasn't until a quarter of an hour later, as a voice came from the entrance of the secret camp, that they finally reacted.

"Wyatt Barnes, you really have the guts!"

After Jan Clark entered the secret camp, he sneered and then leapt up, climbing onto the high platform to confront Wyatt Barnes.

Battling intent surged over him.

However, Wyatt Barnes did not respond to him, just looking at him calmly.

Jemma Clifford retreated to one side, watching the two confronting each other with a serene expression.

"I wondered who Wyatt Barnes was waiting for, it turns out he was waiting for Jan Clark... When did these two start clashing?"

Many were astonished.

However, many more were excited, waiting to see the drama unfold.

"Wyatt Barnes, I will soon let you see... with your strength, in my eyes, Jan Clark, you truly amount to nothing! Don't think that by defeating a few who have just broken through to the late stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm, you can dismiss all those at the late stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm."

Seeing that Wyatt Barnes did not acknowledge him, Jan Clark's expression completely darkened.

"Other late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm fighters I do not know... but you, Jan Clark, I really have never taken seriously."

Wyatt Barnes finally spoke with a calm tone, as if discussing an irrelevant matter.

Once Wyatt Barnes spoke, everyone was in an uproar.

Except for Jemma Clifford who knew that what Wyatt Barnes said was the 'truth', others thought Wyatt Barnes was being too arrogant.

"This Wyatt Barnes, isn't he too arrogant?"

"Jan Clark, whose cultivation has long broken through to the late stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm, is far stronger than those like Foresty Crawford and Fenny Graham who have just broken through... If he thinks Jan Clark is as easy to handle as Foresty and Fenny, then he's terribly wrong!"

"I want to see how he makes a fool of himself shortly."

...

The members of the secret camp in the decrepit wooden hut area were all talking, with over ninety percent of them not optimistic about Wyatt Barnes.

"Edward Watson, I know you get along well with Wyatt Barnes... but, facing my cousin Jan Clark today, he's bound to suffer. I suggest you go back to your wooden hut to avoid seeing him get hurt and feel unhappy," said Gideon Cruz, tauntingly, appearing suddenly in front of Edward Watson's decrepit wooden hut.

"Who wins and who loses is still uncertain."

Edward Watson sneered coldly.

He knew Wyatt Barnes's strength all too well.

Not to mention, just three days ago during the test set by the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, if it weren't for him and Jemma Clifford holding him back, Wyatt's score would definitely have been 'first'.

That's why he had confidence in Wyatt Barnes.

He believed that Jan Clark was no match for Wyatt Barnes.

"What? You don't think Wyatt Barnes can defeat my cousin Jan Clark, do you?"

Gideon Cruz laughed, his laughter dripping with sarcasm.

"Other late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm fighters I do not know... but you, Jan Clark, I really have never taken seriously."

Above the high platform, the words of Wyatt Barnes echoed continuously in Jan Clark's ears, his body trembling severely due to extreme anger.

His eyes turned blood-red, his rage building up, nearly reaching the point of collapse.

Finally, the rage filled to the brim, completely collapsing.

"Wyatt Barnes, I'll let everyone see now... how I, the person you don't take seriously, will throw you into the dung pit!"

In a fit of extreme rage, Jan Clark roared, his whole body turning into a swift leopard, lunging at Wyatt Barnes.

Where he passed, the air seemed to be completely sucked out.

The onlooking crowd paused their breathing, watching the scene unfold before them intently.

But the next moment's scene left them all stunned.

Heaven!

What did they see?!

Bang!!

A loud noise came from the high platform, followed by a painful grunt.

Soon after, everyone saw, with just one clash, Jan Clark's body flew backward like an arrow released from a bow, flying out of the high platform.

For a moment, Jan Clark uncontrollably soared above the dung pit.

Just as he was about to fly over the dung pit, landing in the decrepit wooden hut area... in that instant, a purple figure suddenly appeared by Jan Clark's side.

Bang!!

Another loud noise, and except for Jemma Clifford, no one could see clearly what happened; abruptly, Jan Clark's body plummeted downward.

As the purple figure disappeared, Jan Clark's body heavily smashed into the dung pit, splashing a mess of yellow and white substances.

Instantly, members of the Hidden Dragon Camp near the cesspool retreated one after another.

"This..."

Everyone was stunned, staring blankly at the scene before them, unable to come to their senses for a long while.

"Did Jan Clark faint like Forestry Crawford did last time?"

After waiting for a while, seeing Jan Clark lying in the cesspool motionless, many people wore a peculiar expression on their faces.

Even more people were horror-stricken as they watched the purple figure on the platform.

"Wyatt Barnes' strength has actually become so formidable?"

"Could it be that he has already broken through to the latter stages of the Transcending Mortal Realm, equal in strength to warriors at the Small Perfection of Transcending Mortal Realm?"

...

The news of Wyatt Barnes defeating Foresty Crawford and Fenny Graham when he was only at the middle stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm had long spread throughout the Hidden Dragon Camp, and all the members knew that Wyatt Barnes had the ability to defeat stronger opponents.

Now, having seen Wyatt Barnes send Jan Clark flying with one strike and knock him out with the second, they all thought that Wyatt had broken through to the later stages of the Transcending Mortal Realm, possessing the strength not inferior to a normal warrior at the Small Perfection of Transcending Mortal Realm.

After all, unlike Foresty Crawford and Fenny Graham, Jan Clark had already broken through to the latter stages of the Transcending Mortal Realm long ago.

If there were anyone present who was not surprised by this outcome, it would be only three people.

Jemma Clifford, Edward Watson, and Guardian Harvey, who was unknowingly standing on the pavilion.

"This Wyatt Barnes, really knows no mercy when he's right,"

Guardian Harvey shook his head, "But Jan Clark is truly asking for trouble. Of all people, he had to provoke this calamity."

"Cousin Jan Clark!"

Gideon Cruz came to his senses and cried out with an ugly look, then immediately leaped forward to fish Jan Clark out of the cesspool.

"Pfft!!"

Just as Gideon Cruz placed Jan Clark on the ground, there was movement, and from his mouth, a mix of yellow and white substance spurted out, hitting Gideon Cruz in the face.

"Ugh..."

Instantly, Gideon Cruz felt nauseous and vomited right on Jan Clark's face.

Just regaining some consciousness and realizing he had fallen into the cesspool, Jan Clark was filled with fury with nowhere to vent it.

Now, having Gideon Cruz spray his face with filth, he changed color and reflexively slapped out, 'bang' sending Gideon Cruz flying away.

Bang!

Gideon Cruz flew far away, crashing heavily into the ground, blood continually seeping from the corners of his mouth, completely silent.

Whew!

Just as everyone felt Gideon Cruz was innocent, a figure suddenly appeared beside Gideon Cruz, checked his breathing, and his expression drastically changed.

"What is Guardian Harvey doing..."

Seeing this scene, many people felt a chill in their hearts.

"Jan Clark, you actually killed Gideon Cruz."

Guardian Harvey looked towards Jan Clark with a grim face and said coldly.

"Gideon Cruz is dead?"

At this moment, Jan Clark also fully regained consciousness, his face changing drastically upon hearing Guardian Harvey's words.

The reason for his shock was not because Gideon Cruz was his distant cousin.

But because of the rules and laws of the Hidden Dragon Camp.

The Hidden Dragon Camp has regulations; members should not kill each other or cause debilitating harm... otherwise, they will be punished.

Murderers will be subjected to severe punishment and will be expelled from the Hidden Dragon Camp, banished from the City Lord's Mansion!

Before the others could even react, Guardian Harvey grabbed the corpse of Gideon Cruz and swiftly flew in front of Jan Clark, and with his other hand, picked up Jan Clark like an eagle seizing a chick.

"Jan Clark, having killed a fellow member of the Hidden Dragon Camp, your crime is heinous. You are to be sent to the 'Punishment Camp' immediately!"

Guardian Harvey left, taking with him the body of Gideon Cruz and Jan Clark.

After a moment, the people in the Hidden Dragon Camp finally came back to their senses.

"Gideon Cruz... actually died?"

"Gideon Cruz, looks like he was Jan Clark's distant cousin... Jan Clark is really ruthless, to be able to do such a thing."

"At that time, he probably didn't even realize it."

"The strength of Gideon Cruz is far inferior to his... How could he withstand a palm strike from him."



...

A group of Hidden Dragon Camp members chattered amongst themselves.

They all knew that this time, Jan Clark was in trouble.

"The Hidden Dragon Camp has rules; anyone who kills a fellow member will be subject to severe punishment and will be expelled from the Hidden Dragon Camp, banished from the City Lord's Mansion... What do you think, will Jan Clark really be expelled from the Hidden Dragon Camp, banished from the City Lord's Mansion?"

"He probably will."

"I don't think it's necessarily so... Jan Clark, no matter what, is a figure among the thirteen protectors, with extraordinary talent and strength. He should not just be expelled from the Hidden Dragon Camp, banished from the City Lord's Mansion like this."

"If they don't expel Jan Clark, wouldn't the rules and laws of the Hidden Dragon Camp be in vain? Who would abide by them in the future?"

...

The members of the Hidden Dragon Camp, split into two groups, began to argue.

For a moment, not many people paid attention to Wyatt Barnes.

The scene just now, even Wyatt Barnes himself, did not expect it.

"One reaps what one sows!"

Jemma Clifford snorted.

Hearing Jemma Clifford's words, the corners of Wyatt's lips twitched unknowingly.

They say women hold grudges, and today he really experienced it.

Chapter 1409: Goal, Late Stage of Transcending Mortal Realm!

Jan Clark was taken away by Guardian Harvey and brought to the 'Punishment Camp' at the Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City.

After that, he never returned.

In the Dragon Hidden Camp, the situation changed rapidly.

Luis Lee, when Wyatt Barnes first arrived at the Dragon Hidden Camp, the first person he defeated among the Thirteen Protectors also successfully broke through to the 'Late Transcending Mortal Realm'.

Right after he came out of retreat, he wanted to take revenge on Wyatt Barnes.

However, when he heard that Jan Clark was defeated by Wyatt Barnes, he completely abandoned this idea.

Nevertheless, he regained his status among the Thirteen Protectors on the strength of his own capabilities.

There was also a reshuffle in the rankings among the Thirteen Protectors.

Apart from the top four, Wyatt Barnes replaced the previously fifth-ranked 'Jan Clark' and moved into cabin number five.

Fenny Graham moved into cabin number six.

Jemma Clifford moved into cabin number seven.

The owner of cabin number eight was Foresty Crawford, and the owner of cabin number nine was Luis Lee.

As for cabin number ten, it changed hands several times within a month, only settling after another member of the Dragon Hidden Camp advanced to the 'Late Transcending Mortal Realm'.

Meanwhile, the news that Wyatt Barnes had become the disciple of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City began to spread.

"So Wyatt Barnes has already become the disciple of the City Lord."

"To be taken as a disciple by the City Lord after Baer Bear and Ingot Gold indicates that Wyatt's strength may even surpass Arthur Davidson, who is ranked fourth among the Thirteen Protectors."

"If only Jan Clark had known earlier that Wyatt had become the disciple of the City Lord, he wouldn't have dared to provoke Wyatt, even with ten times his courage."

"Life is unpredictable... Perhaps, even Jan Clark himself had never expected that he would be expelled from the Dragon Hidden Camp and the Main Mansion for killing his distant cousin."

"I heard... when Jan Clark was expelled from the Main Mansion, he was left with barely a breath. The methods of the Punishment Camp are too harsh."

"In my opinion, it's already good enough that he is still alive."

...

The dilapidated cabin area of the Dragon Hidden Camp is always lively.

Because Wyatt Barnes defeated Jan Clark in a single encounter, Forestry Crawford and Fenny Graham significantly intensified their wariness towards Wyatt.

Now, hearing that Wyatt Barnes has become the disciple of the City Lord, they completely abandoned the idea of becoming enemies with Wyatt.

Especially Forestry Crawford.

Though Wyatt once threw him into a dung pond causing great humiliation, facing the current Wyatt, Crawford couldn't muster even a bit of revenge.

After Jan Clark was expelled from the Dragon Hidden Camp and the Main Mansion, a month passed by quickly.

One day, 'Ling Yun,' the leader of the Thirteen Protectors left the first cabin.

What he was up to, everyone knew.

An hour later, Ling Yun returned. Although his expression was still stern, his eyes were filled with a touch of excitement.

"It seems Ling Yun has passed the test set by his teacher," Wyatt Barnes thought to himself as he walked out from the side of the pavilion, just in time to see the joy in Ling Yun's eyes.

He entered the pavilion to collect Holy Stones.

Now ranked fifth among the Thirteen Protectors, he could collect nine hundred 8th-tier Holy Stones every month.

"Wyatt Barnes, although you are older and became a disciple of our master before me... you'll have to defeat me first if you want me to call you 'senior brother,'" Ling Yun communicated to Wyatt through True Energy transmission as their eyes met.

For this, Wyatt just smiled faintly and headed back directly to cabin number five.

Returning to the cabin, he took out the Jewel Tower, and with a thought, entered directly into the second layer.

After reaching the second layer, he continued his cultivation.

A silver glow arose from his body, as if he was clad in a layer of silver armor.

"As an upgraded version of the 'Copper Cloth Shirt,' cultivating this 'Silver Cloth Shirt' has also been smooth sailing... I've now trained it to the 'Entering the House' level," Wyatt Barnes said with a satisfied smile.

A month had passed outside, while three months had passed inside the Jewel Tower... In these three months, Wyatt Barnes had successfully cultivated the Silver Cloth Shirt to the 'Entering the House' level.

Entering the House is the third stage of a Sacred martial arts technique.

The Silver Cloth Shirt cultivated to the 'Entering the House' level had a power equivalent to the 'Pure Essence' fifth level of the Copper Cloth Shirt.

"I can feel it... now, once I deploy the 'Silver Cloth Shirt,' the power displayed by my body has also grown significantly stronger," Wyatt Barnes thought quietly.

"Another month and it will be half a year since I've been in the Main Mansion of Hill Mountain City."

Upon this reflection, Wyatt sighed.

Of course, he was referring to the outside time.

The time in the Jewel Tower was much longer than outside.

"Right!"

Suddenly, Wyatt seemed to remember something, retracted his 'Silver Cloth Shirt,' left the second floor of the Jewel Tower, and reached the first floor.

"Elder Fire."

Wyatt Barnes looked at Elder Fire, who was sitting cross-legged, and greeted him.

"Is there something?"

Elder Fire opened his eyes and asked.

"Elder Fire, I want to ask you... does my 'life ring' grow with the passage of time outside or with the passage of time inside the Jewel Tower?"

Wyatt Barnes had just thought of this.

If his 'life ring' grows with the time inside the Jewel Tower... then by now, he would be thirty-six years old.

If it grows with the time outside, he should still be thirty-five years old.

When he first met Damien Lynch and Jemma Clifford, he seemed to have just turned thirty-five.

"Your 'life ring' grows with the passage of time outside..."

"The time outside is normal... you can understand it this way. The extra time inside the Jewel Tower is like 'stolen', and it does not affect your 'life ring'."

Elder Fire explained.

"Stolen? Elder Fire, do you mean... when I am inside the Jewel Tower, my 'life ring' remains unchanged?"

Wyatt Barnes took a deep breath, trying to suppress his agitated emotions.

"Yes."

Elder Fire nodded. "Since you arrived at the City Lord's mansion in Hill Mountain City, your life ring has only grown by 'half a month'... This half month is the time you spent outside in the past half a year."

"I have been in Hill Mountain City for half a year... During that time, except for the last ten days I went out, and the other five days, I really only spent half a month outside."

Wyatt Barnes's pupils contracted as he murmured, "If that's really the case... wouldn't my 'life ring' grow very slowly?"

"Correct."

Elder Fire nodded, "Your 'life ring' grows with the time outside... When you are inside the Jewel Tower, your life ring remains unchanged."

"According to the past half year, I only spent fifteen days outside... It takes twelve years outside for your life ring to grow 'one cycle', which means your age only increases by one year."

Elder Fire continued.

Boom!

The words of Elder Fire struck Wyatt Barnes like a thunderbolt, leaving him stunned for a long time.

According to the past half year, the time he spent outside.

Twelve years for his 'life ring' to grow one cycle?

"This... isn't this too exaggerated?"

Wyatt Barnes murmured blankly, "If we calculate it this way... sixty years outside would only result in my 'life ring' growing 'five cycles'. By that time, will I only be forty years old?"

Thinking of this, Wyatt Barnes's mouth twitched fiercely.

You should know that in the Martial Dao Sacred Land, those under forty years old are referred to as 'young people'.

According to the time he spent outside in the past half year... would it take another sixty years before he could step out of the ranks of 'young people'?

At this moment, Wyatt Barnes deeply realized the extraordinary nature of the Jewel Tower.

The Jewel Tower, indeed a top-notch celestial treasure, capable of seizing the nature of heaven and earth, and stealing the cycle of time effortlessly.

"In the past half year, I have taken ten 'Two-Star Sensing Pills' to enhance my sensitivity to the Spiritual Energy of heaven and earth, and my cultivation has progressed rapidly... The qi sea the size of an egg is now almost full."

"Although I no longer have 'Two-Star Sensing Pills', relying on the thirty-two Saint Veins in my body to absorb the Spiritual Energy of heaven and earth for cultivation, I should be able to fully accumulate qi sea within a month and make the next breakthrough."

Wyatt Barnes continued to murmur to himself.

The next breakthrough would be to advance to the 'Transcending Mortal Realm Late Stage'!

Once he breaks through to the late stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm, his qi sea will transform once again, enlarging... Then, the transformed and enlarged qi sea will be able to store more True Energy.

Not only that, after the transformation and enlargement of the qi sea, he will also open up more Saint Veins.

The increase in Saint Veins will affect the speed of True Energy transmission in his body, directly affecting his overall strength.



"With the True Energy currently in my qi sea, if I fully exert it through thirty-six Saint Veins... even without wearing the 'Silver Cloth Shirt', I am confident I can defeat any Transcending Mortal Realm Late Stage Martial Artist or Taoist Cultivator!"

Wyatt Barnes thought to himself.

Currently, he was only a Transcending Mortal Realm Mid Stage Martial Artist.

"Once I break through to the Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection... even if I just advanced, with the 'Silver Cloth Shirt', I am confident that I can defeat most Transcending Mortal Realm Small Perfection Martial Artists and Taoist Cultivators!"

Wyatt Barnes was filled with confidence.

Taking a deep breath and calming his emotions, Wyatt Barnes sat cross-legged in mid-air and began to cultivate.

'Nine Dragons War Sovereign', Nine Dragons Transformation!

As the internal cultivation technique operated in his body, the Spiritual Energy of heaven and earth in the air and from the Holy Stone kept flowing into his body relentlessly.

Once the Spiritual Energy of heaven and earth entered his body, it was transported by the nine dragons, circulated through a Great Cycle, and transformed into True Energy, merging into the qi sea.

In this continuous cycle, the True Energy in his qi sea kept increasing.

A month quickly passed inside the Jewel Tower... and by this time, the qi sea in the depths of Wyatt Barnes's forehead was finally filled with True Energy.

"True Energy is full... now, I can try to open up a larger qi sea!"

Wyatt Barnes opened his eyes, a flash of brilliance passing fleetingly.

Immediately after, he closed his eyes again, continuing to cultivate.

At the same time, the qi sea deep in his forehead, being continuously filled with True Energy, expanded incessantly, much like a balloon.

#### Chapter 1410: Wyatt Barnes's Confidence

Boom!

As the Qi Sea expanded like a balloon to its limit and burst open, Wyatt Barnes only felt a wave of dizziness and blurred vision.

However, when he regained his senses, a look of joy spread across his face.

"The Qi Sea... it's become so huge?"

Wyatt Barnes discovered that his Qi Sea had completely transformed, becoming extremely exaggerated.

Previously, his Qi Sea was only the size of a chicken egg.

But now, it was as big as a 'basketball' on Earth in his previous life.

The 'True Energy' that filled a chicken egg-sized Qi Sea now only occupied a corner of the basketball-sized Qi Sea, appearing utterly insignificant.

However, Wyatt Barnes knew that he had taken another step forward.

The late stage of Transcending Mortal Realm had been halfway broken through.

The remaining half was the opening of 'Saint Veins'!

"When I was in the early stages of the Transcending Mortal Realm, I had opened fifteen Saint Veins; in the middle stage, I opened another seventeen. Logically, now that I've broken

through to the late stages of Transcending Mortal Realm, the number of additional Saint Veins I can open should be at least eighteen," he thought.

Taking a deep breath, Wyatt Barnes harbored hope for an 'accident' to happen.

This so-called 'accident' referred to the possibility that Wyatt Barnes could open more than eighteen Saint Veins in continuation of his current breakthrough.

Just like during the middle stage of Transcending Mortal Realm, he was able to open more than sixteen Saint Veins.

Having had the experience twice before, the process of Wyatt Barnes opening new Saint Veins this time around was smooth... However, even though it was smooth, it still required some time.

Half a month later, after opening one Saint Vein after another, Wyatt Barnes felt that he could not open any more and stopped.

"How many Saint Veins have I opened?"

Only then did Wyatt Barnes have the leisure to internally inspect the 'Saint Veins' he had opened and observe the number of additional veins he had opened.

"This..."

After counting the number of newly opened Saint Veins, Wyatt Barnes' body shook violently with excitement.

"Did... did I get it wrong?"

Taking a deep breath, Wyatt Barnes with an agitated heart observed again the Saint Veins he had opened after breaking through to the late stage of Transcending Mortal Realm.

After counting several times back and forth, Wyatt Barnes finally confirmed it.

He hadn't counted wrong!

"Tw... twenty... I have actually opened an additional twenty Saint Veins!"

Wyatt Barnes couldn't contain his excitement.

Originally, even if an 'accident' happened, he thought he could at most open nineteen more Saint Veins... Unexpectedly, the result was beyond his imagination, and he had opened twenty!

"Adding the original thirty-two... I have a total of fifty-two Saint Veins in my body!"

One must know that ordinary individuals at the Small Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm who could open more than fifty Saint Veins were considered to have the talent to break through to the 'Saint Realm' and become 'Saint Realm powerhouses'.

Wyatt Barnes was merely in the late stage of Transcending Mortal Realm and had already opened fifty-two Saint Veins.

"In the future, even if no accidents occur... at the Small Perfection of Transcending Mortal Realm, I should at least be able to open twenty-one more Saint Veins; at the Large Perfection of Transcending Mortal Realm, at least twenty-two," he thought.

With that in mind, Wyatt Barnes' recently calmed emotions surged again, "Which means... even if no accidents happen later, I should be able to open at least ninety-four Saint Veins?"

"I still remember... Elder Fire once mentioned that even the Great Sage Equal to Heaven 'Monkey King' from the ancient mythologies of Earth in my previous life only opened ninety-three Saint Veins."

"Could the number of Saint Veins I am able to open actually surpass his?"

Wyatt Barnes drew a sharp breath.

Although having many opened Saint Veins didn't guarantee a victory over those with fewer veins, the idea of surpassing Monkey King in this aspect made Wyatt Barnes quite heady with pride.

At this thought, Wyatt Barnes' emotions became increasingly excited.

He couldn't help but be excited!

Currently, he had only broken through to the late stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm, yet he already had more Saint Veins in his body than many Warriors and Taoist Cultivators at the Large Perfection of Transcending Mortal Realm... and now, it only took an instant for the True Energy in his Qi Sea to circulate to his body's surface.

With a thought, True Energy manifested instantaneously.

Silver Cloth Shirt!

With a mere thought, Wyatt Barnes' True Energy instantly traveled through the fifty-two Saint Veins, covering his entire body and making it seem like he was wearing a shining silver outer garment.

The next moment, he casually threw a punch out, and the True Energy burst forth like a powerful dragon flying outwards, striking the distant wall and creating a series of thunderous noises.

In this process, the air seemed to be drained wherever the mighty dragon passed.

"Such incredible power!"

Wyatt Barnes' eyes shone, "With my current strength, even if I don't use the 'Mysterious Eye', there shouldn't be many at the Small Perfection stage of the Transcending Mortal Realm, whether Warriors or Taoist Cultivators, who can be my match."

"I am not even afraid to face 'Kai Simmons'!"

Kai Simmons, the disciple of Hill Mountain City's City Lord, whose cultivation has reached the peak of Small Perfection of the Transcending Mortal Realm... Over a month ago, he defeated 'Guardian Harvey', the chief of the thirteen guardians of the Secret Dragon Camp, within three moves.

The strength he displayed was evident for all to see.

After his cultivation breakthrough, Wyatt Barnes spent another half a month in training. Not only did he consolidate his late-stage Transcending Mortal Realm cultivation, but he also gathered a bit more True Energy in his qi sea, which was the size of a basketball.

"There are still ten days left outside, which is the day to receive Holy Stones... Ten days outside, a month in the Jewel Tower, just right for practicing martial arts techniques."

In the following month, Wyatt Barnes began to practice the techniques from the top-grade sacred martial arts Supreme Falling Star Arrow, mainly the attack technique 'Falling Star Strike' and the movement technique 'Body Follows the Arrow'.

The Falling Star Strike is currently Wyatt Barnes's most powerful offensive move.

Body Follows the Arrow is also the key to maximizing his speed.

"I've finally made a breakthrough!"

A month later, Wyatt Barnes stopped his movements, his face showing a look of pleasant surprise.

With persistent and unyielding efforts, Wyatt Barnes managed to elevate the attack technique 'Falling Star Strike' from the Supreme Falling Star Arrow to the 'Entering the Room' realm.

Entering the Room is the third realm for sacred martial arts techniques.

"The Supreme Falling Star Arrow, being a top-grade human-level sacred martial art, contains attack techniques like 'Falling Star Strike' that are far more powerful than the attack techniques in low and middle-grade human-level sacred martial arts!"

"Based on estimates... a Falling Star Strike that has reached the third realm 'Entering the Room' can be considered on par with an attack technique from middle-grade human-level sacred martial arts that has reached the fifth realm 'Small Perfection'."

"In Hill Mountain City, except for my teacher, I'm afraid there are few who can have access to top-grade human-level sacred martial arts... Therefore, even 'Kai Simmons' is likely not practicing top-grade human-level sacred martial arts."

Thinking of this, Wyatt Barnes's eyes sparkled with sharpness, "Unless Kai Simmons has reached the 'Great Perfection of Transcending Mortal Realm'... otherwise, I am confident that I can defeat him!"

The breakthrough in the attack technique 'Falling Star Strike' from the Supreme Falling Star Arrow gave Wyatt Barnes immense confidence.

"Now, unless it's those Sacred Beasts or Savage Beasts with strong physical bodies that have achieved Small Perfection in the Transcending Mortal Realm... No human Martial Artist or Taoist Cultivator who has attained Small Perfection should be my match."

Muttering to himself, Wyatt Barnes's confidence inflated even further.

"It's just a pity that 'Body Follows the Arrow' has not made a breakthrough... otherwise, my strength would surely rise to another level."

Wyatt Barnes pondered to himself.

"Greedy as a snake trying to swallow an elephant," was just the way to describe Wyatt Barnes at the moment.

"Go collect the 'Holy Stones'."

With a thought, Wyatt Barnes left the Jewel Tower, walked out of the wooden hut refreshed, and headed towards the pavilion on the side of the high platform to collect the 'Holy Stones'.

After receiving the Holy Stone from Guardian Harvey, Wyatt Barnes expressed his thanks and turned to leave the pavilion.

"This Wyatt Barnes seems different compared to a month ago... As to what's different, I can't quite pinpoint it."

Watching Wyatt Barnes's retreating figure, Guardian Harvey shook his head.

"Right! I almost forgot."

Suddenly, as if something occurred to him, Guardian Harvey's gaze flashed, and he transmitted his True Energy as a message out of the pavilion and into Wyatt Barnes's ears, "Wyatt Barnes, the City Lord has decreed that after you come out of seclusion, you can train by his side."

"Now, Lingyun, Baer Bear, and Ingot Gold are also training by the City Lord's side," reminded Guardian Harvey.

"Train by the teacher's side?"

Wyatt Barnes was stunned, turned around, and looked towards Guardian Harvey inside the pavilion. He asked through True Energy transmission, "Do you mean... I can freely enter and exit the Hidden Dragon Camp?"

"Yes."

Guardian Harvey nodded, "Half a month ago, the City Lord decreed that you, Lingyun, Baer Bear, and Ingot Gold are free to enter and exit the Hidden Dragon Camp and the Main Mansion."

"I didn't expect that recognizing a teacher would come with such benefits."

Wyatt Barnes smiled slightly and then left the Hidden Dragon Camp to find his teacher, the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.



As the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, he has a large independent mansion within the Main Mansion with a vast land area, the front and rear courtyards being as large as the 'soccer fields' on Wyatt Barnes's former planet Earth.

Of course, they were as large as the standard giant soccer fields.

"Teacher."

Upon seeing the City Lord of Hill Mountain City again, Wyatt Barnes bowed respectfully.

To hear Wyatt Barnes address the City Lord of Hill Mountain City as "teacher," the expressions on the faces of the three people behind the City Lord changed somewhat.

You should know that when they became disciples of the City Lord of Hill Mountain City, they all called him 'Respected Master.'

Though 'Respected Master' and 'teacher' roughly mean the same thing, there's a big difference when looked at closely. Generally, only an acknowledged disciple would call him 'teacher.'

However, as they knew... Wyatt Barnes's 'treatment' in the Main Mansion was no different from theirs and he did not seem like just a name-disciple.

"Hmm."

As the City Lord of Hill Mountain City responded with a smile, Wyatt Barnes also noticed the three people standing behind him were Lingyun, Baer Bear, and Ingot Gold, the top three in the thirteen Guardian Protectors.

"I was just discussing martial arts techniques with them, and since you've come, you might as well listen," said the City Lord of Hill Mountain City.

"Hmm."

Wyatt Barnes nodded.

Immediately after, Wyatt Barnes, along with Lingyun and the others, began to listen to the City Lord of Hill Mountain City's insights on various sacred martial arts techniques... Without a doubt, as a Saint Realm powerhouse, the City Lord's knowledge in this aspect was profound.