

L. Wyatt 871

Chapter 871: Battle of the Five Peaks

"It's time to end this."

Wyatt Barnes glanced at Brady Yellow, who was still buzzing around like a headless fly, gave a faint smile, and then soared into action.

In a moment, he was at Brady Yellow's side.

Yet Brady was completely unaware, still punching the air with the force of a collapsing mountain, unleashing waves of power like earth dragons bursting forth from their burrows.

Boom!

Wyatt casually struck with a palm, hitting Brady Yellow's back and sending him flying.

As Brady Yellow was sent flying, his face turned red, and he couldn't help spitting out a mouthful of congested blood. Then, turning around, he yelled, "Who?! Who is helping Wyatt Barnes?!"

Watching Brady Yellow looking towards him, Wyatt shook his head with a smile.

In the illusion where Brady was, there was no one on Wyatt's side.

Seeing Brady Yellow looking around, apparently trying to find who had ambushed him, Wyatt shook his head with a smile, then withdrew his Soul Technique 'Thousand Illusions,' causing the space of the illusion to disintegrate.

At the same time, he appeared right before Brady Yellow's eyes.

"You... how can you be here?"

Brady Yellow saw Wyatt Barnes as if he had seen a ghost.

Then, in a panic, he looked back, only to find that there was no one behind him.

"Impossible! How can you be so fast?! Unless you're a Transforming Void Realm powerhouse, your speed couldn't be this fast!"

Brady Yellow continually shook his head, unable to believe what was happening before his eyes.

"Ha-ha... Brady, are you convinced now?"

At this moment, Noel Walton stepped into the Martial Arts Performance Field and stood beside Wyatt Barnes, grinning at Brady Yellow, "I have to say, you're indeed quite strong..."

"But you should know, Wyatt Barnes once single-handedly killed eight formidable bandits! Among those eight, there were three at the 'Cave Void Realm Sextuple' level."

Noel Walton recounted Wyatt Barnes's past 'achievements.'

"What?!"

Brady Yellow's pupils shrank, his face showing shock, and then he looked at Wyatt Barnes, taking a sharp breath, "You... you couldn't possibly be a 'Transforming Void Realm powerhouse,' could you?"

"Do you think... if I were a Transforming Void Realm powerhouse, you could be a match for me with just a single move?"

Wyatt Barnes shook his head with a smile, finding this Brady Yellow to be incredibly naive.

To put it bluntly, he was simple-minded!

"Brady, Wyatt Barnes is just like you, a warrior at the 'Cave Void Realm Quintuple' level,"

Noel Walton said with a smile.

"Impossible!"

Brady Yellow decisively shook his head, "He can't be at the 'Cave Void Realm Quintuple' level! To defeat me on the ground, at the 'Cave Void Realm Quintuple' level, he would need to have understood a 'Middle Stage Earth realm' of the sixth level or above, or other 'Middle Stage Ninth Level realms.'

Brady Yellow was still very confident in his own strength.

"Moreover, the speed at which he moved from there to here was very fast, so fast that I couldn't react in time... Only a Transforming Void Realm powerhouse could achieve that in front of me."

Brady Yellow stated confidently.

Noel Walton was somewhat speechless at Brady Yellow's stubbornness.

Yet he still stated the truth, "What if I told you that just now, Wyatt Barnes confused you with an 'illusion' before striking you?"

"That is to say, the 'Wyatt Barnes' you've been attacking wasn't the real Wyatt Barnes at all, but a figment created by the illusion... In the world we saw, you were attacking thin air,"

Noel Walton said in one breath.

"Illusion?"

Brady Yellow furrowed his brow and then looked at Noel Walton skeptically, "I didn't sense any fluctuation of Inscriptions or Inscription arrays just now... It couldn't have been an 'illusion'!"

"Unless this Wyatt Barnes is a transformed Odd Species with the power to construct 'illusions' with mental abilities,"

Brady Yellow added.

"I've said before, Wyatt Barnes's true cultivation is only at the 'Cave Void Realm Quintuple'... Have you ever heard of 'Odd Species'?"

Noel Walton shook his head and finally revealed Wyatt Barnes's 'identity.'

"Odd Species?!"

Brady Yellow frowned, muttering to himself, "I think I've heard of it before... Wait, let me think."

As he spoke, Brady Yellow fell into deep thought.

"What a dizzy big guy!"

Daisy Wood stuck out her tongue playfully and couldn't help but snort.

Wyatt Barnes shook his head and then walked out of the Martial Arts Performance Field, only to realize that Elder Sun, Ableton Sun, had arrived at some point. He smiled and greeted him, "Elder Sun."

"Wyatt Barnes, you're at the 'Cave Void Realm Quintuple' level, and you created an 'illusion' with your natural Divine Ability that could affect a Cave Void Realm Sextuple level warrior?"

Ableton Sun asked in disbelief, clearly having heard Noel Walton's explanation just now.

"Yes."

Wyatt Barnes nodded with a smile, "Although my cultivation is at the 'Cave Void Realm Quintuple' level, my spiritual power is higher because I've consumed a spirit fruit that enhances the soul."

"Ha-ha..."

Ableton Sun laughed heartily, "It seems that this time the 'Battle of the Five Peaks' is going to be quite a spectacle."

"The Battle of the Five Peaks?"

Hearing Elder Sun's words, Wyatt Barnes couldn't help but be stunned, "What's that?"

"The Battle of the Five Peaks is an upcoming competition for the younger generation within the Five Elements Sect, quite different from the usual ones... In the Battle of the Five Peaks, we not only decide individual strength rankings, but each peak will also send out their three strongest young talents to compete in team battles with the other peaks."

"Eventually, the rankings of the peaks will be reordered, based on the rankings of individual as well as team strength!"

Briggs Colby explained with a smile.

In his view.

This time's Battle of the Five Peaks, for Niklaus Woodson, was an opportunity, an opportunity to reclaim glory.

"I've decided to join you guys for the fun,"

Ableton Sun said.

At the same time, his eyes were fixed tightly on Wyatt Barnes, flickering with 'expectation', hoping that Wyatt would secure a good position for Niklaus Woodson in this 'Battle of the Five Peaks'.

"I remember now!"

Suddenly, a voice like thunder came.

It was Brady Yellow in the Martial Arts Performance Field who had recovered his senses, looking at Wyatt Barnes as if he were seeing a monster, exclaiming, "So you're an Odd Species! That means the 'illusion' you created before to affect me, was that your talent's Divine Ability?"

Divine Ability?

Wyatt Barnes smiled without confirming or denying.

Some matters, being misunderstood, aren't necessarily a bad thing.

However, Wyatt's smile, in Brady's eyes, was undoubtedly an acknowledgment.

"How old are you this year?"

Before long, Brady came up beside Wyatt, his piercing gaze on him, "You look to be only around twenty-five...Your real age must be over thirty, right?"

"Twenty-eight,"

Wyatt Barnes said with a shrug.

"What?!"

Upon hearing this, Brady Yellow was shocked, "You...you're younger than me? I'm thirty-one already. Monster! You are the true monster!"

By the end, Brady Yellow cursed with a grin.

Wyatt Barnes smiled and shook his head.

He was used to these reactions.

However, what Wyatt Barnes was used to didn't mean Daisy Wood was, and upon hearing Brady Yellow's 'curse' at Wyatt, she immediately became unhappy.

"You're the monster! Your whole family is full of monsters!"

The current Daisy Wood was entirely like a mother leopard defending her cub.

Seeing this, Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby laughed heartily, amused by Daisy Wood.

Wyatt Barnes and Noel Walton couldn't help but smile as well, both turning to look at Brady Yellow, curious about how he would respond.

Brady Yellow was left speechless, at a loss for words.

In his view,

The way he 'cursed' Wyatt Barnes was also a kind of peculiar compliment, right?

Knowing that when people called him 'monster' in the past, he was always pleased, because it meant he was outstanding and unique.

"When do you plan to depart?"

Ableton Sun looked at Briggs Colby and asked.

"Tomorrow, I guess,"

Briggs Colby said.

The next morning, a group of people set out from Andington headed for the Five Elements Sect.

No sooner had the five left the city than a middle-aged man emerged from a hidden spot and returned to Andington, going straight to a vast estate, entering a backyard garden.

"Elder Don,"

The middle-aged man stood outside the arbour in the backyard, respectfully saluting the elder inside.

"Have you found their whereabouts?"

The elder, who was playing chess by himself, Earth Peak's Elder Matthew Don, slowly lifted his head and asked in a deep voice.

"No,"

The middle-aged man shook his head, then added, "However, Briggs Colby brought people back to the Sect today... the two of them didn't return with Briggs Colby, I'm afraid it's more likely to be bad news."

Whoosh!

Matthew Don suddenly rose from his seat, his eyes flashing with a cold light, speaking in a grave tone, "Niklaus Woodson, what a bold move! To dare touch my Earth Peak disciples."

Seeing Matthew Don losing his composure, the middle-aged man felt speechless inside.

You've sent someone to infiltrate Niklaus Woodson as a spy, and yet you don't allow them to clean up their own house?

Of course, these were thoughts he dared only keep to himself, never voicing them out loud.

"The ones traveling with Briggs Colby... aside from Noel Walton, was there another young man who looked around twenty-five years old?"

Matthew Don took a deep breath, his piercing gaze on the middle-aged man as he asked.

"I didn't dare get too close, I didn't see his face clearly... Also, it wasn't just one person traveling with Briggs Colby and Noel Walton, but four."

The middle-aged man replied further.

"Four people?"

Matthew Don frowned. "Who else was there?"

"One of them is Elder Sun, the person in charge of the Niklaus Woodson outpost in Andington... As for the three others, all were new faces, one of them quite tall,"

The middle-aged man recounted what he had seen.

"Elder Sun, that old fellow?"

Matthew Don's expression darkened. "That old fellow actually left 'Andington' and went back to the Sect with Briggs Colby? Could it be he thinks that just with the help of Wyatt Barnes, Niklaus Woodson can turn the tables in this 'Battle of the Five Peaks'?"

"Hmph! Elder Sun, Briggs Colby... I'll make sure you understand that all your efforts with Niklaus Woodson will only end up benefiting us, Earth Peak, in the end!"

Matthew Don snorted, mumbling to himself, and then, in a flash, he vanished from the arbour in the backyard.

"I'm going back to the Sect... You will take charge of things here in Andington."

At the same time, Matthew Don's voice reached the middle-aged man's ears.

Chapter 872: Conflict

The Five Elements Sect was perched atop a colossal mountain.

Like a giant beast lying in wait, the mountain's summit was flat and spacious.

Atop this flat and spacious mountaintop, five precipitous peaks interconnected, straddled the landscape.

From afar, the five peaks looked like the fingers of a human hand, some tall, some short, piercing the skies.

"Five Finger Mountain!"

Upon seeing the harsh peaks before him, Wyatt Barnes thought immediately.

"These five precipitous peaks are our 'Five Elements Sect's dwelling... The tallest peak in the middle is our sect's 'Gold Peak'."

Noel Walton introduced to Wyatt Barnes, Brady Yellow, and Daisy Wood.

"That's 'Water Peak,' that's 'Flame Peak,' and the shortest is 'Earth Peak'... Our 'Niklaus Woodson' is that one."

After introducing the third and fourth tallest, as well as the shortest harsh peaks, Noel Walton pointed to the second tallest harsh peak and said to the trio.

The three of them then turned their eyes to 'Niklaus Woodson.'

Niklaus Woodson reached into the clouds, its entirety obscured.

Witnessing Noel Walton introducing Niklaus Woodson, Briggs Colby and Ableton Sun moved, taking the lead to fly towards Niklaus Woodson.

Moments later, in the eyes of Wyatt Barnes and the others, the two became mere specks in the distance.

"Let's head over as well."

Noel Walton called out to Wyatt Barnes and the others, leading the chase after Briggs Colby and Ableton Sun.

The trio promptly followed.

Of course, Daisy Wood was carried along by Wyatt Barnes in pursuit.

It wasn't just that Daisy Wood hadn't yet entered the 'Peep Naught Realm' and couldn't perform Imperial Empty Flight.

Even if she did reach the 'Peep Naught Realm' and learned Imperial Empty Flight, Wyatt Barnes wouldn't let her fly alone.

The flight speed of a 'Peep Naught Realm' martial artist, compared to their group, who were at least at the 'First level of the Cave Void Realm,' was like comparing an ant's walk without much difference.

Under Noel Walton's guidance, Wyatt Barnes and his party landed on a vast platform halfway up Niklaus Woodson.

"Noel Walton, you go ahead and arrange accommodations for them... Your master and I will meet the Peak Master first and help them register as official disciples tomorrow."

Briggs Colby said to Noel Walton before leaving with Ableton Sun.

"Follow me."

Noel Walton addressed Wyatt Barnes and his company and led them to a floating space above a sprawling cluster of buildings halfway up the nearby mountainside.

The array of buildings forming the continuous cluster was mostly towers, with a few structures resembling palaces.

"Over there, the towers are all vacant, and they are regularly cleaned... You will temporarily reside there. If it's uncomfortable, we will arrange for a change later."

Noel Walton, leading Wyatt Barnes and the others in flight, headed towards a row of towers in front, quickly arriving above one of the towers.

That's when Wyatt Barnes noticed many young men and women emerging curiously from the towers, sizing up him, Daisy Wood, and Brady Yellow.

The appearance of three new faces on Niklaus Woodson had undoubtedly surprised these disciples.

Just as Noel Walton was about to dive with Wyatt Barnes and the others, preparing to enter that tower,

Swish! Swish!

Two piercing sounds of wind howling came at the same time, growing progressively closer.

In a moment, two figures appeared on the path of Wyatt Barnes and his company, halting them in their tracks.

These were two young men around thirty-five years old, one in blue and the other in green garments, comparable in age to Noel Walton. However, the sneering smiles on their faces made it clear they meant no good.

"Santos Locke, what do you mean by this?"

Noel Walton's expression darkened as he faced the young man in blue, asking in a low shout.

Clearly, Noel Walton knew this young man in blue.

And judging by Noel Walton's exceedingly grim expression and the cold light flickering in his eyes, it was apparent there was no small conflict between him and the man in blue.

For a moment, Wyatt Barnes also realized that the young man in blue had come targeting Noel Walton.

"Noel Walton, what kind of attitude is that? I merely wanted to see what sort of people the 'Niklaus Woodson disciples' you and Elder Colby brought back from your trip were..."

The young man in blue, 'Santos Locke,' offered a faint smile, then squinted as he scrutinized Wyatt Barnes, Daisy Wood, and Brady Yellow.

"Hahahaha..."

Suddenly, Locke let out an unprovoked burst of laughter, laughing so long that he nearly cried.

"What are you laughing at?!"

Noel Walton's eyes flashed coldly.

Wyatt Barnes and the others couldn't help frowning as well.

If it weren't for the fact that this was 'Niklaus Woodson' and they were newcomers, Wyatt Barnes might have already slapped this Locke for his insolence.

"Laughing at what?"

Upon hearing Noel Walton's question, Locke finally ceased laughing, then his gaze rested on Wyatt Barnes and Daisy Wood, "Noel Walton, please don't tell me... that these two are also the 'Niklaus Woodson disciples' you and Elder Colby have recruited this time."

"What if they are?"

Noel Walton responded coldly, his eyes shining even colder.

"I remember that each elder of Niklaus Woodson was ordered to recruit 'Cave Void Realm martial artists' under the age of forty, weren't they? By bringing back two freeloaders who do nothing but eat, aren't you and Elder Colby going against the Peak Master's orders?"

Santos Locke's lips curled into a mocking sneer as he taunted.

"Santos, keep your mouth clean!"

Upon hearing the other side call Wyatt Barnes and Daisy Wood 'trash,' Noel Walton's face changed dramatically as he shouted sternly.

The expressions of Wyatt Barnes and Daisy Wood also darkened.

It seemed like the first time they had met this Santos Locke, right? On their first meeting, he called them 'trash'?

Wyatt's eyes chilled slightly as he coldly stared at Santos Locke, the Origin Force within his body roiling.

If this disciple from the Niklaus Woodson dared to repeat that word, he would not hesitate to strike!

At this moment, he was filled with aversion towards this Niklaus Woodson disciple whom he had never met before.

In the face of Noel Walton's stern rebuke, Santos Locke seemed as if he didn't hear it at all and continued to mock, "Or perhaps, you and Elder Colby simply couldn't find any youths under forty from the Cave Void Realm, so you resorted to these three as mere fillers?"

At this point, not only did Santos Locke start laughing once more, but the green-clad youth beside him couldn't help but laugh as well.

"Santos, you will regret this!"

Noel Walton's face grew even more sullen, a chill in his eyes barely contained, as he shouted coldly.

The faces of Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow also looked incredibly ugly.

To say they were mere fillers?

"Regret?"

Santos Locke, stunned by Noel Walton's words at first, burst out laughing uncontrollably, "Noel Walton, don't you forget that our strengths are comparable... In my hands, you won't be able to take any advantage!"

"Or perhaps, you plan to rely on them? These two can be disregarded, maybe they have some talent, but right now, they are useless to us in the Niklaus Woodson!"

Santos Locke's dismissive gaze swept over Wyatt Barnes and Daisy Wood, finally settling on Brady Yellow.

"This big guy here looks decent enough... but how strong can a man just over thirty be? At best, he's merely a 'First Level warrior of the Cave Void Realm'."

Santos Locke still had a look of disdain as he gazed at Brady Yellow.

Brady Yellow's face changed, barely restraining himself as the Origin Force within his body stirred, ready to make a move on Santos Locke.

Just then, a message formed of the condensed Origin Force reached his ears, causing him to suppress his impulse as a sneering cold smile played across his lips.

"Santos!"

Noel Walton took a deep breath, his lips tinged with coldness, "You relentlessly disparage me and the disciples that my master and I have brought back to the Niklaus Woodson, yet you have no idea how strong the ones you and your master have brought back are?"

"The disciples that my master and I brought back to the Niklaus Woodson are naturally stronger than the ones you and your master found! See this person beside me? His name is Callen Hayden, thirty-six years old, no weaker than you or me."

As Santos Locke spoke, he looked toward the green-clad youth with pride on his face.

At this very moment, the green-clad youth 'Callen Hayden,' let his gaze sweep across Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, scoffing with disdain, "Two pieces of trash, even if they join forces, I could take them down with one move each!"

As for Daisy Wood, she was outright ignored.

"Santos, true to form, as befits the disciple you accompanied your master to find for the Niklaus Woodson... This Callen Hayden's mouth is as foul as yours!"

Noel Walton's gaze, sharp as a knife, swept over Callen Hayden, finally resting on Santos Locke.

"You!!"

The face of Santos Locke, chided by Noel Walton, changed color, anger stirring the Origin Force within him to the brink of bursting forth.

"Santos, this 'Callen Hayden' you and your master have brought back has not formally registered as a disciple of our Niklaus Woodson yet, has he?"

Noel Walton's expression suddenly became serious as he asked earnestly.

"No."

Seeing the change in Noel Walton's face, Santos Locke was momentarily taken aback, answering almost involuntarily.

However, after responding to Noel Walton, he came back to his senses, his face showing a mocking grin, "Noel Walton, why do you ask this?"

"You will soon find out."

This time, Noel Walton didn't even bother to look at Santos Locke but instead fixed a deep gaze on Callen Hayden.

Then, he turned to Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, "Wyatt, Brady... our Five Elements Sect has a rule for every peak: as long as a person has not officially registered as a disciple of a peak, they are not considered part of the Sect. If they are killed, the Sect will not pursue the matter!"

Noel Walton's words caused both Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow's eyes to light up.

Hearing Noel Walton's words, Santos Locke scoffed, "Noel Walton, you can't possibly think that these two pieces of trash can join forces to kill Callen Hayden? That would be a colossal joke!"

Pieces of trash?

The smiles that had just appeared on the faces of Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow froze completely upon hearing Santos Locke's words.

Their eyes, filled with coldness, immediately locked onto Santos Locke, ready to strike.

"Disputes among the official disciples of the Sect, as long as they do not cripple or kill the opponent, will not be pursued for responsibility by the Sect."

At that moment, Noel Walton added another piece of information.

Instantly, the frozen smiles on the faces of Wyatt Barnes and Brady brightened once again, more radiant than ever.

"Brady, which one do you want?"

Wyatt Barnes asked.

"Me? I want both!"

Brady Yellow was initially taken aback but then decisively said.

"Brady, aren't you being a bit greedy? Since that's the case, let's see who moves faster!"

No sooner had Wyatt's words fallen than his whole body was already soaring forth.

Chapter 873: The Death of Callen Hayden

"You shameless!"

As soon as Wyatt Barnes's words fell, he leaped into the air, not giving himself a chance to prepare, Brady Yellow cursed and hurriedly followed him.

Bang! Bang!

Under Brady's feet, solid earth-yellow power streaked across the sky, and he used it to propel himself at great speed, faster even than Wyatt Barnes.

Although this was not the ground, where he might draw upon the power of the earth.

But after all, he was a martial artist of the Cave Void Realm, Seventh Order, who had grasped the 'five-layer intermediate realm' of the Earth realm; even without the support of the earth's power, he could still exert the strength of 130 ancient Horned Dragons!

As for Wyatt Barnes, although he too was of the Cave Void Realm, Seventh Order, he had only grasped the 'three-layer intermediate realm' of the Wind realm. Even if he used other 'lower-

level realms,' he was still lacking by more than a dozen ancient Horned Dragon's strength compared to Brady.

So, although Wyatt took the initiative, he was still caught up by Brady.

The two men's first target was tacitly the same person.

Santos Locke!

"You!!"

Santos Locke, startled by Noel Walton's words, turned to see two figures pouncing towards him and immediately shivered with realization.

He saw, above the heads of the two men in the void, the terrifying phantoms of ancient Horned Dragons that shocked him.

One hundred and ten ancient Horned Dragon phantoms!

One hundred and thirty ancient Horned Dragon phantoms!

Accompanying the purple-robed youth and the tall, stout young man as they rushed towards him.

Santos shocked, completely dumbfounded.

How could the strength of these two be so formidable?

Smack!

Smack!

The crisp sound of slaps almost rang out simultaneously.

It was Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow reaching Santos in a blink of an eye, one left and one right, each delivering him a slap.

In an instant, Santos's originally rather handsome face swelled up, turning into a pig's head.

"You... you... Ahh!!"

Santos, face swollen like a pig's, had a cold glint in his eyes as he attempted to curse.

However, before he could finish his harsh words, he was punched squarely in the abdomen by Brady, sending him flying out with a pig-like, piercing scream.

Santos barely managed to stop himself and was completely sobered by the beating.

Looking at the 130 ancient Horned Dragon phantoms above Brady's head, he felt a chill climbing up his back, "This big fellow is so strong!"

Without using a spiritual weapon, when he made his move, he invoked the power of heaven and earth to conjure 130 ancient Horned Dragon phantoms.

If he were a martial artist of the Cave Void Realm, Sixth Order, he would only be able to achieve this with a 'six-layer intermediate realm' understanding.

Cave Void Realm, Seventh Order, and 'five-layer intermediate realm' could also do it.

Cave Void Realm, Eighth Order, a mere 'four-layer intermediate realm' would suffice.

Yet, regardless of which it was, they were not forces he could provoke.

And that purple-robed youth.

Santos's gaze fell upon the heavenly phenomenon above Wyatt's head in the void.

There, one hundred and ten ancient Horned Dragon phantoms twisted and descended, lifelike and majestic.

"Summoning the power of heaven and earth to condense one hundred and ten ancient Horned Dragon phantoms... even his strength is greater than mine!"

Staring at the purple-robed young man he had previously underestimated, Santos's face turned extremely unsightly.

"So powerful!"

At this moment, the onlooking disciples of the Niklaus Woodson uttered exclamations of amazement.

They too were frightened by the strengths of the two unfamiliar faces, Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow.

"Are these two the disciples of Niklaus Woodson that Noel Walton and Elder Colby went out to bring back this time?"

"They are too powerful, aren't they? Especially that big guy, who looks just over thirty, but when he made a move, it was like a thunderclap, summoning the power of heaven and earth to form 130 ancient Horned Dragon phantoms!"

"That purple-robed young man is not weak either. He looks about twenty-five and is already more powerful than Noel Walton and Santos Locke."

...

A group of Niklaus Woodson's disciples looked at Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow with eyes filled with excitement.

"As long as that big guy isn't poached by the other three Peaks, this 'Battle of the Five Peaks' might not end with us at the bottom."

"That's right! The big guy is strong on his own, plus he has grasped the 'Earth realm'. Once he makes a move on the ground, he can draw on the terrifying power of the earth."

"The big guy's strength on the ground can easily crush all the young disciples of Water Peak, Flame Peak, and Earth Peak!"

...

Most of the disciples from Niklaus Woodson closely locked their eyes on Brady Yellow.

At this moment, while their faces showed excitement, their eyes betrayed a trace of anxiety, worrying that Brady might be poached by one of the other three Peaks.

Similar incidents had happened before, leaving them feeling somewhat powerless.

"Haha... Brady, they're all afraid of you being poached by the other three Peaks."

Noticing the gazes of the cluster of onlooking Niklaus Woodson's disciples around him, Wyatt Barnes couldn't help but laugh and said to Brady.

"Hmph!"

Brady snorted, his voice thunderous, "You all underestimate me, Brady Yellow too much! Am I, Brady Yellow, the kind of man who sways with the breeze like a willow..."

Brady Yellow said this, and the surrounding disciples of Niklaus Woodson showed friendly expressions, believing their Niklaus Woodson would from then on have a young powerhouse like a Pillar of Heaven.

However, Brady Yellow's next words made them completely dumbfounded.

"Of course, if anyone is willing to give me ten or eight second-grade spirit weapons and another dozen or twenty Seventh-Order realm fragments, I think I would still be willing to leave Niklaus Woodson and join their peak."

Brady Yellow suddenly turned the conversation, chuckling heh heh.

For a moment, the disciples of Niklaus Woodson recovered from their shock, each issuing a friendly laugh.

Ten or eight second-grade spirit weapons?

In the Five Elements Sect, could any of the peaks even combine all the second-grade spirit weapons owned by the Peak Master and all the elders, and it seems they wouldn't have that many, right?

Not to mention a dozen or twenty Seventh-Order realm fragments, that was even more ridiculous.

Perhaps, Brady's strength wasn't bad, and among all the young disciples of the current generation in the Five Elements Sect, he could be considered outstanding, but he still wasn't worth such a great cost from the other three peaks.

"Noel Walton, I never expected that you and Elder Colby would actually find such monsters... Callen Hayden, let's go!"

Realizing that he would gain no advantages today, Santos Locke glared resentfully at Noel Walton, rubbed his swollen cheeks for a while, and, calling out to the young man in green robes, prepared to leave.

As soon as Santos Locke had witnessed the strength Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow displayed, Callen Hayden's complexion changed, becoming extremely ugly.

His strength, though not bad, was only comparable to Santos Locke's.

Without using spirit weapons and going all out, he could at most manifest the strength of a hundred ancient Horned Dragons, which was not only inferior to that big guy but also lesser than the young man in purple robes.

Now, hearing Santos Locke's call, Callen Hayden's eyes suddenly brightened, and with a relieved rush, he flew towards where Santos Locke was.

This was a place he did not wish to stay a moment longer.

But, was it now that simple for him to leave if he wanted to?

Whoosh! Whoosh!

A streak of blue lightning, accompanied by a streak of earthy yellow lightning, shot through the air, materializing in an instant in front of Callen Hayden, blocking his way.

One was a young man in purple robes enveloped in a blue tornado, while the other was a tall young man shrouded in an earthy yellow light shield, both firmly blocking Callen Hayden's path.

"What are you doing?!"

Santos Locke's face drastically changed.

Seeing the two people who appeared in front of him, Callen Hayden's face also changed, then he took a deep breath and tried to squeeze a smile on his face, "You two, I... I just now didn't mean..."

"It's not your damn business!"

Before Callen Hayden could finish speaking, Brady Yellow suddenly roared, interrupting Callen Hayden's words, and struck with lightning speed.

Boom!

Brady Yellow punched out, his fist unleashing like a collapsing mountain, as a torrent of earthy yellow power erupted, transforming into an earthy yellow Divine Dragon, fiercely slamming into Callen Hayden's chest.

Bang!

The massive force hit Callen Hayden's chest, sending him flying away like an arrow released from its bow.

"Wow!"

The instant Callen Hayden flew out, his face turned crimson, he opened his mouth and spewed a large mouthful of clotted blood, containing chunks that were clearly pieces of internal organs pulverized by Brady Yellow's punch.

Bang! Bang!

As Callen Hayden was sent flying, Brady Yellow clearly wasn't going to let him off so easily, he kicked at the ground, shattering a giant earthy yellow rock beneath his feet, and leveraging it to fly forward.

Whoosh!

Brady Yellow's speed was like a swift bolt of lightning, quickly catching up with Callen Hayden.

Boom!

Another punch struck out, hitting right at Callen Hayden's dantian, completely destroying it, causing the Origin Force within it to leak out uncontrollably.

"Ahh!!"

Callen Hayden let out a pig-slaughter like scream of agony, his Origin Force extinguished, his body losing the support of Origin Force, plummeting downward.

Without his Origin Force, even though Callen Hayden could sense the 'realm' between heaven and earth, he could not integrate it into his body without Origin Force as a medium to keep him afloat.

"Santos... Santos Locke, save... save me!"

Callen Hayden's fall accelerated, and he struggled to open his mouth begging Santos Locke to save him; if Santos Locke didn't, he would undoubtedly be smashed to death.

As Brady Yellow destroyed Callen Hayden's dantian, Santos Locke's gaze towards Callen Hayden completely changed.

Now hearing Callen Hayden's plea for help, he snorted coldly, "Humph! Useless trash."

He then soared away, not looking back, letting Callen Hayden continue to fall, crashing onto the cliffs with a loud thud, smashing into a pile of flesh.

"This Callen Hayden... such a pity."

Withdrawing his gaze from Callen Hayden's body, Wyatt Barnes glanced at the retreating figure of Santos Locke and shook his head.

"That Santos Locke really isn't anything good! I, big brother Brady, showed great mercy by only destroying his companion's dantian and not planning to kill his companion... But he just disregarded his companion and ran away."

Brady Yellow clicked his tongue, cursing with a smile.

Show great mercy?

Hearing Brady Yellow's words, the surrounding disciples of Niklaus Woodson Woodson went silent with disbelief.

You destroyed someone's dantian and speak of mercy?

If you hadn't destroyed his dantian, would he have fallen to his death?

"Let's go."

Seemingly accustomed to Brady Yellow's 'violence,' Noel Walton called out to Wyatt Barnes and the others, continuing to plunge towards the pavilion below.

"Heh heh... That Santos Locke got off easy."

Daisy Wood, being carried by Wyatt as they flew, clenched her small fists tightly, speaking resentfully.

Chapter 874: Slander

Hearing Daisy Wood's words, Wyatt Barnes couldn't help but shiver.

"This girl, if she grows up, she will probably be a 'little witch'-like character."

Thinking of the 'little witch', Wyatt's gaze became distant as an image of a girl in yellow appeared in his mind.

The girl in yellow was none other than 'Karina Hanson'.

"At this time, I don't know what Karina is doing... And Little Gold, Little Black, and Little White, I wonder if they have come out from that place yet."

Wyatt let out a sigh to himself, and by the time he snapped back to reality, he was already following Noel Walton onto a three-story pavilion.

"The three-story pavilion, each floor has a main bedroom, just arrange yourselves."

Noel Walton said to the three of them, "If you're lacking anything, you can find me... I live in that pavilion over there."

With that, Noel Walton pointed towards a two-story pavilion in the distance.

"Mhm."

The trio nodded and then moved into the pavilion.

Brady Yellow took the bottom floor, Daisy Wood took the second, and Wyatt Barnes took the top floor.

From the main bedroom on the top floor, the view opened up to an endless expanse of blue sky and white clouds.

As the trio entered the pavilion, those Niklaus Woodson disciples who had been crowding around to watch the excitement also dispersed, but excitement that was hard to describe filled their faces.

"I never expected that this time Brother Shen and Elder Colby would bring back two such outstanding young powerhouses."

"Our Niklaus Woodson can hold our heads up high... The Battle of the Five Peaks is just the beginning."

"Three more days to the 'Battle of the Five Peaks'... It's so exciting."

...

A smile appeared on the faces of the Niklaus Woodson disciples.

They were disciples of Niklaus Woodson, sharing its glory and disgrace. Being at the bottom of the Five Peaks within the Five Elements Sect made them suffer contempt from disciples of the other four peaks, unable to raise their heads.

They couldn't stand living like this any longer.

This time, seeing a chance for a turnaround, they were naturally very excited.

Before long, nearly half of Niklaus Woodson knew about what had just happened.

Suddenly, the disciples who were aware of the matter became excited and agitated.

While most Niklaus Woodson disciples were excited, some were the exception...

Santos Locke was one of them.

After taking the Pill Medicine to heal, Locke's face, which had swollen like a pig's head, had returned to normal, showing no signs of the injury.

However, his complexion was now extremely unsightly, and he stood in midair, somewhat anxious and uneasy.

Near the summit of Niklaus Woodson stood a three-story pavilion, perched perilously by the side of a cliff, presenting a treacherous aspect that could not help but alarm onlookers.

Looking at the pavilion before him, Santos Locke's face was filled with conflict, but finally, gritting his teeth, he leaped up and landed on the pavilion.

"You're back?"

At that moment, from the third floor of the pavilion, a burly, red-robed old man with a full beard walked out, giving the impression of robustness and simplicity.

"Master."

In front of the old man, Santos Locke was respectfully submissive, but his complexion was somewhat unsightly and he hesitated to speak, as if he had something hard to confess.

"What's wrong?"

The bearded old man noticed something was off with Locke and asked in confusion.

"Master."

Santos Locke took a deep breath, well aware that the matter of Callen Hayden's death would come to his master's knowledge soon even if he didn't speak of it now.

Therefore, he chose to come clean.

"Callen Hayden... he..."

Locke looked at the old man with trepidation, his master, and hesitated after speaking three words, seeming unable to continue.

His master had made significant efforts to recruit Hayden into the Five Elements Sect, into Niklaus Woodson, spending much in terms of time, 'Grade Three Spirit Weapons', and 'Realm Fragments' for the influence Hayden had belonged to.

And now, Callen Hayden was dead, right here in Niklaus Woodson!

"What happened to Callen Hayden?"

The bearded old man's expression changed.

"Master, Callen Hayden... he's been murdered!"

Taking a deep breath, Santos Locke finally muster the courage to say.

"What?!"

The bearded old man's pupils narrowed, with a flash of chilling light, he asked sternly, "Was it someone from Water Peak, Flame Peak, or Earth Peak?"

"None of them."

Locke shook his head.

"None of them?"

The bearded old man frowned, "Then how did he die? Could it have been someone from Gold Peak?"

Upon mentioning 'Gold Peak', a hint of wariness appeared in the old man's eyes.

"No."

Locke shook his head again, a wry smile on his face, "It was someone from our Niklaus Woodson."

"From our Niklaus Woodson?"

The bearded old man was shocked, then frowned and asked, "Did he offend some elder, or perhaps one of the middle-aged disciples?"

In his view.

With Callen Hayden's strength, looking across Niklaus Woodson, aside from the elder of Niklaus Woodson and those middle-aged disciples, almost no one could kill him.

Callen Hayden's strength was on par with the best of the contemporary young generation in Niklaus Woodson like 'Noel Walton' and 'Santos Locke', and even if Noel Walton or Santos Locke made a move, they wouldn't be able to kill him.

"Not so!"

Santos Locke shook his head again.

"Not so?"

Upon hearing this, the old man with the bushy beard twitched the corners of his mouth slightly and revealed a look of horror in his eyes, "Could it be... that it was one of the young disciples brought back from outside by the other elders?"

"Yes."

Santos Locke nodded, his eyes shooting two sharp glints, "It was the young disciple brought back by Noel Walton and Elder Colby...just as they arrived at Niklaus Woodson, they killed Callen Hayden!"

The bushy-bearded old man's eyes flashed, and he fell silent for a moment.

At this moment, Santos Locke looked at the bushy-bearded man, urging anxiously, "Master, the reason they dared to kill Callen Hayden is simply because Callen Hayden had not yet officially registered as a disciple of the Five Elements Sect, believing that the Sect would not intervene..."

"Now, those two guys have not yet registered either, even if they died, the Sect would not pursue it! Master, you must avenge Callen Hayden and kill those two guys."

By the end, Santos Locke's eyes were filled with a chilling light, as if they could devour someone.

Today, he had only intended to provoke Noel Walton, to suppress him.

But who could have imagined that he wouldn't just fail to suppress Noel Walton, even his own companion was killed by someone by Noel Walton's side.

The moment Callen Hayden was killed, he could sense the mocking gazes of the surrounding Niklaus Woodson disciples looking at him.

This was the first time in his life he had experienced such immense humiliation!

Now, all he wanted was for those two who had brought him endless humiliation to die, if they did not die, he could not rest easy.

"Two?"

The formerly silent bushy-bearded old man, upon hearing Santos Locke's words, could not help but frown, "You mean, it took both of them together to kill Callen Hayden?"

"Yes!"

Santos Locke nodded.

He knew clearly that if Brady Yellow had killed Callen Hayden by himself, his master might not do anything to Brady Yellow for the sake of Niklaus Woodson's 'future'.

But now, stating that it was two people working together to kill Callen Hayden, the situation was completely different.

Before the bushy-bearded old man could respond, Santos Locke huffed, "If those two did not join forces, how could they possibly be Callen Hayden's opponents? Also, this matter is also Noel Walton's fault. It was he who stopped me from saving Callen Hayden...Precisely because of this, Callen Hayden was killed by those two."

By the end, Santos Locke's face reflected grief and indignation, as if everything he said was true.

At the very least, the bushy-bearded old man believed him.

"Hmm!"

After hearing Santos Locke's story, the bushy-bearded old man snorted coldly, "If they had killed Callen Hayden in a one-on-one situation, it would have been fine... Even without Callen Hayden, Niklaus Woodson wouldn't be affected with them around!"

"But they dared to join forces, and they destroyed a 'prospective Niklaus Woodson disciple' who was even better than them... Two individuals inferior to Callen Hayden are useless to Niklaus Woodson."

By the end, the old man's face was covered in a layer of frost.

"Since they dared to kill Callen Hayden because he was a 'prospective Niklaus Woodson disciple', then I, too, can kill them, just two insignificant 'prospective Niklaus Woodson disciples'."

Between the bushy-bearded old man's words, there was a chill.

A prospective Niklaus Woodson disciple refers to someone whom 'Niklaus Woodson' is willing to accept, and who is also willing to join Niklaus Woodson, but has not yet officially registered as a Five Elements Sect disciple.

Such a person is not protected by the Five Elements Sect.

"Master, if you want to kill them, let's go now. Before Noel Walton takes them to register as official disciples, let's get rid of the two of them!"

Feeling his master's anger, Santos Locke's eyes flickered with triumph, and he couldn't help but urge.

"Lead the way!"

The bushy-bearded old man nodded, clearly finding Santos Locke's argument convincing.

"Yes!"

Santos Locke flew out excitedly, leading the way, swooping down.

As for the bushy-bearded old man, from start to finish, he followed behind Santos Locke at an even pace and descended with him onto a pavilion halfway up Niklaus Woodson.

"It's Santos Locke!"

"And his master, Elder Ho."

...

Suddenly, quite a few people popped their heads out from the nearby pavilions, recognizing Santos Locke and the bushy-bearded old man.

"What are they here for?"

"Could it be they are coming to settle the score with the two young disciples brought back by Noel Walton and Elder Colby?"

"It shouldn't be... This is something Santos Locke might do, but Elder Ho definitely wouldn't."

"Elder Ho, wholly devoted to Niklaus Woodson, certainly wouldn't do anything that harms the interests of Niklaus Woodson."

...

Due to the presence of the bushy-bearded old man, the Niklaus Woodson disciples inside the various pavilions did not dare to approach and watch the excitement; they were all afraid of accidentally angering Elder Ho.

Elder Ho's temper was famously 'explosive' in Niklaus Woodson, and there were few who dared provoke him.

"Are they inside?"

The bushy-bearded old man, who was Elder Gide Ho of the Five Elements Sect's Niklaus Woodson, looked down at the three-story pavilion beneath his feet, a sliver of cold light passing in his eyes, and asked in a deep voice.

"Yes, Master."

Santos Locke respectfully replied and then pumped his Origin Force to amplify his voice, sweeping it down toward the three-story pavilion.

The voice was concentrated, and although it spread throughout the entire three-story pavilion, it was not heard by other Niklaus Woodson disciples who were watching from a distance.

"Wyatt Barnes, Brady Yellow, come out and meet your death!"

These were Santos Locke's exact words.

Inside the pavilion, Wyatt Barnes, Brady Yellow, and Daisy Wood all heard Santos Locke's words and their expressions simultaneously darkened.

Chapter 875: Niklaus Woodson's Crazy Disciple

For a moment, Daisy Wood stepped out of her room and looked up at Santos Locke in the high sky, her eyes flashing with anger.

Wyatt Barnes and Brady, one after another, took to the air, and in the blink of an eye, they were in the sky, facing off against that distant Santos Locke.

"Hm?"

Before Wyatt and Brady had a chance to speak, they saw an old man with a red-bearded robe descending from the sky, landing next to Santos Locke, his gaze coldly fixed on them.

"A Transforming Void Realm expert?!"

Wyatt's pupils shrank and a look of horror appeared on his face.

Brady's face also showed a hint of wariness as he whispered to Wyatt beside him, "Wyatt, it seems that Santos Locke has called his master here."

Locke's master was none other than an elder of the Gold Peak, Gide Ho.

This information had been gleaned by Wyatt from the private whispers of some disciples of Gold Peak during the previous confrontation between Noel Walton and Santos Locke.

However, he had never imagined that Santos Locke would actually call his master.

"Master, it was these two who killed Callen Hayden!"

Santos Locke looked towards Wyatt and Brady and said in a deep voice to Gide Ho beside him.

Between his eyes, there was a cold glint, seemingly ready to devour someone.

"Callen Hayden, was it you who killed him?"

Gide Ho's gaze was icy as he stared at Wyatt and Brady, his face showing an indignant anger.

At the same time, his red robes billowed as if moved by an invisible wind.

Before Wyatt and Brady could speak, Santos Locke stretched out his hand toward the distance, "Master, look... there is Callen Hayden's body! After disabling his cultivation, they let him fall to his death alive."

The direction Santos Locke pointed was the cliffside where Callen Hayden had fallen to his death.

There, there was a shocking pool of blood and a body crushed to a pulp.

At a glance, Gide Ho's pupils involuntarily contracted.

At some point, a vast and solid milky Origin Force had appeared around him, flowing around his body like a liquid.

Dancing within this liquid-like, vast Origin Force was also a trace of a violent aura, as if it could erupt at any moment.

"Death but a head's distance from the ground... yet you two used such cruel means to kill Callen Hayden! You, have no right to be disciples of Gold Peak."

Gide Ho was furious, his cold gaze fixed on Wyatt and Brady, his voice chillingly cold, "Not only that, the two of you will pay the price for the death of Callen Hayden!"

Not qualified to be Gold Peak disciples?

To pay the price for Callen Hayden's death?

Hearing Gide Ho's words, Wyatt and Brady couldn't help but look at each other, exchanging a glance, and could both see the extreme anger in each other's eyes.

At some point, a cold smile appeared at the corners of both their mouths.

"Are you the Elder Gide Ho of Gold Peak?"

Wyatt stepped forward, undaunted as he locked eyes with Gide Ho and asked coldly.

"How presumptuous!"

Before Gide Ho could speak, Santos Locke shouted, "Wyatt, my master's name is not something you can utter so casually as a 'prospective disciple' of Gold Peak! Not to say you're just a prospective disciple now, but even if you became a formal disciple, you wouldn't have the right to call my master by his name."

However, Wyatt ignored Santos Locke and instead fixed his gaze on Gide Ho, asking coldly, "Elder Ho, you keep saying we must pay the price for Callen Hayden's death... Are you implying we killed Callen Hayden without cause? Or perhaps, you think Callen Hayden was blameless?"

Being questioned directly by Wyatt, Gide Ho's face looked extremely ugly.

Who was he?

The renowned Elder of the Five Elements Sect's Gold Peak, an existence of the 'Sixth Layer of Transforming Void Realm.'

In front of him, a mere prospective disciple dared to be so insolent?

However, when Wyatt got to the last part, Gide Ho's brows involuntarily frowned, and it dawned on him that he had overlooked the most important matter.

How had Callen Hayden provoked these two in front of him?

"Well, I'd like to hear from you... what was Callen Hayden's mistake?"

Gide Ho asked in a cold voice.

"This, I'm afraid you'd have to ask your own good disciple,"

Wyatt's eyes flashed coldly, then he looked at Santos Locke and said word by word.

"Hm?"

Upon hearing this, Gide Ho immediately looked at Santos Locke, "Santos, you speak."

"Yes, master."

Santos Locke respectfully responded and then said, "Regarding today's matter, I admit that it was my fault initially! I saw Noel Walton bringing them to Gold Peak and, out of a spirit of competition, I stopped them..."

As he spoke, Santos Locke stretched out his hand pointing at Wyatt and Brady.

"Mm."

Gide Ho nodded, his face showing a pleased smile.

He naturally understood his own disciple.

His disciple was used to being competitive, and it was not surprising that he did such a thing. As long as he could recognize his mistake, it was a good start and forgivable.

Watching as Santos Locke admitted the cause of the conflict, and seeing that Gide Ho was not only not blaming Santos but even showed a smile, the faces of Wyatt and Brady turned somewhat sour.

"Wyatt Barnes, it looks like this old fart is a fool who blindly favors his own."

In Wyatt's ear, Brady Yellow's Origin Force condensed voice full of anger came through, clear and unmistakable.

"I see it now."

Wyatt nodded, his eyes slightly narrowing as he spoke in a condensed voice of Origin Force, "Indeed, like master like disciple! Perhaps, we were wrong from the very beginning. The decline of Niklaus Woodson might not solely be due to the targeting from the other three peaks."

"Humph! This old fart dares to say that Big Brother Brady doesn't qualify to be a disciple of Niklaus Woodson... As if Big Brother Brady is keen on becoming their disciple! With my talent, even the 'Gold Peak' of the Five Elements Sect wouldn't shut their doors on me."

Disdain filled Brady Yellow's condensed Origin Force voice.

"Later, Callen Hayden and I merely misspoke a little in our words, slightly offending them... But without a second word, they burst out and crippled Callen Hayden's cultivation, throwing him to his death while he was still alive!"

Santos Locke continued speaking.

As he spoke, his gaze turned to Gide Ho with extreme anger on his face, and he indignantly said, "Master, you must avenge Callen Hayden... Even if Callen Hayden was initially at fault, his crime did not deserve death!"

Gide Ho nodded slightly, and his gaze toward Wyatt and Brady Yellow was filled with icy murderous intent, "Now, do you two have anything else to say?"

"Hmph!"

Brady Yellow snorted, his face showing disdain as he said, "What's the use of saying anything now? No wonder Santos Locke was so arrogant and causing trouble without reason, it turns out he had a 'good master' like you backing him up!"

"With a worm like you around, it's no wonder Niklaus Woodson is in decline."

By the end, Brady Yellow didn't mince his words.

"You... are looking for death!!"

Upon hearing Brady Yellow's words, Gide Ho's face changed dramatically.

Immediately after, the nearly liquefied Origin Force around him surged and then transformed into thick purple lightning bolts, from which muffled roars of thunder could be faintly heard.

Whoosh!

Above Gide Ho's head in the void, thousands of ancient Horned Dragon specters converged mightily, like dark clouds over the city, imposing an immense oppressive feeling upon the onlookers.

"Transforming Void Realm Rank Six! High-level sixth-tier realm of Thunder!"

Wyatt's expression darkened slightly; though he knew Gide Ho was an elder of Niklaus Woodson, he didn't expect him to be this strong.

An elder of the Transforming Void Realm Rank Six certainly held a prominent position within Niklaus Woodson.

For a moment, Wyatt felt a chill in his heart.

He suddenly felt that what Brady Yellow had just said was so right.

Perhaps the decline of Niklaus Woodson was indeed not just due to the younger generation's lack of power, but also because these elders of Niklaus Woodson couldn't discern right from wrong!

As the saying goes, 'There's something detestable about those who invite pity;' the same was true for Niklaus Woodson.

"Not good!"

"My god! Elder Ho is actually going to make a move on them."

"They are our 'future' of Niklaus Woodson! No, we absolutely can't let anything happen to them. If something happens to them, we will continue to be unable to raise our heads before the other four peaks, just like before!"

"To the fellow disciple brothers and sisters who no longer want to suffer insults, follow me! No matter what, we must not let Elder Ho harm the hope of our future!"

"Let's go!"

"I'll go inform Noel Walton!"

...

Just as Gide Ho raised his hand, ready to make a move against Wyatt and Brady Yellow, and Wyatt had also produced a 'talisman', his gaze intently locked on Gide Ho, ready to cast the talisman and suppress him at any moment.

"Stop!"

"Elder Ho, you can't kill them! You can't destroy our future in Niklaus Woodson!"

"Elder Ho, if you kill them, you will be the eternal sinner of our Niklaus Woodson!"

"Gide Ho, I don't care whether you're an elder of Niklaus Woodson today, if you want to touch them, you'll have to step over my dead body first!"

...

A series of thundering voices whirled in from all directions, causing Gide Ho to involuntarily change expression.

As for Santos Locke, he was completely astounded watching a throng of Niklaus Woodson disciples rushing over. He hadn't expected such a dramatic turn of events.

Were these Niklaus Woodson disciples coming to help Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, two outsiders?

At this moment, his heart was filled with incredulity, and simultaneously, endless jealousy.

Right after, he looked at Gide Ho in a panic, urging him, "Master, kill them quickly! Just kill them!"

At this moment, only one thought dominated his mind:

Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow must die!

Wyatt Barnes, who was also shocked by the gathering of Niklaus Woodson disciples from all directions, changed his expression after hearing Santos Locke's words. He quickly focused his attention on Gide Ho, his gaze locked on him.

The moment Gide Ho made any move, he would not hesitate to throw the 'talisman' in his hand and suppress Gide Ho.

However, Gide Ho seemed to have not heard Santos Locke's words at all. His hand slowly went down, and the entwining purple lightning bolts around him vanished into nothingness.

"They..."

Looking at the gathering group of Niklaus Woodson disciples from all directions, Gide Ho was astonished, a foreboding feeling rising in his heart.

Two individuals, not yet officially registered as disciples of the Five Elements Sect, had motivated so many Niklaus Woodson disciples to stand up for them. Even if his reactions were slow, he realized that something was amiss.

Chapter 876: A Sudden Turn in the Situation

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

...

Several figures, both male and female, flew swiftly through the air and in moments arrived in front of Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, forming a human wall to protect them.

These people were all disciples from Niklaus Woodson.

"What is this..."

Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow exchanged looks, each seeing the shock in the other's eyes.

The actions of these Niklaus Woodson disciples surprised them, while also warming their hearts.

These Niklaus Woodson disciples were protecting them.

Now, a group of Niklaus Woodson disciples stood with Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow behind them, vigilantly watching Elder Ho as if he were some savage beast.

"Elder Ho, you cannot touch them!"

"Elder Ho, if you want to kill them, you'll have to get past us first!"

...

As a united front, the Niklaus Woodson disciples faced Elder Ho with looks of indignation.

"What are you doing..."

Elder Ho took a deep breath, his face beneath his beard filled with astonishment.

He had never imagined that two young men who had just arrived at their Niklaus Woodson and hadn't even been registered as official disciples could command such strong loyalty.

Who could tell him what the hell was going on?

"What are you doing?!"

Santos Locke stood next to Elder Ho, his eyes coldly sweeping over the group of Niklaus Woodson disciples as he said sternly, "Don't forget, you are all disciples of Niklaus Woodson... Now, my master, the Elder of Niklaus Woodson, wants to punish these two potential disciples who wrongfully kill the innocent, and you dare to interfere? Do you no longer wish to live?"

By the end of his speech, a deadly intent appeared in Santos Locke's eyes, seemingly threatening the disciples.

Unfortunately, the group of Niklaus Woodson disciples appeared to completely ignore Santos Locke's words, their gaze fixed on Elder Ho, full of vigilance.

It was as if they deeply feared Elder Ho would strike at Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow again.

For a moment, the atmosphere at the scene became extremely tense.

Elder Ho stood suspended in the air, making no move.

Although, even with the intervention of the group of Niklaus Woodson disciples, he was a hundred percent confident he could kill both Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, he chose not to act.

Now, his mind was filled with curiosity.

What exactly had Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow done to inspire the disciples of Niklaus Woodson to this extent?

As the saying goes, 'He who wins the hearts of the people wins the world.'

Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, although not yet officially Niklaus Woodson disciples, had won the hearts of the others, even more than he, the Elder of Niklaus Woodson, had.

"Wyatt, Brady... are you alright?"

A hurried voice approached from a distance, accompanied by a swiftly moving figure that soon reached the circle of Niklaus Woodson disciples.

"We're fine."

At that moment, Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow stepped forward from behind the crowd, standing in front of the newcomer.

The newcomer was 'Noel Walton'!

Right now, Noel Walton's expression was extremely grave, having roughly learned about everything in front of him from the Niklaus Woodson disciples who had gone to find him before.

He had never expected that just after he had returned to his residence and sat down to meditate for a short while, such a major incident would unfold outside.

Someone was trying to kill Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, threatening the 'future' of their Niklaus Woodson!

If it had been another time, upon arriving, Noel Walton would undoubtedly have first greeted Elder Ho.

But now, he did not; instead, he bowed slightly towards the group of Niklaus Woodson disciples, and said solemnly, "Thank you, all of you have done well! I believe, with you here, the future of our 'Niklaus Woodson' will surely be bright!"

"Brother Noel Walton is too kind."

"Yes, Brother Noel Walton, it is what we should do."

"Brother Noel Walton, you and Elder Colby are the real heroes of our Niklaus Woodson!"

"What we did was just some insignificant tasks."

...

The group of Niklaus Woodson disciples responded in turn.

"Thank you."

Then, Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow also bowed to the group of Niklaus Woodson disciples.

None of these Niklaus Woodson disciples might have strength comparable to theirs.

But what these Niklaus Woodson disciples had just done had filled them with genuine gratitude.

In response to the thanks from Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, the group of Niklaus Woodson disciples smiled kindly.

"Elder Ho!"

Noel Walton turned and looked towards Elder Ho standing in the distance, his expression hardening, "I wonder how Wyatt and Brady have offended you? What makes you want to kill them?"

Noel Walton's tone was filled with accusatory implications.

"Noel Walton, who do you think you are? How dare you speak to my master like that?"

Elder Ho had yet to speak when Santos Locke already scornfully sneered.

"Santos..."

Elder Ho, sensing that something was amiss, frowned and was just about to intervene.

But before he could speak, he was interrupted by a cold and indifferent voice that descended from the sky.

"If he doesn't qualify, do I?"

The indifferent voice drew the attention of everyone present.

High above, two elderly men descended side by side.

However, the faces of these elderly men looked extremely unpleasant now, especially the one-armed elder who had just spoken, his eyes flickering with utmost iciness.

Like a coiled venomous snake, ready to strike at any moment!

"Elder Sun...Elder Sun, you have returned?"

Seeing the one-armed elder, Gide Ho could not help but be startled; he never expected this elder to return to Niklaus Woodson.

It was known that since ten years ago, when the elder's personal disciple was poached by the Peak Master of Flame Peak, the elder, in a fit of anger, left the Five Elements Sect to go to the Niklaus Woodson branch in Andington.

He had not expected that after ten years, the elder would come back again.

"Who are you?"

Santos Locke clearly did not recognize the one-armed elder, frowned, and asked in a deep voice.

"Santos, cease your impudence! This is Elder Sun, the second strongest in our Niklaus Woodson... and you still haven't apologized to Elder Sun?"

Seeing his disciple daring to confront the elder, Gide Ho's forehead was covered in cold sweat as he hastily shouted.

The second strongest in Niklaus Woodson?

Upon hearing Gide Ho's words, Santos Locke's facial expression completely changed.

"He... He is Elder Ableton Sun?"

At some point, Santos Locke's gaze had landed on the elder's missing arm.

Right after, his body shivered involuntarily as if he had remembered something terrifying.

Although he had only become a student of Gide Ho eight years ago and came to the Five Elements Sect's 'Niklaus Woodson' seven years ago, he had heard of this elder more than once from his master.

This elder, named 'Ableton Sun', was the strongest in Niklaus Woodson right below the Peak Master.

"Elder... Elder Sun."

Santos Locke couldn't help but shiver and nervously lowered his head to salute Ableton Sun, "I... I did not know of Elder Sun's status just now, please forgive me."

"Hmph!"

Ableton Sun snorted coldly, and without any visible movement, a 'bang' resounded.

The next moment, Santos Locke flew out like an arrow released from a bow, vomiting several mouthfuls of congestion midair.

Barely stabilizing himself in the air, Santos Locke, pale as a sheet and with a face full of dread, looked towards Ableton Sun, "Elder Sun, I was wrong! I was truly wrong!"

Santos Locke had no idea when the one-armed elder had made his move; he hadn't been able to react from start to finish.

He knew that if the one-armed elder wanted to kill him, he wouldn't live to take another breath.

"Elder Sun, why did you do this?"

Seeing that his disciple had apologized to Ableton Sun, and yet Ableton Sun still attacked him, Gide Ho's face could hardly contain his displeasure as he asked in a heavy voice.

"Why?"

Ableton Sun glanced at Gide Ho lightly, and the next moment, he vanished from the spot.

When he reappeared, he was at the position Gide Ho had just occupied, while Gide Ho himself was blasted away, following in Santos Locke's footsteps.

"Wyatt Barnes, Brady Yellow... today's events, Niklaus Woodson will give you an explanation!"

Briggs Colby, who had come alongside Ableton Sun, said seriously to Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow.

In the distance, Gide Ho, with a pale face, glared at Ableton Sun, "Ableton Sun, don't think I'm afraid of you just because you are the second strongest in Niklaus Woodson... If you don't give me an explanation for today's events, I will go to the Peak Master to seek justice!"

"Peak Master?"

Hearing Gide Ho's words, Ableton Sun's mouth curled into a cold smirk, "If it weren't me here but the Peak Master instead... do you think, you and your disciple would just endure this punishment?"

"Hmm?"

It had to be said, Ableton Sun's words had frightened Gide Ho.

Straight after, Gide Ho's gaze fell on Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, vaguely realizing that everything was related to these two young men.

Who exactly were these two young men?

Why would a group of Niklaus Woodson disciples willingly protect them?

Why did Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby stand up for them?

At this moment, his mind was filled with nothing but confusion.

"Noel Walton, we rushed here urgently upon hearing that Gide Ho was going to kill Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow... What exactly happened here?"

As the atmosphere turned somewhat strange, Briggs Colby turned to Noel Walton and asked in a deep voice.

Noel Walton took a deep breath, without any concealment, and recounted the events of today when he brought Wyatt Barnes and his two companions here, and how they were stopped by Santos Locke and Callen Hayden.

"Santos Locke and Callen Hayden not only stopped us, but they also repeatedly insulted Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow in their words, calling them 'useless'... many of our brothers and sisters can testify to this."

At this, Noel Walton looked around at the scattered Niklaus Woodson disciples standing nearby.

"That's right! I can testify that Santos Locke and Callen Hayden did insult Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow in that way."

"I can also testify!"

"Had they not been so aggressive, Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow definitely would not have taken action."

"Even a clay figure has its limits, let alone Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow being human... if I were them, I could not have endured such humiliation either!"

...

One after another, the Niklaus Woodson disciples spoke up.

Martial artists, with iron bones and a proud stature, exist between heaven and earth, unyieldable even by the might of the universe.

Better to die standing than to live on one's knees!

To be so humiliated and yet remain indifferent, what use then is the cultivation of one's martial prowess?

If one cannot even protect oneself, how can one protect loved ones around them?

Hearing the corroborative words of a group of Niklaus Woodson disciples, Gide Ho's complexion underwent a complete change.

Chapter 877: Two Demands

Gide Ho had never imagined that his disciple would treat such an important matter so lightly and gloss over it.

If he had known in advance that Wyatt Barnes and his companion had acted out because of such humiliation, he would definitely not have interfered because his side was clearly in the wrong.

"Why didn't you make it clear to me?"

Gide Ho looked at Santos Locke and asked in a deep voice, his complexion extremely ugly.

Santos Locke remained silent.

He naturally could not make this matter clear.

Because he knew that once he made it clear, given his master's character, he would not possibly act against Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow.

However, he had never expected that just as Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow were about to be killed by his master, those disciples from Niklaus Woodson came in great numbers to cause trouble, stopping his master.

The victor becomes king; the loser is the outlaw!

This was the portrayal in Santos Locke's heart.

Nevertheless, Santos Locke was not worried, though he had gone a bit too far in this affair, Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, the two people concerned, were after all safe and sound.

In his view, he was not to pay with his life.

Moreover, Niklaus Woodson at this time was in need of people.

As one of the outstanding youths of the current generation in Niklaus Woodson, he believed that even Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby would not really do anything to him.

Once he falls into trouble, it would be a loss for the entire Niklaus Woodson.

Therefore, he felt fearless and confident.

"After repeated humiliations by Santos Locke and Callen Hayden to Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, the two could no longer bear it and struck together, slapping Santos Locke twice... Following that, Callen Hayden was seriously injured, and his cultivation was crippled."

Noel Walton continued to describe the situation at that time, "At that moment, though Callen Hayden's cultivation was crippled, he would not have fallen to his death if someone had saved him... Callen Hayden once begged Santos Locke for help, but Santos Locke left without looking back, not going to save him."

The surrounding Niklaus Woodson disciples nodded one after another, agreeing with Noel Walton's statement.

Slap!

A crisp slap rang out, drawing everyone's gaze.

It was Gide Ho, in a rage, who had given Santos Locke a slap, striking so hard that Santos Locke turned his head and spat out a mouthful of broken teeth.

Not only that, but half of Santos Locke's face swelled up completely, resembling half a pig's head.

"Master... Master, you..."

Santos Locke was dumbfounded, completely dumbfounded.

This was the first time his master had shown such anger in front of him, the first time he had struck him so harshly, and it was difficult for him to accept it all at once.

"Two young fellows... Now that the truth has come to light, and Gide Ho and his disciple have received their due lesson... Shall we just end it here?"

Having learned the whole story, Ableton Sun glanced coldly over Gide Ho and Santos Locke, the student and teacher, and finally looked towards Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, seeking their opinion.

"Their due lesson?"

Wyatt Barnes scoffed. Just a minor injury, a due lesson?

"Impossible!"

Brady Yellow shook his head and said decisively.

"Heh heh... This Elder Ho was very arrogant just now, saying that Wyatt and I are not 'qualified to be disciples of Niklaus Woodson'! In that case, Wyatt and I have no need for Niklaus Woodson."

Brady Yellow glanced at Gide Ho indifferently and chuckled.

Once Brady Yellow made this statement, not only did the complexions of Ableton Sun, Briggs Colby, and Noel Walton change, but also the expressions of the surrounding Niklaus Woodson disciples shifted completely.

For a moment, a group of Niklaus Woodson disciples glared angrily at Gide Ho.

In their eyes,

if it weren't for what Gide Ho had said, would Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow ever have the thought of leaving Niklaus Woodson?

"The two elders can rest assured, even if Brady and I leave Niklaus Woodson, we will not go to Water Peak, Flame Peak, or Earth Peak... We will head for 'Gold Peak', and I believe Gold Peak will not reject us."

Wyatt Barnes looked at Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby and said indifferently.

"Hmph!"

Just then, Gide Ho snorted coldly, disdainfully saying, "Two ignorant brats! Yes, my disciple was at fault for what happened before, but Elder Sun has already said to let it end here, and yet you dare to push your luck further?"

"Merely having joined forces to cripple the strength of Callen Hayden, who is on par with Santos Locke, do you really think you're so strong? Do you really think you're so important to 'Niklaus Woodson'?"

Toward the end, Gide Ho's gaze towards Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow was filled with contempt.

"Ha ha ha ha..."

Hearing Gide Ho's words, Wyatt Barnes couldn't help but laugh loudly, shrugging indifferently as he looked at Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby, "The two elders can see... Since

Niklaus Woodson doesn't welcome Brady and me, naturally, we won't have the shamelessness to stay here."

"Wyatt, let's go fetch Daisy first and then leave this 'Niklaus Woodson'... I can't stand another moment in this ghost place!"

Brady Yellow said.

"Alright!"

Wyatt Barnes readily agreed.

Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby's expressions changed drastically, both glaring fiercely at Gide Ho, their eyes as sharp as knives, wishing they could flay him a thousand times over.

Now, they understood.

Apparently, Gide Ho had no idea about the real strength of Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow; he thought that they could only just manage to defeat Callen Hayden, who was on par with Santos Locke, by joining forces.

"Wyatt, Brady... wait a moment."

Just at that moment, Noel Walton called out to Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow.

"Noel Walton, whether or not I stay in Niklaus Woodson, you and I will always be friends."

Wyatt Barnes said with a faint smile.

"I feel the same way."

Brady Yellow added.

"Wyatt Barnes, Brady, could you please wait for a moment... just a short moment, is that okay?"

There was an undertone of pleading in Noel Walton's voice.

Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow exchanged a glance and, after reaching an agreement, they nodded to Noel Walton, consenting to his request.

Seeing this, Noel Walton breathed a sigh of relief, and at the same time turned to Gide Ho, who was standing in the distance, and said sternly, "Elder Ho, you said before that it would take both Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow working together to defeat Callen Hayden? To me, that's simply a big joke!"

"Hm?"

Startled by Noel Walton's comments, Gide Ho frowned and questioned, "Isn't that the case?"

That was what his disciple Santos Locke had personally told him. Could it possibly be false?

"That must have been what Santos Locke told you, right? It seems Santos Locke truly despises Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow... To such an extent that for his personal desires, he completely disregards the 'future' of Niklaus Woodson!"

Seeing Gide Ho's current reaction, Noel Walton easily guessed some of the truth and spoke incisively.

The 'future' of Niklaus Woodson!

As soon as Noel Walton mentioned this, Gide Ho's expression changed drastically, and he looked at Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow with disbelief, trembling inside, "Could it be... Could it be that they could disable Callen Hayden in single combat?"

"What?! Santos Locke didn't tell Elder Ho that Brady Yellow crushed Callen Hayden in one encounter, and in the second encounter destroyed Callen Hayden's dantian?"

"Brady Yellow has grasped the 'realm of the Earth.' Even if he strikes in the air, without the assistance of the Earth's power... without using a spiritual weapon, he can invoke the force of heaven and earth to gather the phantoms of one hundred and thirty ancient Horned Dragons!"

"Wyatt Barnes isn't bad either. At such a young age, his strength has already surpassed both my older fellow apprentice, Noel Walton, and that Santos Locke."

"It seems Elder Ho's face looks a bit unpleasant... It appears Santos Locke really didn't clarify to him the true strength of Brady Yellow and Wyatt Barnes."

"Santos Locke is truly selfish! For his own personal gain, he would risk the 'future' of our Niklaus Woodson."

...

A group of Niklaus Woodson disciples chattered amongst themselves, and eventually, they all couldn't help but glare angrily at Santos Locke.

Slap!

Another loud slap rang out; it was Gide Ho delivering another slap to Santos Locke, causing the other half of Santos Locke's previously unswollen face to puff up, turning him into a pig head once again.

Within a single day, Santos Locke was made to look like a pig head twice.

"Beast! You're trying to plunge your master into dishonor!"

The current Gide Ho was like an angry tiger who, despite wanting to eat Santos Locke alive, ultimately couldn't bring himself to do it.

Santos Locke didn't beg for mercy and continued to keep silent.

He knew that at this time, silence was his best 'umbrella.'

"Wyatt Barnes, Brady Yellow!"

Soon, Gide Ho took a deep breath, looked at Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, and deeply bowed to them, "I apologize for what I said before... No matter what, please, you must stay. Stay at Niklaus Woodson!"

"Niklaus Woodson can no longer withstand any turmoil... Niklaus Woodson needs people like you to create its future, and Niklaus Woodson's disciples need people like you to stand up for them so that they can raise their heads high and breathe easy."

Gide Ho's words were exceedingly sincere.

Ever since knowing the 'strength' of Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, he seemed to have become a different person, one who put the future of Niklaus Woodson above all else.

"Hmph!"

Wyatt Barnes let out a cold snort, ignoring Gide Ho.

"Do you think the things you and your disciple have done to me and Wyatt Barnes can be resolved with just a few apologies? If it were really that simple, then everyone might as well stop cultivating and self-destruct their cultivation."

Brady Yellow said coldly.

"As long as you're willing to stay, whatever it is, I'll agree to it!"

Gide Ho said earnestly.

"Are you sure?"

A colder smile appeared on Brady Yellow's face.

"Yes!"

Gide Ho nodded.

"Alright... since you're so straightforward, I won't beat around the bush. If you agree to my two conditions, I will continue to stay in Niklaus Woodson and guarantee I won't join any of the other four peaks."

Brady Yellow slowly stated.

"What about him?"

Gide Ho looked towards Wyatt Barnes.

"I can't decide for him."

Brady Yellow shook his head.

"Brady, what are you making him agree to?"

Wyatt Barnes asked curiously, using Origin Force to convey his words.

Soon, Wyatt Barnes received Brady Yellow's reply and couldn't help but gasp in shock, responding with Origin Force in astonishment, "Brady, you're really ruthless!"

"Heh heh. It's their fault for messing with Brother Brady... especially that old guy; he almost got rid of me just now."

Remembering the scene from before, Brady Yellow couldn't help but feel a little frightened.

"As long as you agree to Brady's two conditions... I will stay in Niklaus Woodson with Brady and won't join any of the other four peaks."

Wyatt Barnes's gaze rested on Gide Ho, who was looking intently at him, and said flatly.

Upon hearing this, Gide Ho's eyes lit up, and he hastily turned to Brady Yellow, asking eagerly, "What are your conditions, please tell me."

Now, Gide Ho completely lacked the 'high stance' he previously held when facing Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow.

Chapter 878: The Second Demand

"The first demand: you, cripple your own cultivation!"

As soon as Brady Yellow spoke, it was like a thunderclap, causing the faces of everyone present except Wyatt Barnes to change.

They had never imagined that Brady Yellow would make such an absurd demand.

Asking a Niklaus Woodson elder to cripple his cultivation, wasn't this a joke?

"What, you're unwilling?"

Watching Gide Ho's face drastically change, Wyatt couldn't help but sneer, "Don't forget, just now Brady and I were almost killed by you... Now, we aren't even asking for your life, just your cultivation, which is already very merciful of us."

Hearing Wyatt's words, the surrounding disciples of Niklaus Woodson were left speechless.

This could be called merciful?

Gide Ho, a Niklaus Woodson elder, a presence at the sixth level of the Transforming Void Realm.

His cultivation was the result of training and accumulating over most of his lifetime.

Once crippled, one could imagine, he would rather be dead than alive!

"Wyatt, don't be too excessive!"

Having remained silent all this while, Santos Locke finally couldn't help but shout.

"Santos Locke, shut your mouth! Now is not your turn to speak! Believe it or not, if you dare to waste another word, Brady and I will immediately leave Niklaus Woodson!"

Wyatt coldly glanced at Santos Locke and said sternly.

"What Wyatt means, is what I mean too,"

Brady Yellow chimed in.

"You impudent fool, shut up!"

Gide Ho's face darkened, and he shouted, "If you dare say another word... today, I as your master, will end you personally!"

Santos Locke's face turned ugly, but he also dared not speak any further.

He knew his master's temper all too well, who definitely would do as he said.

"Young fellows."

Ableton Sun looked at Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, frowning, "Can't you make another demand? Elder Ho, after all, is a pillar of Niklaus Woodson, you..."

"Elder Sun, Brady and I don't specifically insist on him crippling his own cultivation..."

Wyatt unceremoniously interrupted Ableton Sun's words and said indifferently.

"That's good."

Ableton Sun wasn't angered by Wyatt's interruption but instead heaved a sigh of relief.

"But if he doesn't meet this demand, we will leave Niklaus Woodson immediately!"

Wyatt continued the words he hadn't finished saying.

At once, Ableton Sun's face drastically changed.

He had never thought that Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow would be so stubborn, and from their words, it seemed they absolutely wanted to cripple Gide Ho's cultivation before they would give up.

However, after a second thought, he realized why.

According to what Wyatt had said earlier, they had almost died at Gide Ho's hands.

Putting oneself in their shoes, such a demand couldn't be considered excessive.

The thoughts of Ableton Sun were exactly what the surrounding disciples of Niklaus Woodson were thinking.

After being shocked by the demand made by Brady Yellow, they recalled the events that had occurred earlier and couldn't help but feel relieved.

If they were in Brady Yellow's place, they too would make the same decision.

"Brady, it seems Elder Ho still hasn't made up his mind... Let's go."

Wyatt glanced at Gide Ho, whose face was constantly changing, shook his head, and called out to Brady Yellow, preparing to leave.

"Wait!"

Just as Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow were about to leave, Gide Ho finally spoke up, his whole demeanor appearing to age a dozen years instantly.

"The events of today, ultimately, although brought about by this impudent disciple of mine, I myself am not without blame... Therefore, I once again apologize to you."

Gide Ho once again bowed towards Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, but the latter only looked at him coldly.

Boom!

Just then, Gide Ho acted, lightning-fast, his hand striking where his core was located.

Whoosh!

The next moment, a vast, nearly liquefied Origin Force poured out from Gide Ho's core, instantly merging into the void, disappearing without a trace.

As for Gide Ho himself, his face ashen, his body fell downwards.

Without his cultivation, he no longer had the ability to fly.

All this happened in the blink of an eye, so fast that most of those present hadn't even had time to react.

"Sigh."

Ableton Sun let out a sigh, and with a raise of his hand, an invisible force swept out, lifting the crippled Gide Ho, preventing him from falling to his death.

"You, take Elder Ho down to rest."

Ableton Sun looked at a Niklaus Woodson disciple.

"Yes, Elder Sun."

The addressed Niklaus Woodson disciple respectfully complied, helping Gide Ho to leave.

At this moment, including Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, everyone regained their senses, but shock was written all over their faces, evidently none had expected Gide Ho to actually go through with it.

"This Gide Ho, indeed dares to act... A cultivation of 'sixth level of the Transforming Void Realm,' disposed just like that, without any hesitation! I must admit, he is a qualified Niklaus Woodson elder."

Wyatt's eyes lost their hatred, replaced by admiration.

A Transforming Void Realm sixth-level martial artist was willing to cripple his own cultivation for the future of Niklaus Woodson...

Just this alone had earned him Wyatt's respect.

"It's just a pity, he had poor judgment in choosing a selfish disciple, which ruined his entire life."

Brady Yellow's eyes flashed as he spoke slowly.

"Master!"

Just then, Santos Locke, standing in the distance, cried out in sorrow and immediately moved, swiftly chasing in the direction Gide Ho had left.

"Trying to leave?"

As soon as Santos Locke started to move, Brady Yellow, who had been watching him, followed in pursuit. With Brady's strength, he caught up with Santos Locke in an instant and stopped him.

Seeing Brady Yellow appear before him, Santos Locke's expression darkened, and he then looked at Ableton Sun, "Elder Sun, my master is old, and now his cultivation has been crippled... I want to go take care of him."

At this point, Santos Locke played the 'emotional card'.

He knew clearly that after his master had crippled his own cultivation to satisfy the first demand Brady Yellow made, Brady would definitely make a second demand.

The second demand, he didn't even need to think about it, he could guess it was related to him.

Therefore, he only wanted to leave this place of conflict as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, he had just moved when he was stopped by Brady Yellow.

"Hmph!"

Hearing Santos Locke's words, Ableton Sun snorted coldly, his wise eyes stared at Santos Locke as if piercing through everything, "Don't think I don't know what's on your mind... A selfish person like you, how could you truly care about Elder Ho."

"Little fellow, what's your second demand?"

Ableton Sun glanced at Brady Yellow, then turned his gaze to Wyatt Barnes.

"Wyatt, you say it," Brady Yellow said to Wyatt with a sly laugh.

At the same time, his eyes locked tightly on Santos Locke, like a hunter eyeing his prey.

"Our second demand is simple... This Santos Locke can choose anyone between us to engage in a 'Life and Death Battle'! If he can last three breaths, we won't hold past grievances and will stay in Niklaus Woodson."

"Even if he is killed by the person he selects from us within three breaths, we will still stay in Niklaus Woodson and represent it in the 'Battle of the Five Peaks' to fight for Niklaus Woodson's glory!"

Wyatt's words rang out clearly and forcefully.

Wow!

Wyatt's words, like a stone causing a thousand ripples, made a group of Niklaus Woodson disciples gasp in astonishment.

"Three breaths? Are they underestimating Santos Locke?"

"If Santos Locke fought Brady Yellow, he might not last three breaths. But now, letting Santos Locke pick anyone among them for a 'Life and Death Battle'... the variables have increased."

"If Santos Locke chooses Wyatt, he might just make it past three breaths."

...

For a time, the majority of Niklaus Woodson disciples thought Wyatt and Brady Yellow were intentionally giving Santos Locke a chance.

Only Ableton Sun, Briggs Colby, and Noel Walton, who were aware of Wyatt's strength, understood.

Wyatt's strength far exceeded Brady Yellow's, and to kill Santos Locke, he might not even need a single breath.

"Okay! I accept your demand," Santos Locke's expression changed rapidly, and he finally gritted his teeth and agreed.

"Elder Sun, please witness the agreement between them," Santos Locke looked at Ableton Sun, his tone suggesting he was fearful that Wyatt and Brady might go back on their word.

"You choose any one of them for the 'Life and Death Battle'... Just last three breaths, and I assure you safety!" Ableton Sun responded without refusal.

Of course, he knew his words were redundant, as Santos Locke couldn't possibly last three breaths against Wyatt or Brady.

The wind gently blew, carrying with it a hint of chilliness.

In the sky above, a group of onlooking Niklaus Woodson disciples watched Santos Locke unblinkingly.

Though they were mentally prepared and guessed Santos Locke would surely choose Wyatt, they were still somewhat expectant when Santos Locke made his choice.

"Wyatt Barnes!"

As the majority of Niklaus Woodson disciples thought, Santos Locke's gaze locked onto Wyatt, seeing him as the 'easier target'.

Seeing Santos Locke choose Wyatt, Brady Yellow's face revealed a smile of successful scheming, "This Santos Locke dares to challenge Wyatt... truly seeking his own death!"

The current Brady Yellow seemed to have completely forgotten that even if Santos Locke didn't choose Wyatt but had chosen him, he still wouldn't escape death.

In a moment, surrounded by a group of Niklaus Woodson disciples, the two stood facing each other.

Wyatt Barnes, Santos Locke.

Santos Locke stood in mid-air and immediately took out his spiritual weapon, a third-grade spirit sword rotating with shimmering lights, seemingly seeking a sense of security.

Now, as he stared at Wyatt, his breathing became rapid, his forehead began to sweat coldly, and he was extremely nervous.

On the other hand, Wyatt stood there quietly, unmovable as a mountain.

From beginning to end, he hadn't really looked at Santos Locke, his distracted gaze making it less like a 'Life and Death Battle' and more as if he were daydreaming.

Humiliation!

Blatant humiliation!

Wyatt's attitude made Santos Locke's anger surge, and he gripped the hilt of his third-grade spirit sword tighter, ready to strike at any moment.

"Today, Niklaus Woodson disciple Wyatt Barnes and Santos Locke are engaged in a 'Life and Death Battle'... Should either person die, the Sect will not hold the survivor accountable! All Niklaus Woodson disciples present are witnesses."

Ableton Sun's voice boomed like a bell, spreading around, "Begin!"

Chapter 879: Aren't You Already Dead?

Ableton Sun's voice had barely faded when Santos Locke made his move, opting for a pre-emptive strike.

Whoosh!

Santos Locke moved like a roaming dragon, shooting towards Wyatt Barnes. His third-grade spirit sword ripped through the sky, emitting a series of piercing sword cries.

Roaming Dragon Sword Technique!

As Santos Locke struck with his sword, it seemed to perfectly synchronize with his body. If his body was like that of a dragon, then the sword in his hand was like the dragon's claw.

The sharp claw of the dragon tore through the air, showing no mercy as it clawed its way towards Wyatt Barnes.

Faced with Santos Locke's fierce sword strike, Wyatt Barnes lazily stretched his body and then yawned indolently.

Seeing this scene, the group of Niklaus Woodson disciples were left speechless.

Santos Locke, perhaps not as strong as Wyatt Barnes, was nevertheless not far behind.

In their view, Wyatt Barnes was being too arrogant and was likely to suffer for it.

After all, Wyatt Barnes had not even taken out his spirit weapon yet.

Whoosh!

As Santos Locke, together with his sword, swept towards Wyatt Barnes, one hundred and forty ancient Horned Dragon phantoms galloped out from the void above, their aura like a rainbow, ferociously pouncing towards Wyatt Barnes.

Thousand Illusions!

As Santos Locke closed in on him, sword in hand, within a mere arm's reach, Wyatt Barnes, who had been ready for a while, sent his concentrated spiritual power into the 'Soul Brand' deep within his soul, casting a Soul Technique directly.

An illusory space appeared, enveloping the several dozen meter radius surrounding Wyatt Barnes.

Santos Locke was now right within the coverage of this illusory space.

Wind Swooping Through Fallen Leaves!

Faced with Santos Locke's incoming sword strike, Wyatt Barnes flashed to the side, avoiding it.

The onlooking group of Niklaus Woodson disciples then widened their eyes in shock, some with mouths agape, unable to close them for a long time.

All of this because they witnessed a scene they would never forget.

They clearly saw that as they could visually track Wyatt Barnes dodging to the side,

Santos Locke, who by all accounts should have been far stronger than them, seemed not to notice at all and continued to thrust his sword towards where Wyatt Barnes had been.

His piercing gaze remained fixed on the air in front of him, as if Wyatt Barnes were still there.

"What is Santos Locke doing?"

"Is he blind? Didn't he see that Wyatt Barnes has already moved to the side?"

"If he doesn't pull back now, he's going to completely expose his back to Wyatt Barnes!"

...

The sight before them left the group of Niklaus Woodson disciples dumbstruck, unable to understand why Santos Locke would make such an obvious mistake.

Only a few who knew the details about Wyatt Barnes understood why Santos Locke was behaving this way.

Santos Locke had not made a mistake.

In fact, in the 'world' that Santos Locke saw, 'Wyatt Barnes' never dodged from the beginning to the end, which is why he continued to thrust his sword unrelentingly.

Whoosh!

Wyatt Barnes, having sidestepped to the side, raised his hand and Origin Force ran wild, then turned into a series of chilling whirlwinds, wrapping around the palm of his hand and converging together.

In the void above his head, extraordinary phenomena gradually took shape.

First, seventy ancient Horned Dragon phantoms appeared, followed by forty more, making a total of one hundred and ten ancient Horned Dragon phantoms spiraling down, as if narrating Wyatt Barnes' current strength.

Cave Void Realm, fifth layer.

Wind realm, intermediate third layer.

"It's over... Santos Locke is finished!"

Seeing that Santos Locke was still unaware of Wyatt Barnes and remained unswervingly fixed in his momentum, thrusting his sword towards Wyatt Barnes' former position, many Niklaus Woodson disciples sighed.

Whoosh!

Santos Locke, together with his sword, charged forward, passing in front of Wyatt Barnes, completely exposing his back to him.

Wyatt Barnes had long since raised his primed palm and shook it fiercely, accompanied by dull sounds of air bursting, and slammed it hard into Santos Locke's back.

Bang!

A loud noise ensued, and Santos Locke was sent flying by Wyatt Barnes' palm, vomiting several mouthfuls of blood before he could barely stabilize his form.

"Who?!"

Santos Locke hastily turned around, and with one glance, he saw Wyatt Barnes standing there and his face changed dramatically.

"You... how can you be there? Aren't you... Aren't you already dead?"

Looking at the Wyatt Barnes before him, Santos Locke felt as if he had seen a ghost.

Just now, his sword had clearly pierced into 'Wyatt Barnes' chest, killing 'Wyatt Barnes'.

Yet, just as he was excitedly contemplating his successful strike, he felt a vast force from behind him, landing on his body and sending him flying with severe injuries.

At first, he thought Brady Yellow must have launched a sneak attack on him, unwilling to accept Wyatt Barnes' death.

But when he turned his head, he was shocked to discover a terrifying truth.

'Wyatt Barnes', who should have been slain by him, stood before him completely unscathed, which was hard for him to accept.

"I'm already dead?"

Facing the flustered Santos Locke, Wyatt Barnes sneered, "Do you think... just by your power, you can kill me?"

Just now, he had used the Soul Technique 'Thousand Illusions' to bewilder Santos Locke, making him kill the illusory 'him' in the illusory space, intending to let Santos Locke come to him willingly.

Everything that followed was within his control.

After he critically injured Santos Locke, he withdrew the Soul Technique 'Thousand Illusions', exposing his true self before Santos Locke's eyes.

Santos Locke stared at Wyatt, clearly as shocked as if he had seen a ghost.

After all, in that illusory space, Locke had already killed the 'him' that was conjured up, and Locke had no idea that such a space of illusion even existed.

"Impossible... How is this possible? How could something like this happen... It's not possible, not possible!!"

Locke had a vacant look in his eyes, shaking his head continuously, somewhat hysterically.

"One more breath's time left!"

Just then, Ableton Sun's voice came through.

The surrounding disciples of Niklaus Woodson, one by one, brightened up their eyes, staring intently at Wyatt Barnes and Santos Locke, all wanting to know if Locke could hold on for one more breath's time.

If he could, he would survive.

If not, he would die here.

Run!

The sound of Ableton Sun's voice entering Locke's ears was like a death knell, causing him to dare not be distracted by anything else, with only the thought of getting away from Wyatt Barnes remaining in his mind.

As long as he could last through this final breath of time, he could survive.

As for anything else, he was too lazy to think about it and did not dare to.

At this moment, the only thought in his mind was to survive!

But could he survive?

Just as Locke made his move to flee, and he had action to show for it.

Whoosh!

A swift purple figure appeared beside him like a ghost, frightening him almost out of his wits.

"No!!"

Seeing Wyatt Barnes, who was nearly within arm's reach, Locke's face changed dramatically, and as he shouted out loud, he trembled the third-grade spirit sword in his hand, stabbing toward Wyatt.

Swish!

A faint sound of a sword's cry arose only to stop abruptly a moment later, fleeting as a flash.

The next moment, all the onlookers clearly saw.

A fine sword mark suddenly appeared on Locke's throat.

In an instant, the sword mark spread open like a blooming flower, uncontrollably spurting out dazzling, eye-piercing fresh blood all over Locke's body.

Immediately afterwards, Locke's gaze became vacant, and the hand that was stabbing at Wyatt Barnes froze midair, continuing forward with reduced speed.

Following along was Locke's corpse, which instantly lost all signs of life.

Locke's body plummeted down and after a moment, crashed onto the cliffside on Niklaus Woodson's side, turning into a pool of gore.

Silence.

The scene was deathly still.

The Woodson disciples' gazes were withdrawn, with an implicit consensus falling on the purple-clothed youth not far away, all filled with shock.

Unbeknownst to them, a three-foot green blade had appeared in the hands of the purple-clothed youth.

That fleeting cry of the sword, was precisely the sound emitted when the three-foot green blade swept out from his hand.

Sword Drawing Technique!

It was the technique that Wyatt Barnes used to shadow Locke closely and finish him with one sword thrust to the throat.

The technique wasn't high-level, but it highly valued speed.

With Wyatt's current strength and the activation of the Sword Drawing Technique, the speed was alarming to an extreme degree.

At least, among those present, only Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby could see it clearly.

Even Brady Yellow, who was on the same level as Wyatt as a 'Cave Void Realm quintuple martial artist,' failed to capture that fleeting flash of the sword.

Whoosh!

As Wyatt raised his hand, the third-grade spirit sword was stored away in his Storage Ring.

At the same time, the nearly one hundred and sixty ancient Horned Dragon phantom images above the void dissipated, vanishing without a trace.

"Wyatt's sword just now was so fast!"

"Yeah. From start to finish, we only heard that ephemeral sound of the sword's cry... By the time we realized what happened, Locke was already dead."

"However, it's also because Locke was already injured. Otherwise, he might not have been caught up to by Wyatt."

"Speaking of Locke's injuries, I'm still a bit confused... After Wyatt dodged, why did he keep charging forward and expose his back to Wyatt?"

"The strangest part is, after being severely wounded by Wyatt, when Locke turned around and looked at Wyatt, he actually said that Wyatt was already dead?"

"I guess his competitive spirit got the better of him, leading to hallucinations. That would explain everything... Because of the hallucinations, he would have exposed his back to Wyatt."

...

A group of Woodson disciples were all abuzz with discussions, which were all about the scene from the fight between Wyatt Barnes and Santos Locke.

"Haha... Wyatt, impressive!"

As Wyatt sheathed his sword, Brady Yellow laughed heartily, giving him a thumbs-up, "That Locke is a fool... daring to pick you, a freak."

"He wouldn't have picked you, would he?"

Wyatt gave Brady a sidelong glance, "With the likes of you taking action, I'm afraid he would have been killed in one encounter... At least, I let him live for two breaths' time."

Not far away, Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby exchanged glances and sighed.

Their sighs were not for Locke's death, but for Gide Ho's self-imposed destruction of his cultivation.

Gide Ho, an elder of Woodson, was an existence at the sixth level of the Transforming Void Realm.

The self-destruction of such an existence was a tremendous loss for Woodson.

Chapter 880: The Ingrate 'Tatum Cruz

No matter what, today's events have finally come to a close.

However, the news of Niklaus Woodson Elder 'Gide Ho' crippling his own cultivation spread throughout the entire Wood Peak at an incredibly fast pace, even reaching the other four peaks of the Five Elements Sect.

In no time, the members from all peaks of the Five Elements Sect were almost all aware of the incident where two newly arrived disciples at Wood Peak had forced Gide Ho to cripple his own cultivation.

Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow became thoroughly famous!

Earth Peak.

Although Earth Peak is the shortest of the Five Peaks of the Five Elements Sect, it's only relatively so when compared to the other four peaks. When compared to other mountains, Earth Peak is still remarkably prominent.

The summit of Earth Peak pierces into the clouds, and from a distance, one cannot make out what lies atop.

On one side of the mountain, halfway up, there is a vast platform, and on this platform stands a sprawling palace.

This is the 'Council Palace' of Earth Peak.

Normally, the upper echelons of Earth Peak convene here for discussions.

"Peak Master."

The dust-covered old man stood in the middle of the Council Palace, looking towards the chubby middle-aged man seated in the highest place, respectfully performing a salutation.

The chubby middle-aged man was adorned in an earthy yellow robe. His body was bulging and squat, standing just about 1.5 meters tall.

"Elder Don, what brings you back?"

The short middle-aged chubby man was none other than the Peak Master of Earth Peak, 'Frank Field.' His tiny eyes, already mostly obscured by chubby cheeks, were narrowed into slits, giving him an innocuous appearance.

The old man was 'Matthew Don,' who had hurried back from Andington, the leader of Earth Peak's stronghold in that city.

"Peak Master, I have returned because there is an urgent matter I must report."

Matthew Don said respectfully.

"Is it regarding the return of that 'Ableton Sun' from Wood Peak to Andington, as well as the matter of Wood Peak recruiting two young powerhouses?"

Frank Field asked indifferently.

"Peak Master, you... you already know?"

Surprised, Matthew Don then asked with confusion, "However, Peak Master, you spoke of two young powerhouses? To my knowledge, the people of Wood Peak seem to have recruited only one noteworthy young powerhouse."

"Your information is outdated,"

Frank Field shook his head. "I received the news half an hour ago... Those two new young powerhouses who just arrived at Wood Peak have caused a huge commotion as soon as they got there."

"Oh?"

Matthew Don's eyes flashed with curiosity.

"Upon their arrival at Wood Peak, they killed a disciple whose strength was comparable to Noel Walton and Santos Locke, a prospective disciple of Wood Peak... That disciple was brought back by Wood Peak's 'Gide Ho.'

Frank Field stated.

Upon hearing this, Matthew Don was startled.

Although he knew Wood Peak had recruited a young powerhouse who could easily defeat Noel Walton, he did not expect him to be so audacious as to create such a stir upon arrival, let alone that the killed disciple was someone Gide Ho had brought back.

Gide Ho, an Elder of Wood Peak, like him, was a practitioner of the 'Transforming Void Realm Sixth Layer.' His status in Wood Peak was no lower than his own in Earth Peak.

"Gide Ho wouldn't just let this go, would he?"

Matthew Don's eyes glittered as he asked.

He had a deep understanding of Gide Ho's explosive temper.

"Gide Ho?"

Frank Field scoffed, "He indeed wouldn't let it go... However, the outcome may surprise you."

"Did Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby intervene?"

Hearing Frank Field's words, Matthew Don faintly realized that the two young powerhouses brought back by Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby to Wood Peak probably were not harmed by Gide Ho.

"Not only did they intervene... When Gide Ho tried to kill those two young powerhouses, all the Wood Peak disciples present at the scene stepped forward, surrounding the two protectively, not letting Gide Ho touch a single hair on their heads!"

As he said this, Frank Field sighed, "Although Wood Peak has fallen, the unity of its disciples is far beyond what we, the Earth Peak disciples, can match."

When Frank Field first heard this news, the first thought that crossed his mind was not how remarkable the two young powerhouses were but how shocked he was by the solidarity of the Wood Peak disciples.

When there's unity, what can't be accomplished?

Hisss!

Matthew Don took in a sharp breath, "I really didn't expect those two, brought back by Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby, to possess such a strong appeal... It seems that the Wood Peak disciples see them as the hope of Wood Peak."

Murmuring to himself, a sliver of cold light flashed in Matthew Don's eyes.

As someone from Earth Peak, he naturally did not wish for Wood Peak to rise again. Should Wood Peak ascend, it would mean that Earth Peak might once again become the bottom-ranked peak.

Twenty years ago, when Wood Peak was at its zenith, it was Earth Peak that languished at the bottom.

"With their strength, they indeed qualify to be seen as the hope of Wood Peak's future. However, due to Gide Ho's actions, they have now developed the intention to leave Wood Peak..."

Frank Field continued.

"Hm?"

Upon hearing this, Matthew Don first blinked in surprise, and then his eyes lit up with excitement. "Peak Master, our Earth Peak could try to pull them over to our side! I didn't think of that—Gide Ho actually helped us."

"Hear me out."

Interrupted by Matthew Don, Frank Field showed some dissatisfaction. After Matthew Don embarrassingly shut his mouth, Frank resumed, "At the crucial moment, Ableton Sun and Briggs Colby appeared..."

Then, Frank Field relayed to Matthew Don all the news he had heard earlier.

Including the fact that the Niklaus Woodson elder 'Gide Ho' was forced to cripple his own cultivation, as well as the matter of Gide Ho's direct disciple 'Santos Locke' being killed.

"What?! Gide Ho actually agreed to their demands and crippled his own cultivation?"

Matthew Don's pupils constricted in shock.

Gide Ho, a powerhouse of the sixth level of the Transforming Void Realm, had agreed to the ridiculous demands of two young upstarts and voluntarily crippled the cultivation he spent most of his lifetime achieving.

In his view, Gide Ho's act was simply foolish!

But he could not help but admire Gide Ho's resolve; to take responsibility for the mistakes he had committed for the uncertain 'future' of Niklaus Woodson, he resolutely crippled his own cultivation.

Gide Ho, respectable indeed!

"That Gide Ho, I never paid much attention to him before... Yet who would have thought, when faced with a critical decision, he could do such a thing."

Even Frank Field, the Earth Peak Master, could not help showing a trace of respect when mentioning Gide Ho now.

"After Gide Ho's commotion, it's impossible for Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow to leave Niklaus Woodson and switch their allegiance to our Earth Peak... such a pity."

Matthew Don was clear in his mind that Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow, who had promised in front of two Niklaus Woodson elders and a group of disciples, could no longer switch their allegiance to any other peak among the Five Elements Sect.

Not to mention whether Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow were willing, even if they were, Niklaus Woodson would not let the matter rest easy.

By that time, even the 'Peak Master of Niklaus Woodson' would likely intervene.

Niklaus Woodson, though on the decline, was limited only to the younger generation's decline.

The older generation of powerhouses of Niklaus Woodson were only second to the prime peak of the Five Elements Sect, 'Gold Peak'.

That Peak Master of Niklaus Woodson, more than twenty years ago, was second only to the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect, the second strongest of the sect. Even though he suffered injuries later, after so many years, even severe injuries should have healed.

It was precisely because the Peak Master of Niklaus Woodson disdained to stoop to such 'minor matters' that Earth Peak, along with Water Peak and Flame Peak, had dared to poach from Niklaus Woodson multiple times over the years.

But this time, it was not a minor matter, but one concerning the cultivation of a sixth-level Transforming Void Realm elder from Niklaus Woodson.

If Wyatt Barnes and Brady Yellow went back on their word, the Peak Master of Niklaus Woodson would likely be the first to strike them down!

This, Matthew Don had no doubt.

"My return this time was mainly to notify you, Peak Master, about the young powerhouse Niklaus Woodson recruited... but it turns out, Niklaus Woodson didn't just recruit a young powerhouse, but also caused such a big commotion."

Matthew Don sighed, "It seems I've made a wasted trip this time."

"Not exactly a wasted trip... Since you've come back this time, stay and give some guidance to those youngsters. In a little while, it will be the 'Battle of the Five Peaks'."

Frank Field's eyes flashed with a cold gleam passing through them, "The rise of Niklaus Woodson is inevitable! But I believe, none of us in Earth Peak would want to come in last in this 'Battle of the Five Peaks'."

Moreover, the ranking of this battle is tied to the spots for entering 'that place'... For Earth Peak, the implication is extraordinary!"

By the end, Frank Field's eyes were shimmering with intense desire.

Matthew Don nodded vigorously, fully aware of the significance of 'that place' to the Five Elements Sect and to Earth Peak.

On a platform halfway up Flame Peak.

Three Flame Peak disciples were gathered, chatting and laughing casually.

"Have you guys heard about the incident at Niklaus Woodson?"

Suddenly, one of the Flame Peak disciples turned serious and asked the other two.

"Heard about it. Never expected that Niklaus Woodson this time would find such outstanding young powerhouses... To keep those two young powerhouses, the elder 'Gide Ho' of Niklaus Woodson, a sixth-level existence of the Transforming Void Realm, even crippled his own cultivation! Niklaus Woodson is very determined this time."

"It is said that those two young powerhouses were brought back by Niklaus Woodson's 'Elder Ableton Sun' and 'Elder Briggs Colby'."

"Elder Ableton Sun? You mean Tatum Cruz's former Master? The second strongest in Niklaus Woodson?"

"Yes, that's him! They say that after Tatum Cruz was poached to our Flame Peak by the 'Peak Master' ten years ago, Elder Ableton Sun, in utter fury, severed one of his arms and afterward left the sect, only to return now."

"No way? Even if Tatum Cruz betrayed him, did he have to maim himself?"

"You don't know the whole story... It's said when Elder Ableton Sun found Tatum Cruz, he was an orphan chased by a pack of wolves and fell off a sheer cliff! It was Elder Ableton Sun who happened to pass by and saved him, bringing him back to the Five Elements Sect's Niklaus Woodson and nurturing him to success."

"I've heard too... The arm Elder Ableton Sun cut off himself seemed to be the very one that had grabbed Tatum Cruz and saved him. His actions clearly showed he regretted saving a 'thankless wolf' back then."

...

The three Flame Peak disciples discussed animatedly, with derision toward 'Tatum Cruz' evident in their words.

"You three... Do you not know that discussing others behind their back is very impolite?"

Then, out of nowhere, a cold voice reached their ears.

Subsequently, a young man shrouded in a fiery red robe appeared before the three Flame Peak disciples.