

Slaughter 61

Chapter 61 - Leaders of the Third Generation

The Merchant Union was becoming quite lively.

The five families were still trying to find a guy named 'Ding Yan', when the Misty Pavilion also stepped in, searching everywhere for someone named 'Yang Hai'. But the Misty Pavilion was not as outrageous in their search, they adopted the bribing method. As long as you can prove that your name is Yang Hai, you can come to the Misty Pavilion to receive a thousand purple crystal coins.

Since the Martial Competition was about to be held, there was an endless stream of people in the Merchant Union. Although the actions of the five families and the Misty Pavilion confused many, most people still came for the Martial Competition.

Quickly, the restaurants and inns of Tianyun City were packed.

The warriors and mercenaries that come from the Dark Forest, Dead Swamp and Cloud Mountain were all hardened fighters. Even in Tianyun City they were restless, often causing conflicts, and killing each other.

Be it day or night, there were more than enough fighting warriors in Tianyun City. Every morning, the cleaning staff would often find new corpses in the ditches.

Three more days remained until the Martial Competition.

Early in the morning, Zuo Xu was resting with his eyes closed, when he heard Zuo Shi speaking outside, "Huh, old man you came?"

"How many times did I tell you, don't call me old man in front of others!" From outside came Chi Xiao's frustrated voice.

"You are just a little old man, it's an old habit, I can't change it." Zuo Shi wasn't afraid of him, as she laughed outside the doors.

Zuo Xu was suddenly excited as he suddenly stood up and rushed out to greet the guest. "You're finally here!" he thought.

...

The Shi family

In the heavy weights room stood a wrinkled old crone. She held a paintbrush, and was putting a few heavy marks on Shi Yan's brows.

Shi Yan stood in silence, carefully watching the old crone's actions.

After a long while, the crone took back her hand. She stared closely at Shi Yan for a while, and then nodded in satisfaction, "During my visit every day, I have been changing his appearance slightly each time. Even those who are close to him wouldn't notice such slow changes. His appearance now is much different from how it was a month ago, and nobody would be able to recognize him."

Shi Yan's skin was a lot darker now, his brows thick, and his figure looked quite a bit sturdier.

From how he had looked before, he now looked less fierce and more rugged. Whether it be appearance or temperament, there was a significant change.

Especially after coming back from the Dark Forest, he had grown taller and became more robust. Plus he got fixed up by the disguise artist. Compared with the time when he was in the Dark Forest, he truly looked like another person.

Shi Jian stared at Shi Yan for a moment, then nodded and said, "Good, there should be no problem."

Shi Yan observed himself in the mirror, and was also quite satisfied: "Alright, hmm, isn't the Martial Competition starting?"

"Three more days, so you don't need to train hard these three days, just relax a little bit." Shi Jian finally let go, but suddenly he thought of something, and then rebuked with a straight face, "Relaxing does not mean fooling around! Don't think for a moment that I don't know what you and Han Zhong did together! Hmph, if you waste your energy on women, I'll skin you alive!"

"Stop nagging." Shi Yan looked annoyed and said, "I'll go take a shower, then go drink a little with Han Zhong. Is that okay with you?"

"Okay."

...

Spring Pavilion

This was a very well-known restaurant in Tianyun city. Here not only was the food delicious, but they had the famous 'Flame' wine that was popular throughout the Merchant Union.

Aside from that, the Spring Pavilion was also close to the Moon Lake. Sitting in the open third floor of the Spring Pavilion, eating delicacies, drinking fine wine, and enjoying the beautiful view, was a great pleasure in life.

If you could hold a beauty in your arms at the same time, then that would be called perfection.

However, not just anyone can get to the third floor of the Spring Pavilion. Even if you were rich enough, without status, you'd only be allowed up to the second floor.

The third floor of the Spring Pavilion was usually reserved for guests from the five families. Only those from the five families could head straight to third floor when they came in, normal merchants would not have such an honor.

Han Zhong led Shi Yan to the Spring Pavilion. After they arrived, a cute receptionist immediately came over smiling, "Mister Han, please step upstairs."

Han Zhong squinted as his eyes circled the girl, and complimented: "Xiao Feng, your thing got a lot bigger!" Then he stopped, and lasciviously stared at the girl's breasts.

"You're the worst, Mister Han, always staring at that place." The girl smiled shyly, having a style of her own. She pointed up and said: "There are other guests up there, they are the young masters and mistresses of the Mo and Ling families. Mister Han, you should be prepared."

"No worries." Han Zhong smiled, and stopped teasing the girl. He grabbed Shi Yan and brought him straight up the third floor.

"Hey!" A tall lad wearing a navy warrior outfit sat at a good seat on the third floor, and squinted at Han Zhong, and sneered, "Here I was thinking who could it be, and it's the Shi family's dog."

That seat faces right towards the Moon Lake. There sat four people, two men and two women, all looking quite attractive.

One of the group looked aloof and arrogant, and that was Mo Yanyu, but she wasn't looking this way, her motionless eyes was only staring into the sun-blazed Moon Lake, and looked like she was in a daze.

"Oh, so these are the worms of the Mo family, how fucking unlucky." Han Zhong shook his head, stopped paying attention to them, and dragged Shi Yan to find a good spot. He yelled, "Mr. Long! Bring four jugs of 'Flame', and a nice course of dishes, hurry up."

"Coming right up!" A hearty voice answered from the second floor.

At this time, Mo Yanyu, who was staring at the Moon Lake looked like she finally woke up. She turned her head around and glanced at Han Zhong and Shi Yan. She threw a look of disdain, then turned her head back and continued staring at the lake water. Nobody knew what she was thinking.

Across from Mo Yanyu sat a handsome young man.

The young man had an amiable smile. While talking to one young master of the Mo family, he was also secretly paying attention to Mo Yanyu, as if trying to grab her attention with his words. However he was unsuccessful.

"Shao Feng, Xiao Yu was recently punished by my father, she's been in a bad mood lately, don't mind her." Mo Zhan toasted him, and then said, "Don't care about him, let us drink more. The Martial Competition is about to start, so these few days we can slack off a bit, treat yourself well."

"Brother Zhan, when have you mistreated yourself?" Ling Yue Yue shrewdly looked at Mo Zhan, with a cunning smile on her face "I heard that Brother Zhan is great at going to those 'Pleasure Quarters'! When would you enrich me a little on your experience?"

"Cough cough cough!" Mo Zhan choked on his wine, and said awkwardly, "Yue Yue, trust me, I'm innocent! I'm not familiar with those places! That was the only time I went was because I was tricked, Yue Yue, you have to trust me!"

"Teehee, who knows if you're lying or not." Ling Yue Yue was still smiling, but her eyes showed some other expression, "A while ago, I was praised by my sisters. They said my fiancé already has dozens of mistresses before marrying me; they said I would have so many maids to serve me in the future. Oh, just thinking of it makes me happy."

"Cough cough cough!"

Mo Zhan's expression was a little stiff, his face darkened and said, "Who is talking bad about me behind my back? If I find out who it is, I will skin him alive!"

"Alright, Yue Yue!" Ling Shao Feng glared at his sister, "Brother Zhan is a man, sometimes treating people with courtesy is inevitable. I trust Brother Zhan's conduct!"

"Of course you'd trust him." Ling Yue Yue lightly snorted, and murmured quietly, "Everyone knows that you guys always go there together, of course you would trust him."

Upon hearing this, Mo Yanyu glanced over at Ling Shao Feng, and her brows slightly furrowed, as if she was irritated. However she didn't say much, and again turned her head towards Moon Lake, her expression growing colder.

"I'll deal with you when we get home!"

Ling Shao Feng glared at Ling Yue Yue, as he anxiously changed the topic, and said to Mo Zhan, "Brother Zhan, that Shi Tianyun is also in the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm, he's even better than Shi Tianke, and I heard he has been training very hard lately. At the last Martial Competition, he didn't show up, but this time he'll definitely be there. Even though you won against Shi Tianke that time, you shouldn't let down your guard this time around."

"Don't worry, those guys from the third generation of the Shi family can't be placed in my eyes!" Mo Zhan smiled with arrogance, coldly glancing over to where Han Zhong was, and said, "Just watch, this year's Martial Competition, I'll cripple whoever comes in my way!"

"Yeah, sure enough, Brother Zhan has the heroic spirit!" Ling Shao Feng laughed. He held up his cup and said, "Come on, Brother Zhan, cheers!"

...

"Those four over there, are Ling Shao Feng, Ling Yue Yue, Mo Zhan and Mo Yanyu. They are all the leaders of the third generations of the Mo and Ling families, and they might become your opponents in the Martial Competition. Among them, Ling Shao Feng and Mo Yanyu are engaged, and that Mo Zhan and Ling Yue Yue are also engaged. Mo Zhan and Ling Shao Feng are both at the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm. Mo Yanyu is slightly worse, but still has a cultivation of the Second Sky of the Nascent Realm."

Han Zhong lowered his voice, and explained the situation to Shi Yan. He paused and then said, "But, the one you should least underestimate is that Ling Yue Yue! We got the news a while ago that this girl broke through to the Human Realm half a year ago, and now she's the strongest one in the third generation of the Ling family. This year's Martial Competition, the Ling family might arrange to have Ling Yue Yue fight against Zuo Shi. Apparently, to make Ling Yue Yue win, the Ling family have spent a hell lot on her, not only buying the most expensive medicines, but they also gave her a few secret treasures to defend herself. Zuo Shi might be in a lot of trouble this time."

"Not necessarily." Shi Yan smiled, casually glancing at Ling Yue Yue, and spoke in a low voice, "Zuo Shi is much more fierce than she is, just watch, she's going to lose really badly."

Zuo Shi had now obtained the Dragon Turtle Pills and the [Basalt Scriptures], plus the 'Dragon Turtle Armor', which Han Zhong did not know about.

With all these things to rely on, Zuo Shi had a nine out of ten chance of winning, and besides, Zuo Shi's realm was a little higher than Ling Yue Yue's.

"That kid, what are you talking about?"

At this moment, Ling Yue Yue suddenly stood up and sneered, "Are you saying that I'm not as good as Zuo Shi? You think I didn't hear that? I'm telling you, my hearing is clear as ever! Talking about people behind their backs, people from the Shi family, are you all this dirty?"

Chapter 62 - Unrecognized

"Well, Zuo Shi is superior to you. You will definitely lose in the Martial Competition. You are doomed." Shi Yan glanced at Ling Yue Yue indifferently, without getting angry.

"I'm doomed?" Ling Yue Yue was furious as she sneered, "Who do you think you are? Are you a prophet?"

Shi Yan shook his head and didn't talk to her again, showing no care for her.

With a rigid face, Mo Zhan stood up from the table and strode toward Shi Yan. As he approached him, he yelled with his head high, "Kid, who are you? I haven't seen you, you are from the Shi Family too? You want to be ruined before the Martial Competition?"

Shi Yan turned serious as he lowered his voice and asked Han Zhong, "Can I kill him?"

Han Zhong was totally frightened as he quivered suddenly, and asked in haste, "Brother Yan, what are you trying to do?"

Though he had been with Shi Yan for a long time, they had just sought out 'entertainment' together. He only knew that Shi Yan recent got Profound Qi and reached the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm.

Yet he hadn't seen him fight with others, so he had absolutely no idea how Shi Yan would react to the provocation.

The fact that Shi Yan wanted to kill for such a trivial dispute totally frightened Han Zhong.

He had never thought that this young master, who was the best at 'entertaining', would be so brutal in front of his enemies!

Shi Yan glanced at the man, suggesting that he was going to take action.

"Nooo!" Han Zhong hurried to stop him with a face full of terror. He thought to himself, "Though you are at the Nascent Realm, your opponent is an expert too! If you fight bluntly, I can't help you either. But if you get hurt and can't attend the Martial Competition, the family head will kill me."

"No?"

“Definitely no!” Seeing Shi Yan not persuaded, Han Zhong quickly explained, “They are the hopes of the Mo Family and the Ling Family. If they were killed, the two families will sacrifice everything to get revenge! It will be tough as hell then. So cool down.”

“Then, can I cripple him?”

Han Zhong froze, rolled his eyes and smiled bitterly, “Brother Yan, please! If you really want to, then you can vent your frustrations in the Martial Competition. Who knows, you might also win back a mine for the Shi Family. But for now, please don’t be impulsive.”

“Fine.”

Shi Yan didn’t talk anymore, instead he stared at Mo Zhan in front of him, and shouted loudly, “What do you want?”

“Kid, who are you?” After he approached, Mo Zhan didn’t fight, instead he gazed at Shi Yan coldly, “You made my fiancé unhappy! Don’t blame me for my rudeness if you don’t tell me who you are!”

Seeing Mo Zhan there, Ling Yue Yue sat down at the table, looking in this direction with cold eyes and felt surprised.

Her hearing was superior to others, hence even though Shi Yan and Han Zhong lowered their voices, she was still able to hear the words “kill” and “cripple”.

Who on earth is that arrogant guy?

Ling Yue Yue was bewildered. Since she didn’t know who Shi Yan was, she decided to be cautious. As the Martial Competition was around the corner, she guessed that he was some expert invited by the Shi Family, so she couldn’t do anything now.

“Young masters, please don’t fight in my Spring Pavilion. I beg you, ok?”

Just then, the stout Manager Long of the Spring Pavilion bowed, as he came up to the third floor. Behind him, several pretty young girls were holding the dishes and wine ordered by Han Zhong.

“You will know who I am in the Martial Competition.” Shi Yan didn’t bother to respond to him, but waved at those shy girls and said, “Come here! Display my dishes. I want to have a good meal!”

The girls were frightened. They didn’t dare walk up but pleadingly stared at Manager Long.

After Manager Long made an eye contact to them, the girls hurried to serve the dishes on the table and dashed away immediately like frightened birds.

Shi Yan looked indifferent as he opened a jar of wine by himself, filled his wine cup, and drank it up at once. He began to eat, not paying any attention to Mo Zhan who was still standing beside him.

“Young Master Mo, it’s not the first time you’ve been to the Spring Pavilion. I am always good to you. Please, don’t make a fuss, okay?” Manager Long bowed as he persuaded Mo Zhan with a miserable face.

“Well, Manager Long. For you, I won’t fight today.” Mo Zhan grunted and sneered at Shi Yan, who was eating happily, “Kid, be prepared in the Competition!”

“Okay, I can’t wait.” Without raising his head, Shi Yan kept drinking, and filled another cup for Han Zhong, “Come on, Old Han, let’s drink.”

Mo Zhan stared at Shi Yan angrily and then left for his own table.

Mo Yanyu was paying attention in this direction for quite some time. Her bright eyes wandered over Shi Yan curiously. After Mo Zhan came back, she withdrew her gaze and looked to the Green Moon Lake, forgetting the episode entirely.

“Deng! Deng! Deng!”

Just then, heavy footsteps sounded from the stairs, which was followed by Beiming Ce’s voice, “Xiao Die, Yalan, the courses in the Spring Pavilion are famous in Tianyun City. You two should have a good taste this time. Well, the Flame Wine is strong, but it’s really different. You can’t afford to miss it!”

Then Beiming Ce showed up, closely followed by Mu Yu Die and Di Yalan.

“Well, it seems I must have a try at the Flame Wine. Hehe, I can just drink a little.” Mu Yu Die was in a white dress, which made her look extraordinarily fresh. She came up slowly to the third floor.

Di Yalan was behind her, looking a little gloomy, seemingly lost in her worries.

Shi Yan, who was drinking, showed a panicked expression on his face as he heard that voice, but quickly went back to normal. Without taking a look at them, he kept drinking with Han Zhong with his head lowered.

Han Zhong was astonished as he saw Mu Yu Die and Di Yalan, for he was a little worried Shi Yan would make trouble again.

“Oh, customers here?” Beiming Ce glanced over the two tables, and continued indifferently, “And all acquaintances.”

The four people including Ling Shao Feng and Mo Zhan became perturbed, as they saw Beiming Ce. They barely smiled and nodded to Beiming Ce as a greeting.

Ling Shao Feng and Mo Zhan also glanced over Mu Yu Die and Di Yalan secretly after they nodded at Beiming Ce, and showed a surprised face at the same time.

Han Zhong stood up, and nodded at Beiming Ce as well with a smile, “You are not occupied today, Young Master Ce? Hehe, I heard that you rarely stepped out of your home recently?”

“Well, two beauties came and brightened my home, I found it hard to leave.” Beiming Ce smiled slightly, took a look at Shi Yan who was still drinking, and turned to Mu Yu Die, “Let’s take a seat first.”

“Yes.”

“Young Master Ce, this way please!” Manager Long dashed up suddenly with a fat face full of smiles, as he chose a seat for Beiming Ce and shouted downstairs, “Old Guo, Young Master Ce is here today! Prepare the best dishes and wine! Be careful!”

“Haha! Needless to say!” Loud laughing sounds came from downstairs.

Smiles went up from Beiming Ce's mouth, as apparently, he was satisfied with Manager Long's attitude. He said softly, "Well, good enough Manager Long. Mind your own business now, I can take care of myself."

"Great! Well I will cook one or two dishes for you personally. But I haven't cooked for a long time, so please forgive me if it doesn't taste good." Manager Long laughed.

"I'm too lucky." Beiming Ce laughed as well, "I'm so flattered to have dishes made by you! No matter how it tastes, I will eat it up gratefully."

"I'm too flattered. So I will go downstairs now?" Manager Long bowed and asked.

"Sure."

Manager Long then bowed to leave.

...

"I've finished." Mo Yanyu stood up suddenly.

Ling Shao Feng and Mo Zhan looked at each other and stood up as well, so did Ling Yue Yue. The three followed Mo Yanyu and went toward the stairs.

Before he left, Mo Zhan greeted Beiming Ce, "Brother Ce, take your time. I'm afraid we have to leave first."

"Yeah, take care." Beiming Ce turned to him casually and continued to chat with Mu Yu Die.

Immediately, the four people from the Mo Family and the Ling Family disappeared from the third floor.

While drinking, Shi Yan was also listening to Beiming Ce and Mu Yu Die chatting, and got a little annoyed. So he yelled at Han Zhong, "Old Han, I'm done. You?"

"Long ago." Han Zhong knew he was unhappy, so he stood up immediately, and said to Beiming Ce, "Young Master Ce, we got to go."

"Okay." Beiming Ce responded indifferently without raising his head, and continued to talk with Mu Yu Die.

"Let's leave." Han Zhong pulled Shi Yan, then they walked toward the stairs.

Before he went down stairs, Shi Yan paused at the corner, glanced over at Mu Yu Die and Di Yalan coldly, and then disappeared.

Beiming Ce didn't feel that glance as he sat with his back to Shi Yan. Neither did Mu Yu Die, for she was talking with Beiming Ce.

Only Di Yalan raised her head randomly, and happened to see Shi Yan's glance. Out of it, she saw some familiar coldness, and scorn.

Di Yalan was surprised and dumbstruck.

After a very long time, she shook her head softly and sighed to herself: Why am I so stupid? How could that guy be him? Except the eyes, they resemble by nothing! They were two different people! What am I thinking about? What's wrong with me?

Chapter 63 - The Martial Competition

Tianyun City, the God Stone Square.

A small hill-sized, diamond-shaped meteorite stood tall in the God Stone Square. More than half of the meteorite was sunk deep into the ground, and the part that was visible was hundreds of meters tall, making it look very magnificent.

Legends say that this was a piece of the meteorite that fell from the sky thousands of years ago. It crashed right here, where at the time there was no Tianyun City, but merely a piece of wasteland.

It was said that after the meteorite fell from the sky, in the beginning, every night under the glistening moonlight, the meteorite would emit a bright silver light. Later on, this silver light started to dim day by day, and in the last ten years, the meteorite has never shone, appearing just like a normal rock.

The people of the Merchant Union treated this meteorite as a God Stone, and established Tianyun City around it. (天陨 means sky meteor).

It has been many years since then, and now Tianyun City has become a big city and the center of the Merchant Union.

However, even though the meteorite stopped shining in silver brilliance, for the warriors of the Merchant Union, it was a blessing from God, and thus the meteorite was zealously treated as a God Stone.

The God Stone Square was also built from that meteorite.

In the Merchant Union, many couples would come to the God Stone Square and make their vows, with the God Stone as a holy witness to their love.

Every Martial Competition in the Merchant Union, was held in the God Stone Square.

On this day in the God Stone Square, there was an endless stream of crowds. Outside the Square there were countless vendors, many of whom were warriors selling mostly items that were associated with cultivation.

In the God Stone Square

In front of that enormous meteorite were sixteen battle arenas. Each one was about a hundred square meters and was made out of solid green iron. Even warriors in the Human Realm wouldn't be able to break it using all their strength.

Around these sixteen battle arenas stood five tall stone towers.

One of the towers was fifty meters tall, while the other four were forty meters tall. These five towers were equally spaced a hundred meters apart in distance, and on those towers stood the people from the five families, who were able to view all sixteen arenas below.

On one of the stone towers, Shi Yan stood next to Shi Jian, condescendingly looking down upon all the participants around the God Stone Square who came to compete in the Martial Competition.

This stone tower belonged to the Shi family, which was forty meters tall. The other four were for the Beiming, Ling, Zuo and Mo families.

The stone towers belonging to the Ling, Zuo, and Mo families were also forty meters tall, just like that of the Shi family. However, the Beiming family was an exception. Their tower was fifty meters high, a whole lot taller than the other four families' towers.

Just from the height of the stone towers, it could be seen that the Beiming family held an absolutely strong position in the Merchant Union!

This was the first day of the Martial Competition.

The direct descendents of the Shi family; Shi Jian, Shi Tie, and Shi Dang, were all on the stone tower by this time.

The Han Brothers, Han Feng and Han Zhong, were also in the stone tower, plus a few other strangers that Shi Yan didn't know. Through Han Zhong's introductions, Shi Yan learned that those were the loyal subordinates of the Shi family. They usually worked in the city, but were called here because of the Martial Competition.

However, Yang Hai was not in the stone tower, and that was because Yang Hai did not practice Martial Arts. When the Martial Art masters of the other cities were called here, Yang Hai had to go and take charge in case any problems come up while the Martial Competition was being held.

Every year's Martial Competition was separated into five categories: Elementary, Nascent, Human, Disaster, and Earth. However, in the category of Earth Realm there would usually only be one figurehead.

Usually, even the warriors who were unaffiliated to any power, when they managed to reach the Earth Realm, they would have certainly gained their own cultivation opportunities. It was unlikely for them to covet the prizes given by the five families.

An Earth Realm warrior, whether in the Merchant Union, the Fire Empire, or the God-blessed Empire, would be considered a master.

Such warriors wouldn't need to compete in the Martial Competition to obtain a nice cultivation environment. They can just go to any powerful force to become a dedicated warrior.

Even if an Earth Realm warrior didn't join any power, the major forces would still reach out their arm, hoping to recruit the warrior.

Because of this, even though the Martial Competition set a competing category for Earth Realm warriors, but the warriors that actually came to participate, were nearly nonexistent.

Even the warriors who reached the Disaster Realm would rarely come to the Martial Competition. Every year, there would only be a few warriors that would show up.

The ones who really came for the Martial Competition were mostly at the Elementary, Nascent, or Human Realms.

These three kinds of warriors with lower capabilities were the majority, as they often couldn't find their own cultivation opportunities. Therefore they would have to participate in the Martial Competition in the hope to win some precious cultivation materials, or to obtain a nice position in one of the five families.

The Martial Competition usually lasted for five days.

The first four days were generally for the warriors who came for the prizes. These people would be watched by the five families. Throughout the four days of fighting, the families would choose their favorite warriors and reach out to them.

The last day, however, would be the highlight of the Martial Competition.

On this day, the five families would send their best dedicated warriors and descendents to go compete with the masters of the other families. The five families would test each other's power on the last day of the Martial Competition.

This day, was also the day when the five families would show their strength to others!

And on this day, the fighting was often accompanied with the enormous conflicts of interests and profits, and earth-shaking gambles would often happen.

Mines, commercial streets, treasures, and even bizarre Martial Skills could become the stakes of the five families!

Just one Martial Competition, could lead to one family gaining the most extravagant riches, and could also reduce a family's savings to nothing. The last day of the competition would become a topic that people would talk about for years to come.

This day, the masters from the different families would expose their true capabilities, showing rare Martial Spirits. Also in the intense fighting, different secret treasures might also show up.

Most warriors who came from the outside were also here for the last day of the Martial Competition.

From the fights on last day of the Martial Competition, they could find out the difference between them and the warriors of the five families. Through watching the fierce battles, they could understand their own inadequacies, and find the ways to improve their standards and capabilities.

And they might even be able to raise their own strength through the battles from the Martial Competition.

This was why the Martial Competition attracted so many people!

Shi Yan stood on the stone tower serenely, condescendingly looking down upon the arenas and the many warriors who came to participate.

Two hundred meters away on the tower of the Beiming family, two beautiful figures followed Beiming Ce up the high tower.

On the high tower, Mu Yu Die and Di Yalan stood side-by-side with Beiming Ce. Together they were looking over all of the arenas.

Mu Yu Die wore a white dress, her hair flying in the wind. On the tall tower, her beautiful posture made her look like a fairy on the mainland.

Di Yalan was still in that crimson armor, her hot body was visible underneath the coverage of that armor made her figure look very seductive. Only her eyes looked troubled.

From two hundred meters away, Shi Yan slightly raised his head and shot a glance at the two girls, secretly smiling in disdain.

“Kid, these four days you better carefully watch. You lack experience, so you need to watch how the others fight; don’t just mess around.” As Shi Jian caught him staring at the two girls on the Beiming family’s tower, he snorted as he became displeased, “Women are everywhere, and with what you have, what woman can’t you get in the future. Don’t get distracted before you become strong!”

“Yes, I know what I’m doing.” Shi Yan nodded.

“Brother, Kro from the Misty Pavilion has come to see you.” Shi Tie, who stood near the staircase entrance of the stone tower, suddenly shouted.

“Kro?” Surprise flashed across Shi Jian’s face. He blanked out for a second, but then nodded: “Invite him up.”

“Grandpa, how’s the situation at the Misty Pavilion?” Shi Yan lowered his voice, and secretly asked.

Shi Jian slightly nodded and said, “You shouldn’t care much about this, don’t mention it next time, understand?”

“Okay.” Looking at his expression, Shi Yan knew that Zuo Xu and him must have sorted out all the details. But as Han Feng and all the dedicated warriors were on the tower, Shi Yan was confused as to whether the Shi family sent anyone to help Chi Xiao at the Misty Pavilion or not.

Kro came up with a smile as he calmly walked next to Shi Jian, and said, “Head of the Shi family, I have come to request help from you. I’m wondering where your son Yang Hai is right now, I want to invite him to the Misty Pavilion. Is that alright?”

“Yang Hai?” Shi Jian’s expression darkened as he snorted, but said in confusion, “The Misty Pavilion has been trying to find people named Yang Hai everywhere, what are you trying to do?”

“A friend of mine has come from the Endless Sea. Her older relative lost an infant a very long time ago. The infant is called Yang Hai, and so they requested me to look around for him. Thus I ask for your help, Master Shi.”

Shi Jian’s heart skipped a beat and his eyes flashed with a strange unknown expression. After quite a while he finally shook his head and responded, “Yang Hai is not in Tianyun city right now, because I

called many people back for the Martial Competition, Yang Hai is has been taking charge in another city, this... we'll talk about this some other time."

"Sure, as long as you'd remember, Master Shi." Kro didn't urge deliberately, and smiled, "When he comes back, please allow him to come to the Misty Pavilion, Master Shi, haha, don't worry, I won't let him run all this way for nothing."

"Okay." Shi Jian indifferently nodded.

"Then I will take my leave." Kro didn't stay for long, and after the issues were negotiated, he left straightaway.

Melodious and soothing music came from the tower of the Beiming family.

The heart-warming sound of nature immediately rang throughout every corner of God Stone Square. Mu Yu Die sat crossed-legged on the stone tower of the Beiming family, absorbed in playing the zither.

Many warriors who came to the Martial Competition, were attracted by this ethereal music, and their expression was full of fascination as they looked up at the Beiming family's stone tower.

Next to Mu Yu Die was Beiming Ce, his expression full of pride, and the corner of his lips showed a trace disdain for all living things. He stood there and accepted the admiring and envious gazes from the many warriors.

Mu Yu Die's music was like a mountain stream, flowing into the hearts of the warriors, as if cleansing their souls.

Just with one song, the warriors were mesmerized, their faces stunned.

Then at this moment.

Beiming Shang suddenly flew from the tall tower, his magnificent figure magically floated on the sky above the God Stone Square, like a God looking down on all human beings. He shouted, "The Martial Competition, officially starts!"

"Walking in mid-air! Sky Realm warrior!"

Many warriors screamed out one by one, their expression in awe, shocked by the capabilities shown by Beiming Shang.

Chapter 64 - The Medicine King, Mu Xun

In the Martial Competition field.

Dozens of warriors of various Realms were competing vigorously in different areas. Streams of bizarre light exploded on the field one after another, as if magical snakes were shuttling above the competition field.

The participants were performing all sorts of rare Martial Skills, and some even startled those people from the five big families.

In the high building of the Shi family.

Standing next to Shi Jian, Shi Yan's eyes were glistening, as he cast his eyes upon those fighting warriors one by one.

As the head of the family, Shi Jian was standing beside him and explaining for him.

As long as Shi Yan showed some interest in one competition area, Shi Jian would soon elaborate on the strength of the two parties, their Martial Skill levels, their competing strategies, and also teaching him the best way to win the fight.

In the stone building, Shi Tie was also illustrating the situation on the competition field, explaining the various Martial Skills, their advantages and disadvantages, the opponent's weaknesses, and how to beat them.

As the leaders of the Shi family, Shi Jian and Shi Tie rarely talked on a normal day, but today they almost never stopped talking.

Shi Yang and Shi Tianxiao were also standing in a corner, while Shi Yang was pointing the warriors in the competition field to Shi Tianxiao, the latter nodding and asking accordingly.

Some ministers who came back from other cities, and those experts from their family branches, were all observing the stone building quietly. As they saw Shi Jian explaining to Shi Yan whole-heartedly, they were very confused.

"Old Feng, who is that kid? Why does family head treat him so specially?" Standing beside Han Feng, Ku Long observed them for a long while, and finally couldn't help but ask him about Shi Yan.

Ku Long was one of the ministers of the Shi family who was at the First Sky of the Nirvana Realm. Since he was garrisoned in another city, he didn't know much about the latest news on Shi Yan. Seeing Shi Jian lay so much stress on Shi Yan, he was quite confused.

"That is Young Master Yan." Han Feng looked indifferent, as he glanced at Ku Long and said, "The one who used to be always absent from home and busy studying those historic relics. Yeah, Yang Hai and Miss Qing's son."

"That's impossible!"

Ku Long was totally shocked, as he asked in surprise, "That Young Master never trained in Martial Arts, did he? As far as I know, he was more attracted to those odd things and never set his eyes upon Martial Arts. Why would the family head pay attention to him?"

"Young Master Yan is no longer the person he used to be."

Han Feng narrowed his eyes, and said casually, "You'd better try your best if Young Master Yan asks you to do something. It would be in your best interests." Though Han Feng knew a lot, he talked little. He wouldn't have said anything if Ku Long wasn't his good friend.

Ku Long knew Han Feng's personality. He was surprised at Han Feng's speech, and after a long silence, he nodded softly.

He was still confused, but realizing that Shi Yan was favored by the family head, he decided to try and get close to Shi Yan.

Apart from Ku Long, many other ministers and Shi branch families were also secretly discussing about Shi Yan, as they were all confused why the family head paid so much attention to that unknown boy.

Soon Shi Yan was known to all. This boy, who hadn't been treated specially for seventeen years, was now at the center of the Shi family.

"Grandpa, did Xiao Yan become a warrior for real? And has he reached the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm?" Seeing Shi Jian favor Shi Yan so much, Shi Tianke, who was standing next to Shi Tie, finally asked.

Shi Tie took a glimpse at them, and nodded, "It is great, Shi Yan is amazing. He has reached the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm now. He may participate in the martial Competition this year."

Shi Tie had been focusing on his three grandsons recently, so he didn't pay much attention to Shi Yan. He merely knew that Shi Yan had gained the family Martial Spirit and reached the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm.

However, he didn't know that Shi Yan had also gained the Immortal Martial Spirit, so he still considered that Shi Jian was putting way too much energy into him.

But he didn't place any further thought into it. After all, Shi Yan was his brother's direct grandson, and Shi Tianxiao was useless. Now that Shi Yan reached the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm, he thought it was reasonable for Shi Jian to be over excited. He was not aware that Shi Yan possessed twin Martial Spirits, and that his Petrification Martial Spirit had advanced to the second stage.

"Tianyun, you should fight against Mo Zhan this year. Last time Tianke lost to him, so your fight will be crucial this time! Or they would assume that we don't have any talented descendents among the third generation!" Shi Tie said to Shi Tianyun who was standing beside him.

"Yes, I will beat Mo Zhan for sure." Shi Tianyun said with certainty.

Shi Tianyun was only nineteen years old, but he had reached the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm. He was just like a newborn calf who wasn't afraid of a tiger.

Before Shi Yan was noticed, he was the pride of the Shi family, and Shi Jian would guide him in person now and then. But ever since Shi Yan came back, Shi Jian seldom visited him.

Shi Yan spent seventeen years discovering ancient languages, and seldom stayed at home. He didn't train in Martial Arts, so there was no conflict between him and other people, thus Shi Tianyun never cared about him.

However, Shi Yan stood out now, and Shi Jian's attitude had shifted too much, which made Shi Tianyun a little uncomfortable.

Yet, the Shi family had the formidable outside opponents, such as the Mo family and the Ling family, so the Shi family members, including Shi Jian and Shi Tie, stuck together and got along well. The second generation also allied to defend against the Mo family. Shi Tianyun and Shi Tianxiao often played around.

Thus, although Shi Tianyun was a little uncomfortable, he didn't show a strong reaction. But he had made up his mind to have a perfect performance in the competition, and secure his position as the hope of the Shi family.

"Eh?" Shi Jian suddenly cried, as he was talking to Shi Yan, and his eyes brightened and quickly looked over to someone. Something had suddenly occurred beside the competition field.

"Who came?" Shi Yan frowned, walked up and looked in the direction of Shi Jian.

A troop of seven people were walking in slowly from outside the God Stone Square. The man in lead looked around fifty, with a hawk nose, gloomy face, delicate cap, and a silver gown, on the left shoulder of which was embroidered five types of herbs.

"Level-5 Soul Alchemist!" Shi Yan identified him only by a quick glimpse.

Just like Martial Skills, alchemists were divided into five levels: Mortality, Mystery, Soul, Royalty, and Divinity.

Karu, who was killed by Shi Yan in the Dark Forest, was a mere Mortality Level alchemist, but was treasured by the Mo family. Now that a Soul level alchemist had appeared, he must be an influential one!

"This is Karu's teacher, the Medicine King, Mu Xun." Shi Jian glanced over Shi Yan, "He is not only an alchemist of the Soul level, he is also a warrior of the Second Sky of the Nirvana Realm, and the Medicine Valley is a special institution too. Though it doesn't get involved in fights between various parties, it is closely connected to them."

The fact that Karu was killed by Shi Yan was known to only a few people. And now that Shi Yan had faked his appearance, fewer people knew his real identity. Shi Jian didn't worry that Mu Xun would recognize Shi Yan, so he sneered and gloated, "Well, I guess Mu Xun came to look for his stolen fragmented map, and Karu entered the Dark Forest with people from the Mo family. Mu Xun will definitely ask Mo Tuo about that. Haha! This should be an interesting show!"

"The Medicine King, Mu Xun!"

The warriors in the competition field soon recognized this foreign visitor, as they cried out in surprise, and cleared the way for him.

Many other warriors squeezed their way forward and shouted crazily, "Medicine King, I collected lots of herbs, please refine me a pill! Please!"

As soon as the flock heard that, the competition field boiled with excitement. More and more people shouted, asking for Mu Xun's help.

People's attention were drawn to Mu Xun at once, and no one set their eyes on the competition field anymore.

On the buildings of the Beiming family, the Zuo family, the Ling family, and the Mo family, many couldn't sit still anymore. Lots of experts rushed down the buildings with their master's' permission and ran to Mu Xun to invite him to watch the competition in their building.

Without Shi Jian's permission, Shi Tie also rushed down.

Suddenly, the Medicine King Mu Xun was crowded by the core members from the five big families, whose faces were full of smiles, hoping Mu Xun would go with them.

"Mu Xun will go to the Mo family. Hehe. But nothing good will happen." Shi Jian gloated.

Just as expected.

Ignoring Mo Chao, who was coming up to invite him, Mu Xun soon walked toward the Mo family building silently, with a rigid face.

Mo Chao didn't dare be angry, and followed him smiling and bowing.

Chapter 65 - Undercurrent

"Mo Family Head, how is my despicable disciple Karu?"

After walking up the Mo family stone tower, Mu Xun asked directly. His voice was not loud, but everyone in the God Stone Square heard him clearly.

Standing on the stone tower of the Mo family, Mo Tuo was in total dismay.

Being bluntly questioned in public by Mu Xun, Mo Tuo was embarrassed. He wanted to deal with him in private, but apparently Mu Xun was having different thoughts.

Being pushed hard, Mo Tuo had to reply loudly, "Mr. Mu, Karu died long time ago. I also don't know who killed him."

Mu Xun stood proudly against the railing of the stone tower, and thus his figure could be easily seen once the warriors at the bottom of the tower raised their heads.

"Dead?"

Mu Xun sneered and said sarcastically, "Mo Family Head really has his methods! Knowing that my despicable student stole my treasure map, you invited him to visit the Merchant Union and killed him half way, and so you got the map. Now you pretend to know nothing! What a family head you are! Well, did you earn all the Mo family properties this way?"

"Haha, the whole Merchant union knows Mo Family Head's methods."

On the tower of the Shi family, Shi Jian laughed loudly and gloated, "Many of the Shi family properties were snatched under the Mo Family Head's tactics."

“Shi Jian!” Two hundred meters away, Mo Tuo stared at Shi Jian angrily, “This is none of your Shi family’s business! Stop spouting nonsense!”

Ignoring him, Shi Jian continued, “Of course it’s none of our business. I was just stating the truth, don’t be overly emotional, Mo Family Head.”

Standing aside Shi Jian, Shi Yan smiled secretly and for the first time, he felt this old man was interesting and knew how to strike a man when he was down.

Not being able to do anything about Shi Jian or be mad at him, Mo Tuo could only smile to Mu Xun modestly and explained, “I didn’t know Karu had stolen your treasure map when we invited him to our home. And considering he is YOUR student, we sent people to pick him up. We really didn’t know that! Mr. Mu, don’t blame the Mo family.”

“Mistake?” Mu Xun’s face turned gloomier, and he sneered, “Your Mo family would have sent people to pick him up if you hadn’t known that he stole my treasure map? The Medicine Valley is thousands of miles away from the Merchant Union. Who would believe that you traveled so far just for Karu’s second rate refining skill, but not for the treasure map? Humph!”

Mo Tuo was helpless, as he explained, “Well, it was for his skill.”

“Mo Family Head, I don’t need any more excuses from you. I don’t care if Karu died or not. Just return to me my treasure map and I will leave at once. I’m not interested in stirring up any trouble.” Mu Xun became impatient.

“The treasure map is really not in my hands.”

“Since you, the Mo Family Head, don’t want to return that map, I have got nothing else to say.” Mu Xun grunted and walked out, as he said coldly, “Though we, the Medicine Valley, don’t get involved in the power struggles in various countries, we won’t be bullied as you like. Mo Family Head, you’d better conduct yourself well.”

At once, Mu Xun walked down the tower directly with his people.

“Mr. Mu, you are welcome to visit the Shi family anytime! We understand everything you talked about.” Shi Jian’s voice came from his tower, the overtone of which could be understood by everyone.

Walking down the Mo family building, Mu Xun looked over at Shi Jian and nodded, “I believe we will have the opportunity to cooperate. Please don’t turn me down if I ask for some help from the Shi family.”

“I, Shi Jian, hate those who always play tricks. It would be an honor to work for Mr. Mu.” Shi Jian laughed loudly and saluted with cupped hands.

“Thank you, Shi Family Head.” Mu Xun nodded and glanced up coldly at Mo Tuo, who had an ugly face, and left the God Stone Square with his people.

On the God Stone Square, the competitions had paused for a long while. Only after Mu Xun left did they continued.

The competition this day became more interesting after Mu Xun’s unexpected visit.

Soon after Mu Xun left, people started discussing noisily and soon learnt the whole story.

As a result, a hint of scorn and loathing could be seen amongst the crowd whenever the Mo family was mentioned.

Many of those who had planned to associate with the Mo family changed their mind, and thus the Mo family lost numerous potential experts.

Ku Luo, the manager of the Misty Pavilion, was also in the competition arena. He saw the conflict between Mu Xun and Mo Tuo.

Before the competition ended, Ku Luo secretly left for the Misty Pavilion, which was not far from the God Stone Square.

At dusk.

In a secluded room in the Misty Pavilion, Ku Luo bowed and elaborated the whole story to Xia Xinyan.

After Ku Luo finished his speech, Xia Xinyan frowned and thought for a while, then said, "If it is as Mu Xun says, then the other piece of the fragmented map must be in Mo Tuo's hands. I came here for the Sky Gate, so I don't care who I have to cooperate with. Ku Luo, go to the Mo family tonight, and tell them we can share the map with them and work together to explore the Sky Gate."

"I understand." Ku Luo nodded.

"Shura King Xiao Hanyi will arrive in half a month, and you still haven't found the right guy. Hurry up." Xia Xinyan said casually.

"I will try my best!" Ku Luo was a little astonished as he replied in awe, "I've sent people to other cities to search. I believe we will find him soon."

"Good. Off now." Xia Xinyan waved her hand casually.

Ku Luo bowed away.

That night.

Ku Luo visited the Mo family alone, asking to meet Mo Tuo.

Mo Tuo was too angry, but since Ku Luo came, he had to lift his spirit to meet him. After Ku Luo revealed his purpose, Mo Tuo shook his head with a bitter smile, "The treasure map is truly not in my hands. I can offer you nothing even if I want to cooperate with you."

"Mo Family Head, my master wants to work with you sincerely. To open the Sky Gate we need the complete map. With our cooperation, we can take action at once. Please think about it!" Ku Luo apparently didn't believe him as he turned serious. He guessed that Mo Tuo might already have a plan about the Misty Pavilion, so he got a little angry.

"It is absolutely not in my hands. Don't believe Mu Xun." Mo Tuo didn't look happy either, so he talked in an unpleasant way, "Please leave now Mr. Ku Luo. I have to prepare for the Martial Competition. Please excuse me."

At midnight, Ku Luo went back to the Misty Pavilion and told what Mo Tuo said to Xia Xinyan.

"There are two halves of the treasure map, one of which is in my hand. Since the Mo family don't want to cooperate, they must want to possess it alone. I guess the Mo family will take action soon." Xia Xinyan's eyes looked cool as she added, "I'm waiting for the Mo family to grab it. They would not cooperate with us honestly, therefore we must teach them a lesson."

"Miss, how about we grab that map from the Mo family?" One of the huge men behind Xia Xinyan asked.

A murderous aura came from that huge man, which frightened Ku Luo a lot.

"Nevermind, after all, this isn't our own home. Follow the rules. If all the five big families allied, it will be much more troublesome. However, when Shura King Xiao Hanyi arrives and the Mo family still doesn't step back, we will take action." Xia Xinyan observed indifferently.

"Okay." The huge man nodded, not saying any more.

"Well, Ku Luo, go and do your business. You can send out the message secretly that I have the other half of the map. And I will wait for them." Xia Xinyan smiled, "Whoever comes to grab the map, must have the other half."

"I got it."

At deep night. At the Zuo Family.

Zuo Xu and Chi Xiao were discussing in a secret room in a low voice.

"Shadow has brought the message that the map isn't in Ku Luo's hand, but in another girl's hand in the Misty Pavilion. That girl popped up all of a sudden. No one knows who she is." Zuo Xu said.

"Wait till the last day. I will go to the Misty Pavilion during the competition among the five big families. It's just a little girl. No big deal." Chi Xiao nodded and smiled bitterly, "It's so strange to fight against a little girl. Nevermind, I will leave one or two pieces of treasure to her as compensation."

"But pay attention! Don't expose yourself. The map has been attracting so much attention that once you are exposed, it will be truly troublesome."

"Ok, I got it."

That night, in the secret rooms of the five families, many were discussing about what had happened in the daytime.

In a secret room of the Shi family.

Holding an envelope, Shi Jian showed a weird smile as he said to Han Feng, who was beside him, "Mu Xun is so quick that he sends a letter in one day. Hehe, now that Mu Xun is to take action against the Mo family, we need to do something to help him secretly, if not publicly."

"What does Mu Xun plan to do?"

"He wants to kidnap some people of the Mo family and threaten Mo Tuo. Hehe, his targets are just whom we want to give a lesson to." Shi Jian was very joyful, "Brother Feng, assign someone to follow them and spill their trails to Mu Xun. Haha, I'm excited to watch how Mo Tuo will react."

That fragmented map from Karu was right against his chest, so no matter how, Mo Tuo couldn't return it to Mu Xun. Those Mo family hostages would die for sure.

Imagining Mo Tuo's furious face, Shi Jian was very amused, as he said with a big smile, "Also, go and get me a jar of wine. I want to have a good drink."

"Family head, all the delicate wine has been drunk by Young Master Yan. The rest is all ordinary wine." Han Feng lowered his head, as a shallow smile crossed his face.

"That little bastard!" Shi Yan patted the armrest and cursed in laughter, "That bastard is really audacious! How could he drink up my wine! I'm gonna rip his skin if he doesn't have a good performance in the Martial Competition."

"With his Petrification Martial Spirit at the second stage, no warrior of the Nascent Realm could beat him. It's almost fact that Young Master Yan will win the Competition! Definitely!"

"Well, that's true." Shi Jian laughed loudly in delight.

Chapter 66 - Fearless

*TL Note: 'Sky Gate' and 'Gate of Heaven' have previously been used interchangeably. We will be sticking with 'Gate of Heaven' from now on.

It was now the fourth day of the martial competition.

This day, all the warriors who came to participate were fiercely fighting for the top three places.

Every rank's first three places would have a certain Martial Skill, secret treasure, or cultivation material as prizes. As long as you can place in the first three, there's no way you would go home empty-handed.

The five families were never stingy in giving prizes. They had prepared many Profound level Martial Skills and secret treasures as well as pills and cultivation materials that enhanced one's Profound Qi.

On the morning of the fourth day, these lavish prizes were displayed on a round table in the middle of the arena, watched by specialized staff.

The warriors were ecstatic upon seeing the prizes being displayed and were in full vigor to fight in the upcoming battles.

By noon time, there were already two Nascent Realm warriors killed in the arena, and one at the Human Realm was crippled.

According to the rules of the Martial Competition, when one side surrenders, the opposing party cannot continue the fight.

Which was why as long as one wasn't too greedy, took what could be managed, and give up when the situation wasn't favourable, one would definitely live.

The few warriors who were heavily injured or killed were all thinking that they could still keep fighting. They tried to turn the situation around when they were obviously at a disadvantage, that was why they had such miserable outcomes.

On the Shi family's stone tower.

There was a smile at the corner of Shi Jian's lips as he looked down on the arenas from high above, occasionally glancing at the Mo family's tower. Every time he would see Mo Tuo with a dark expression, like his son died or something.

In the past three days, many important figures in the Mo family had all mysteriously disappeared one by one.

Mo Tuo was full of anger, but due to the critical time of Martial Competition, he couldn't act arbitrarily. He knew exactly who's been doing this, but there was nothing he could do.

The experts of the Mo family could only secretly try to find traces of Mu Xun's group, but unfortunately, they couldn't even find Mu Xun's shadow. And Mu Xun didn't send messengers either, so there was no way to negotiate.

"Kid, tomorrow is the Martial Competition for the five families. After watching for four days have you gained anything?" Shi Jian was in a great mood. He peered at Shi Yan, who was at his side, and spoke casually.

"Gains?" Shi Yan looked indifferent and nodded, "I definitely gained some things, but I'm only watching, so there's only a little to actually gain. Instead I would like to go on the battlefield myself and fight to the death. Only the things you comprehend on the verge of death can be considered the greatest riches."

Shi Jian was dazed. He stared at Shi Yan, and after quite a while he finally asked in astonishment, "You little brat! You cultivated to the Nascent Realm in such a short time, shouldn't you be lacking in battle experience? Why do I feel that you're already highly experienced? The insights on the verge of death are surely precious, but if you get killed, then all those insights would've been useless."

Shi Yan grinned, but did not explain his words.

"Oh?"

Shi Jian suddenly exclaimed, his expression strange. He looked at the far away tower of the Mo family.

Two hundred meters away, in the tower of the Mo family.

Someone quietly whispered into Mo Tuo's ear, his face suddenly darkened to the extreme. Shockingly he walked down the stone tower of the Mo family and walked straight towards the Shi family.

On the Beiming family's stone tower, Beiming Shang also shortly received the news. He moaned, and then also walked down his stone tower and came towards the Shi family.

In the arena, the warriors were still intensely battling. Many bystanders were confused by Beiming Shang and Mo Tuo, who were walking towards the stone tower of the Shi family, wondering why these two were heading over to the Shi family's tower.

In a short moment, the angry-looking Mo Tuo got to the Shi family's tower first.

Right after he climbed up the tower, Mo Tuo immediately sprung up and screamed: "Shi Jian! Where is Mu Xun?"

Shi Jian's expression darkened, and he sneered: "How would I know where Mu Xun is? Mo Tuo, you are asking the wrong person."

"Don't even try to pretend!"

Mo Tuo's expression was of resentment, "Mu Xun is an outsider. Unless you and the Shi family secretly provided help, how could it be that our Mo family is unable to track him? Mu Xun is probably hiding in some manor of the Shi family. You better tell me exactly where he's hiding!"

"Mo Tuo, our family's business has nothing to do with you!" Shi Jian snorted rudely.

"My son Chaoge disappeared last night, and hasn't been seen since. It has to be Mu Xun! If it's someone else I might let it pass, but if Mu Xun dares to take Chaoge, I won't take it easy!" Mo Tuo shouted in rage.

After hearing that, everyone on the stone tower had a weird expression on their faces. They finally knew why Mo Tuo was so furious.

Mo Chaoge was the strongest figure in the second generation of the Mo family. Not only did he have extraordinary capabilities, he was also very intelligent. Most of the machinations that the Mo family came up with were from this mastermind.

The Shi family also had many people who suffered losses because of him.

Mo Chaoge could be described as the most capable person in the second generation of the Mo family. Now that such an important figure had also gone missing, Mo Tuo couldn't sit still anymore. He finally came to start the fight.

Mu Xun was really ruthless! Shi Yan's heart skipped a beat. He knew now that Mo Tuo was not going to let this go.

"I don't know where Mu Xun is, go spend some time and find him yourself. You're not welcome here." Shi Jian said indifferently. He was secretly happy inside, but he didn't stop insisting.

"Head of the Beiming family!" Shi Tie exclaimed.

Right at this moment, Beiming Shang slowly walked up the Shi family's stone tower. With furrowed brows he came to the side of Shi Jian and Mo Tuo. Beiming Shang glanced at the two, then casually said, "The Marital Competition is held by us five families. I hope everyone can keep calm, and not make trouble during the Martial Competition. Others will ridicule us."

"My son Chaoge is gone!" Mo Tuo yelled.

Beiming Shang's expression froze for a second, then he said to Shi Jian, "Master Shi, that Mu Xun is, after all, an outsider. Although we should treat him well on his visit to the Merchant Union, there is a limit. His approach of taking away Mo Chaoge is truly too extreme. Master Shi, on this matter you should restrain yourself a little, don't go overboard."

Shi Jian's lips curled into a sneer, and his eyes coldly locked on Beiming Shang. He knew that the reason why Beiming Shang verbally spoke out for the Mo family was because the Mo family and Beiming Shang secretly had an agreement, with the common motive of exploring the 'Gate of Heaven'.

It looked like Beiming Shang stepped out to be the peacemaker, but he was actually supporting the Mo family.

"It's the same as I told you before, I don't know where Mu Xun is at!" Shi Jian was sure tough, he scowled and kept denying any knowledge of Mu Xun.

Beiming Shang's brows slowly furrowed. He nodded and intervened no more. He said nonchalantly, "Anyway, what I wish is for you to stay kind to each other during the Martial Competition so you won't make the Merchant Union look bad. You two, take care!"

"Shi Jian, by tonight, if you still don't send someone to tell me where Mu Xun is, in tomorrow's Martial Competition, don't blame us for taking offense! Hmph!" Mo Tuo's shouted and viciously scanned across the room at all three generations of Shi family descendents, including Shi Tianke and Shi Tianyun, as if saying 'watch out for the lives of your sons and grandsons'.

"Mo Tuo, are you threatening me?" Shi Jian's expression changed and he sneered, "If you screw around with things at tomorrow's Martial Competition, you too should not blame me for being ruthless!"

"I don't care what you think! If I can't find Mu Xun, then just wait and watch what happens tomorrow." Mo Tuo took a deep breath in, stopped talking, and walked downstairs.

"Master Shi, you need to look at the big picture here." Beiming Shang said apathetically, as he shook his head and followed Mo Tuo down the stairs.

"Boom!"

Shi Jian punched the balcony of the stone tower, the rigid Green Iron receiving a huge fist-shaped imprint from his punch. Even the whole stone tower, which was several meters tall, was shaking violently from the impact.

Everyone from the Shi family who was standing on the tower clearly felt his rage.

"They're going too far!" Shi Jian growled. No one knew if he's talking about Mo Tuo or Beiming Shang.

Because of this little episode, Shi Jian's face was scary the whole day. At the end of that day of the Martial Competition, when he had to present the gifts to the winners, his expression was still ugly.

That night.

In the secret room, Han Feng bowed towards Shi Jian, and said, "Master, Mo Tuo and Beiming Shang are both giving us pressure now, what should we do?"

"Don't worry about them." Shi Jian continued scowling.

"Master, we can let Mo Tuo slide, but Beiming Shang..." Han Feng said hesitantly.

"Chi Xiao is still in the city, if Beiming Shang dares to mess with us, I'd go ahead and shamelessly ask Chi Xiao to help me. I do not think Beiming Shang would launch an attack on our family for that shitty Mo family." Shi Jian snorted.

"Understood."

Chapter 67 - The Battle Among the Families

The next day, God Stone Square.

In the early morning while the sky was still dimly lit, a number of different warriors in Tianyun City had already gathered in the arenas of the Martial Competition.

In the center of the God Stone Square, on one side of the arena, which was a hundred square meters across, were large blocks of Green Stone. These Green Stones were stacked higher as they moved away from the center of the arena, so it would be more convenient to watch the fighting in the arena.

Before the five families even got here, the Green Stones around that one arena especially made for the battle of the five families were already filled with crowds.

Just as the sun rose, the warriors the five families started to arrive from all around Tianyun City.

Shi Yan followed Shi Jian. Before they even got to God Stone Square he could already see the massive crowds.

These people were nearly all warriors, mostly in the Elementary, Nascent, or Human Realms, but there were some at the Disaster or Earth Realms as well.

These Disaster and Earth Realm warriors might not have been interested in the Martial Competition, but the head-on fighting among the five families was enough to grab their attention.

On the blocks of Green Stone around the arena, you could see many warriors whispering to each other.

A lot of these warriors carried sturdy looking heavy swords and battle axes. They could have been mercenaries who came from the Dark Forest. None of them showed up in the previous days but today, they came bright and early.

When the Shi family's people appeared in the God Stone Square, the warriors in the Square started murmuring, and made a path for the Shi family.

The Shi family hadn't even entered the center of the arena yet, but again those warriors turned their heads to the entrance of the God Stone Square, and gasped in low voices.

The Mo family, led by Mo Tuo, all came towards the arena with grim expressions.

Shi Jian snorted. Scowling, he silently led the Shi family towards the arena.

This time, the five families were not going to watch the fights from far away in their stone towers. Instead, they would stay at the nearest distance from the arena to be able to observe every single detail, as if visiting the frontline.

On each side of the arena, the stone balconies were already set for them.

The person waiting there saw Shi Jian, and immediately they came up smiling. "Master Shi, please take your seat here."

Shi Jian nodded and he followed him to the side of the arena, and sat on one of the stone chairs.

Many different delicacies and fine wine were brought up on the stone table for Shi Jian and the Shi family members to enjoy.

In a short moment, Mo Tuo was also lead here, his seat was arranged right across from the Shi family.

After Mo Tuo sat down, he shot a freezing gaze towards the other side. No one knew what he was thinking about.

When the sun's beams became a little brighter, the Zuo family and the Ling family also arrived. Right when Zuo Xu got here, his seat was arranged next to the Shi family.

Zuo Xu sat down, then lightly nodded at Shi Jian, indicating that everything's going well with the Misty Pavilion, and they communicated in silence.

The Ling family was friendly with the Mo family, so naturally they were arranged to be sat together.

When Ling Shao Feng got here, he even smiled while walking over to the Mo family's side, comforting the gloomy-looking Mo Chan, and found an opportunity to talk to Mo Yanyu.

Mo Chaoge, who went missing, was Mo Zhan's father. Knowing that his father was taken, Mo Zhan had been containing his anger for a while, just waiting for his bloody revenge in the Martial Competition.

When the sun rose high above the sky, Beiming Shang finally arrived with the masters of the Beiming family.

Beiming Shang's expression was cold and a freezing energy swirled around his body. Wherever he went, the warriors of the Merchant Union all respectfully made the path for him.

Behind him was Beiming Ce who looked arrogant, followed by Mu Yu Die and Di Yalan.

The person arranging seats was a slave of the Beiming family, and upon seeing his master, he naturally gave him the best seat. Bowing, he invited Beiming Shang and Beiming Ce to sit, then immediately called the servants to bring up the delicacies and fine wine.

Both the quality and amount of the luxurious food was obviously better than the other four families. The superior position of the Beiming family in the Union was, as always, unobstructed.

After the five families had taken their seats, Beiming Shang moaned, then said nonchalantly, "The rules are the same every year and I'm not going to say much. The Martial Competition is only a way to communicate and learn from each other. I hope everyone can restrain themselves as much as possible. Hopefully no one gets killed."

The heads of the other four families all lightly nodded.

Beiming Shang looked around, his eyes gazed deeply at both Mo Tuo and Shi Jian, and said, "Like always, battle invitations are allowed, and you can also add more bets if you please, now who's going first?"

"Yu!" Mo Tuo shouted.

Mo Yanyu, who was standing in the group of Mo family members, walked down first. Her eyes cold and chilling. Looking towards the direction of the Shi family, she said, "Mo family Mo Yanyu, Nascent Realm, Second Sky. Who is willing to enlighten me?"

"Snow Fall City, a silver sand mine, here is the land title deed." Mo Tuo scowled, and snorted.

A dedicated warrior of the Mo family took the deed from his hand, and put it on a round table in the arena next to the Beiming family. The round table was made for placing bets.

"Sunset City, the franchise of Dong Guan Street." Shi Jian also snorted, he took three yellow sheets from his brocade pocket, and passed it to the director next to him.

When the three pages of yellow paper was also on the round table, Shi Jian said coldly, "Tian Luo, go."

Shi Tian Luo shook for a moment, then he also walked to the arena, and said with distinction, "Shi family Shi Tian Luo, Nascent Realm, Second Sky, please enlighten me."

"Mo family's Mo Yanyu! Shi family's Shi Tian Luo! Both are at the Second Sky of the Nascent Realm. The two masters, have you made the decision to fight?" The skinny director stood next to the round table and shouted out.

When he saw both Shi Yan and Mo Tuo nodding, he then said, "Alright, then the match starts!"

"Bzz bzz bzz!"

Streaks of green lightning suddenly flowed out of Mo Yanyu's ten fingers. Those lightning beams were like slithering snakes, slowly growing thicker in front of her.

At this moment, Mo Yanyu seemed to be surrounded by lightning.

Strands of green lightning that were as thin as a finger grew thicker and thicker, slowly becoming a five meter long whip.

After the lightning whips were condensed into shape, they were as thick as arms. The electric glow was blinding people's eyes, and strong electrical currents shot laser beams off everywhere.

"Snap snap!"

Mo Yanyu cracked her whip, and the lightning whip was like a dragon made of electricity. Under the deafening sounds of thunder, she fiercely whipped towards Shi Tian Luo.

"Bzz bzz bzz!"

The lightning lasered off into the air, making strange sounds, and streams of electricity flowed out. Many warriors' expressions froze, and instinctively they condensed their Profound Qi to defend themselves.

Shi Tian Luo's skin was already in an ash grey color; the Shi family's Petrification Martial Spirit was ready for battle.

Seeing the oncoming lightning whip, Shi Tian Luo face looked serious. All of a sudden he shouted loudly, and a fierce force as strong as a mountain suddenly burst out from his body.

"[Solid Rock Rune]!"

Shi Tian Luo was as still as a mountain, his legs looked as if they were pitched deep within the earth. After petrification, his physical defense was extraordinary, such that he fearlessly reached his hand out to grab the lightning whip that came at him.

"Bzz bzz!"

Just when Shi Tian Luo reached out his hand, the lightning whip wrapped around his left arm, and a shocking amount of electricity passed from the lightning whip and into Shi Tian Luo's body.

"Argh!"

Shi Tian Luo roared, the Profound Qi in his petrified body scoured around inside his body, and quickly flowed into his left arm to restrain the electricity that was intruding into his body.

Using the advantage of the Petrification Martial Spirit, although Shi Tian Luo's left hand was tingling and sore, he wasn't in that much of an unfavorable situation. After grabbing at the lightning whip, he ran towards Mo Yanyu, with great speed, and like a falling stone from the sky, he was filled with rapid momentum.

The Petrification Martial Spirit of the Shi family was best used for close combat. Once a Shi family member came to a close distance, that was when the opponent's nightmare starts.

Unexpectedly, seeing that Shi Tian Luo was fiercely approaching her, Mo Yanyu, who held the lightning whip in one hand did not dodge. Instead, she revealed a strange expression on her pretty little face.

In a mere second Mo Yanyu's blushed face turned as pale as a sheet, like she was desperately sick, and all the blood rushed away from her face.

And at this moment, the speed of her flowing Profound Qi within her body accelerated more than three times!

It was as if all the potential in her body was suddenly released.

“This is bad!” Shi Yan thought silently, his heart dropped. He knew that Shi Tian Luo was most likely going to suffer this time.

Mo Yanyu obviously only had a capability of a Nascent Realm, Second Sky warrior, but then her Profound Qi drastically changed inside her body, and now it was like she obtained some sort of power out of thin air that didn't belong to her!

The Profound Qi in her body was much more vigorous than even that of a Nascent Realm, Third Sky warrior

This advantage meant she had no fear against Shi Tian Luo's Petrification Martial Spirit.

Sure enough!

Just when Shi Tian Luo stormed to Mo Yanyu's side, before he could strike any vigorous attacks, Mo Yan Yun unleashed waves of [Verdant Crescent Slash].

Each [Verdant Crescent Slash] was as big as a full circle. It was over three times stronger than back when she shot it towards Shi Yan!

Together seven waves of [Verdant Crescent Slash] burst from her other hand, so fast that Shi Tian Luo had no time to dodge at all.

“Boom boom boom boom boom boom boom!”

Seven waves of [Verdant Crescent Slash], all directly hit straight onto Shi Tian Luo's chest, and blasted Shi Tian Luo off into the air!

The undeniable power of these seven waves of [Verdant Crescent Slash] was not something that the first stage of the Petrification Martial Spirit could handle.

When Shi Tian Luo was still in mid-air, he was already bloody from head to toe.

“Thump!” Shi Tian Luo's body landed three meters in front of where Shi Jian was. Blood was gushing out his chest and his eyes were dilated, clearly he was badly hurt.

“Go help him!”

Shi Jian's eyes looked like they were going to burst into flames, after he thundered in rage, his strong figure shook lightly.

A few dedicated warriors from the Shi family who were preparing on the side rushed up and carried Shi Tian Luo away. They quickly gave him medicines, hastily trying to heal him.

Shi Tie dug his fingers into the stone chair. He sat there still, not moving an inch, but his eyes were full of immense hatred, staring at the faraway Mo Tuo.

Mo Tuo was also furious-looking, he exchanged stares with Shi Tie.

“Mo Yanyu wins! The Mo family wins the bet, we may continue to the next match.”

At this moment, the director's emotionless voice rang from the other side of the round table.

Chapter 68 - A Thorough Defeat

"This pretty girl is amazing!"

"Yeah! She won without any effort even though she is at the same realm as him."

"Too nasty! That guy could have died several times if he didn't possess the Petrification Martial Spirit."

"Hmm... the competition among the five big families is really awesome! It is worth my long travel here."

"..."

The arena was filled with boisterous discussions. The onlookers were all surprised at Mo Yanyu's ability.

With a cold expression on her face, Mo Yanyu stood in the center of the field proudly, staring at the Shi family members with her frosty eyes, like a snow lotus on a snowy mountain.

Those observing warriors also gazed at her hot body with sparkling eyes. They were surprised by her brutality but still couldn't stop complimenting her.

On the Shi family side, everybody had a rigid face.

Shi Tie was trembling with anger, but could do nothing except stare at Mo Tuo in hatred.

This was the Martial Competition. The loser couldn't say anything about a public defeat. He could only win back his prestige in another battle.

"Family Head, Young Master Tian Luo is not heavily injured, but he won't be able to train his Martial Arts for three years." One minister of the Shi Family came up from behind, and said to Shi Jian and Shi Tie.

Shi Jian and Shi Tie suddenly quivered at his message, with grief crossing their eyes.

"Grandpa, that woman is strange! Her strength surged half way through. That's too weird!" Shi Yan remarked in a low voice.

"I know." Shi Jian took a deep breath and turned to Shi Tian Ke and Shi Tian Yun with hesitation.

He had apparently noticed that as well.

At the halfway point of the battle, Mo Yanyu's face suddenly turned pale, and it was at that moment, the Profound Qi in Mo Yanyu's body became much more dense and circulated much faster, which was abnormal.

"Yu back! Mo Qi, up!" Just then, Mo Tuo demanded, "we are not going to change the wager, and invite a battle with the Shi family again!"

Another youth about 6 feet tall replaced Mo Yanyu at the center of the arena, and said proudly, "Mo Qi of the Mo family. Nascent Realm, Second Sky. Please enlighten me!"

“Big brother!” Shi Tie yelled, and looked at Shi Tian Ke who stood behind him with worried eyes, “What should we do now?”

“Fight!” Shi Jian grit his teeth, thought for a while, and announced, “Tian Yun, up!”

All Shi family members were shocked at this and turned pale, as they looked at Shi Jian in confusion.

Shi Tian Yun was the most talented among the third generation of Shi family, and was at the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm. Thus everybody believed he would fight last.

Now that Shi Jian had sent him up so early, who would fight in the following battles?

Mo Zhan was of the third generation of the Mo family, but he was not on the stage yet. No matter if Shi Tian Yun won or lost this battle, he would lose the chance to fight against Mo Zhan.

Who will be sent to fight against Mo Zhan later?

If they couldn't find anyone to compete with Mo Zhan, everybody would think there were no promising descendents in the third generation of the Shi family, which was a bigger shame than losing the competition!

“Big brother!” Shi Tie cried, “Mo Zhan hasn't been sent!”

“It must be Tian Yun! There is something strange going on so we have to send Tian Yun who is one Sky higher than him.” Shi Jian stated with a frosty face, “Shut up! Tian Yun! Go!”

“Yes!” Tian Yun replied firmly and directly stepped onto the arena, “Shi Tian Yun from the Shi family. Nascent Realm, Third Sky. Please enlighten me!”

“Shi Tian Yun! Isn't he the strongest in the third generation of the Shi family?”

“Exactly, why did he appear so early when Mo Zhan is still not on stage?”

“The Shi family is scared now. They have no choice but to send Shi Tian Yun up to fight. Now it's getting interesting. One is at the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm and the other is at the Second Sky. One Sky different. I guess the Mo family won't accept this fight. They will definitely change their warrior.”

“Well, the Mo family won't buy it.”

“...”

The onlookers were all discussing among each other in astonishment.

Many from the Beiming and Ling families were looking on with doubt in their eyes, staring at the Shi family with weird expressions.

Even some faces from the Zuo family were filled with surprise, not knowing what Shi Jian was thinking.

Only Zuo Xu and Zuo Shi knew what was going on. They stealthily looked over to Shi Yan.

“Beiluo City! One mine! And the commercial street in the south of Beiluo City!” Shi Jian took a deep breath and pulled out all the documents from his bag and handed them to the director.

“Mo Qi from the Mo family, Second Sky of the Nascent Realm; Shi Tian Yun from the Shi Family, Third Sky of the Nascent Realm. Is it right?” As the wagers put on the table, the director frowned at Shi Jian and Mo Tuo.

Mo Tuo was a little confused, as he glanced over at Shi Tian Yun, not knowing why it was him who was sent.

After hesitating, Mo Tuo had a small talk with an old man, a mussy-haired one who was standing beside him and nodded softly.

Seeing him nodding, Mo Tuo seemed to be relaxed, as he nodded at the coach, “No problem, our warriors of the Second Sky of the Nascent Realm can easily beat those of Third Sky of the Nascent Realm from the Shi family. We are in!”

“Now, the battle begins!”

Shi Tian Yun immediately petrified his body, while Mo Qi yelled once and lightning intertwined his arms.

“Mo Qi, prove yourself as soon as possible. Don’t let others look down upon you.” Mo Tuo reminded him indifferently.

Hearing that, Mo Qi quickly understood what to do.

In an instant, like Mo Yanyu, Mo Qi’s face turned as pale as a zombie, which was extremely horrifying.

It was exactly the same.

In Mo Qi’s body, the flow of his Profound Qi accelerated many times! A certain energy that didn’t belong to him seemed to be triggered and invaded his entire body. His aura suddenly overwhelmed Shi Tian Yun who was one Sky higher than him!

“There it goes!” Shi Tie yelled in anger, “They must have played a certain trick! This is not the type of power that could belong to a warrior of the Second Sky of the Nascent Realm!”

Shi Jian looked depressed as he nodded, “Did you notice that? Mo Tuo had a talk with the old man behind him before he permitted the battle. Mo Yanyu and Mo Qi’s weird change must have something to do with that old man!”

“I won’t let him go peacefully!” Shi Tie greeted his teeth.

“Bang!”

Shi Tian Yun kicked off the ground with one foot and the solid metal stone made a thunderous sound as if it had been cracked.

Shi Tian Yun shot towards Mo Qi like a sharp sword at his fastest speed, intending to cripple Mo Qi as soon as possible.

Mo Qi smiled coldly without fear, as he directly met Shi Tian Yun, emitted flashes of lightning which flew towards him rapidly!

As he released the lightning flashes, green balls of light burst out from the center of Mo Qi's palm. They began to strike Shi Tian Yun heavily.

"Bang bang bang! Bang bang bang!"

One after another, green light balls struck Shi Tian Yun and slowed his attacks.

Just then, the Profound Qi in Mo Qi's body surged again! He appeared in front of Shi Tian Yun suddenly from behind the green balls.

The lightning flashes magically formed an electric net in the sky, and wrapped up Shi Tian Yun in an instant.

"How is that possible?! The energy in that kid equals that of a Human Realm warrior!" Shi Tie screamed in fear.

Shi Tian Yun was tightly entangled by the electric net. He struggled to get escape it but failed.

At this time, Mo Qi's green light balls kept striking Shi Tian Yun one by one and drove him back.

Mo Qi dashed near Shi Tian Yun and kept striking him with his arms and legs.

Shi Tian Yun was bleeding severely from the corner of his mouth, but he couldn't fight back because of the electric net that bound him tightly.

What a thorough defeat!

Everybody was stricken dumb in amazement as they stared at Mo Qi, who was merely at the Second Sky of the Nascent Realm, while he was striking Shi Tian Yun who could not fight back.

"Woa! What the hell is that?"

"Who knows? Why is that kid so powerful? It's weird, too weird!"

"Is he really at the Second Sky of the Nascent Realm? Or are the Nascent Realm warriors of the big families one level higher than us?"

"Confusing! Too confusing!"

"..."

All the warriors nearby were dumbstruck and couldn't figure out what happened.

"Bang bang bang! Bang bang bang!"

After receiving the endless strikes, Shi Tian Yun was bleeding severely and his eyes gradually began to dim.

Shi Jian stood up at once and demanded, "We lose!"

The director from the Beiming Family, who was standing next to the round table, immediately looked over to Beiming Shang after Shi Jian yelled.

Beiming Shang seemed to not have noticed the scene on the battle arena, as he was still drinking his tea quietly.

Seeing his attitude, the director understood what he meant. He lowered his head to check the documents, ignoring Shi Jian's announcement.

"Bang bang bang!"

Mo Qi continued to kick Shi Tian Yun, as the latter had fallen onto the ground long ago.

"We admit defeat!" Shi Jian stared at Beiming Shang and roared.

Beiming Shang finally seemed to notice it, as he raised his head and then peered at the director casually.

"Battle stops! The Mo family wins!" the director called out listlessly.

Mo Qi finally stopped his attacks and took a few steps back. Smirking, he laughed, "Haha! Shi family descendents are all losers! He is too weak for a Nascent Realm, Third Sky warrior! It was a total waste of my time. Humph!"

Then he swaggered back to his family and received a bunch of compliments.

Han Feng rushed onto the arena silently like a ghost and carried Shi Tian Yun back, who was drowning in his own blood, and asked those family ministers to check on him.

Those ministers were in a muddle, as they firstly put a handful of pills into Shi Tian Yun's mouth, with serious faces.

Not bothering to stare at Mo Tuo, Shi Tie quickly pressed his hands on Shi Tian Yun's chest and transmitted his Profound Qi into Tian Yun to heal him.

The battle field turned silent at once.

Those onlookers noticed this strange occurrence. They stopped gossiping, but looked at the two families in confusion.

"Keep the wager, and Zhan, you go up!" Mo Tuo announced at a low voice again, with a cold smile climbing up his mouth.

"Mo Zhan from the Mo family. Nascent Realm, Third Sky. Please enlighten me!"

Mo Zhan's robust body stood in the center of the arena, and he sneered, "I'm quite curious, does your Shi family still have people to fight me? Do you dare?"

Chapter 69 - Believe in Me!

The whole God Stone Square was silent. Mo Zhan's clamoring seemed to echo in the arena.

Shi Jian face was in a grimace, and he was trembling in rage. He almost wanted to go to the middle of the arena and slap Mo Zhan to death.

The Beiming, Ling, Mo, and Zuo families all looked at Shi Jian. Many warriors around the arena were looking at Shi Jian in sympathy.

At this point, everyone could see the vicious heart of the Mo family, and they also knew that they had definitely used some unusual means.

However, that's what the Martial Competition was like. Each side would use their own methods, and as long as they're not strongly against the rules of the arena, no matter how tragically the loser turned out to be, no one would say a thing.

Even if the Shi family were highly displeased, at that moment, there was nothing they could argue about. And the others of course, would not step into such murky waters.

At that moment, Han Feng suddenly came up from behind the people of the Shi family and passed a slip of paper to Shi Jian. He said, "Master, someone told me to give this to you."

Shi Jian was barely able to control his anger. As he took a glance at the note, his expression suddenly froze.

"The children from the Mo family have taken the Blood Vigor Pill, made by the Poison Dragon Valley of the God Blessed Empire. The Blood Vigor Pill allows one to increase their strength by twofold for a short period of time at the cost of being unable to use their martial powers for a whole year. It is best for you not to continue the following matches, or else you will still lose miserably. The old man standing next to Mo Zhan is the alchemist Xie Shou from the Poisonous Dragon Valley! Sincerely, Mu Xun."

Shi Jian looked at the words on the paper with a grim face. He finally knew what the Mo family had done.

Just to deal with the Shi family, Mo Tuo had sacrificed a year of his grandchildren's cultivation. In turn, this caused Shi Tian Luo and Shi Tian Yun of the Shi family to be bedridden for at least three to five years. This method was ruthless to the extreme!

Shi Jian's expression was gloomy. Looking at Shi Yan, he suddenly could not decide how to proceed.

If Mu Xun didn't pass on this information, Shi Jian might have actually let Shi Yan enter the arena.

But since now the truth was known, Shi Jian knew that Mo Zhan must have also taken that Blood Vigor Pill, and that now his abilities were enhanced for the upcoming battle. Knowing this, Shi Jian faltered.

Mo Zhan was already at the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm. But after taking the Blood Vulgar Pill, he would have the ability of a Human Realm warrior. Human Realm warriors could easily break the second stage of Shi Yan's Petrification Martial Spirit.

Shi Yan had only started cultivating recently, so Shi Jian naturally thought that Shi Yan lacked real battle experience.

In this situation, Shi Yan could easily be crushed by his opponent. But Shi Yan had twin Martial Spirits. In a long run, he would definitely become as good as Beiming Ce. He was the true future hope of the Shi family.

If this battle led to Shi Yan losing miserably and suffering heavy injuries, not only would it slow down his path to success, the strike could probably devastate him forever.

The more he weighed his options, the more hesitant Shi Jian felt. He almost had the thought to protect Shi Yan even if he were to be disgraced.

Then, at this moment.

Zuo Shi came slowly from the Zuo family's side, carrying a giant backpack.

Zuo Shi's captivating figure caused unrest outside the arena. Many looked at Zuo Shi lasciviously, their eyes gazing towards her beautiful long legs.

Soon, Zuo Shi arrived at the Shi family's place. She stood next to Shi Jian and put the backpack on the Shi family's table, saying quietly, "Grandpa Shi, my grandpa told me to bring the Dragon Turtle Armor to you in the hope that you would win."

Then, she turned her head and looked at Shi Yan, and spoke quietly, "Go for it."

After that, Zuo Shi left the Shi family area and returned to the Zuo family.

Even when she arrived back at the Zuo family, her beautiful eyes were still locked onto Shi Yan from across the arena.

Everyone in the Shi family felt devastated.

Not only those who didn't know about Shi Yan's situation, even those who were actually aware of Shi Yan's cultivation level were also pitying him.

A warrior who just recently broke through to the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm, versus one who heavily trained for twenty years, and slowly came to this realm step by step. It's clear who was stronger.

Besides, the Mo family obviously played dirty, so now the actual gap between the two was like a deep valley.

"Dragon Turtle Armor!"

When Shi Jian saw the armour he was completely shocked. Even though his confidence was restored, he still hesitated a bit. Passing the paper slip to Shi Yan, he murmured, "Sigh... grandpa doesn't know what to do either, you decide for yourself. If you think it's too hard, then... just give up."

When he said the words "give up", Shi Jian suddenly felt exhausted, as if he aged some years.

Shi Yan still looked unconcerned with the recent surprising developments. He glanced at the paper slip, but didn't show any reaction. He was still calm as ever. He had already realised that the Mo family must have used some underhanded means.

Before Shi Jian had even finished speaking, Shi Yan leapt off and appeared in the middle of the arena. He spoke lightly, "Shi Yan from the Shi family. Nascent Realm, Third Sky. Please enlighten me!"

A great disturbance stirred in the crowd!

The silent arena suddenly became louder than the street markets. Many were in utter shock, puzzled, as they looked at Shi Yan.

“Who’s this kid? I’ve never heard of this guy in the Shi family.”

“Right, he never showed up in any of the previous Martial Competitions. When did the Shi family get such a warrior?”

“Shi Yan... I know. Isn’t he that young master of the Shi family who loves to study ancient texts? This guy never practiced martial arts. I only know him because he always caused trouble.”

“No way! He has never cultivated in martial arts, but still is at the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm?”

“Who knows? But even if he is at the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm, what can he do? You saw what happened when Mo Qi, who’s only at the Second Sky of the Nascent Realm, went against Shi Tian Yun, who was at the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm. About that Shi Yan guy, maybe it’s only because Shi Jian doesn’t want to be embarrassed so he sent him out to die.”

“Yeah... sigh... poor guy, being sacrificed like that.”

“...”

Around the arena, the sounds of gossip rose everywhere. Not a single warrior felt optimistic about Shi Yan. After knowing his true identity, they all thought Shi Jian had only let him go up out of frustration. The outcome... was already decided.

On the Beiming family’s side, Beiming Shang also furrowed his brows slightly. He turned his head to a dedicated warrior on the side, “What’s the deal with Shi Yan? Why was there no news about him? When did the Shi family get another Nascent Realm, Third Sky kid? Did he appear out of thin air?”

“Master, I didn’t know either. Since a young age Shi Yan didn’t have the Shi family’s Martial Spirit, so we didn’t spend much effort observing him. Who knew that he suddenly...”

“A little strange.” Beiming Shang nodded, he frowned and asked no more.

Beiming Ce was dazed for a second, as a flash of surprise gleamed in his eyes. He stared at Shi Yan for a while, then suddenly realized, “Hey? Isn’t that the kid who was drinking with Han Zhong in the Spring Pavilion, a few days back?”

Mu Yu Die and Di Yalan also remembered, and lightly nodded at the same time. From far away, Di Yalan stared at Shi Yan, who was talked about by many people in the arena. Her expression was a little strange, and with a low voice she said, “It’s him.”

“He’s definitely gonna die.” Beiming Ce shook his head, unconcerned, “No matter how amazing his luck was before, this time, against Mo Zhan, he’ll be crippled, if not killed.”

Mo Tuo also dazed out for a second, then he sneered, “I don’t care where this little bastard came from, but we’ll never see him again.”

“Shi Yan, take that thing!” Shi Jian shouted while grimacing. He pointed at the Dragon Turtle Armor brought by Zuo Shi, and hinted at him.

“Don’t need it.” Shi Yan glimpsed over at Shi Jian, and shook his head. Then he smiled at Mo Zhan, “At the Spring Pavilion, I told you we’d meet again. Now do you know who I am?”

“I know.” Mo Zhan laughed arrogantly, “You’re just someone who came here to die! Haha, the Shi family really has nobody now. Sending out a guy who researches ancient texts! Hahaha, I’m gonna laugh to the death!”

Shi Yan didn’t show any anger, he looked indifferent, and stood in the arena waiting.

“Ahem, head of the Shi family, you can put out your bet now.” The director standing at the round table shouted out.

“Master!”

“Master!”

“Master!”

At the Shi family tower, many of the dedicated warriors shouted, clearly indicating their displeasure.

All of them had heard about Shi Yan. Even if he had somehow reached the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm, everyone believed that it was for nought, and that Shi Yan would lose miserably.

If Shi family lost the fight again, not only would they would be crushed in the competition, they would also lose their high-value bets, the repercussion of which, would last forever.

“Brother! You must not!” Shi Tie advised Shi Tian strongly, still injecting his Profound Qi into Tian Yun. “Brother! It’s not worth that little bit of pride! Tian Luo and Tian Yun have already lost, you can’t bring Shi Yan in too! Just let it go, Brother!”

Shi Yan could clearly hear all the chatter behind him. Groaning, he looked back at Shi Jian and said calmly, “Grandpa, believe in me!”

“...Okay!”

Shi Jian, who was hesitating over his choices, looked at Shi Yan’s confident expression. And for some reason, he actually did choose to believe in him. He suddenly roared, “Phoenix City! Our family bets the authority to the whole city! If the Mo family wins, our family will cede the authority for Phoenix City immediately!”

This led to another great disturbance in the crowd, everyone started gossiping and chatting again.

Phoenix City was a big city in the Merchant Union, and the Shi family had been holding the authority to the city for decades. Now Phoenix City had been branded with the Shi family’s name.

It could be said that Phoenix City was where the Shi family’s influence was deepest. Now Shi Jian was putting up the authority for Phoenix City as a bet, was he going insane?

“Big brother!”

“Master!”

Everyone in the Shi family were on their feet as they looked at Shi Jian in disbelief. All of them started requesting Shi Jian to take back the bet vehemently.

“Stop trying to persuade me! My mind is set!” Shi Jian’s stubbornness was back, and with a straight face, he sneered, “It’s either make or break! I will take the risk this time!”

Everyone in the Beiming family and the Ling family were also stunned, clearly they didn’t understand either.

Zuo Xu dazed for a moment, then sighed and said quietly, “Now there’s no turning back for Brother Shi.”

“Okay!” Mo Tuo suddenly stood up, and shouted loudly, “You can’t take this back now!”

“Take it!” Shi Jian took the deeds from his personal pocket, and passed it to the director who came towards him. Then he shouted coldly, “Mo Tuo, your little bet is not enough!”

“I will add three more mines!” Mo Tuo scowled, then sneered, “It’s a sure win match, doesn’t matter how much more I add, after all it will still belong to the Mo family in the end!”

Soon, the director took the bet from the Mo family up to the round table, then suddenly roared, “The match starts!”

Chapter 70 - The Focus of Attention

“Let the battle begin!”

The referee’s announcement officially started the much anticipated battle.

Mo Zhan was wearing a cold and arrogant smile.

In an instant, streams of electricity came out of his body, materializing into electric snakes.

Those electric snakes intertwined around Mo Zhan’s whole body, which made him look dazzling.

Mo Zhan, a warrior of the Third Sky of the Nascent Realm, stood in the battle arena with pride, while electric snakes were circling all over his body. His Lightning Martial Spirit was apparently way more powerful than Mo Yanyu’s and Mo Qi’s.

As his face gradually turned pale, those electric snakes kept twisting around his body, looking hideous and seemingly wanting to eat people.

“The Petrification Martial Spirit of the Shi Family is said to be the king of close range battle in the Merchant Union. Hehe, I will give you a chance. Come near me and fight!” Mo Zhan stood still and burst into laughter with arrogance and pride filling his face, not caring about Shi Yan a bit.

“That guy is way too arrogant!”

“Well, he is in the position to be arrogant. The Lightning Martial Spirit of his is way stronger than that Mo Qi’s. The result is quite clear now!”

“Exactly, the Shi Family will have a nasty failure for sure.”

“...”

Around the battle arena, the warriors standing on the high green stone building were all shaking their heads as no one anticipated that Shi Yan could beat Mo Zhan.

Even on the Shi family’s side everybody was in bad mood, sighing with disappointment.

“Well.”

With his usual indifference, Shi Yan strode towards Mo Zhan at a leisurely pace, as though he thought nothing of him.

While walking, his body petrified gradually and his skin grew gray.

Before he came into the battle arena, Shi Yan had wiped a certain powder all over his body.

That powder did nothing but changed the color of his Martial Spirit so that it looked gray even though his Petrification Martial Spirit had already reached the second stage.

Shi Jian did this as he wanted to avoid anyone thinking they were cheating. After all, it was a known fact that a Nascent Realm warrior couldn’t reach the second stage of the Petrification Martial Spirit.

“Kid, you were really something in the Spring Pavilion! I hope you can be as sharp as you were then!” Mo Zhan smiled coldly with his pale face, as he stood still and waited for Shi Yan to approach.

“Sharp or not, you will know soon enough.” Shi Yan shook his head with a smile. As he replied, he was within three metres of Mo Zhan.

“Humph!”

Suddenly, Mo Zhan yelled in a low voice and the electric snakes coiling around his body came to life.

Those electric snakes flew out and dashed towards Shi Yan in a second.

“Damn!” Shi Tie cried in fear, “There they go!”

“Dodge!” Shi Yang couldn’t help but cry out.

“Hiss hiss hiss!”

The electric snakes were as thick as thumbs and separated at once as if they were alive, entangling Shi Yan from all directions, not leaving any gaps.

Ignoring the cries of the Shi family, the electric snakes wrapped Shi Yan up tightly in an instant.

“Bad!” Shi Tie’s eyes were full of fear, as he sighed with pain, “How stupid is this kid! He didn’t even dodge, even when he knows how Tian Yun lost! Now he is repeating the same tragedy! It’s done!”

“Not surprising!”

“Yeah, this guy studies ancient language. Stupid!”

“There is no suspense. I guess he won’t even have the slightest chance to fight back.”

Around the battle arena, those warriors were all feeling sorry for Shi Yan, as they shook their heads in sorrow, seeming to know the result.

It turned out just as everybody assumed!

Mo Zhan seized this opportunity and rushed up to Shi Yan. With a [Verdant Crescent Slash] in his left hand and a [Green Light Ball] in his right hand, he struck his opponent who was entangled tightly by electric snakes.

“Boom boom boom boom! Boom boom boom boom!”

The [Verdant Crescent Slashes] and [Green Light Balls] were shooting like a hail, and covered Shi Yan in an instant.

Under Mo Zhan’s intense attacks, nobody could clearly see Shi Yan who was buried under the lightning, and they simply guessed he would lose for sure.

One after another electric slashes flashed with green light, and the audience saw the arena clearly again.

Shi Yan was still standing there and hadn’t moved. He was not hurt in the slightest and smoke was coming from his coat.

“Hmm?”

“What happened?”

“It can’t be true?”

As the green light dissipated and the warriors saw Shi Yan clearly, they couldn’t help but rub their eyes, surprised by Shi Yan who was still standing in the arena like a mountain.

Beiming Shang also raised his head from his teacup and looked at Shi Yan in astonishment. He frowned and mumbled, “Weird.”

Mo Tuo’s expression changed, but he still kept calm and just grunted once.

Shi Jian’s body quivered once and a bright light crossed his eyes. After taking a deep breath, he pressed one of his hands to the stone stool and became excited.

“Big brother!”

“Family Head!”

Shi Tie and the Shi family warriors looked to Shi Jian at the same time, with joy and confusion on their faces.

“Keep on!” Shi Jian yelled, as his mouth trembled a bit.

Though still feeling confused after what they heard, Shi Tie and those ministers of the Shi family got a little expectation of Shi Yan.

In the arena.

Shi Yan was still entangled by the electric snakes, but apart from a little numbness after using his Petrification ability, he felt nothing else, as he still maintained an indifferent expression on his face.

Wisps of thin smoke gushed out from his arms which soon covered the electricity from those snakes, thus no one could see the change in his arms.

While he was being struck heavily, his negative energy had mingled with his Profound Qi and gushed out from his arms, turning into five small swirls which floated around him.

These swirls created by the [Gravitational Field] combined these two types of energy, which slowly floated behind Mo Zhan.

The swirls were invisible to anyone. Apart from Shi Yan, in this huge battle field, only a Human Realm warrior like Beiming Shang could sense it.

“Mo Zhan, you are so weak!” Under the gaze of the audience, Shi Yan broadened his mouth, as he laughed and smirked, “You can’t even hurt me when I stood there and didn’t fight back. How did the Mo family become one of the five big families in the Merchant Union with skills like yours?”

“Kid, you are seeking death!” Mo Zhan’s face changed suddenly and became even paler. He dashed over with a stern face toward Shi Yan, and just as Mo Qi kicked Shi Tian Yun, he began to kick Shi Yan like crazy.

“Boom boom boom! Bang bang bang!”

Mo Zhan’s hard attacks dropped upon Shi Yan, while the arena was filled with green light and strong Profound Qi began to spill everywhere.

“Still weak. Mo Zhan, are you a girl?”

Under Mo Zhan’s attacks, Shi Yan was unmovable like a mountain and couldn’t stop shaking his head, ridiculing him with crueler and crueler words, “If you don’t have a thing down there I can help you satisfy your wife on your wedding day, in case that you make a fool of yourself!”

That was too wicked!

Ling Yue Yue from the Ling family suddenly stood up and cursed in a flirtatious tone, “Shi Yan, you will die a miserable death!”

“I want you to die!”

Mo Zhan howled and triggered all his potential at once. He jumped towards Shi Yan and started sending out another rain of punches.

“Bang!”

However, Shi Yan simply stretched one leg and kicked Mo Zhan in the chest. That kick, by his sole free leg, sent Mo Zhan five meters away.

“Boring.” Shi Yan grunted in disappointment as he got rid of the electric snakes.

Those electric snakes, which were crawling all over him, broke away inch by inch!

The shattered electric sparks dispersed all around the arena

“Be careful!”

“Damn it!”

The warriors nearest to the arena shouted and hurried to operate their Profound Qi to defend against those electric sparks.

“Good boy!” Zuo Xu patted the arm of his chair and praised, “I like this guy!”

Zuo Shi’s bright eyes were shining with an odd light as she nodded at Shi Yan and smiled, “Well, this guy is really mean.”

“Big brother!”

“Family Head! Wh... what is going on here?”

On the other side, Shi Tie and the Shi family ministers all looked to Shi Jian in surprise.

“It’s fine. It’s just that the Mo family is too weak.” Shi Jian responded briefly, following Shi Yan’s directions. Suddenly the feeling in the air had become fresh.

Mo Tuo stood up with a green face. He stared at Mo Zhan and his breathing became heavier and heavier.

“Those eyes, I have seen them somewhere...” On the side of the Beiming Family, Di Yalan showed a little suspicion on her face, and she murmured after a long deliberation.

But at that time, no one paid attention to her murmurs. Instead, everybody was setting their eyes upon Shi Yan and following his movements.

After getting rid of the electric snakes, Shi Yan started strolling towards Mo Zhan. Mo Zhan lifted himself up from the ground and rushed towards Shi Yan in a rage.

At that moment!

Mo Zhan’s body began to twist strangely as willow flowers fluttered in the air. Something invisible had entangled him tightly. The harder he struggled, the stranger the way he swayed. At last, he floated up into the air...

There seemed to be an invisible wicked hand behind him that had grabbed his neck and lifted him up.

“What happened?”

“I don’t know! What’s wrong with Mo Zhan? Is he out of his mind?”

“Who knows what’s going on? Why is Mo Zhan floating in the air? Is he at the Sky Realm?”

“Do you even think it’s possible?”

“...”

The arena burst into clamor at once.

Shi Yan came near Mo Zhan with an indifferent face and slowly stretched out his hand. His fingers stabbed into Mo Zhan's knee like five sharp spears.

"Crack! Crack!"

The clear sounds of bones breaking came from Mo Zhan's knees.

"Crack! Crack!"

Another two similar noises came from his shoulders.

"Paa!"

Mo Zhan was totally freaking out in front of Shi Yan. He couldn't help but fall on his knees.

Not a single bone in his joints were connected. Pathetically kneeling in front of Shi Yan in front of such a huge crowd made him roar insanely, "Shi Yan, I am gonna kill you! KILL YOU!"

"Oh? Really?" Shi Yan looked cool, as he grabbed Mo Zhan's neck and lifted him high up in the air again.

Mo Zhan tried his electric skill on Shi Yan but it had no effect.

In front of hundreds of eyes, Mo Zhan was lifted up by Shi Yan single handedly; it was a deliberate insult!

Shi Yan intended to show Mo Zhan's expression to everybody, for he circled the arena, so that every warrior present could see the grief and fear on Mo Zhan's face.

After one circle, Shi Yan turned his eyes towards Shi Jian and sent the message: to kill or not?

The arena quietened down suddenly and all the warriors gazed at Shi Yan.

Tens of meters away, Shi Jian got Shi Yan's message and was quite delighted.

Under Shi Yan's gaze, Shi Jian nodded softly with a rigid face.

"We give up!" Mo Tuo was shocked and he cried miserably after he saw Shi Jian's cold eyes, "We lose! We lose!"

"Stop!" The referee at the roundtable announced immediately.

"Crack!"

Another clear sound came from Mo Zhan's neck, and his head flapped down in an odd way.

All the warriors were horrified. They looked at Shi Yan, who had just shattered Mo Zhan's neck, in quiet astonishment.

It was extremely silent in the arena.

Under everybody's gaze, Shi Yan tossed away Mo Zhan's body indifferently.

"Paa!"

Mo Zhan's dead body landed three meters in front of Mo Tuo, with his head strangely twisted.

Sneering at the Mo family, Shi Yan returned to the Shi family tower and without any care and took his seat.