

Swordsman 411

Chapter 411: The Inner Area

"I've never been to Inner Area, but I do know something about it since I've been on the battlefield for a long time." Sir Axe handed a file to Jian Wushuang. "This is information on the experts who adventure there all year round."

"Information on experts?" Jian Wushuang's eyes lit up as he took the file. "Thanks a lot!"

"Hey, guys, I have to go now."

Jian Wushuang exchanged some words with Sir Axe, bid his farewells to the rest and departed.

Sir Axe, Lei Dao, and Shi Ling watched Jian Wushuang's retreating figure with complex expressions written over their faces.

"Inner Area," Lei Dao muttered, "when can I take my adventure there? I really envy Swordsman."

"When you've condensed three Origin Marks and stepped into Stage Three, you can go," Sir Axe looked at Lei Dao and said.

Lei Dao smiled bitterly.

Condensing an Origin Mark was a difficult process. At present, Lei Dao had condensed only one mark, so he didn't know if that day would come.

"Well, now Swordsman is gone. Without his Realm Technique, our team will be weakened significantly. Let's go back to our camp before making further plans." Sir Axe suggested.

"Ok."

The others nodded at Sir Axe's words.

On the vast Flaming Battlefield, Jian Wushuang read the file that Sir Axe had given him as he slowly walked forward.

He wasn't worried about running into trouble at Outer Area as the experts would only be at Stage Two. If they caused him trouble, they were courting death.

"Inner Area is not as vast as Outer Area, but the killing there is crueler and the experts there are numerous." Jian Wushuang was excited.

From the file, he gleaned a lot of useful information.

The data covered over a thousand experts who fought in Inner Area.

These experts were either at Stage Three and had condensed three Origin Marks or had excellent techniques with mighty power equivalent to Stage Three. Jian Wushuang belonged to the latter category.

The strength of different experts at Stage Three would differ.

In the file, Stage Three experts were divided into three groups: ordinary level, high level, and the top level.

Between levels, there was a small but not negligible difference in strength.

In addition to this, the file had also recorded six experts at Heaven-defying Level, but they only showed up in Inner Area occasionally.

"Heaven-defying Level!"

Jian Wushuang's eyes narrowed.

Most of experts at this level had awoken their souls like Jian Wushuang and were super geniuses.

Few such experts could be found in one Domain, so it was really rare to see six such geniuses on Flaming Battlefield.

"With my current power and the power from my active Sword Soul, I should be at the ordinary level of Stage Three. I should be able to survive on the battlefield unless I encounter an expert at Heaven-defying Level. Not even a top expert at Stage Three can kill me now."?Jian Wushuang thought to himself as he approached the Inner Area.

Several days later, Jian Wushuang arrived at his destination.

Compared to the Outer Area, the air in the Inner Area was hotter and filled with more red mist.

"When will I meet my first opponent in Inner Area?"?Jian Wushuang wandered around expectantly.

In Inner Area, an encounter with an expert depended on chance.

With a bit of luck, he might meet two or three experts from rival camps in a single day.

Otherwise, he might have to adventure in vain for a prolonged period.

In the void, a slender elder in green robes walked forward. His face was expressionless.

His pace appeared slow, but with each step, he crossed hundreds of meters. In the space of several steps, he crossed mountains and plains.

Just as the elder passed a mountain, he noticed a black-robed youth who was moving slowly not far away.

"I can't sense his token. He's an enemy."?The elder narrowed his eyes, which were as sharp as an eagle's eyes.

Taking one step forward, the elder drew close to the youth.

"Eh?" The youth, Jian Wushuang, raised his head when he sensed the elder. He smiled.

*"Lucky me. I've been in Inner Area only for half a day, and here comes my target."*Jian Wushuang smirked as he quickly recalled the information on related experts.

The file that Sir Axe had given him included portraits of the experts.

That information helped Jian Wushuang recognize the elder.

“Wind Demon.” Jian Wushuang’s smile widened.

“Boy, I’ve never seen you before. Are you a newcomer?” the elder stared at Jian Wushuang with a frown.

Experts like the elder had been in Inner Area for a long time and were familiar with each other, so new faces stood out to them.

“I’m Swordsman, and you are the first person I’m meeting in this place,” Jian Wushuang said flatly.

“Swordsman? Never heard of you,” said Wind Demon coldly, “Not everyone deserves to be in Inner Area, but since you are here, let’s see whether you’re qualified to make a living on this land.”

As the elder’s words fell, a fierce wind rolled up from his body. A strong aura rose like a storm and encircled him.

Boom! The storm stirred the air and swept toward Jian Wushuang.

Jian Wushuang looked impassive. He stood still and looked at the storm with his eyes flickering.

“This will be my first battle in Inner Area.”

“It’ll also be my first battle in Divine Land that I’ll have to try my best to fight.”

“Wind Demon, don’t let me down.”

Chapter 412: The First Battle in Inner Area

Jian Wushuang was filled with anticipation for the battle.

He had been waiting for this moment for so long.

After he entered Divine Land, he had held his power back for every battle.

He had wanted to push himself to his peak power during the fights, but he hadn’t been forced to that point. For the battle where he and his team had been trapped in Outer Area, he had erupted with his full power and killed all his opponents. However, it had happened so quickly and was over before he could enjoy the fight.

He had not had a chance to show his real strength until this moment in Inner Area.

“Let’s fight!”

Jian Wushuang directed a fiery gaze at the coming storm.

Abruptly, the storm’s progress stopped and a spooky figure dived out from it. This figure split the void and approached Jian Wushuang swiftly.

“So fast!”?Jian Wushuang was shocked.

Based on what he had read, he knew that while Wind Demon was an ordinary expert at Stage Three, he was good at comprehending Gale Origin and had a terrifying moving speed, of which many top experts at Stage Three were jealous.

Jian Wushuang was cautious and unleashed his Triple-kill Sword, which struck forward like a dragon.

The skill he displayed was the Dragon-killing Sword Technique, a first-grade sword technique that he had gained in Sword Tower.

This was just the first move, but its power was astounding.

Wind Demon looked calm. With a twist of his hands, he made a fist. As his fist collided with Jian Wushuang's sword, the sword shook.

Wind Demon then gathered a large amount of Gale Origin and shaped it into a long spear. The spear radiated with a chilling aura as it targeted Jian Wushuang's head.

The spear pierced through the void at an amazing speed.

Jian Wushuang managed to lift his longsword just in time to hold the spear off. He was forced backward several hundred meters before he could stabilize his stance.

"Boy, don't tell me that is all you have." Wind Demon looked down at Jian Wushuang from the Void.

Wind Demon hadn't shown his full strength, and yet he had overpowered Jian Wushuang. From the moves they had exchanged, he could tell that Jian Wushuang was far from reaching Stage Three.

Jian Wushuang remained silent, but his eyes grew bright as powerful killing intent swept over him.

Asura Secret Skill, Road to the Underworld!

Boom! A blood river spread across the sky. It covered most of the area and hung over Wind Demon.

Sword Realm, Tenfold Realm!

Slaughter Domain!

Jian Wushuang displayed two more techniques. The three skills worked in concert to press Wind Demon downward.

"How powerful his Realm is! Even I'm suppressed by it." As Wind Demon was lost in thought, he suddenly sensed an overpowering Sword Essence.

He immediately looked toward its source and paled visibly when he saw two huge Sword Soul Phantoms rising behind Jian Wushuang.

"Sword Soul Phantom!"

"Two Sword Soul Phantoms of 30 meters tall!"

Wind Demon was stunned.

Few experts on Flaming Battlefield had awakened souls, and Jian Wushuang was the first expert he had met with two awakened souls.

“Wind Demon, let’s try another round.” Jian Wushuang’s eyes sparkled.

Swish!

Covered by Sword Essence, Jian Wushuang turned into a sharp sword that cut through the void toward Wind Demon. As Jian Wushuang swung the Triple-kill Sword at Wind Demon, the two Sword Soul Phantoms attacked with him.

The power of the Sword Soul flowed to the sword and elevated the force of the attack to a new peak.

Wind Demon looked grave as he saw the approaching sword and heard its piercing scream. *“He showed his power of top Stage Two in the previous attack. Now, with the help of Double Sword Souls, his attack has become more powerful than mine.”*

Wind Demon was experienced in fighting, so he was able to assess the situation.

Streams of green energy rose up from his feet like wind.

Jian Wushuang’s sword pierced Wind Demon’s chest, but he quickly realized that it was a shadow and not Wind Demon’s real flesh. Wind Demon reappeared beside Jian Wushuang.

“How could he be so fast even when affected by my Realm?” Jian Wushuang was puzzled.

He thought he had been fast, but Wind Demon was swifter even when being repressed by the blood river.

“Wind-shadow Kill!”

Wind Demon stretched his hands at Jian Wushuang. From his fingers, streams of green energy gathered together into more than ten sharp spikes.

The spikes glowed with cyan light under the sun. They turned into beams of light that rushed toward Jian Wushuang.

Jian Wushuang tried to dodge all the spikes, but one spike found its target on Jian Wushuang’s shoulder and cut his skin.

“Eh?” Wind Demon was astonished.

The spikes were not that powerful, but with so many of them and at their high speeds, they should have done more damage than just causing a superficial wound to Jian Wushuang.

“He has a very strong body.” Wind Demon reasoned.

Suddenly, he felt a fierce wind behind him. He turned around and found a scarlet palm formed by the Blood River aimed at him.

The palm slapped at Wind Demon. Wind Demon regained his balance. His body flashed, leaving shadows in the Blood River. In the very next moment, he appeared in the sky far away, beyond the reach of the river.

Standing at the center of the river, Jian Wushuang glanced at Wind Demon.

"Swordsman, you're indeed powerful. I'm looking forward to fighting you next time." After saying this, Wind Demon disappeared.

"Is he gone?"

Jian Wushuang sighed as he watched Wind Demon leave.

Chapter 413: Xue Luo

"How terrifying his speed was! He was faster than me even when repressed by my Realm. It seems that few in the Inner Area would be able to take his life." Jian Wushuang thought.

At his full power and with the help of his Realm, he had barely overpowered Wind Demon. With Jian Wushuang's current skills, it was impossible for him to kill Wind Demon.

"But having been in this fight, I now know my power much better." Jian Wushuang mused.

Wind Demon was just at the ordinary level of Stage Three, far from the Top level.

However, with his speed, he still stood a chance of holding his own against an expert at the Top level.

This meant that Jian Wushuang, who had overpowered Wind Demon in the recently concluded battle, should be at the high level of Stage Three.

It was an achievement.

"By the way."

Jian Wushuang's expression changed as he waved his hand. A scarlet figure immediately appeared beside him.

It was a burly man clad in red armor, boots and a helmet. The man looked emotionless and his eyes were cold. He was none other than the Blood Puppet.

Jian Wushuang had owned this puppet for a long time, but he did not know the full extent of its power. As he had a supply of Blood Gems, he was eager to find an opponent on whom he could test the puppet's strength.

He would be able to do this in Inner Area.

"The Puppet Fighter made by Sword Ancestor. I'm anticipating witnessing your power."

With these expectations, Jian Wushuang resumed his adventure in Inner Area.

A strong man dressed in a short coat and long pants walked with quiet footsteps. He towered over two meters and had hair as yellow as a lion's, a snub nose, and big mouth.

"Marquis Piao's underlings are all cowards. They run from me like rabbits running from a lion."

The man scanned the area with his golden eyes, trying to find his target. His overwhelming aura radiated from him in waves.

He did not care that his display would attract attention, even in the Inner Area that was full of experts.

In Inner Area, even the experts at the Top of Stage Three would try to keep a low profile. Otherwise, they would attract too much attention as well as enemies.

This man was cognizant of the situation but did not hide his strength, which showed his confidence.

In fact, his strength lived up to his confidence.

An expert nearby was drawn to the man's aura. However, when he discovered the identity of its bearer, he was frightened. He managed to calm himself down.

"Xue Luo, it's you," said the expert to the man. He was a benevolent-looking white-robed elder.

"Well, it's you, Wu Yu. So you want to fight me?" Xue Luo responded in an arrogant tone as he looked at the elder with his arms crossed in front of his chest.

"No, not at all." the elder smiled and continued, "I happened to be around and followed your aura here. I'm leaving now."

The elder left immediately.

"Coward!" Xue Luo mocked the elder.

He and Wu Yu were from two different camps, but neither of them intended to fight each other.

Xue Luo knew that he could not kill the elder and Wu Yu had no guts to challenge him.

Xue Luo continued to move forward, and before long, he came up to a small hill.

"What's this?"

As he looked down, his eyes brightened. He had spotted a moving figure. Xue Luo grinned. *"I can't sense his aura. He is a rival."*

He rushed toward the figure.

That figure, Jian Wushuang, sensed an overbearing aura approaching him and stopped. He turned around and saw a burly golden-haired man charging toward him.

Jian Wushuang was startled for a moment and stared at the man. *"He is..."*

In an instant, Jian Wushuang recognized the man.

"He is Xue Luo!"

"No wonder his aura is so aggressive."

Jian Wushuang looked grave.

Jian Wushuang felt extremely pressured at Xue Luo's arrival.

Based on the file Sir Axe had given him, Xue Luo was an expert at the Top of Stage Three with a strong body and mighty power.

Besides, his attack and defensive skills were excellent. His only weakness might be his slow speed.

Moreover, he was ranked among the top 20 experts in Inner Area.

The file also mentioned that Xue Luo had once fought head-to-head with an expert at Heaven-defying Level. Xue Luo had been overpowered by him, but he had managed to escape in one piece.

In other words, Xue Luo was a monster who feared nothing in Inner Area.

"I'm so lucky to encounter him."?Jian Wushuang was excited.

Xue Luo had presented himself just when Jian Wushuang wanted to find someone on whom he could test his Blood Puppet.

Jian Wushuang waved his hand. The Blood Puppet appeared and swallowed a Blood Gem that Jian Wushuang gave him.

"Show me your power as a Blood Puppet made by Sword Ancestor!"?Jian Wushuang waited with bated breath for fight to commence. After swallowing the gem, a sliver of light flashed in the puppet's eyes.

Bang!

The puppet turned into a streak of red flowing light and rushed toward Xue Luo.

"Eh?"

Xue Luo had been watching Jian Wushuang closely during his charge toward him. He was taken aback when the Blood Puppet suddenly appeared in front of him.

The puppet swiftly dived at Xue Luo, clenched his right hand into a fist and threw it at Xue Luo.

"You want to play hard? I'm fine with it." Xue Luo sneered.

Xue Luo transformed into an ape as a giant Demonic Ape materialized from thin air and appeared behind him. He then made a fist and attacked.

Two overwhelming forces collided.

Chapter 414:

The Horrifying Blood Puppet

Bang!

A booming sound resounded in the area.

Explosive forces expanded in all directions. Where fists met, squeezing noises were heard, as if the space could not bear the forces.

"Eh?"

Xue Luo looked at the puppet in astonishment.

He felt a slight pain in his arm. His power had always been his biggest advantage and helped him succeed in every battle. Now, in a battle of brute strength, he was hurt while the puppet was unscathed.

The puppet struck two more punches which were as powerful as the first one.

Xue Luo's eyes were glacial. He waved his hands and ran toward the punches.

Bang! Bang!

Two booming sounds echoed. Xue Luo fell backward several steps while the puppet remained standing where he was.

"Blood Puppet overpowered him!"

Watching from the ground, Jian Wushuang was surprised by the result.

"Xue Luo is a super expert, well-known for his defense. Even someone at Heaven-defying Level can't hurt him. However, he lost to the puppet in that battle of power. That means the puppet is more powerful."

In the next moment, Jian Wushuang saw the puppet attack again.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The puppet rained blows on Xue Luo, like a storm that refused to let up.

The Blood Puppet was unintelligent and attacked his enemy simply by punching and sweeping his legs. However, while his strikes lacked skill, he possessed an overwhelming power that frightened Xue Luo.

With such power and incredibly fast speed, the puppet was definitely as strong as an expert at Stage Three.

As for the puppet's defense.

It was even more impressive. When the two had collided, Xue Luo had felt pain and numbness. The puppet had been completely unaffected.

The puppet did not have fighting skills but still frustrated Xue Luo with his considerable power.

"I'm less powerful than him."

"I'm slower in speed than him."

"I'm even much weaker in defense than him!"

As these thoughts ran through his head, Xue Luo lost all his will to fight.

"Who the hell made this puppet? How could it be so powerful?" He roared in a barely suppressed voice and looked livid.

He did not know that the puppet had been created by Sword Ancestor, a person who could match Three Ancestors. Such a puppet was never meant to be just an ordinary fighter.

"I can't go on like this."?Gnashing his teeth, Xue Luo cast a sharp glance at Jian Wushuang, who stood nearby.

Domineering and arrogant, he had bowed to no one in Inner Area.

He had thought that the puppet was an ordinary one and had not taken it seriously. He had tried to dispatch it before attacking Jian Wushuang. He had not expected it to be so strong and that he would fail.

Now, he had no other choice but to change his target to Jian Wushuang.

"Since the puppet is controlled by the boy, killing him will stop the puppet's attack. Then, his Interspatial Ring and the puppet will be mine."

Having made up his mind, Xue Luo flashed and turned away from the puppet, heading toward Jian Wushuang.

"Kill him!"?Killing intent surged in his eyes.

As soon as Xue Luo changed his target, Jian Wushuang understood his intention and smirked.

"Though you have a strong defense, you have no chance to kill me at your normal speed."?Jian Wushuang sneered. From Jian Wushuang's body, Blood River spread out and covered Xue Luo with Sword Realm.

Repressed by the two techniques, Xue Luo was slowed to a snail-like pace.

He could never approach Jian Wushuang at this speed.

"How could it be possible?"

"I never expected that he has Realm Techniques."

Xue Luo shot Jian Wushuang an amazed look. Just then, the puppet dived at Xue Luo again.

"Bastard!" Xue Luo looked pale. He was already weakened by the Blood River. Another fight with the puppet would exacerbate his situation.

A short while later, he had sustained scratches all over his body, but he was not badly injured.

He gazed at Jian Wushuang and the puppet from a distance in the void.

Noticing that the puppet's breath had weakened, he realized that its store of energy from the Blood Gem was depleted.

"Boy, without your puppet, what else can you rely on to fight me?" Xue Luo scowled and his eyes burned with rage.

"Well, do you really think that I only have one gem to power my puppet?" Jian Wushuang smiled coldly and produced another Blood Gem.

Xue Luo narrowed his eyes.

"Xue Luo, if you want to suffer some more, just try it," Jian Wushuang said coolly.

Xue Luo's mouth twitched. Horror filled his eyes when their gaze fell on the puppet.

He was still traumatized from being overpowered by the puppet, who was stronger than him in power, speed, and defense.

"Damn you! All you have is a puppet. Without it, I can kill you as easily as crushing an ant." Xue Luo raged.

Jian Wushuang sneered. "Even without the puppet, you won't be able to stop me if I want to escape."

Xue Luo's countenance changed, and he snorted. "Fine! Boy, you're lucky that I'm letting you go this time, but there won't be a second time."

Xue Luo headed away in fury.

Chapter 415: Winning Fame

"Xue Luo is indeed powerful. No wonder he is called 'Monster'." Jian Wushuang thought. As he looked back at the Blood Puppet, he smiled with joy.

"However, he was still defeated by my puppet. My puppet must be more powerful than him."

One Blood Gem was adequate to simply power the Blood Puppet. If 10 gems were used, the puppet would reach the heights of his power.

"Xue Luo is an expert at the Top of Stage Three, but my puppet still overpowered him. That means that powering the puppet with one gem put it almost at Heaven-defying Level of the Saint Realm."

"How powerful would it be when powered by two or more gems?"

"By ten gems?"

Jian Wushuang was full of anticipation as he thought to himself, *"The puppet is indeed one of Sword Ancestor's creations. It requires too many Blood Gems."*

During the fight with Xue Luo, the energy supplied by one Blood Gem to the puppet had been depleted in less than 10 minutes.

Exchanging one Blood Gem from the Treasure Vault required 1,000 battle achievement points. A Stage Three expert would need to be defeated to gain that number of points.

"The puppet is powerful but I should only use it in dire situations. I don't have that many Blood Gems, so I can't use the puppet indiscriminately."

With the puppet, Jian Wushuang felt more confident about his future.

"If I unleash all my power, I should be at the high level of Stage Three. This level is ordinary for Inner Area, but with Realm Techniques like Road to the Underworld and Tenfold Realm, I will survive even if I encounter an expert at Peak of Stage Three. Even if I can't, Blood puppet will help me."

"Let's begin our adventure!"

Jian Wushuang continued his journey in Inner Area, a place filled with numerous experts.

Some of them had lived for hundreds of years or longer. They had brilliant martial techniques and skills to protect themselves. Jian Wushuang's skills should be considered at the top level among theirs.

Half a year had elapsed since Jian Wushuang first entered the Inner Area.

A small yellow stone fort stood among bare mountains.

The owner had to be a very strong expert who was confident about his power, for he had dared to build his fort in Inner Area, a battlefield known for its slaughter and violence.

This man was called the Heaven Stone Castle Lord. An expert at the Top of Stage Three, he was more notorious than Xue Luo for his cruelty.

In the entire area, only the six experts at Heaven-defying Level could possibly overpower him.

A man in green with a saber strapped on his back approached slowly and entered the fort.

He sat down at a stone table and started to drink alone with a gloomy expression.

"Third brother, what's wrong with you?" a skinny elder with a goatee walked up to him.

This elder was the famous Heaven Stone Castle Lord.

Heaven Stone Castle Lord had two buddies who were as close to him as brothers. Both were at Stage Three and had adventured with him in Inner Area. Unfortunately, one of them was killed many years ago. Now, the lord only had his third brother.

"Nothing's wrong. It's just that I'm frustrated from my fight with an expert from a rival camp, that happened on my way back," said the third brother after a sip of his wine.

"Not many from Marquis Piao's camp can frustrate you as you're now at the Top of Stage Three. So, who the hell did you meet? The crazy Can Tao? Tian Yi? Or the devil Qing Ling?" the lord mentioned three people who were well-known for their powers and were as strong as him.

"None of them. It was a young man who used a sword. I guess he is that Swordsman, who has gained a lot of notice recently," the third brother answered with a frown.

"Swordsman?" the lord was slightly surprised. "I've heard of him, a man with awakened Double Sword Souls and a promising future. In the past six months, he won fame in Inner Area and has drawn attention from many. But, he is no match for you, isn't it?"

"Yes, he isn't. His power is weak. Fighting head-on I can easily defeat him and even kill him. However, he has a weird Realm Technique, which suppressed my powers," the third brother said helplessly.

"He relied on his Realm and challenged me. I had to let him go for he has a strong body and many trump cards."

"I see." the lord smiled and said, "I'm not surprised that you were repressed by his Realm. After all, it's a powerful technique. Even I envy him. Moreover, he has Sword Soul to help him. If he achieves new heights in Origin, I guess it'll be hard for me to beat him as well."

"I know. I'm just a little depressed." The third brother curled his lips.

As for the man they were talking about, Jian Wushuang, he hadn't returned to his camp during his half-year long adventure.

He had encountered and fought many opponents, exposing his Realm Technique and Double Sword Souls to the experts in Inner Area.

For this reason, he had left a deep impression on many people and had won some fame.

His Technique had caused much trouble to his opponents and was regarded as a unique skill.

Chapter 416: Origin Mark

Jian Wushuang sat quietly in a cave in the Inner Area. The cave was rarely visited and was surrounded by vast amounts of Slaughter Origin. Slaughter Origin rushed into the armlet on his left arm and condensed gradually into a black Mark.

This black mark had the faint appearance of a flame, but it did not look like a regular one.

"Origin Mark!"

When the black Mark condensed, Jian Wushuang opened his eyes with pleasant surprise.

Origin Mark would condense only when his comprehension of this Origin had reached an extremely high level.

When Jian Wushuang had entered Inner Area half a year ago, he had been a step away from condensing Origin Mark. As he battled Stage Three experts during the past half year, he had made great progress in all aspects.

Including his Sword Principle and Origin comprehension...

This had finally culminated in his achievement of condensing his first Origin Mark.

"Origin Mark."

Jian Wushuang stared at the Origin Mark on his arm. Using his will, he directed the Origin Mark's power into his hand. He waved his hand and a terrible blast swept the cave with a loud roar.

"What immense power!" Jian Wushuang was ecstatic.

Origin Mark had greatly improved his strength. Jian Wushuang estimated that his strength had trebled.

"When the Origin Mark was condensed, my overall strength increased by nearly three times. My battle strength now should be equal to that of an expert at the Peak of Stage Three," Jian Wushuang whispered.

Before this moment, he had reached the high level of Stage Three by virtue of Double First-grade Sword Soul, Blood River Realm, physical strength, and Heavenly Creation Skill.

While it was just a single Slaughter Origin Mark, it had strengthened his overall power by three times and elevated him to the Peak of Stage Three.

"Experts in the Inner Area have special means or abilities to stay alive, even if their strength is weak. Before I condensed the Origin Mark, it was already difficult to kill me because I had the assistance of the Realm. Now..." Jian Wushuang curled his lips into a playful smile.

Experts who dared to adventure in the Inner Area were generally confident of their own strength or their ability to survive.

During his half year in the Inner Area, he had fought many experts from the opposite camp. He had only managed to kill two of them, who were ordinary Stage Three experts. While they had skills that would have saved their lives, they had been restrained by his Realm and had failed to escape.

It had taken a long time for him to kill them.

Only two experts.

He had also suffered several crises. The most dangerous one was a battle with an expert at the Peak of Stage Three. That man was weaker than Xue Luo, but he was well-rounded with no obvious weaknesses. Under Blood River Realm's suppression, he had still been faster than Jian Wushuang.

At the beginning of the fight, Jian Wushuang had already sustained serious wounds and had been thoroughly outclassed.

Thanks to his Blood Puppet, he had narrowly resolved the crisis.

Now, he was at the Peak of Stage Three because of the power of Origin Energy. With the assistance of his Realm, he would be threatened by few experts.

...

In the vast Void.

A burly purple-haired man, clothed in a black shirt with two long spears on his back, slowly marched forward. He cast his eyes warily at the surroundings.

The two long spears could be connected together.

Suddenly, he saw someone rush toward him.

"That's..." the purple-haired man recognized the man.

"Swordsman."

In the past half year, Jian Wushuang had earned a reputation in the Inner Area. He had fought the purple-haired man before. At that time, the purple-haired man had an absolute advantage, but he had failed to kill Jian Wushuang as the latter had escaped with the help of his Realm.

"Dong Ming," Jian Wushuang stood in front of the purple-haired man and looked at him.

"What? I taught you a lesson last time. Do you want me to beat you again?" Dong Ming, the purple-haired man, sneered at Jian Wushuang.

"I was indeed not strong enough the last time. I've improved my strength since then, so I'll test it on you," Jian Wushuang laughed.

“Test it on me? Hum!” Dong Ming snorted. An intense and horrifying aura began to surge from his body.

“Haha, let’s start,” Jian Wushuang laughed and released his Blood River Realm.

“This Realm again?” Dong Ming’s face darkened. He had failed to kill Jian Wushuang the last time because of this realm.

“Damn, if it weren’t for this Realm, you would just be a bug in the Inner Area. You would have been killed countless times,” Dong Ming growled.

“Really?” Jian Wushuang smiled coldly. A freezing sword light penetrated the Void and roared toward Dong Ming.

Two tall Sword Soul Phantoms stood behind Jian Wushuang. They also brandished longswords with torrential sword light.

In this slash, Jian Wushuang released his full power of Sword Soul and physical strength. He also brought his Origin Mark to its extreme.

Dong Ming did not take Jian Wushuang seriously at first. After all, he had fought Jian Wushuang a few months ago and had outclassed the latter. He did not expect Jian Wushuang to improve much during such a short period.

Dong Ming realized his mistake in underestimating Jian Wushuang when the sword light appeared.

“This...”

Eyes widened in surprise, Dong Ming swung the long spear in his hand and stabbed forward.

The movement was similar to a poisonous snake striking out of a hole.

Clang!

A deep crash sounded.

“What?”

Dong Ming’s face darkened. His long spear point had been twisted sideways by the sword light. The sword light continued to sweep toward him with great momentum.

Dong Ming immediately pulled his long spear back and swung it. He narrowly dodged the sword light, but he was blown backward by its power.

“Peak of Stage Three?”

Dong Ming was stunned.

Dong Ming was close to the Peak of Stage Three, but he was swept away by Jian Wushuang’s slash. It seemed that Jian Wushuang was much stronger than him in battle strength and had truly reached the Peak of Stage Three.

Chapter 417: Triple Shift

"How could it be possible?"

"How could he have made such rapid progress in such a short period of time?"

Dong Ming was shocked.

He clearly remembered that he had been able to overpower Jian Wushuang a few months ago, though the latter had the help of his Realm.

"How had Jian Wushuang reached the Peak of Stage Three so quickly? How could he become even stronger than me?"

Dong Ming was unaware that Jian Wushuang had not yet condensed the Origin Mark in their last exchange. With the Origin Mark, Jian Wushuang's battle strength had increased several times and now exceeded his.

"I'm in big trouble!"

Having realized the full extent of Jian Wushuang's battle strength, Dong Ming's face fell.

It had only been a minor inconvenience for him to be trapped in the Realm when he was stronger than Jian Wushuang. But now that Jian Wushuang's power had grown, the Realm became a nightmare.

Jian Wushuang rushed forward and brandished his sword to attack Dong Ming. The latter barely managed to parry the strike.

"Run, I have to run quickly!"

With a trace of madness in his eyes, Dong Ming looked desperately for an opportunity to flee.

"Dong Ming, are you expecting to escape from my Realm? You must be kidding," Jian Wushuang sneered.

"Damn!"?Dong Ming swore under his breath.

Dong Ming was close to the Top of Stage Three in terms of battle strength and had excellent power, speed and defensive ability. He would not be afraid to challenge some experts at the Peak of Stage Three, who were even stronger than Jian Wushuang.

After all, he would still be able to escape if he failed.

But Jian Wushuang... his Realm was too strong and too unpredictable.

Experts in the Inner Area had already made judgments on Jian Wushuang's Realm. Someone much stronger than Jian Wushuang could outclass or compete with him even when trapped in his Realm.

Otherwise he would need special skills to survive. For example, Wind Demon could easily escape from Jian Wushuang's Realm with his extraordinary speed.

These were the two types of people who could calmly face Jian Wushuang's Realm.

Others were doomed to die in Jian Wushuang's hands.

Dong Ming was far weaker than Jian Wushuang and he had no special abilities. His death loomed large before him.

“No, no!”

Dong Ming’s face was distorted with fury and panic. His continual attempts to flee were thwarted by Jian Wushuang. Dong Ming grew desperate.

He could not escape.

He was completely crushed by Jian Wushuang. As the attacks continued to rain on him, he grew too exhausted to resist.

The only thing waiting for him was death.

“I won’t, won’t accept it!”

Dong Ming roared in anger and gathered the last of his energy and to make his final struggle.

“Won’t accept it? You were quite arrogant the last time you met me,” Jian Wushuang sneered. He vaguely remembered that Dong Ming had mocked him a few months ago.

Furthermore, Dong Ming was from the rival camp. Jian Wushuang would not show him mercy.

Finally, Dong Ming’s resistance broke down. Jian Wushuang’s sword pierced his chest in a killing blow.

Jian Wushuang waved his hand and retrieved Dong Ming’s Interspatial Ring. He glanced at the treasures in it and broke out into a smile.

“Great, he has lots of treasures, even more than the two Stage Three experts I killed earlier. There are even two Blood Gems,”??Jian Wushuang’s eyes lit up with pleasant surprise.

In the Interspatial Ring, there were two Blood Gems and plenty of treasures and Raw Gems.

More importantly, the ring contained Dong Ming’s ID token.

“Another 1000 battle achievements. Now I have 4000 battle achievements,”??Jian Wushuang held Dong Ming’s ID token in his hand and curled his lips.

Before entering the Inner Area, he had adventured in the Outer Area with Sir Axe, Lei Dao, and the others, where he had killed a 10-member team on his own. Though they had just been Stage Two experts and were worth only 100 battle achievements each, he had obtained 1000 battle achievements in that fight.

During the half a year in the Inner Area, he had fought many times and killed two Stage Three experts using his Realm Technique. That earned him 2000 battle achievements.

By killing Dong Ming, he now owned 4000 battle achievements.

“There was a manual in the Treasure Vault list that I couldn’t afford. But now it seems that I’ve earned enough battle achievements to redeem it.”

Jian Wushuang laughed and left the Inner Area, heading for the campsite of Drifting-blood Marquis.

He passed through the Inner Area and Outer Area in a hurry. His journey was uneventful and he did not encounter any challengers. A few days later, he arrived at the campsite of the Drifting-blood Marquis.

It was bustling with activity, as it always did.

Jian Wushuang entered the campsite Treasure Vault and glanced casually at the grey-clothed elder sitting there.

Jian Wushuang perused the treasure list. A few moments later, he found the manual he sought.

Triple Shift, a first-grade manual!

Although first-grade manuals were rare and precious in the vast Divine Land, there were a few of them in Drifting-blood Marquis's Treasure Vault. However, most of them were incomplete. The only complete one was *Triple Shift*.

Triple Shift was a body technique manual.

It was much stronger than *Wrath of Gale and Thunderbolt*, which Jian Wushuang had cultivated.

"My biggest advantage is the Blood River Realm superimposed by Road to the Underworld and Tenfold Realm. Once the Realm is released, I can choose to fight or escape a battle. However, experts who have excellent speed can easily escape from my Realm," Jian Wushuang thought to himself.

His Blood River Realm was not invincible either.

For example, Wind Demon, the first expert he had met in the Inner Area, had managed to flee from his Blood River Realm. This was because he had been too quick, making it impossible for Jian Wushuang to kill him.

At that time, Jian Wushuang had been impressed and envied Wind Demon's speed.

If he wanted to elevate the use of his Realm, he needed to move faster.

Triple Shift would help him meet this requirement.

Triple Shift had three levels, and its first level would enable him to travel 100 miles in a single breath.

Being able to perform the astonishing feat of traveling 100 miles in a breath by studying this manual demonstrated its great worth.

It was not easy to acquire a first-grade manual such as this. It would cost him 4000 battle achievements.

Chapter 418: The Bone King's Invitation

"I want to exchange my points for the first manual of *Triple Shift*," Jian Wushuang said.

The grey-clothed elder looked at Jian Wushuang and said, "4000 battle achievements."

Jian Wushuang took out a large number of enemies' tokens. The grey-clothed elder counted them and nodded. He made a record on his paper and said, "Wait at the campsite. In three days, we'll send it to you."

“Thanks,” Jian Wushuang said before leaving.

Three days later, a man sent the first manual of *Triple Shift* to Jian Wushuang.

He immediately started to meditate on it.

Triple Shift, as a first-grade manual and an extraordinary one, was naturally enigmatic.

It was different from Wrath of Gale and Thunderbolt which Jian Wushuang had once cultivated. The latter had certain Origin comprehension requirements. At that time, Jian Wushuang had barely mastered it.

Triple Shift did not require much of Origin but demanded a strong body.

Regardless of his depth of Origin comprehension, an ordinary expert would not be qualified to cultivate this manual if his body failed to meet the requirements.

This was the reason why Jian Wushuang valued the manual.

After he became a Venerable Master, his biggest advantage compared with ordinary experts of the Saint Realm was his strong body.

His body was as strong as a magic weapon and grew stronger the longer he stayed at this level. With the passing of time, his strength had increased by leaps and bounds.

It was obvious that his body met the requirements of practicing *Triple Shift*. What he needed to do now was to meditate on the manual and practice it.

Half a month passed in the blink of an eye.

Jian Wushuang stood quietly on a hill near the campsite. Suddenly, he moved.

CHUU!

Like a Flowing Light, he flashed through the Void. The movement was so fast it would have escaped the notice of ordinary Warriors.

Jian Wushuang’s residual shadow slowly dissipated. Before it completely disappeared, Jian Wushuang returned and his form solidified.

He traveled back and forth within a breath.

In the space of a single breath, he had traveled 10 miles away and returned.

Less than a breath!

“It’s so fast. It’s worthy of a first-grade manual,” Jian Wushuang’s eyes glinted.

It was said that the first manual of *Triple Shift* would allow one to travel 100 miles in a breath.

100 miles sounded like an exaggeration, but it was close to that.

If Jian Wushuang released the Wrath of Gale and Thunderbolt and transformed his body to lightning, it would take him at least four or five breaths to travel 10 miles and return. With Triple Shift, it only took him one breath.

"My speed has soared thanks to Triple Shift. Now I'm nearly as fast as Wind Demon," Jian Wushuang clenched his fists.

Wind Demon's speed was impressive and highly regarded by all in the Inner Area.

Jian Wushuang acknowledged that he was still a little slower than Wind Demon under ordinary circumstances. However, if he superimposed the Road to the Underworld and Tenfold Realm to form the Blood River Realm to suppress Wind Demon, the latter would definitely be slower than him.

Jian Wushuang was sure that Wind Demon would not be able to escape in their next encounter.

Jian Wushuang returned to the campsite. As he entered his tent, someone approached him.

"Mr. Swordsman." It was a black-robed old man, who was an ordinary expert at Pinnacle of the Saint Realm level and had not entered Stage Two.

"What's up?" Jian Wushuang glanced at the old man, a little surprised.

Jian Wushuang had not been in Flaming Battlefield long and had been fighting alone. He knew some experts from the same camp but had no close friends in the Inner Area.

Except for the experts of Iron Saber Territory, he was not expecting any visitors.

"Mr. Swordsman, my master wants to meet you. I have come to invite you to his cave mansion," the old man said.

"Who is your master?" Jian Wushuang asked.

"My master is Bone King," the old man laughed.

"Bone King?" Jian Wushuang was curious.

Flaming Battlefield was accessible only to experts.

Countless top experts gathered in the Inner Area, including plenty of experts at the Peak of Stage Three.

Among them, there were some formidable beings.

Those formidable beings, though also at the Peak of Stage Three, could fight with experts of Heaven-defying Level. Each was regarded as an overlord in the Inner Area, and no one dared to provoke them.

Average experts would flee if they met these overlords in the Inner Area.

Xue Luo, who Jian Wushuang had once met in the Inner Area, was one of them.

Xue Luo was much stronger than other experts at the Peak of Stage Three in terms of power and speed.

Bone King was a super expert who was even stronger than Xue Luo and he was notorious for killing.

In terms of battle strength, Bone King was invincible as long as he did not encounter the six experts of Heaven-defying Level, who rarely appeared.

"I've never met Bone King before. Why does he want to talk to me?" Jian Wushuang looked puzzled.

Naturally, he would not refuse the invitation from a super expert.

"Where is your master now?" Jian Wushuang asked.

"Please come with me," the black-robe old man led the way forward.

The Bone King's magnificent cave mansion stood in an immense rift not far from the campsite.

Jian Wushuang entered the cave mansion with the old man and soon saw Bone King.

"Haha, Swordsman."

A barefoot middle-aged man in a loose robe smiled as he walked toward Jian Wushuang

"Bone King," Jian Wushuang greeted him. A youth with a cold expression and sword-shaped eyebrows stood behind Bone King.

"Xue Yang," Jian Wushuang also greeted him.

The young man nodded impassively.

Xue Yang was also an extraordinary expert at the Peak of Stage Three, though a little weaker than Bone King. Jian Wushuang had met Xue Yang in the Inner Area but had not fought him as they belonged to the same camp.

Chapter 419: Occupation

"I heard that a new expert named Swordsman had appeared in the Inner Area and his Realm Technique was amazing. Finally, I have the chance to meet you," Bone King said kindly.

"Thank you," Jian Wushuang responded humbly. "May I ask why you invited me here?"

"No hurry. Several other experts will come later. I'll tell you when all of you are gathered here," said Bone King.

"OK," Jian Wushuang nodded.

They sat down at a round table.

"Swordsman, you're very famous in the Inner Area for your Realm Technique. Would you please show it to me?" Bone King asked casually.

"I would like to see it too," Xue Yang said.

"Of course," Jian Wushuang nodded. He knew that Bone King wanted to test his strength.

Bone King must have invited him for his Realm Technique.

"Be careful," Jian Wushuang cautioned and released his invisible Sword Realm.

"Oh?" Bone King frowned slightly. "That's all?"

"Of course not," Jian Wushuang smiled. In the next moment, a Blood River surged up with a roar and tumbled around him.

The superposition of Road to the Underworld and Tenfold Realm produced a formidable oppressive effect.

Bone King's eyes lit up as he felt the enormous power of the Blood River. "What a powerful Realm. With it, our chances of accomplishing the task will improve by at least 20 percent!"

"This Realm is indeed strong," Xue Yang nodded gravely as he looked at Jian Wushuang, "Not long ago, I met Wu Ming from the opposite camp in the Inner Area. He had been weaker than me, but he had obtained a treasure which could release a Realm."

"A treasure?" Jian Wushuang was intrigued.

His Realm resulted from his Sword Skill, a Secret Skill. He had never chanced upon any treasure which could create a Realm.

"It was a ring which contained a special Formation. Once he used it, a Realm was released. Because of that, he was able to compete with me. However, that Realm was much weaker than yours," Xue Yang said.

Jian Wushuang was silent but he continued to contemplate the new information.

A ring which could release a Realm and exert an influence on Xue Yang was undoubtedly powerful.

Jian Wushuang's Realm was powerful, but it could be improved if he could get his hands on that ring and superimpose its Realm with his.

Soon, other experts arrived.

They sat themselves at the roundtable. Besides Jian Wushuang and Xue Yang, Bone King had invited three other experts.

Among them, Jian Wushuang was a newcomer. The others had enjoyed fame for a long time and had reached the Peak of Stage Three.

"Xue Yang!"

"Zhu Huo!"

"You must be Swordsman?"

They greeted and talked to each other.

Since they belonged to the same camp and were all top experts, it was natural for them to socialize with one another.

"Everyone," said Bone King, who sat at the head of the table.

The experts quieted down and listened to him attentively.

They had been invited by Bone King, but did not know his reason for doing so.

"I invited you to come here for a task," Bone King said in a magnificent voice. "It was ordered by the high officials of Drifting-blood Marquis. The task is extraordinary and quite difficult, but it's also rewarding. If the task is completed, everyone will get at least 10 thousand battle achievements, as well as other rewards."

"10 thousand battle achievements?"

Hearing that, their eyes lit up.

10 thousand battle achievements was nothing to scoff at.

They could only get 1000 battle achievements by killing a Stage Three expert.

All Stage Three experts who ventured into the Inner Area were confident of their battle strength. Experts who were weaker were equipped with skills that would help them survive, such as the Wind Demon with his amazing speed.

Therefore, even though the experts present were at the Peak of Stage Three, it was an uphill challenge for them to kill a Stage Three expert in the Inner Area.

The reward of 10 thousand battle achievements was equal to killing 10 Stage Three experts.

This made the incentive for completing the task very attractive.

A substantial reward also meant that this task would be complex.

"Bone King, tell us what this task is," a burly rough-looking man named "Beast" said impatiently.

Many experts used aliases on the Flaming Battlefield.

"I'll be candid. Our task is to occupy a cave mansion controlled by the opposite camp!" Bone King said in a low voice.

"Occupy a cave mansion?" They gathered experts were surprised.

On the Flaming Battlefield, there were 330 cave mansions, many of which were still hidden and had not been discovered, but more had fallen under the control of the two camps.

Drifting-blood Marquis controlled 99 mansions in total.

The number of cave mansions occupied by Pale Moon Marquis was not insignificant as well.

These cave mansions were guarded by experts of the two camps, with more precious caves being guarded by stronger guards. But these guards were not top experts.

This was as the cave mansions were equipped with Formations. Even the lords of Cloud Realm level could not break the Formations and occupy the cave mansions. As such, it was not necessary to dispatch top experts to guard them.

"Occupy a cave mansion? Bone King, are you kidding?" Beast responded in a bear-like voice. "All the cave mansions controlled by Pale Moon Marquis are protected by powerful and indestructible Formations. Even a lord can't destroy it. How would we occupy it?"

The other experts quietly nodded their agreement.

Chapter 420: Jiushe Cave Mansion

"Don't worry. They wouldn't have assigned an impossible task. The power of the Formation is extraordinary, but I have my methods to break it," Bone King laughed.

"Oh?" the experts were surprised.

"The most indestructible part of the cave mansion is the Formation. If it can be broken, those guards aren't a great threat," thought Jian Wushuang.

"Everyone, don't worry about the Formation. I guess you'll have no problems dealing with the cave mansion guards. The most difficult part of this task is to guard it after we occupy it!" Bone King said seriously, and then clapped his hands.

A woman in a purple robe walked in immediately.

"Nice to meet you, I'm Lady Red." As an ordinary expert at the Pinnacle of the Saint Realm, the lady was humble and respectful to Jian Wushuang and the other experts.

"Lady Red was sent by high officials and has great attainment in Formation. After we occupy the cave mansion, she'll set the Formation. That will definitely take some time. While that's in progress, we can expect Pale Moon Marquis to send experts to attack us!"

"We have to fight the experts of Pale Moon Marquis camp to buy time for her. Don't let anyone interfere with her. Once the Formation is finished, the cave mansion will be controlled by Drifting-blood Marquis camp. We will then be able to use the Formation to stop those experts," Bone King explained as he looked around.

The experts understood what Bone King said.

The cave mansions were the most coveted objects on the Flaming Battlefield.

All cave mansions were valuable to the two camps. Pale Moon Marquis camp would dispatch experts immediately if they lost a mansion. What they had to do was to hold off the experts until Lady Red finished setting the Formation.

"I'm afraid it won't be easy for us to stop those experts of Pale Moon Marquis," Beast said in a low voice.

"Indeed. That's why the reward is huge. The cave mansion is also an opportunity. It's up to you to seize it. I've specially invited Swordsman for this task. His Realm will be of great help to us," Bone King laughed.

“Swordsman?” Beast glanced at Jian Wushuang. His eyes carried a trace of disdain and a hint of violence.

All the experts present were at the Top of Stage Three and were famous in the Inner Area.

Jian Wushuang was merely a newcomer with ordinary battle strength, at about the high level of Stage Three. That was why Beast had not paid him any attention.

He was not aware that the Jian Wushuang had condensed the Origin Mark.

Jian Wushuang’s battle strength had increased by several times and he had reached the Peak of Stage Three. With the assistance of his Realm, Jian Wushuang was confident that if he had to fight Beast, it would end in a draw.

“Beast, don’t underestimate Swordsman’s Realm. Xue Yang and I witnessed it just now. Even I was greatly oppressed by his Realm and my strength dropped sharply. His Realm will be of immense help for this task,” Bone King said.

“I hope so,” Beast curled his lips.

“Bone King,” Jian Wushuang suddenly said, “Our task is to occupy a cave mansion, but which one?”

The other experts turned to look at Bone King.

Pale Moon Marquis controlled numerous cave mansions, including extremely valuable ones and ordinary ones which were nearly empty. They would naturally pay more attention to the valuable ones.

“Our target is Jiushe Cave Mansion!” said Bone King.

“Jiushe?” Jian Wushuang and the other experts were surprised.

Pale Moon Marquis camp controlled many cave mansions, including three marquis cave mansions.

The three marquis cave mansions were the most valuable and their defenses were unassailable.

Occupying those mansions would only be possible for experts of lord level rather than Stage Three experts of the Saint Realm like them.

Jiushe Cave Mansion was not a marquis cave mansion. However, it was very precious and just slightly less important than the three marquis cave mansions!

Jiushe Lord was a famous Cloud Realm expert who had died a thousand years ago. In terms of strength, he was second only to a marquis.

The cave mansion he had left behind was extremely valuable. It had been discovered less than 10 years ago.

That meant that it would still contain hidden treasures or opportunities, which would be of great help to any Warrior.

Its importance to Pale Moon Marquis was only second to the three marquis cave mansions.

“Jiushe Cave Mansion, we’re going to occupy the Jiushe Cave Mansion!”

"The Pale Moon Marquis camp will be enraged if we occupy the Jiushe Cave Mansion!"

"Jiushe Cave Mansion is not an ordinary lord's cave mansion."

The experts were excited and broke into a discussion among themselves.

Jian Wushuang sat at the table, his eyes slightly closed.

Jiushe Lord had been an expert of Sword Principle. Therefore, there must be several opportunities for Warriors of Sword Principle in his cave mansion.

Jiushe Cave Mansion was quite attractive to him.

"Everyone," Bone King spoke again in a loud voice.

"That's all I have to say about the task. It's very difficult and dangerous; however, it's also rewarding. You'll have to weigh its risks against its benefits. Take it or leave it, it's up to you."

The experts quieted down and considered their options.

The rewards were tempting, but the task was also extremely dangerous.

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained. I'm in," Xue Yang said.

"Since Xue Yang is going, I must go too. Life in the Inner Area is boring now. I need to find some excitement," Beast grinned.

The remaining two experts hesitated, but nodded their assent after a moment.

"If you don't mind, I'll go with you and help you as much as possible," Jian Wushuang said.

"Haha, Swordsman, your Realm Technique is a powerful weapon for us," Bone King laughed.

"When should we start?" Jian Wushuang asked.

"Now!" A glimmer of anticipation shone in Bone King's eyes.