

Swordsman 691

Chapter 691: Fighting

As Jian Wushuang exerted all the power of Sword Heart and Emperor Sword, his strength had reached a new height.

At the same time, he brought forth his swordsmanship fully.

Numerous sword shadows completely suppressed Hu Hu, making him feel as if he had fallen into a Sword Sea and was surrounded by sword shadows.

Red clouds surged from the red crystal armor of Hu Hu and vast power gathered in his hands. He swung his double-edged giant axe and hacked toward Jian Wushuang continuously.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

There were consecutive clashes of metal on metal, which were so deep and powerful that the whole hall trembled.

Jian Wushuang completely unleashed his swordsmanship, which was simple, pure, neat and almost flawless. His sword strokes were so fast that Hu Hu could do nothing but parry them with difficulty.

“Get out of my way!”

Hu Hu shouted and then hacked his Giant Axe violently. A huge Axe Shadow of nearly a hundred meters appeared in the hall instantly.

The power of this Axe Shadow was suffocating, and the air seemed to be shuddering.

Jian Wushuang’s eyes turned cold.

“Violet Calamity Sword Skill!”

He shouted and operated the strongest move which he had created.

He had used this move before, but he had withheld his strength and only used 70 percent of Sword Heart power at that time.

He brought gave it everything this time.

It was a head-on confrontation!

A beautiful purple light suddenly lit up and then collided with the towering Axe Shadow which was a hundred meters high.

With a loud sound, the entire hall was violently trembling. Jian Wushuang, who fell into an energy storm, darkened his face as he felt an extraordinary force coming along his arm and knocking him backward.

“He’s a superior Divine Realm expert indeed. I’ve tried my best and exerted all my power, but I still can’t compete with him,” Jian Wushuang sighed but was not discouraged by it.

He was prepared for the fact that a superior Divine Realm expert was much stronger than an advanced Divine Realm expert.

"Since I can't play hardball, I'll kill him using my skills and swordsmanship."?Jian Wushuang thought.

Jian Wushuang's eyes sparkled. He suddenly flashed and appeared behind Hu Hu, his sharp sword stabbing at Hu Hu's throat directly.

Hu Hu counterattacked with his axe.

The overwhelming Axe Shadow split the entire hall ground apart but it did not touch even the corner of Jian Wushuang's clothes. On the contrary, Jian Wushuang's sword stroke which originally aimed at Hu Hu's throat swung sideways and brushed over Hu Hu's shoulder like a ghost, leaving a sword scar.

"You should die!"

Hu Hu's eyes were burning with anger. He continued to chop with his axe, trying to kill Jian Wushuang.

But Jian Wushuang kept dodging quickly in the hall. As he enhanced his speed to its extreme, he was as fast as a fish in water, trying his best to avoid direct collisions with Hu Hu. Instead, he used his more delicate swordsmanship to force Hu Hu to resist his attacks frantically.

Jian Wushuang's sword shadows, including straight slashes, sweeps, or sudden withdrawal, seemed simple but were actually delicate. They suppressed Hu Hu perfectly, making him unable to swing his Giant Axe to counterattack. Some unexpected sword shadows even brought a lot of harm to Hu Hu.

Jian Wushuang's swordsmanship was too profound.

Compared with Jian Wushuang, Hu Hu's axe skills were extremely rigid and he was not as flexible as Jian Wushuang.

Facing Jian Wushuang's swordsmanship, Hu Hu had nothing but brute force which he could not use to his full advantage.

"Boy, do you dare to face me directly? You're a coward if you hide all the time," Hu Hu growled in anxiety and anger.

"Are you joking? You're a superior Divine Realm expert while I'm just at the Skyscraping Realm. Do you expect me to compare force with you?" Jian Wushuang sneered.

He was not a fool. Since he knew he could not win in the head-on confrontation, he would certainly stop fighting in this way.

In addition, after six years of cultivation in the Sword Mountain, he had made biggest progress in Sword Principle Cultivation and swordsmanship, which became his greatest advantage. He naturally wanted to use this.

In the hall, the collisions between the two continued, but it was obvious that Hu Hu had been completely suppressed by Jian Wushuang.

"Bastard, bastard!"

Hu Hu was angry and he was almost driven crazy by Jian Wushuang's swordsmanship.

On the contrary, Jian Wushuang felt excited and delighted!

"Good! This feels so good!"

In the past six years, he had been cultivating in seclusion. Though his swordsmanship was extremely powerful, he had no chance to practice it. He had killed the 10 Divine Realm experts including four advanced Divine Realm experts, but it could barely be counted as a challenge for him.

He did not need to use his full strength to kill those 10 Divine Realm experts.

They were not qualified to make him go all out.

Until he met Hu Hu.

In the face of a superior Divine Realm expert, he could finally go all out, including using his swordsmanship.

The fight swept away the boredom of his six years of cultivation.

Bang!

After another collision, Jian Wushuang finally stepped backward to generate a distance between the two.

"Rat." Hu Hu stared at Jian Wushuang with freezing and gloomy eyes. He felt stuck in the fierce battle, as he could not use his force at all. After all, Jian Wushuang's swordsmanship was too overwhelming and profound.

"How can a Skyscraping Realm expert's swordsmanship be so terrifying?" Hu Hu felt awestruck.

At this time, Jian Wushuang looked up at Hu Hu.

"Hu Hu, I enjoyed the fight with you. But let's end this," Jian Wushuang said indifferently.

"Hum?" Hu Hu's expression changed slightly.

"Didn't you complain that I did not dare fight you directly just now? Now I'll do as you wish," Jian Wushuang said in a deep voice.

Hu Hu looked at Jian Wushuang in surprise.

Just now Jian Wushuang had gained the upper hand due to his exquisite swordsmanship. However, if they had a head-on confrontation and competed for power, Hu Hu was much better than Jian Wushuang.

And now Jian Wushuang was willing to give up his advantage to have a direct confrontation with Hu Hu?

"Are you ready?"

A solemn look appeared on Jian Wushuang's face. The Emperor Sword in his hand also trembled furiously at this moment.

Chapter 692: Annihilation Sword Move

"Are you really going to play hardball?" Hu Hu's eyes sparkled with a hint of pleasure.

Though Jian Wushuang's swordsmanship was exquisite, Hu Hu was confident in his own power as a superior Divine Realm expert.

"Boy, since you want to die, I'll help you fulfill your wish."

As soon as Hu Hu finished his words, red clouds burst out from his body and vast power surged crazily toward his hands. After he exerted his Secret Skill's power, he lifted the axe high with both hands.

Jian Wushuang also raised his Emperor Sword while a mighty Sword Essence burst out from him.

"Last stroke!"

"I've comprehended this sword move for a long time, but I've never used it in battle before. You're the first to see it."

Jian Wushuang stared at Hu Hu while mighty power accumulated in the Emperor Sword and his Sword Essence became stronger and stronger.

When the Sword Essence had accumulated to its peak, a shocking light burst out from Jian Wushuang's eyes.

"The first Move of the Boundless Heaven Sword Art, Annihilation Sword Move!"

Jian Wushuang shouted and then directly swung the Emperor Sword whose power had reached its peak.

Boom!

The air was separated immediately and the whole castle trembled at this moment. The sword shadow left a huge sword scar on the ground which was so wide and deep that no one could see the bottom of it.

The sword stroke could destroy the whole world.

It was the First Move of the Boundless Heaven Sword Art.

Jian Wushuang comprehended this sword move three years ago. He had kept it as a trump card and had never displayed it in front of anyone.

Until this moment.

Hu Hu slashed with his Giant Axe simultaneously.

The slash was so powerful that it seemed that it could cut through mountains.

The huge Axe Shadow carried mighty power, ready to destroy everything in the world.

Hu Hu's face turned scarlet and his eyes were full of madness. Obviously, this axe stroke was the strongest one he was able to display.

Both of them operated their strongest move and the two overwhelming attacks collided with each other.

BANG!

With the loud boom, huge ripples of energy swept around violently in the Void where the collision happened, destroying everything around. In the hall, decorations, wine pots, wine cups, tables and chairs, and even stone walls were crushed into dust by the ripples which were rapidly spreading.

If someone watched from the outside, he would find that a horrifying power had erupted at the core of the huge Amethyst castle. Then the whole castle began to collapse from the core at an alarming speed.

Boom... The whole world seemed to be shaking.

The shaking lasted for dozens of breaths, and finally, everything calmed down.

The Amethyst castle which had stood for thousands of years had disappeared, leaving only ruins and dust all over the place.

In the middle of the ruins, a man was standing there, Jian Wushuang.

His face was a little pale, and there was a trace of blood on the corner of his mouth. He gently coughed and slowly resheathed the Emperor Sword. Then he stepped forward and stopped at a broken corpse.

It was Hu Hu.

In the collision, Jian Wushuang's sword stroke defeated Hu Hu's Axe Shadow and then smashed half of Hu Hu's body. Hu Hu died on the spot.

"The power of Boundless Heaven Sword Art is extremely terrifying. With my current Sword Principle Cultivation, I can only display the First Move, Annihilation Sword Move, but its power is still far beyond the Secret Skills I created,"?Jian Wushuang thought.

After he mastered the First Move, he had regarded it as his trump card, as it was too powerful.

For example, the Violet Calamity Sword Skill created by him was also very powerful, but it was much weaker than the Annihilation Sword Move.

He chose to have a head-on confrontation with Hu Hu due to this trump card.

He knew Hu Hu could not resist this sword move even if he was a superior Divine Realm expert.

Hu Hu was directly killed by this sword move, indeed.

Of course, powerful as this sword move was, it was also demanding, especially in the aspects of Spiritual Power. Though Jian Wushuang had a fierce fight with Hu Hu, he used at most 20 percent of his Spiritual Power. But once he operated the Annihilation Sword Move, he immediately consumed 30 percent of his Spiritual Power.

That was to say, his Spiritual Power could only support him to use Annihilation Sword Move three times, and then it would be exhausted.

"Hm, it seems that I'd better use Boundless Heaven Sword Art less in the future," Jian Wushuang thought.

Anyway, he had already killed Hu Hu. As his 11 targets had been killed, his mission was completed.

In addition, through the battle with Hu Hu, he had a very clear understanding of his own strength.

He was slightly stronger than the advanced Divine Realm experts up to now. He could compete with a superior Divine Realm expert in a head-on confrontation, and even have the chance to defeat and even kill him.

Of course, there were also strong and weak superior Divine Realm experts.

Hu Hu was only a weak one, while some superior Divine Realm experts were extremely powerful, such as the Vice Palace Masters in the Dao Palace. Jian Wushuang knew that any Vice Palace Master could kill Hu Hu easily.

"My comprehension of Dao is still shallow. At present, I'm not qualified to cultivate those Secret Skills which can greatly enhance my offensive power. If I can improve my comprehension of Dao a little, World Dao or Slaughter Dao, and master five Occults, I'll have more assurance in the face of the superior Divine Realm experts," Jian Wushuang murmured, clenching his fists.

He did not stay in the ruins for long. After collecting Hu Hu's body and weapon, he left directly.

He did not discover that a young man was standing quietly in the Void near the ruins.

That was a demonic youth with scarlet hair, holding a longsword on his back.

Chapter 693: Mission Complete

"Jian Wushuang killed Hu Hu on his own..."

The evil scarlet-haired youth had been hiding near the castle for so long that he had witnessed everything happened in it. If he had not seen that with his own eyes, he would never believe that a Skyscraping Realm expert could kill a superior Divine Realm expert.

"Though Hu Hu has suffered a sneak attack from Jian Wushuang before, he recovered by taking elixir, therefore, it's amazing that Jian Wushuang could kill him."

"No wonder the disciples and Palace Masters said that Jian Wushuang was a monster. He is indeed mighty. There is no need for Xuan Yi to have me here." The youth shook his head while thinking.

"The Ancient Sect is capable of obtaining all kinds of intelligence, especially in the area under its jurisdiction."

"Hu Hu had his dirty businesses hidden quite well, but, the Ancient Sect still found them. Therefore, the sect must have also learned of his power before releasing the mission.?"

"And that's why the words reporting that Hu Hu is likely a superior Divine Realm expert was included in his portrait. However, Xuan Yi removed those words from the file after he received it, on purpose."

The youth analyzed in secret, and then he decided to send a message to Xuan Yi. "Palace Master Xuan Yi, Jian Wushuang has killed Hu Hu on his own."

Immediately, he got a reply from him. "Ok, I got it. Come back now."

The youth shrugged. *"Xuan Yi intentionally gave Jian Wushuang an opponent who was a superior Divine Realm expert but also asked me to protect this disciple in secret. How careful he is!"*

The youth complained as he headed back.

After killing Hu Hu, Jian Wushuang found a quiet place to regain his Spiritual Power. He glanced over the treasures in Hu Hu's Interspatial Ring.

"I have to say that these treasures are really out of the ordinary. Having been a local tyrant for so long, Hu Hu is wealthier than most superior Divine Realm experts."

"Though those treasures are worth 340,000 pieces of Divine Gems, a few may be useful to me."

After a brief appraisal of the treasures, Jian Wushuang returned to the Ancient Sect.

Three days later, he arrived at the sect, and the first thing he did after he returned was to see his master.

"Master, I'm back," He stood before Xuan Yi and said respectfully.

"You've completed your mission?" Xuan Yi looked at him with a faint smile.

"Yes." Jian Wushuang nodded and waved his hand. A pile of corpses immediately appeared lying on the ground. "All the 11 targets, including six Medium Divine Realm experts and five superior ones, have been killed and these are their bodies."

Xuan Yi looked at the bodies with a cold eye.

"Did things go on well?" He asked casually.

"Yes, except that it took me a lot of effort to kill Hu Hu." Jian Wushuang answered honestly.

"Oh?" Xuan Yi glanced at him with a slight nod. "Anyway, you've completed the mission successfully and this is proof of your power. I'll make an application to help you enter the Eternal Zone."

"Thank you, Master," Jian Wushuang expressed his gratitude.

"Then go." Xuan Yi waved his hand.

Jian Wushuang immediately turned away.

Xuan Yi watched his back with a meaningful smile. *"He managed to kill a superior Divine Realm expert and yet, he mentioned no word about that to me. Should it be that he didn't take Hu Hu seriously at all or is he trying to hide his power from others?"*

After returning to Enlightenment Mountain, Jian Wushuang continued cultivating. As time went by, the opening date of the Eternal Zone drew near.

Finally, three days before the opening, the Ancient Sect released a name list of those who could enter the Eternal Zone.

Every time the zone was opened, the three magnates and nine top sects would have their young disciples, who should also have reached the Divine Realm, adventure in it. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Besides, there was a certain rule about how many people each sect could dispatch to the zone.

For example, the three magnates could send 10.

As for the nine top sects, it was six.

Though the Ancient Sect was even greater than the three magnates in some ways, rules were rules, so, the sect could only send six disciples there, and they were Liu Chong, Situ Yi, Luo Yong, Dong'er, Feng, and Jian Wushuang.

There was no need to say how powerful Feng was. After all, he was the personal disciple of the Palace Master Destruction and had improved his power by much in these years, with likelihood of becoming an advanced Divine Realm expert and reaching the Eternal Realm.

No one was surprised at his being able to enter.

Luo Yong and Dong'er were the most outstanding disciples among their peers before Jian Wushuang and Feng joined the sect. Having reached the Divine Realm and mastering some powerful Secret Skills, their future was as promising as Feng's. Therefore, it was reasonable that they were on the list.

As for Liu Chong and Situ Yi, they had entered the sect for more than a hundred years and could not be called youngsters, but, they were both talented and had missed the chance to get into the zone last time. In view of this, their names were put on the list as well.

Among the two, Situ Yi was in the advanced Divine Realm, but he had reached the highest level and was more powerful than Feng, Luo Yong, and Dong'er.

Liu Chong, who was also on the list, was a real superior Divine Realm expert in fact.

Those five people were mighty and had a lot potential, and their qualification was beyond all doubt.

However, Jian Wushuang was different to them.

He was just in the Skyscraping Realm, and there had never been anyone in the Skyscraping Realm adventuring in the Eternal Zone before.

His name on the list confused many others.

Chapter 694: Xuan Yi's Exhortations

In a vacant area in the Dao Palace was a table, where Jian Wushuang, Feng, Huo Ying, Bing Shan, Xuan Ying, and Wu Huang were sitting.

Because they were all from the Ancient World and had been brought into the Ancient Sect by Xuan Yi at the same time, they were always gathered together to enjoy drinking wine and chatting.

From time to time, some disciples went passing by those six, and most of them would also cast their eyes on Jian Wushuang while talking in a low voice.

"It's incredible that Jian Wushuang, a Skyscraping Realm disciple, can get into the Eternal Zone at this time."

"Yeah. Have you ever seen anyone in that realm succeed in completing an Earth-level Task?"

"No. Even I, having reached the Divine Realm a long time ago, would not accept such a task."

The first time the sect announced that Jian Wushuang could go into the Eternal Zone, there was a lot of doubt if he was qualified to do so. But soon after that, when those skeptics learned that he had completed an extremely hard Earth-level Task, they shut up.

After all, in this word, the stronger one could talk louder.

Generally, the tasks at the Earth Level should be assigned to advanced Divine Realm experts, and it was always uncertain if they could complete them. That is to say, anyone who could complete them was at least no weaker than those advanced experts.

That being said, Jian Wushuang's power and talent were beyond doubt.

"Listen Jian Wushuang, there are so many people talking about you," Huo Ying said to him with a smile.

"It has been eight years since we six entered the sect, and now the best ones among us are you and Feng." Bing Shan echoed in a tone of admiration.

"I'm no match for him." Feng shook his head at those words while looking toward Jian Wushuang.

He had lost all his desire to catch up to him because he knew that this man had made it to the 30th floor of Ninth Heaven Road in the Sect Competition.

He had been left far behind, and he knew that himself.

"Hold it, guys. Let's just enjoy drinking." Jian Wushuang grinned while holding up his cup of wine.

While the other four were drinking, Feng and Jian Wushuang suddenly paused.

The former looked at the latter and asked, "You have also received a message, haven't you?"

"Yeah. It's time to go now." Jian Wushuang nodded and then turned to the other four. "Guys, Feng and I gotta to go now. Please enjoy your time even without us."

Huo Ying replied to them with concern, "Ok. I heard that the Eternal Zone is quite dangerous, please take care and good luck to both of you."

"We will, and thank you." Jian Wushuang and Feng rose up and headed out.

"Swish! Swish!"

Jian Wushuang and Feng arrived in front of the huge wormhole in the Ancient Sect at the same time, and soon afterward, Liu Chong, Situ Yi, Luo Yong, and Dong'er arrived as well.

"Are you Jian Wushuang?" asked a man dressed in purple with a ferocious aura, looking at Jian Wushuang.

That man was Situ Yi. He wore a gentle smile despite his aura. "Finally, I can see the great genius of our sect with my own eyes."

Jian Wushuang returned his smile. He could tell that he was an outgoing man.

Being a striking contrast to that man, Liu Chong, a red-haired youth, looked quite indifferent.

At that moment, he was also looking at Jian Wushuang, and his eyes full of a strange feeling met with his.

"This boy..."?he could not help thinking,?"the others only know that he finished an Earth-level Task, they don't know that he has also killed a superior Divine Realm expert."?

Liu Chong was the exact man who had taken Xuan Yi's order to keep Jian Wushuang safe in secret. By that chance, he had witnessed how Jian Wushuang had killed Hu Hu, thus, he knew Jian Wushuang better than the others did.

"Jian Wushuang." The youth finally spoke out. "A question has confused me for quite a while, in terms of your cultivation in the Dao, you should have reached the Divine Realm, so why are you still stuck in the Skyscraping Realm?"

This question aroused the interest of the other four as well. They all looked at Jian Wushuang, waiting for his answer.

It was true that Jian Wushuang was powerful enough to break through to the Divine Realm.

"Well..." For some time, Jian Wushuang could not find any more words to answer the question.

Right then, several whooshing sounds reached them along with some figures.

Of these eight newcomers, seven of them were Masters of the Dao Palace, including Palace Master Mo Tao, Palace Master Baiyu, and Palace Master Destruction, who was also Feng's master. The Vice Master of the Sword Palace, Ling Yu, was also among them.

The Eternal Zone was a place of great opportunities, and the disciples of the sects would have adventures in its outer layer while those experts who had reached the Eternal Realm would try their luck in its inner layer.

"Everyone has arrived. Let's go."

Just as Palace Master Destruction gave the order, the wormhole in front of them was immediately activated.

Jian Wushuang took a deep breath and waited for the journey to begin, and right at that moment, he surprisingly received a message from his master, Xuan Yi.

“Wushuang, you’re on your way to the Eternal Zone, but remember that you must be careful after you get there.”

“I know.” Jian Wushuang nodded.

Xuan Yi then continued with a laughing voice, “Look, besides the danger that lies in the zone, you should also watch your back when dealing with the people from the three magnates and other sects.”

“Why?” Jian Wushuang’s expression changed.

“Why did master say this to me?”

At that point, he was suddenly hit by an idea.

“There are always competitions between all the sects. Could it be that they all want to eliminate the geniuses of other sects with this chance?”

He had experienced such kind of things before, so he was able to figure it out quickly.

“Master, I’ll be careful and remember every single word you said,” Jian Wushuang replied.

“In the Eternal Zone, all connections with the outside are cut, no message can leave there. Therefore, even if you really run into danger someday, I can’t be there for you in time, so you’ll be all on your own,” Xuan Yi added.

“I understand, master.” Jian Wushuang nodded again.

“Let’s set off now.” Palace Master Destruction’s voice interrupted their conversation.

Jian Wushuang immediately walked into the wormhole with the others.

Chapter 695: Demon God Clan

On the way to the Eternal Zone, Vice Palace Master Ling Yu traveled side by side with the six disciples. “Since the six of you haven’t been there before, you must have no idea of what kind of place it is. But don’t worry, I’ll tell you,” she said to them.

The six of them immediately gave their full attention to her.

They knew nothing about the Eternal Zone except that it was a dangerous place.

The master started to describe the place to them.

“The first thing you should know about it is that it’s totally different from the Firmament Territory.

“A very special and indigenous species lives there, which is called the Demon God Clan.”

“The Demon God Clan?” Those six seemed surprised when hearing that name for the first time.

Judging by the clan’s name, they could tell it had to be an unusual group.

"In fact, the members of this clan are normal human beings at birth; however, as they grow older, they get baptized by Demon Gods and then become one of them as well. Their power also rockets to a new level.

"Following that is a huge change to their bodies.

"After becoming Demon Gods, they get divided into three groups based on the density of their blood—Copper-armored Demon Gods, Silver-armored Demon Gods, and Gold-armored Demon Gods. The first one is the weakest kind, and the last one is the most powerful.

"All of you should know that both our opportunities and nightmares are hidden inside them."

The master paused for a while before continuing, "Those opportunities mean the following three things exactly:

"First—the Essence Blood of the Demon Gods.

"After you kill one Demon God, you can refine his body into pure Essence Blood, but the amount you can extract from the three kinds of bodies is not the same.

"For example, a Copper-armored Demon God's body can be refined into only one single drop of Essence Blood. That will be two drops in the case of a Silver-armored Demon God's body, and three drops for a Gold-armored Demon God's body.

"You may want to ask me what kind of use we can make of that Essence Blood. I'll answer that later. Let's move on to the second opportunity.

"Second—the Ancient Gods' Secret Skill."

The words caused the six disciples to raise their heads in amazement.

"Created by the Demon God Clan, this skill can greatly increase the user's offensive power in a short time. Aside from Jian Wushuang, the rest of you have all practiced some similar secret skills, right?"

Feng, Liu Chong, Situ Yi, Luo Yong, and Dong'er all nodded.

Though Jian Wushuang had not practiced any secret skill yet, he did know what the master was talking about.

Back when he was carrying out the Earth-level Task, all his targets at that time had practiced those kinds of skills.

Bing Ji, one of those targets, had demonstrated an offensive power that was five times stronger than it had been before by displaying the skill while fighting him.

Hu Hu had even managed to increase it to eight times stronger.

Therefore, this kind of secret skill was somehow very common among the Divine Realm experts. The only difference was how much one could improve his power by using the skill.

Talented as Jian Wushuang was, he still could not study the skill until he reached the Divine Realm.

“There are various kinds of secret skills in our sect and other sects, you know.” The master continued, “And no matter whether they are at higher or lower levels, they can improve one’s power by 10 times at best.

“The same is also true of those skills that the three magnates and top sects have. 10 times is the limitation.

“But different from all those skills, the secret skill that the Demon God Clan possesses can break that limitation.”

“What?”

The six of them could not help being astonished at those words, especially the five who had learned some secret skills.

They had long believed that secret skills could only improve their power by no more than 10 times.

“It indeed is true that their secret skill can produce such a magical effect. As far as I know, the first five levels of the skill can increase one’s power by 15 times.”

The master’s words caused Jian Wushuang’s pupils to suddenly shrink. “15 times!” he exclaimed to himself.

“If what the master said is true, this secret skill is indeed invaluable.”

He felt thrilled at the idea of releasing a power 10 times greater than a normal warrior could when fighting an opponent in the same realm. It would be really amazing.

“If I can study and practice this skill, I’ll be much more powerful and can gain an advantage over my opponents.”

“All the experts in our territory want to get this skill and hope that they can practice it to a high level after getting it. However, the Demon God Clan has kept it away from others quite well, aside from Cloud Sea Asgard obtaining the first five levels of it while the other two magnates and our sect have gotten the first four levels.

“But still, the first four levels can increase one’s power by 12 times.” The master’s voice echoed again.

On hearing this, all six of them let out gasps in admiration.

Chapter 696: A Powerful Gathering

“Vice Palace Master Ling Yu, according to you, my Ancient Sect possesses the techniques of the first four levels of the Ancient God Secret Skill. But why have I never seen them in the Secret Skill pavilion, nor seen experts from my sect displaying them?” Liu Chong asked, frowning.

The others nodded their heads in agreement.

If the Ancient Sect indeed possessed these techniques, then surely they would have been given to the disciples to cultivate. Yet, nobody had heard of any disciple cultivating the Secret Skill, which could boost one's offensive power by up to 12 times.

"Let me refer to the opportunity I just mentioned – the Demon God Essence Blood," Ling Yu began to explain.

"The Ancient God Secret Skill originated from the Demon God Clan, and that's why even though it's powerful, it's apparently only suitable for the Demon God clansmen to cultivate. For us human warriors to cultivate this Secret Skill, we have to consume Demon God Essence Blood!"

"By consuming Demon God Essence Blood, we gain the trace of Demon God bloodline it contains which will enable us to cultivate the Ancient God Secret Skill. More Demon God Essence Blood will be needed to cultivate the Ancient God Secret Skill to the highest level."

"Under normal circumstances, the first four levels of the Ancient God Secret Skill will only require 10 drops of Demon God Essence Blood to cultivate. But it ain't simple to obtain the Essence Blood, for Demon Gods have to be hunted down and killed. That's why few in the Firmament Territory have truly been able to cultivate up to the fourth level."

Upon hearing this, Jian Wushuang and co. began to understand.

According to the Vice Palace Master, killing one Copper-armored Demon God would grant only one drop of Demon God Essence Blood, which meant that 10 of them would have to be killed to obtain 10 drops. However, these Demon Gods are powerful and certainly not easy to kill.

"Apart from being a requirement for the cultivation of the Ancient God Secret Skill, consuming the Demon God Essence Blood will greatly strengthen one's body. After all, the Demon God clansmen's strongest aspect is their bodies. The more Essence Blood absorbed, the more powerful one's body will become," Ling Yu said.

Jian Wushuang and co. nodded silently.

They finally understood the true uses of the Demon God Essence Blood.

The first was to cultivate the Ancient God Secret Skill, while the second was to strengthen their bodies.

"The last thing I have to tell you about is the third greatest opportunity in the Eternal Zone – the Demon God Baptismal Pool, which also originates from the Demon God Clan," Ling Yu continued, "However, it's useless to y'all for the time being and cannot be obtained in the outer layer, and so I shan't elaborate on it."

"All in all, during your future adventures in the outer layer of the Eternal Zone, try your best to hunt down and kill Demon Gods, and find ways to obtain as much Demon God Essence Blood as possible. It's the only opportunity you can obtain in the outer layer."

Feng, Liu Chong, and the others nodded upon hearing this.

Though only the Demon God Essence Blood was obtainable, it would be of an astonishing benefit to them and was indeed a great opportunity.

But Jian Wushuang could not help frowning.

“Based on what Vice Palace Master Ling Yu said, the Eternal Zone is the Demon God Clan’s home, where they’ve always lived and never been oppressive toward human warriors in any way. Yet, because of the great attraction that their Essence Blood and Ancient God Secret Skill pose for human warriors, the various sects of the Firmament Territory, upon the opening of the Eternal Zone every hundred years, would charge in and hunt down these Demon Gods. This is what has been going on...”

Though the Demon God clansmen could not be considered humans, they were also earthly creatures after all.

Furthermore, what separated them from demonic and spirit beasts was the fact that they had always lived in their own home without ever antagonizing human warriors.

Jian Wushuang was by no means a kind person. On the contrary, a countless number of people have already died at his hands ever since he began his cultivation.

His actions had all along been dictated by what his heart fancied.

He was now somewhat displeased and even disgusted by the actions of the various sects of the Firmament Territory, yet ironically, he was among the people who would enter the Eternal Zone this time.

“There’s no hurry. Let’s go to the Eternal Zone and see how the Demon God clansmen are like first. If they’re of an evil and cruel nature, I’ll be fine with killing them. But if that’s not the case... we shall see,” Jian Wushuang muttered to himself.

The party continued on their journey for some time and only stopped when they arrived in an ancient forest.

In the middle of this ancient forest, there were many figures already in wait. These were the experts and disciples from the other top sects who had arrived long before.

Every time the Eternal Zone opened, the top sects were each allowed to send in six disciples, while the three magnates were each allowed 10 disciples.

Though there was a quota imposed on disciples, there was no such limit on the experts who had attained the Eternal Realm.

Regardless of which sect they were from, an Eternal Realm expert could enter the Eternal Zone so long as they wished to. That was why an extremely large number of experts entered the Eternal Zone every time it opened.

There were eight Eternal Realm experts from the Ancient Sect alone, while the other top sects, particular the three magnates, provided similar numbers.

The overall strength and class of the three magnates were comfortably superior to those of the other top sects.

Take the Ancient Sect for instance – its total number of Eternal Realm experts did not exceed 20. By contrast, each of the three magnates had more than 40 Eternal Realm experts, more than twice what the Ancient Sect had.

Naturally, the more Eternal Realm experts a sect possessed, the more experts it would send to venture into the Eternal Zone.

There were hence a dozen or more Eternal Realm experts sent by each of the three magnates.

The many Eternal Realm experts and the Divine Realm disciples were gathered together, silently watching their surroundings.

Jian Wushuang too began to look around, sweeping his gaze across the experts and disciples sent by the three magnates. As he did so, he could sense many veiled gazes directed back at him.

Many of these gazes came from people of the other top sects.

“It seems that I’m still kinda popular.”

Smiling faintly, he nevertheless remained on high vigilance. He could discern that some of these gazes harbored malintent, and most crucially, there were a few among them who were very powerful and could be considered a threat to him.

“Wu Dao, Dao Mei, and Xue Guzi, why these peeps? What madness is this from the Cloud Sea Asgard?” Liu Chong suddenly exclaimed.

“What’s the matter?” Jian Wushuang and co. peered sideways at Liu Chong.

“Look, among the Cloud Sea Asgard’s 10 disciples, there are three of them whose auras are extremely powerful and who have already attained the superior Divine Realm level,” Liu Chong lowered his voice and spoke.

Chapter 697: A Reunion with Gong Chao

“Spotted.” Jian Wushuang turned his sights toward Cloud Sea Asgard’s contingent and nodded his head gently.

He had long noticed the aforementioned trio, who each exerted immense pressure on him and were obviously superior Divine Realm experts.

“I know all three of them. They’re the most outstanding disciples of Cloud Sea Asgard, especially Wu Dao, whom I’ve traded blows with. Unfortunately, I lost, and lost terribly, in that fight. He’s considered to be one of the most powerful among the superior Divine Realm experts, and is comparable to the Vice Palace Masters of Dao Palace,” Liu Chong spoke in a deep voice.

“And, the three of them are considered within Cloud Sea Asgard to be disciples of the previous generation. Though they haven’t been to the Eternal Zone before, Cloud Sea Asgard has all along prioritized developing a new generation of disciples, and so for one disciple of the previous generation

to come to the Eternal Zone would have been noteworthy. Why would three of them come at the same time? Odd.”

Liu Chong was somewhat puzzled.

Jian Wushuang, however, squinted his eyes delicately upon hearing this.

He lifted his head and took a glance at the trio. They were among those he had noticed directing veiled gazes at him.

He began to suspect that the trio might have come for him.

Of course, this was only a suspicion which he could not confirm.

As he continued to ponder to himself, a figure from Cloud Sea Asgard’s contingent charged toward him all of a sudden.

“Jian Wushuang.”

Jian Wushuang looked toward the direction which the voice came from, and instantly saw a purple-robed youth, who carried a Stone Cudgel on his back, standing in front of him.

“Ha, Gong Chao.”

Jian Wushuang revealed a smile upon recognizing the arriver.

The purple-robed youth was Gong Chao, the super genius who impressively clinched first place in the Firmament Territory Feast eight years back.

Jian Wushuang had fought with him during the Feast but lost because he held back much of his strength. However, later on, during the fourth round of the cultivation age test, he became the definition of a monster and completely stole the limelight from the latter.

In the end, he joined the Ancient Sect together with Xuan Yi, whereas Gong Chao went over to Cloud Sea Asgard.

Eight years had passed. The two geniuses who put in the most dazzling performances during the Firmament Territory Feast were once again reunited.

However, by this time, Gong Chao had already attained the Divine Realm, whereas Jian Wushuang had still only attained the Skyscraping Realm.

“We haven’t met for eight years. Do you still remember what I said to you during the Firmament Territory Feast?” Gong Chao regarded Jian Wushuang with his gleaming eyes.

“Eh?” Jian Wushuang raised an eyebrow.

“I said that I would fight for superiority with you the next time we meet. Eight years have passed...” Gong Chao paused before continuing, “During these eight years, I’ve done everything possible to increase my strength, while always looking forward to the day we meet again. That day has finally arrived.”

"What do you want to do?" Jian Wushuang laughed faintly as he looked at Gong Chao, who was a genius he quite appreciated.

"You know the answer." As Gong Chao raised his head to look at Jian Wushuang, a gush of battle intent shot out of his eyes. "Jian Wushuang, let's fight."

Gong Chao deliberately raised his voice as he uttered that last sentence, causing the experts and disciples from the various sects to quickly look over.

Their expressions got weird when they saw that Gong Chao had approached Jian Wushuang.

"Jian Wushuang from Ancient Sect and Gong Chao from Cloud Sea Asgard. These two were the most outstanding performers during the last Firmament Territory Feast!"

"During the last Firmament Territory Feast, Jian Wushuang was defeated by Gong Chao, and so by right, it should be him issuing the challenge this time. Who would've thought that Gong Chao would be the one to propose instead?"

"It's normal. Although Jian Wushuang lost during the Firmament Territory Feast, he displayed a lot more exceptional talent than Gong Chao, and later on, his extraordinary performances in the Ancient Sect led Palace Master Gong Yi to take him in as a personal disciple. Gong Chao probably knows that Jian Wushuang is no weaker than him and may even be stronger, and that's why he proposed the challenge."

Many of the experts standing around the two geniuses were busy in their private discussions.

And when the experts from the Ancient Sect and Cloud Sea Asgard saw what was happening, they simply exchanged looks and showed no sign of preventing it.

It was an open secret that the two sects had long enjoyed a rivalry. Thus, neither side thought much about a duel between their disciples so long as it was not a life-and-death battle.

"Jian Wushuang, you won't refuse this duel, right?" Gong Chao looked at Jian Wushuang and spoke solemnly. "Of course, I can tell that you haven't attained the Divine Realm, and so for fairness' sake, I shall hold back my strength and not exert anything beyond the scope of the Skyscraping Realm. How about that?"

"Hold back your strength deliberately?" Jian Wushuang could not help laughing as he looked at Gong Chao, whose battle intent was surging. "You don't have to do that. Just come at me with all you've got."

"Are you sure?" Gong Chao's complexion darkened.

"Of course," a very confident Jian Wushuang replied.

"Alright, watch out."

Without delay, the Stone Cudgel which Gong Chao carried on his back appeared in his hands. A vast aura gushed from his body and formed a strange suppressive force which charged toward Jian Wushuang.

"Gong Chao... over these eight years, his strength has indeed increased considerably." Jian Wushuang looked indifferent.

Gong Chao was a true genius. After eight years of cultivation in Cloud Sea Asgard, which was the Firmament Territory's premier sect, he was by now at least no weaker, and most likely already stronger, than Feng.

"Let's begin."

As soon as Gong Chao spoke, his figure disappeared and reappeared right in front of Jian Wushuang, following which the Stone Cudgel struck out mercilessly. All that could be seen in the void was a thick black shadow which seemed to be formed from a bunch of overlapping cudgel shadows.

A brutal power immediately swept forth.

"An advanced Divine Realm expert who's probably the best among his Realm."

Jian Wushuang was able to gauge Gong Chao's strength at the very instant that the latter made a move. The longsword behind his back immediately appeared in his hands.

This was the Heart-killing Sword. As for the Emperor Sword, Jian Wushuang kept it in an Interspatial Ring and did not draw on it.

With a longsword in his hands, the Sword Heart in his sea of consciousness shook gently. In an instant, Jian Wushuang was able to summon 50 percent of the Sword Heart's power.

"50 percent of the Sword Heart's power should be about enough." Squinting his eyes, the longsword in his hands swept forth at the very next moment.

Clang!

The tip of the Heart-killing Sword collided with the front of the Stone Cudgel, creating a low-pitched noise. With a twist of his wrist, Jian Wushuang pulled back the sword and casually swung it once more. It swept toward Gong Chao's chest in a smooth motion that caused Gong Chao's complexion to change dramatically.

"Terrifying skill."

Although shocked, Gong Chao remained composed as he forcefully drew back the Stone Cudgel and struck out once more.

With a faint smile, Jian Wushuang abruptly lowered the longsword and easily evaded contact with the Stone Cudgel. The tip of his longsword then flitted in a ghost-like fashion as it swung toward Gong Chao's throat at lightning speed.

Chapter 698: Concealment

"That was fast."

Gong Chao's complexion had turned completely grim when the next moment, a Yin-Yang Power rose from his body.

His Yin-Yang Dao and Thunderbolt Dao burst out completely.

His cudgel then made successive swings, of which some were lightning fast and extremely powerful, while some were gentle and weak. The two Daos combined and were exerted in perfection.

Gong Chao's staff technique was extraordinarily exquisite.

Although his understanding of Dao was certainly not the best, the power he was able to showcase when he fully exerted his Daos was definitely a lot greater than that of many advanced Divine Realm experts.

But what about Jian Wushuang?

He instead put on a perfect display of his swordsmanship.

It was a whole lot more exquisite than Gong Chao's staff technique. Although he did not exert as much strength as the latter, he could count on his swordsmanship to perfectly withstand the staff technique which combined Yin and Yang. On occasion, his offensive strokes would even cause Gong Chao great discomfort.

One glance was all it took to see that Jian Wushuang held the upper hand, even if it was but a small advantage.

And this was only because he was deliberately holding back the greater part of his strength.

Up till this point, he had only summoned up half of the Sword Heart's power, and had not drawn on the Emperor Sword at all.

"There're many people around, and among them are quite a few who harbor malintent toward me. My coming journey in the Eternal Zone will be very dangerous, such that death is a real possibility. Every bit of my strength that I'm able to conceal may prove decisive." Although Jian Wushuang appeared to be sparing no efforts in his duel with Gong Chao, he was actually being extremely discreet.

In his heart, he was utterly clear about the matter.

Many of the experts from these sects were likely to be targeting him. It would be as good as courting death to reveal all of his trump cards during this fight.

Therefore, he concealed as much as he could of his strength. Of course, he could not be too discreet, or otherwise, suspicions might arise.

After all, news that he completed Earth-level Tasks in the Divine Palace had long spread, proving that he definitely possessed strength on the level of the advanced Divine Realm. He therefore displayed skill on the level of said Realm, and only gained a slight advantage in the duel because his swordsmanship was somewhat superior to his opponent's staff technique.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

A series of violent roars sounded. As if backed into a corner, Gong Chao found an opportunity to step back and began to summon his trump card move.

"Jian Wushuang, watch out."

The Stone Cudgel in his hands struck out at the very instant that he spoke.

The air was completely suppressed in an instant, as a massive stream of overlapping cudgel shadows surged directly toward Jian Wushuang.

In terms of power, this had clearly reached the threshold of a Rank Four Secret Skill.

“Violet Calamity Sword Skill.”

Jian Wushuang too began to exert his trump card move.

A bright purple light began to shine. What captured everyone’s attention as soon as it was displayed was a sword move of absolute beauty and world-destroying power.

It was obvious that Jian Wushuang’s Violet Calamity Sword Skill was the much stronger Secret Skill. After all, his cultivation of Sword Principle was so high that this sword skill had already attained the level of a top Level Four Secret Skill. However, the contact force of 50 percent of his Sword Heart’s power was considerably less than that exerted by Gong Chao.

The two skills collided head-on, causing both Jian Wushuang and Gong Chao to be knocked back.

They turned out to be an even match.

After this collision, Jian Wushuang and Gong Chao stopped fighting and showed no intention to continue.

“I’ve lost this fight,” Gong Chao said in a rather deep voice.

“It was a draw. I didn’t beat you.” Jian Wushuang laughed.

“You’re after all just a Skyscraping Realm expert, whereas I’ve already attained the Divine Realm.”

Shaking his head, Gong Chao took a solemn glance at Jian Wushuang, then calmly opened his mouth to say two words.

He did not vocalize these two words and instead simply mouthed them. He even concealed his mouth movement so well that none of the spectating experts and disciples noticed.

“Jian Wushuang, I look forward to my next fight with you. I’ll make sure it’s an exciting one,” Gong Chao said and swiftly went back among Cloud Sea Asgard’s contingent.

Jian Wushuang simply smiled faintly, then turned to head back toward Ancient Sect’s contingent.

However, his vision became abnormally sharp after he turned his body.

Although nobody else had noticed the mouth movement that Gong Chao had made expressionlessly, Jian Wushuang saw it clearly as he was standing directly in front.

He could clearly decipher what these two words were... “Watch out!”

Gong Chao wanted him to be careful and even had to warn him in such an obscure manner. Jian Wushuang certainly understood what this implied.

His prior suspicions were now confirmed.

The three elite Divine Realm experts sent by Cloud Sea Asgard, namely Wu Dao, Dao Mei, and Xue Guzi, had indeed come for him.

“Hehe, these three Divine Realm experts sure think highly of me. Was my improvement in the Ancient Sect really that amazing? Why else would these top sects think so highly of me, such that even the illustrious Cloud Sea Asgard would be this afraid?” Jian Wushuang furrowed his brows tightly.

He did not know why.

The truth was that the top sects and the three magnates did not think this highly of him solely because of his improvement in the Ancient Sect over the past few years.

The most important reason was his current status.

No sect could afford to not take seriously someone who was the personal disciple of Palace Master Xuanyi.

The experts and disciples of Cloud Sea Asgard were all looking at Jian Wushuang at this very moment.

Among those disciples, the trio of Wu Dao, Dao Mei, and Xue Guzi, whose auras were the most brutal, carried a hint of scorching heat in their eyes.

“This little fella is our target?” There was a devilish smile at the corner of Dao Mei’s mouth.

“After watching his fight with our junior Gong Chao, I would rate his strength as merely so-so. Only his swordsmanship is any above average,” Wu Dao remarked dismissively.

“It’s highly impressive for a Skyscraping Realm expert to possess this level of battle strength and swordsmanship already. However, while he may be able to put up a fight against an elite Divine Realm expert, he will be completely defenseless against us.” Xue Guzi’s expression was one of indifference.

“Hmph, judging from that level of strength, I’ll finish him off in one stroke.” Wu Dao sneered.

“Don’t get careless.” Dao Mei darted a look at Wu Dao and reminded in a low voice, “Don’t forget Great Elder’s instructions.”

Wu Dao’s face sank upon hearing this. At the same time, he began to recall what the Great Elder of Cloud Sea Asgard, Yun Fan, had instructed them to do before they set off.

“Listen, you three. This time, your target isn’t those Demon Gods, but Jian Wushuang instead!”

“Do whatever it takes to kill him, but remember, do not let the Ancient Sect get something on us.”

Chapter 699: The Fifth Level of Occult

The experts and disciples from the various sects waited quietly in the sky above the ancient forest. After some time, a bunch of experts from the three magnates began to jointly do something on the void.

“What are they doing?” Jian Wushuang and the other disciples were puzzled.

“They’re opening up the wormhole that leads to the Eternal Zone.”

Vice Palace Master Ling Yu explained, “The Eternal Zone may be hidden within this ancient forest, but it’s an isolated space which, although rather stable, would weaken once every 100 years. When this happens, a few Eternal Realm experts working together will be able to force an opening into it.”

“However, a forced opening won’t be too stable, and as such, y’all will appear in random places throughout the Eternal Zone when you enter. In other words, y’all will be separated in the Eternal Zone and will have to find your own way around.”

“What’s more, y’all can only remain in the Eternal Zone for up to 10 days. By the 10th day, y’all must have reached the border of the Eternal Zone, where there’ll naturally be a way to get all of you out.”

“Is that really so?” Jian Wushuang and co. nodded inwardly.

The Eternal Zone opened only once every 100 years, and each time it did was only for 10 days.

To everyone who was present, a period of 10 days was certainly way too short. This opportunity was indeed hard to come by.

“Do we really have to move around on our own?” Jian Wushuang muttered to himself.

“Also, remember never to enter the inner layer.” Vice Palace Master Ling Yu exhorted once more. “The inner layer is the Demon God Clan’s lair, where there’re untold dangers. Even an Eternal Realm expert of my ilk will have to be very careful there, for the slightest of carelessness will be one’s downfall. For those of you who are only Divine Realm experts, entering the inner layer will spell certain death.”

“Understood.” Jian Wushuang and co. nodded.

They knew that only Eternal Realm experts were qualified enough to enter the inner layer, and even then, said experts would be courting death by entering such an incomparably dangerous place.

Under the joint efforts of the Eternal Realm experts, two wormholes appeared above the Void before long.

Of these two wormholes, one led to the outer layer of the Eternal Zone, while the other led directly to the inner layer.

“The wormholes have been fully created. Let’s head in, and please take care of yourselves for the next 10 days,” Palace Master Destruction said as he looked all around.

The many experts of the Ancient Sect, including Jian Wushuang and the other five disciples, nodded and immediately headed toward the two wormholes.

The people from the other top sects and the three magnates too made their way toward the two wormholes.

The Eternal Realm experts stepped into the wormhole that led to the inner layer while the Divine Realm disciples stepped into the wormhole that led to the outer layer.

In quick succession, figure after figure disappeared into the wormholes.

Among Cloud Sea Asgard’s contingent, the disciples were the last to enter the wormholes.

Before entering, Wu Dao, who was first in line among them, even specially exhorted, "All of you, please don't forget your mission after entering the Eternal Zone."

The disciples of Cloud Sea Asgard nodded repeatedly upon hearing this.

Gong Chaos pupils constricted a little, but he too nodded.

Soon, the experts and disciples from the nine top sects and the three magnates had all crossed into the Eternal Zone.

This was an ancient forest which emitted an ancient aura. Towering old trees, which were more than 1000 feet in height, were aplenty in the depths of the forest. A pale white smoke also pervaded the entire forest.

This white smoke was very rarefied and carried a delicate fragrance.

Standing on a branch atop a towering old tree was a young man dressed in a black robe and carrying a longsword. His eyes were looking around at his surroundings.

"Is this really the Eternal Zone?"

Jian Wushuang was muttering to himself, around whom were all kinds of large trees. He could sense that the Eternal Zone possessed an abundance of spiritual power that was not less, and perhaps even more, in amount than the outside world.

At the very end of his line of sight was a pale golden light which covered an extensive territory.

"Is that the inner layer over there?" He squinted his eyes.

The Eternal Zone was incomparably vast. It was said that the outer layer alone stretched tens of millions of miles, while the inner layer was even larger in surface area.

The many Divine Realm disciples who entered the Eternal Zone were, at this moment, scattered all over the outer layer.

"According to Vice Palace Master Ling Yu, the greatest danger in the Eternal Zone comes from those Demon Gods. They see humans as marauders and hate us like none other. What's more, they have a special way to instantly differentiate their clansmen from human warriors."

"I wonder how they look like and how strong they are." Jian Wushuang murmured but quickly shook his head. "But aside from them, the threats I face here in the Eternal Zone also include the disciples from the other sects, especially Cloud Sea Asgard..."

"This time, Cloud Sea Asgard has sent no less than three elite Divine Realm disciples, among whom include the extremely powerful Wu Dao. I'm unable to deal with them based on my current strength, and should therefore find a way to increase my strength somewhat before I go find those Demon Gods."

A radiance shone in Jian Wushuang's eyes.

In his present state, his cultivation of Sword Principle and Secret Skill could not be improved for the time being. However, his Dao understanding had lots of room for improvement.

When he set off from the Ancient Sect, his understanding of the World Dao and Slaughter Dao was only one step away from comprehending the fifth level of Occult. Subsequently, the fight with Gong Chao allowed him to find a glimmer of opportunity which made him feel as if he could gain comprehension of the fifth level of Occult at any time.

It should be known that there was an extremely huge gulf between comprehension of the fourth and fifth level of Occult.

“My strength will go up a level regardless of which Dao it is that I’m able to comprehend the fifth level of Occult of, and combined with my other skills, I’ll be able to stand toe-to-toe with even the elite Divine Realm experts. That’ll grant me the capability to compete against the three Divine Realm experts from Cloud Sea Asgard.” A solemn-faced Jian Wushuang finally came to a resolve.

He wasted no time finding a place in the forest where he could begin his cultivation.

The first thing that the other geniuses and disciples thought about upon entering the Eternal Zone was to seek out those Demon Gods and find a way to kill them for their Essence Blood. Instead, Jian Wushuang quickly began his cultivation upon entering.

This sort of cultivation only required two days of time.

By the time two days had passed, Jian Wushuang had made a breakthrough in his World Dao and fully comprehended its fifth level of Occult.

Chapter 700: Child

“The fifth level of Occult.”

Standing on a treetop, Jian Wushuang clenched his fists, a radiance shining in his eyes.

Having comprehended the fifth level of Occult of the World Dao, his strength had reached a whole new level.

Right at this moment...

Swish!

A violent sound was suddenly heard from the forest ahead.

“Huh?” Jian Wushuang immediately raised his head and looked toward the forest ahead.

From the forest ahead suddenly appeared a huge monster. Its giant soles trampled on the trunk of a towering old tree and thrust forcibly, causing the trunk to snap. Within a few strides, it appeared in front of Jian Wushuang.

“Is this... a Demon God?”

Jian Wushuang gazed at the figure that had just popped up in front of him.

More than three meters in height, its body was covered with bronze-colored skin and emitted an incomparably thick and overbearing aura.

"So this is a Demon God? I feel that, aside from its size and skin, it's not that much different from humans."

Frowning slightly, he was a little cautious, and his palm subconsciously felt for the longsword behind his back.

Demon Gods were divided into Copper-armored Demon Gods, Silver-armored Demon Gods, and Gold-armored Demon Gods.

The one in front of him was evidently the lowest grade Copper-armored Demon God, but nevertheless, it was also extremely powerful.

Jian Wushuang had never fought with a Demon God and did not understand their battle strength, and so naturally did not dare to be careless in the slightest.

It stood in front of Jian Wushuang and stared at him with its arms crossed.

Suddenly, it began to gradually relax its crossing of arms.

The sight of this caused Jian Wushuang's pupils to constrict slightly. He subconsciously believed that the Demon God was ready to attack.

But then...

"Child, why are you still here?" A sincere voice was uttered from the Demon God's mouth.

Jian Wushuang winced and looked at the Demon God in surprise.

He was not shocked by the fact that the Demon God actually spoke, but rather by its attitude toward him.

"Child?"

"What sort of address is this?"

"Isn't this usually what a senior would call a junior?"

Jian Wushuang also discovered that there was goodwill in the Demon God's eyes as it spoke.

Yes, goodwill.

Every 100 years, human warriors from the Firmament Territory would invade the Eternal Zone and massacre these Demon Gods. The Demon God Clan had long abhorred the human invasions and would typically seek to kill any human they spotted.

But this time, the Copper-armored Demon God not only did not attack Jian Wushuang, but even addressed him as "child" in a friendly manner.

"What's the matter?" Jian Wushuang furrowed his brows tightly.

"Child, I'm asking you a question!" Staring at Jian Wushuang, the Demon God continued, "A hundred years have passed, and humans from the outside world are coming. Didn't your parents tell you that this place is no longer safe?"

Jian Wushuang felt even weirder deep down upon hearing this.

He understood from the Demon God's words that it had obviously mistaken him for a clansman.

"How can he possibly mistake me for a clansman?" Jian Wushuang was puzzled. "Could it be because I'm only a Skyscraping Realm expert?"

According to Vice Palace Master Ling Yu, the Demon God clansmen were similar to humans before they underwent metamorphosis during the baptism process. And each time the Eternal Zone had opened in the past, the invading human warriors were at least of the Divine Realm, which meant that he was the first Skyscraping Realm expert to ever invade. There was hence a slim possibility that the Demon God had mistaken him for a clansman upon seeing that he was only a Skyscraping Realm expert.

But Jian Wushuang swiftly denied this possibility.

He had heard from Vice Palace Master Ling Yu that the Demon God clansmen had a special method to instantly identify their fellow clansmen.

This method was apparently based on the person's aura or some other aspect. In any case, the Demon Gods typically only needed one look to identify humans.

Since this was what Vice Palace Master Ling Yu said, it was definitely true.

But... what was happening right now?

Although Jian Wushuang continued to be baffled, he opened his mouth and replied, "I got separated from my elders."

"You got separated? No wonder." The Copper-armored Demon God nodded slightly and laughed. "Your family members are too careless. This would usually not be a problem, but humans are coming and will be roaming these parts over the next couple of days. You'll be sorry if they spot you."

The Demon God approached Jian Wushuang as it spoke.

Jian Wushuang remained vigilant at heart as he observed each and every of the Demon God's movements.

Conversely, the Demon God showed no precaution toward him. It walked up beside him and extended a palm toward him.

"I'm called Gu Qiong, and come from the Seventh Tribe. I've never seen you there before. As the only tribes in this region are the Seventh and the Eighth Tribe, I guess you should be a clansman of the Eighth, right?" The Demon God asked.

"Correct." Jian Wushuang nodded profusely. "I'm called Jian Wushuang and am from the Eighth Tribe."

"Jian Wushuang?" Gu Qiong frowned. "What an unusual name. It's similar to that of humans from the outside world."

Jian Wushuang felt a jolt in his heart.

Gu Qiong continued, "Jian Wushuang, you were lucky that you ran into me. Had it instead been those evil outsiders that you ran into, they would surely have killed you without mercy."

Though he could not help laughing, Jian Wushuang felt even more confused.

"Alright then, follow me. This territory is too dangerous. Our clansmen are fighting against those outsiders as we speak. There's no chance of survival for a child like you who hasn't even undergone the Demon God baptism if you remain here. Follow me and I'll bring you back to your tribe," Gu Qiong said, laughing.

"Okay, thank you so much." Jian Wushuang acknowledged.

"Follow me." Gu Qiong began to head deep into the forest.

Jian Wushuang followed quietly behind at only a few meters' distance.

"It has its back to me? How could it be this unguarded?" Jian Wushuang furrowed his brows.

He had imagined the scene of encountering these Demon Gods prior to entering the Eternal Zone.

He had felt somewhat disgusted when he found out that the experts from the various sects in the Firmament Territory would invade the home of the Demon Gods and kill them for their Essence Blood, and had even considered not killing these Demon Gods himself.

His verdict at that time was that he would not mind killing these Demon Gods if they were of an evil and cruel nature.

However, he never imagined that the first Demon God he encountered would mistake him for a clansman and be this friendly and unguarded toward him, such that it would even send him back to what it thought was his tribe.

"What exactly is going on?"

Jian Wushuang was in utter disbelief.