

The Gods 561

Chapter 561 - Hui Ye at Full Power

Just as the phoenix flame was two feet away, Duke Hui Ye's expression suddenly changed... Being someone who possessed the bloodline of a fire-attribute divine beast and an Overlord who trained in fire profound arts, he would naturally possess strong resistance against fire. Needless to say, the lowly scarlet profound flame or even the normal purple profound flame would not be able to harm him one bit. However, when this scarlet flame approached, he felt a burning sensation that caused his heart to palpitate.

When he had realized this, the flame was already close to him and was no longer avoidable. Duke Hui Ye instantly gathered his profound energy at his right arm, igniting the devil flame on his palm and attacked the approaching scarlet flame with a smashing fist.

With a dull rumbling noise, the phoenix flame was deflected away hurriedly by Duke Hui Ye and landed on the ground to his right. When the flame extinguished, a one and a half meter radius of the ground sunk slightly due to being burnt. Although the expression of pain that flashed past Duke Hui Ye's face was short, it was sufficient for the majority of the people to see it clearly. Among his five fingers, three of them had been burnt red.

Everybody had their mouth agape in shock as they stared dumbfoundedly at Duke Hui Ye's slightly burnt fingers and the slightly sunken floor on his right... This was the Duke Hui Ye who possessed the bloodline of the Golden Crow and the floor was made of the resistant black profound jade that even a mid-stage Overlord would have trouble destroying.

"What... What happened? Wasn't that the lowly scarlet profound flame, how can it have such a huge power!"

"Could it be that Yun Che's flame is not actually a normal profound flame?"

"Duke Hui Ye's hand seemed to be burnt as well... Duke Hui Ye's flame is a mixture of the Golden Crow's and the Fallen Devil Flame, and he actually got burnt by the scarlet profound flame that Yun Che casually released. This, this, this... Could it be possible that Yun Che's flame was stronger than Duke Hui Ye's Golden Crow Flame?"

The entire hall now was in a great commotion and even Yun Qinghong's face revealed shock. There were also significant changes in Little Demon Empress' expression as she sat on her throne, because in the instant Yun Che had released his flames, she felt the clear sensation of her own Golden Crow Flame intensely throbbing.

Scarlet color, abnormal strength, causing the Golden Crow Flame to throb...

Could it be that the flame he used was also some sort of primordial divine flame that was on the same level as the Golden Crow Flame?

Yun Che mocked, "You're so pathetic even when receiving the scarlet flame that in your own words are not even considered a joke. Your ability to scold yourself indirectly is indeed high level!"

Duke Hui Ye looked at his hand as his expression darkened, laughing coldly, "With just you, you think you're fit to mock me? Do you really think that with your lowly profound flame, you can challenge this duke!"

Duke Hui Ye took a step forward quickly, waving both his hands. Instantly, the crimson black devil flame ignited around him, turning the entire sky crimson black. An eerie aura that seemed as though it came straight from the depths of hell filled the entire hall. Following Duke Hui Ye's hand sign, all the crimson-black devil flames rushed towards Yun Che as though they were a beast that had just been awakened.

Yun Che quickly retreated, ignited Phoenix Flames on his body, and attacked the sky filled with Devil Flames with a "Burning Field".

Boom!

The crimson-black Devil Flame and the scarlet Phoenix Flame collided in midair, exploding at the same time. In that instant, the sparks nearly blinded most of the audience and the roof of the originally elegant hall was now completely covered in flames. The exploding crimson-black flames and scarlet flames were like two ferocious tigers and amidst the shocking roars of the flames, they were burning one another, devouring one another... The scarlet flame devoured the black flames, and the black flames burnt the scarlet flames. The scarlet flames were unable to overcome the seal of the black flames, and the black flames were unable to overcome the resistance of the scarlet flames... The two were at a counterbalance with one another.

"Wha... aaaattttttt!"

Duke Hui Ye's pupils contracted in an instant as he could never imagine, nor would he accept the flame that he claimed to be the strongest in the world was equal with the flames released by someone two entire profound realms below him.

"A piece of rubbish like you... How are you qualified to fight with this duke!!"

Duke Hui Ye roared out in near utter perturbation as he stared widely. The crimson-black flames on him suddenly soared and became more intense...

"Fallen Corruption Flames!!"

The crimson-black flames instantly became much more violent and quickly suppressed the scarlet Phoenix flames. Yun Che's eyebrows knitted as the silhouette of a Phoenix appeared behind him for an instant...

"Phoenix Flames Sears the Heavens!!!"

Booom!!!

Like two huge waves violently colliding with each other, a sea of flames replaced all the air in the hall, which was exhausted in an instant. The patriarchs of the Twelve Families hastily went forward to confine the flames within the arena, and the entire arena was also transformed into a world of flames. The scarlet flames and the crimson-black flames collided against one another violently, and only after several breaths of time had passed did they gradually extinguish.

In the arena where the flames had extinguished, Duke Hui Ye and Yun Che stood at the east and west wings respectively. Yun Che's clothes were torn apart at various spots and he was smiling slightly, whereas Duke Hui Ye looked obviously much more pathetic. Not only were most of his clothes burnt, even much of his hair had been burnt. Although he did not seem to suffer any obvious burns, his face was as black as charcoal.

Everyone held their breaths... The violent clash of flames between the two had turned out to be a draw!

However, behind the draw was the fact that — Duke Hui Ye was in the sixth level of the Tyrant Profound Realm whereas Yun Che was only in the tenth level of the Sky Profound Realm. Duke Hui Ye's flames were the Golden Crow Flames that had been mixed with the Fallen Flame Devil Arts...

Under the suppression of two great profound realm, the battle of their profound flames had actually been equal...

Wouldn't that mean, that in terms of flames, Yun Che was far superior than Duke Hui Ye?!!

The level of the flames he used would be far superior than Duke Hui Ye's Golden Crow Flames which had been mixed with the Fallen Flame Devil Arts!

"This... This is impossible..." Those powerhouses from the Demon Imperial City who knew how scary Duke Huai Palace's flames all stared widely while uttered in complete shock.

Little Demon Empress's petite body moved forward slightly as a curious glow flashed past the depths of her eyes. After staring at Yun Che for some time, she finally muttered to herself, "Phoenix Flames?"

Because she saw the instant flashing of a Phoenix's silhouette when Yun Che released Phoenix Flame Sears the Heavens.

"Your Duke Huai Palace's flames... are only so-so!" Yun Che laughed.

This ridicule caused Duke Hui Ye's face to contort, as he was unable to utter out even one phrase in retaliation. Previously, he had shouted that Duke Huai Palace's flames were the strongest flames under the Golden Crow's Record of the Burning World. But in the blink of an eye, he had slapped himself on the face and it was just as Yun Che had mentioned... he slapped his own mouth himself.

Even though Duke Hui Ye was about to explode with anger, his face had instead revealed a cold smile, "Yun Che, you really gave this duke a pleasant surprise. This duke admits that he has been looking down on you too much. But just now, that is probably your limit right? It's such a pity that I have only used fifty percent of my strength just now!"

"In front of this duke, you are still just trash!"

Duke Hui Ye howled, the faint bloodline of the Golden Crow had been ignited to its maximum within him, as a two foot-long black shortsword appeared in his hands. When the shortsword appeared, the Golden Crow Flames swayed vigorously before quickly growing more intense until the color of the crimson-black flames became similar to that of freshly dried blood.

On the shortsword, there were also lines and lines of uniform flashing red markings.

Yun Che's expression became serious as the frightening aura coming from Duke Hui Ye had... grown by at least double compared to just now!

"Is that sword... the legendary Obsidian Devil Sword?"

"That shape, that aura, is the same as the rumors. That must be it!"

"Duke Hui Ye's aura had become so much stronger as compared to just now... Sss, Duke Huai Palace's profound arts are more scary than what the rumors say! It looks like it's over for Yun Che this time."

"The fact that he was able to force Duke Hui Ye to use the Obsidian Devil Sword, Yun Che can definitely lose with pride... I'm just afraid that Duke Hui Ye might cripple Yun Che in his rage."

Yun Qinghong's voice suddenly rang in Yun Che's ears, "The black shortsword in his hands is the Obsidian Devil Sword. It is a sword left behind by the founders of the ancient clan that created the Fallen Flame Devil Arts. It possesses a ton of strong fiendish powers and releasing the Fallen Flame Devil Art through this shortsword would largely increase the intensity of the flame... You must be careful! Duke Hui Ye obviously wants to kill you. If you're not certain you can win, don't act tough. Your life is the most important!"

Yun Che, "..."

The crimson-black flames on Duke Hui Ye burned intensely and the strong devil's aura was accompanied by the cries of ghosts; it was as though there were countless souls being burnt in that moment. The strength of the flame's aura was enough to move the strongest experts in Illusory Demon Realm... Being able to reach such a level even before he was thirty, Duke Hui Ye's future was limitless.

"This is this duke's true strength."

Duke Hui Ye bathed in the flames, his hair flying and his face pitch-black due to the flame. He looked as though he was an evil god of devils that had walked out from the depths of hell. He looked at the flame in his hands, felt his aura, and had a satisfied expression. At this instant, he felt that he could now easily control everything... even Yun Che's fate.

"Let this duke see how long you can struggle in the face of his full strength."

Once he finished speaking, the Obsidian Devil Sword stabbed out suddenly... Obviously, Duke Hui Ye wanted to eliminate any chance where Yun Che could surrender. Even though he had the absolute confidence of defeating Yun Che, Duke Hui Ye was now completely enraged after being forced to use his full strength with his Obsidian Devil Sword, having suffered a disadvantage when competing with flames by this person, whom he was looking down previously. Even if Duke Huai had not instructed him earlier, he was still determined to kill Yun Che.

A crimson-black fire wave rushed towards Yun Che following the slash of the Obsidian Devil Sword, but Yun Che did not avoid nor retreat. A Phoenix Flame that was accompanied by the cry of the Phoenix attacked it head on.

"Phoenix Break!"

Phoenix Break was not a simple Phoenix Flame attack; it also had a strong destructive power. However, because it was not used with a heavy sword, its power was far weaker than it should have been. When it

collided with the Devil Flame, it slowed down the rush of the Devil Flame, but following a nasty cry, the Devil Flame suddenly attacked and quickly consumed the Phoenix Flame. When the Phoenix Flame had completely disappeared, the Devil Flame was only weakened by thirty percent, and without any other obstruction, it rushed straight towards Yun Che, striking his body.

Boom!

When the Devil Flame exploded, the power of destruction and corrosion was frantically released. In the next instant, Yun Che's figure flew far away from among the exploding Devil Flame. Duke Hui Ye locked onto Yun Che who was in midair and laughed a little playfully, "You're not bad at escaping, but let this duke see how you're going to escape this time!"

His hand sign changed and the markings on the Obsidian Devil Sword became even more eye-catching. Below Yun Che, the willfully burning crimson-black Devil Flame suddenly distorted intensely before turning into a tall flame giant that was howling while it rushed at Yun Che.

"This is... Duke Huai Palace's killer move, Fallen Flame Devil! Duke Hui Ye could actually use this technique!!!"

"No! Duke Hui Ye must be relying on the strength of the Obsidian Devil Sword's powers to use this technique! Although the Flame Devil was partly formed using those flames, the remaining strength is connected to that Obsidian Devil Sword. Once this frighteningly powerful Flame Devil comes out... Yun Che would not even be able to struggle."

Chapter 562 - Heaven Smiting Sword Comes Out

The Giant Flame Devil's height was dozens of meters, its body and four limbs were made of flames, and its facial features could be spotted clearly. It was condensed and formed from the Crimson Black Devil Flame released by Duke Hui Ye. Its aura was so thick and terrifying, it was clear that it was several times stronger than that ball of devil flames. When the Flame Devil approached him, Yun Che had a temporary feeling of suffocation.

Yun Che had extensive knowledge and experience, but it was the first time he had ever seen this kind of move... it was as strange as the Sword Spirit Doppelganger of Heavenly Sword Villa!

When both arms of the Flame Devil smashed down from the sky, the wind it swirled up sounded like ghosts crying and devils wailing.

"Falling Moon Sinking Star!!!"

Yun Che already had no time to consider; his profound energy exploded, and his fist struck towards the Giant Flame Devil.

BOOM!

In the drumming sound of the explosion, an enormous profound vortex swept in the air. The Giant Flame Devil was struck and somersaulted backwards more than ten times; and Yun Che fell straight down like a cannonball, crashed severely on the ground, and bounced more than thirty meters away. When he finally landed, there was a dark red bloodstain on the corner of his mouth.

The horror of the Flame Devil was beyond Yun Che's expectations. He wiped the corner of his mouth, and just as he was about to stand up, the sound of ghosts crying came from above his head. The Flame Devil had already reappeared in the air above Yun Che with its widened eyes and pupils like will o' the wisps, and was dropping downwards to him.

Among the Yun Family's seats, a roar loud like thunder sounded as Yun Qinghong flew out and tried to grab Yun Che from the arena. But before he was able to enter the area of the arena, Duke Huai, who had prepared for this already, instantly blocked himself in front of Yun Qinghong. Their bodies bumped into each other, and then separated.

"Yun Qinghong, you want to break the rules of the competition!?" Duke Huai spoke harshly while deep in his eyes, there was a trace of a sneer.

If it was merely a competition, then Yun Qinghong would definitely not do anything rash; however, Duke Huai and Hui Ye obviously fostered murderous intent towards Yun Che. Yun Che was injured on the ground from the Flame Devil's heavy strike and at this moment, the Flame Devil went all-in onto him again; it was clear that it was trying to kill Yun Che! How could he not do anything about it? He understood clearly how terrifying that Flame Devil was... it was supported by the strength of the Obsidian Devil Sword, a devilish profound skill that was completely out of Hui Ye's own abilities. Even though technically Hui Ye was basically cheating, the powerful weapon and armor was part of his own strength, and it happened to be one of the standards that was accepted by the profound world.

"Get out of my way!" Yun Qinghong was surrounded by the hissing sound of the thunder and lightning. Yun Che's life was in danger, how could he have time to care about the competition rules? He had to do whatever it took to save Yun Che, and then surrendering would mean...

Just as Yun Qinghong wanted to forcefully blow Duke Huai away, a resonant phoenix cry suddenly sounded over the arena as a bright, red flame soared into the sky.

"Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing!!"

A pair of slightly golden phoenix wings was opening up, and a lifelike silhouette of a phoenix appeared on Yun Che's body. The silhouette of the phoenix rushed Yun Che up into the sky, instantly across the vacuum, and severely struck the Flame Devil's body.

Boom!!!!!!

The Phoenix Flame blasted with rage, and a ring of sunlight suddenly appeared in the sky above the hall, and it shined upon the whole hall with a bright, red light. In the sunlight that was seemed to have come from the firmament, Yun Che and the Flame Devil were fiercely pushed away from each other in the incredibly violent profound energy storm.

The Flame Devil flew back upside-down, and it rolled speedily like a rubber ball. The flame surrounding its body splashed all over the place, but they didn't completely scatter from the strike. Duke Hui Ye swung the Obsidian Devil Sword in his hand, and the upside-down Flame Devil stopped itself abruptly. It quickly flew back, and floated in the sky above of Duke Hui Ye.

Bang!

Yun Che landed on the ground, his body continuously sled backwards until he abruptly steadied himself with his hands. The clothes on his chest were burst open completely, and there were more than ten scars with different depths added on his chest.

Duke Huai's eyebrows wrinkled greatly, and said coldly, "Yun Qinghong, you really did adopt a good son!"

He underestimated Yun Che again and again, and after he established a murderous intent towards Yun Che, he realized that he still underestimated him. He knew better than anyone how terrifying that Flame Devil was. He did not expect at all that Yun Che would actually be able to blow away the Flame Devil which was using its all-out attack in a head-on confrontation.

In his early twenties, with cultivation only at the Sky Profound Realm... yet his strength was terrifying to such an extent!

For such a young man like him, his future achievements were completely unimaginable. If he was their enemy, then they had to kill and eliminate him thoroughly before he could mature!

But now that he had blown away the Flame Devil, Yun Qinghong could let him surrender immediately... If that were to happen, then it would be impossible to kill Yun Che today!

Yun Qinghong's movements stuttered. Watching the Flame Devil that was blown away, he couldn't help but be impressed and say, "Good work!"

"Che'er, surrender immediately! He can summon three Flame Devils like this at the same time! He used his Obsidian Devil Sword, so it's not shameful for you to surrender at all... or else, his next attack would surely be an all-out attack to put you to death."

"..." Yun Qinghong's sound transmission was sent towards Yun Che's ears, but he didn't respond. He slowly stood up, as if he didn't hear it at all.

"Hmph, not bad. This duke knew that there must be some final move that you haven't used yet. I didn't expect you to bounce off this duke's Flame Devil. This really surprised me nicely."

Even though Duke Hui Ye was shocked in his heart, he didn't panic at all. His face still had the expression of an adjudicator's light smile, "Then, how about this?"

The Obsidian Devil Sword flickered in blood-colored light while Duke Hui Ye laughed deeply. The wave of flames surged in front of him. In the bursts of ghosts crying, he actually condensed and slowly formed two... two Flame Devils that looked exactly the same as the one from before!

Not only was their appearances the same, even their auras were also just as thick and terrifying.

Counting the one that was in the air, there was a total of three Flame Devils!!

"Three... three Flame Devils!" Exclamations sounded all over the place.

"If Yun Che is smart enough, he would surrender immediately. For things to get to this point, it is already enough for his name to be known by everyone. But, if at this moment, he still puts on a bold face to yell that so-called 'fight until the last moment'... then he would just be courting death!"

All of the top, strong practitioners in Demon Imperial City could feel the murderous intent Duke Hui Ye had for Yun Che. If Yun Che wanted to live, then now was the only chance to surrender! Or else, as soon as the three Flame Devils moved, Yun Che would die for sure. Among the seats, there were also continuous yelling, telling Yun Che to surrender immediately.

But Yun Che pretended to not have heard anything. Facing the three Flame Devils, he slowly reached out his palm...

"Hong'er, come out!"

In a deep hum, a sword suddenly fell and appeared out of nowhere in front of Yun Che. With a loud "boom", it fiercely stabbed into the black profound jade floor under his feet. In that instant, there were concentrated shattering sounds and countless cracks that crazily spreaded out from under Yun Che's feet.

Deafening exclams came from every direction. What shocked them, was not how large the sword was, but that it... simply dropped from the sky, and was able to stab into the black profound jade floor that was a thousand times tougher than firm stone!

"What... what an enormous sword!!"

"This sword... actually broke through the floor! This is the Demon Imperial Hall! How heavy is that sword?"

"This was the first time I have ever seen such an enormous sword. It actually directly stabbed into and cracked the Demon Imperial Hall's floor... but, there didn't seem to be any aura of a high level profound weapon from the sword. Out of all the profound weapons, there also didn't seem to be a huge sword like this."

"That's Big Brother's weapon? That's... that's too big." Xiao Yun yelled in shock. He looked down at the tip of the sword that had sunk into the ground, and his eyes stared blankly.

"Tch, finally willing to show your weapon." Duke Hui Ye said smilingly. He couldn't help but be shocked in his heart about the crack under the tip of the sword, but the smile on his face became even more bantering, "Heh, no wonder you kept refusing to use your weapon before. This sword, you probably aren't able to control it completely, right?!"

Yun Che didn't speak. Both of his hands were holding on the handle of the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword. Under an incredibly sharp, shrieking sound, he pulled out the sword slowly from the ground, and placed it horizontally in front of his body... At that instant, the noisy hall quieted down a lot. Everyone's gaze focused onto Yun Che. Even some of the strong practitioners that were standing at the peak of Demon Illusory were stunned for a short period of time by the fierce change in Yun Che's expression.

The aura on Yun Che's body didn't change, and there also wasn't any aura on the vermilion greatsword, as though it was a dead sword. But when Yun Che held the vermilion greatsword in his hand, everyone clearly felt that Yun Che had changed completely: his aura, momentum, even his expression... had completely changed.

The vermilion greatsword was as long as nine feet, and the blade on the ground was two feet thick. Such a huge sword like this was even larger than Yun Che's body. Even if a nine foot giant held the sword in its

hand, there would be a strong uncoordinated feeling. However, when it was in Yun Che's, the overall feeling was so in accordance that it didn't make people feel any bit of disharmony; instead, it felt like the sword belonged in his hands. It was a perfect fit that couldn't be described with words, as though this sword was made for Yun Che from the beginning, while Yun Che himself also existed because of this sword.

The profound energy aura didn't change at all, but facing the Yun Che who was holding the heavy sword, everyone felt a pressure which seeped directly into their soul. Especially Duke Hui Ye, who was facing directly against Yun Che; the smile on his face had already become stiff. It was as if an iron board that weighed over a hundred and fifty thousand kilograms pressed on his chest, and almost suffocated him.

Standing on the edge of the arena, Yun Qinghong and Duke Huai stared straight at Yun Che. One had forgotten to send a sound transmission to tell Hui Ye to immediately kill off Yun Che, the other had forgotten to scold Yun Che to immediately surrender. These two peerless individuals within their own generation, now only had shock in their eyes.

An indescribable pressure caused Duke Hui Ye to feel extremely uneasy in his heart, but seeing the three Flame Devils in front of him, his uneasiness quickly went away, as he roared deeply, "You think taking out a ridiculous weapon could help you a comeback?! Go... to... hell!!"

Duke Hui Ye suddenly blasted out his sword. A large sea of flames tumbled like crimson-black smoke that covered the sky, and swept towards Yun Che. The three Flame Devils also moved at the same time, following the devil flames, bringing a frightening aura that even caused space to tremble as they both rushed towards Yun Che.

Facing the overwhelming devil flames and the three scary Flame Devils that struck at the same time, Yun Che didn't step back at all. Instead, he held up his Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword without a hurry.

The reason he didn't use the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword before was not because he was arrogant. It was just as Duke Hui Ye had guessed, to avoid too much exhaustion. When he first got this Heaven Smiting Sword, it already weighed a hundred thousand kilograms. After consuming Dragon Fault, its weight increased even more. In a span of three months, even though he managed to get used to its weight and he could control it perfectly, every time he swung it, an enormous amount of exhaustion would soon follow.

The next opponents in this fierce battle would only be stronger than the next, so he had to do his best to avoid exhausting himself.

His current opponent was Hui Ye, but just based on the thickness of their profound energy, he was completely suppressed by Hui Ye if he did not open the "Purgatory" gate. However, opening "Purgatory" would exhaust his strength even more, which was why it was now time for the Heaven Smiting Sword to come out.

Chapter 563 - Reversal

The crimson-black devil flame quickly approached Yun Che. It was as if there was a boundless sea of flames behind him. He quickly stepped forward and swung the Heaven Smiting Sword casually. The instant the sword was swung, a ferocious wave of air was swept up and the sound of the blast was shockingly deafening.

Riiip!

The air became heavily distorted and a sound like cloth ripping apart rang through the hall. The fire which had blanketed the entire area was easily torn apart, and a huge vacuum appeared amidst the flames. Yun Che started to move as he rushed straight into the sea of flames. His heavy sword danced in the air, resembling a flood dragon dancing in the waves. Wherever the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword landed, it completely blasted, broke and cut away those incomparably fearsome crimson-black devil flames as a huge heavy sword energy storm wreaked havoc in the inferno. In the span of a few short breaths, the sea of fire that had blanketed the entire arena had been blasted into smithereens.

“Wha... What?!!” Duke Hui Ye’s face paled in shock and both of his hands trembled as he swiftly raised up the Obsidian Devil Sword. Three flame devils howled in an unholy cacophony as they rushed towards Yun Che.

“Phoenix Flame... Sears the Heavens!!”

The image of a phoenix flashed into life as a phoenix cry split the air and Yun Che’s entire body morphed into the form of a phoenix composed of raging flames, as he explosively charged at the three Flame Devils.

Using the same Phoenix Flame Sears the Heavens without any weapons, he had only knocked aside one flame devil!

But this Phoenix Flame Sears the Heavens was performed with his heavy sword!

That instant of awesome might and pressure caused the entire Demon Imperial Hall to fall into complete silence.

Boom!!!

The silhouette of the phoenix smashed into the first flame devil and with a loud explosion, the phoenix directly tore through the flame devil, leaving countless flame devil fragments fluttering across the sky in its wake.

Boom!!

The second flame devil was also pierced through.

Boom!!

The third flame devil was sent flying in an instant and smashed against the roof of the hall violently. The entire great hall violently trembled and the flame devil had exploded as well, raining down large fragments of the crimson-black blaze.

In an instant, all three flame devils had been completely destroyed, and all of this had occurred at the speed of light. Even though all of this had happened, the power of Phoenix Flames Sears the Heavens had still not completely dissipated; it carried the might and pressure of a phoenix as it shot towards Duke Hui Ye. Duke Hui Ye was so shocked that his eyes were practically bulging out of his face as the phoenix violently smashed into his chest.

Boom!!!

The profound energy shielding Duke Hui Ye's body was instantly shattered by the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword and the remaining power of Phoenix Flame Sears the Heavens plowed into Duke Hui Ye's body. Following the roaring explosion of phoenix flames, Duke Hui Ye's body flew out like a kicked rubber ball as he miserably screamed while being sent flying into the distance.

Yun Che raised his head and looked in the direction Duke Hui Ye had flown. When he had smashed Duke Hui Ye's chest just now, he had clearly felt his own strength being heavily obstructed by something... Duke Hui Ye seemed to be wearing some kind of profound armor with an extremely strong defense, and so Phoenix Flame Sears the Heavens, which had been weakened due to the obstruction of the three flame devils, was unable to deal any heavy damage to him.

"Hmph!" The corner of Yun Che's lips curled upward as he revealed a faintly cruel and cold smile. When facing an opponent who wanted to consign him to the cruel embrace of death, how was it possible that he would allow that opponent to suffer a comfortable defeat?

Yun Che's figure blurred as he combined Extreme Mirage Lightning with Star God's Broken Shadow. In the blink of an eye, he had appeared in the air above the still flying Duke Hui Ye. With a brandishing of the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword, the image of a wolf flashed behind him as the body of the sword ignited with phoenix flames, and he explosively smashed his sword downwards.

"Phoenix Sky Wolf Slash!"

The image of the Sky Wolf pulled along phoenix flames as it split the air and rocketed downwards; it was as if it had grown a long phoenix tail. Amidst the keening hiss of broken air, the image of the Sky Wolf quickly combined together with the phoenix flames, morphing into the image of a blazing, furious sky wolf as it mercilessly exploded towards Duke Hui Ye.

Phoenix Sky Wolf Slash... It was a derivative move which combined the flames of the Phoenix with Sirius' First Sword Style! It was also a masterpiece which Yun Che had just managed to complete fifteen days ago!

After the three flame devils had been demolished in a split second and Duke Hui Ye had been sent flying, Duke Huai's heart had already been filled with alarm. Now that he saw Yun Che's movement, he quickly flew out as his face paled in complete fright. His right arm burst into flames, but before the flames could even begin to rush towards Yun Che, a figure blurred in front of him and a cluster of deep purple lightning rushed towards his face, forcing him to backflip as he made a distant leap.

"Duke Huai, are you trying to break the rules of the tournament?!" Yun Qinghong coldly declared as he blocked Duke Huai's advance. The words he had shouted out were exactly the same words Duke Huai had said before.

With Yun Qinghong's obstruction, even if Duke Huai wanted to save Duke Hui Ye, he would not make it in time. Following a loud ringing sound, the burning image of the Sky Wolf heavily smashed into Duke Hui Ye's body.

"Arghhhhh..."

A loud, miserable cry as shrill as the wailing of an evil spirit split the air and nearly suppressed the sound of the exploding profound energy. Under the immensely strong destructive power of Yun Che's strike,

Duke Hui Ye's protective profound armor could only last for a mere instant before it was shattered like fragile glass. Duke Hui Ye's body fell like a falling meteor. In the next moment, he crashed into the ground with an ear-piercing scream, then immediately bounced off the ground. When his body had impacted the ground a second time, he had landed outside the arena and many pockets of phoenix flames still burned on his body. Instead of dying down, the fires seemed to burn even hotter and harder, causing him to instantly become a human torch.

Surrounding him was the scattered fragments of his profound armor, littering the ground.

"Duke Hui Ye!!"

Many people from the east wing hurriedly surrounded him and several young disciples promptly released profound energy in an attempt to extinguish the flames on Duke Hui Ye's body. But how could phoenix flames be so easily extinguished? Once their hands came into contact with phoenix fire, they screamed out in pain as they were scorched by the heat. Even after flailing about for a good long while, they had still not even come close to extinguishing the flames on Duke Hui Ye's body.

"Out of the way!"

Duke Huai descended from the air and slapped his palm on Duke Hui Ye's chest. Under the incomparably deep and thick profound energy, the flames on his body began to recede like a breaking tide and swiftly disappeared. After the phoenix flames had been completely extinguished, one-third of Duke Hui Ye's body had been charred black and his hair and eyebrows had been completely burned away. His wounds were numerous beyond count and many of those wounds were deep enough to expose bone... and all of these were only external injuries. What caused Duke Huai to be truly enraged was that at least thirty percent of Hui Ye's meridians had been ruined and at least half of his bones were broken. For him to make a complete recovery, even with the vast resources Duke Huai Palace had, it would still take many months.

The profound armor that Duke Hui Ye had always worn on his person had disappeared, and all that was left was the faint aura of the profound armor that had been scattered all around. Duke Huai himself was incomparably clear about how resilient this profound armor was, and he was even more clear that if not for the protection of this profound armor, even if Hui Ye had not died under that previous sword strike, he would still have been completely crippled.

"Too bad huh. This guy was actually wearing such an incredible life-preserving charm, or else I would have at the very least shaved off half his life," Yun Che said softly to himself in regret, emoting a heavy and rough gasp.

Within the great hall, nearly everyone present had unwittingly rose to their feet with stunned expressions on every single one of their faces. The silence lasted for a long time and it was as if all the sound present in this world had been completely removed.

In a single instant, he had destroyed three flame devils and had followed that up by heavily injuring Duke Hui Ye with a single stroke of his sword. The conclusion that seemed to be foregone had been completely turned upon its head once that vermilion greatsword had appeared. In the span of a few short breaths, a complete reversal that no one had ever dreamed of had happened...

Duke Hui Ye laid on the ground with half his face charred black and the other half pale as a sheet. Even though he had been heavily injured, it was not to the point where he had lost consciousness. Both his eyes were opened and they had widened to an extreme degree; it was as though his soul had left his body due to the shock and trauma.

The reactions of everyone in Duke Huai Palace and all of those seated in the east wing were largely the same. They could scarcely believe their own eyes, because once Hui Ye had revealed the Obsidian Devil Sword, they were completely sure that Yun Che was going to admit defeat, or even die. No one had expected that this would actually be the result.

Shock and amazement was writ large on Yun Qinghong's face and it was only after a while that he came to his senses. But he still was not able to fathom the commotion that was currently occurring in his mind. He looked toward the Yun Family's seats and without exception, from the lowest of disciples to the grandest of elders, every single one of them had a dazed expression. Even the three Grand Elders, Yun Jiang, Yun He and Yun Xi had risen up from their seats and stood there for a good long while.

Yun Qinghong began to faintly laugh, and his gaze grew indistinct for a moment. He could hardly believe that this young man, who had time and again shocked the entire audience and stunned all the heroes of the realm, was actually his own biological son. His previous worries and interference had been completely unnecessary. When he recalled Yun Che's confident demeanor and unwavering gaze, he lightly nodded his head and said to himself, "Che'er, your true limit, where exactly does it lie..."

The Yun Che who had not used his heavy sword was dominated by Duke Hui Ye but once that heavy sword had appeared, in the blink of an eye, it was Duke Hui Ye who had lost miserably and suffered serious wounds. For a profound practitioner, training in one type of weapon was a must, and once a practitioner held his or her preferred weapon, that person's ability would also rise, but not to an overly exaggerated extent. Someone who was at the fifth level of the Tyrant Profound Realm could still easily defeat an opponent who was one level lower than him with bare fists, even if that opponent had a weapon equipped.

But Yun Che was definitely not the same. The Yun Che who had no heavy sword in his hand versus the Yun Che who did, it was not only a difference in strength at this point... it was practically a difference in entire levels! With Dragon Fault in Yun Che's hands, he would have already surpassed Duke Hui Ye, so when he used the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword which was far stronger, the result was already predetermined.

But at the same time, the energy consumed in the process of wielding the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword was far greater than that of Dragon Fault. While he had heavily wounded Duke Hui Ye, Yun Che's breathing had become noticeably rougher.

"Father, he... what sort of person is he?" Su Zhizhan exclaimed in astonishment. The scenario that unfolded in those few short breaths had fiercely impacted his very soul and completely overturned his world.

Su Xiangnan shook his head and replied in a voice that was also rather baffled, "Your father wants to know this answer even more than you do." And when he thought of how Yun Qinghong almost forcibly intervened, he continued, "And I'm afraid that even Yun Qinghong did not know that he was actually this strong!"

Someone able to cause these peerless experts who came from all over the Illusory Demon Realm to experience shock and marvel time and again; Yun Che was definitely the first person who had ever done so. The kind of shock he created with a profound strength that was just at the Sky Profound Realm could not help but cause calamitous waves to rage about in the hearts of all these peerless experts, and the impact he created the moment he had heavily injured Duke Hui Ye far surpassed any of the previous shock he had caused.

“Who is next?!!”

His vermilion greatsword dug into the ground and Yun Che supported himself by leaning on the sword with one hand. His forehead was filled with sweat but his voice was still thunderous as it rang clear. At this point, not a single person dared to mock him or take him lightly and all eyes were glued to his figure. Even the Little Demon Empress, who was seated on her throne, had been reduced to a supporting role under his dazzling brilliance.

For the first time in his life, Duke Huai had been driven to vexation by a young person. Duke Hui Ye’s injuries were completely secondary, because even his confidence, dignity, and arrogance had been completely shattered by Yun Che. From this day forth, if Yun Che managed to survive, his name would shake all of Illusory Demon Realm while Duke Huai’s son would be reduced to a mere stepping stone on Yun Che’s path to glory!

This person, he definitely must die...

Duke Huai inclined his head and shot a fierce gaze towards Duke Zhong. Duke Zhong’s expression had long ago turned sour and he lowered his head. He sent a silent sound transmission to his own son, Duke Yuan Que, “Yun Che has already revealed an opening. It is clear that using that sword consumes a large amount of energy and he should not have too much strength left! Use any and all means that you have at your disposal to kill him.... no matter what the cost!”

Chapter 564 - Duke Yuan Que

He defeated Jiufang Yu, defeated Xiao Donglai, defeated Chiyang Yanwu... and now, he had won once again, defeating Duke Hui Ye. In every single match, all those who were present were convinced of Yun Che’s imminent defeat. To be able to enter this Demon Imperial Hall, every person present had to first be at the summit of Illusory Demon Realm and every single one of them had an extremely high status and authority, especially those seniors who had already lived for a few hundred years, or even a few thousand years. All of them possessed great discernment and all of them had been through extensive experiences. But in the end, they made the wrong judgement again and again, and each time this happened, they went pale with shock.

Perhaps, in the entire history of the Illusory Demon Realm, Yun Che was the first person to accomplish such a thing.

Duke Hui Ye had fallen in defeat, so the opponent Yun Che should face next was Duke Yuan Que; the person that no one thought would even have the opportunity to take the stage.

“Father, Big Brother looks like he has exhausted a large amount of energy. The Under Heaven Family has a special Profound Recovering Pellet. I will immediately go get one from them,” Xiao Yun said as he stood up.

Yun Qinghong extended his arm and grabbed him while gently shaking his head, "The competition that takes place during a Demon Imperial/Emperor Ceremony has historically never allowed the use of any medical pellets."

"Then... then what can we do now?" Xiao Yun's expression turned anxious. Even though Yun Che still stood up straight as an arrow, anyone could see the sweat drenching his face. Moreover, his face was flushed red and his breathing was exceptionally rough. He had just won a big victory over Duke Hui Ye, but it was clear that he exhausted a lot of energy as well.

Yun Qinghong furrowed his brows in concentration; he knew that Xiao Yun was worried that Yun Che's remaining strength was insufficient and that he would unwittingly be ensnared by his next opponent's evil scheme. He gently said, "Relax, even though your big brother's words and actions appear extremely arrogant, he is definitely not a reckless person. This is especially so in matters concerning his own life and death. The fact that he has chosen to remain in the arena shows that he still has an ace up his sleeve."

A person descended from the air in front of Yun Che. He was dressed in wine-red battle attire and his face contained seven parts arrogance and three parts dignity. Facing the Yun Che who had seriously injured Duke Hui Ye, his heart could not help but quicken slightly, even though Yun Che had clearly exhausted a large amount of profound energy.

"Duke Yuan Que?" Yun Che's brows jumped, and even though he faced a member of the Illusory Demon Seven Scions whose ranking surpassed Duke Hui Ye, his face did not show a single trace of anxiety. It was almost as if he was not aware that his profound energy had been depleted.

"Indeed, it is this duke!" Duke Yuan Que's finger brushed across the spatial ring he was wearing and a silver-colored long spear appeared in his hand. His arm swept out and fire began to spread on the body of his spear, "Prepare to die!"

If you were to compare the arrogance and haughtiness of Duke Hui Ye and Duke Yuan Que, as both of them were Dukes and ranked within the top three of the Illusory Demon Seven Scions, Duke Yuan Que was definitely not inferior to Duke Hui Ye. In fact, if he had headed out to battle before Duke Hui Ye, he would likely have been even more arrogant in front of Yun Che than Duke Hui Ye had been. But after Hui Ye's miserable defeat, it was impossible for him to not be deeply shocked, so there was no way he could still have the mood to display his arrogance.

But even more importantly, he did not dare waste any more time, as he did not want to give Yun Che time to recover... when comparing their strengths, even though he was superior to Duke Hui Ye, it was only by half a level. Duke Hui Ye's miserable defeat and serious wounds made it so that he could not help but feel apprehensive now that he was facing Yun Che. Duke Hui Ye had already been reduced to Yun Che's stepping stone on his path to glory... If, by chance, he was defeated as well, then he, too, would become yet another stepping stone for Yun Che.

As a duke of the Illusory Demon Royal Family, how could he tolerate such a thing happening to him?

Therefore, when Duke Yuan Que attacked, he did so with all of his might.

Duke Yuan Que let out a huge yell and flames flared up all around his body. An aura that felt as boundless as the ocean welled up and rushed forth without restraint. The fierceness of this aura caused

countless powerful currents to form and surge violently within the great hall. These currents impacted the air and caused the space within the hall to violently reverberate.

All the profound practitioners within the great hall felt a dull pressure on their chests, as if a heavy iron plate had been laid on top of them, and they were unable to breathe for quite a while. Those who had a comparatively weaker profound strength had to hurriedly erect profound energy barriers as their eyes were filled shock and terror.

“What... What a fearsome aura.”

“He is indeed worthy to be ranked number two amongst the Illusory Demon Seven Scions. Just based on this profound energy aura alone, he is definitely superior to Duke Hui Ye.”

“Such a fearsome strength, Yun Che should... he should not be able to win again, right?”

The aura that Duke Yuan Que exuded as he unleashed his full power caused the hearts of all of the younger generation to tremble and be filled with fear. It caused the seniors who had great strength to be fiercely moved. However, not a single person dared to loudly assert that Yun Che was doomed to lose... Even in this case, where it was obvious that Yun Che had very clearly exhausted a lot of his profound strength.

Because Yun Che had caused them to be completely dumbfounded four times in a row, coupled with the two sword moves he had used to defeat Duke Hui Ye, this brought about a shock to their system which was simply too intense.

Yun Che was the one who was closest to Duke Yuan Que, so naturally he was the one who experienced the full weight of the pressure caused by Duke Yuan Que’s aura. However, the Yun Che that Duke Yuan Que was staring wore a calm expression on his face and he hardly seemed moved at all. Furthermore, the scarlet greatsword in front of Yun Che did not exude any aura at all, but it made Duke Yuan Que feel as if he was facing an unmoving and majestic mountain, whose peaks were too high to reach.

This feeling was caused an extremely unbearable feeling to manifest in Duke Yuan Que’s heart. He gave low yell and he took a step forward.

The incomparably hard and durable black profound stone was actually directly crushed underfoot. This single step seemed to step on the entire audience’s heart and it caused every single one of them to feel a jolt in their hearts.

“Purgatory Helix!”

Duke Yuan Que thrust his spear out and a column of spear energy that was thicker than three meters shot out, and it burned fiercely and carried a scorching hot storm which rent the air as it rushed towards Yun Che. Wherever this beam of spear energy passed, it would cause layer upon layer of cuts to appear on the black profound stone floor as it shaved off an inch of the black stone. If this were just ordinary earth, there would have been huge, deep trenches carved into the ground long ago .

Facing this spear thrust which exuded such a terrifying aura, Yun Che’s gaze grew concentrated and he grabbed up the Heaven Smiting Sword with both hands. The sword blade carried a tyrannical aura that it did not display before as it smashed down with a loud bang. This stroke of the sword, which did not look

the least bit elegant, brought along a world-shaking energy explosion, and chaotic energy waves swept out and engulfed the arena as the floor beneath Yun Che's feet instantly broke apart.

Booom...

The giant sword collided directly with the spear thrust and in an instant, all the sound in the world seemed to have been completely devoured and an extremely gigantic profound energy storm violently burst apart. A large area of the floor of Demon Imperial Hall broke apart and jade fragments swirled in the air.

Cries of alarm soon rang out and blanketed the area as the surrounding profound practitioners hurriedly shielded themselves with profound energy. There were a few people who received a heavy impact and were thrown out of their seats. There were also those who had weaker profound strengths, and this impact caused them internal injuries and they vomited blood on the spot.

The Little Demon Empress stood up as her brows sank, and with a flick of her voluminous grey sleeve, she immediately erected a wall of crimson flames taller than thirty-five meters that surrounded the arena. In the instance that the flames began to burn, the profound energy storm that was raging across the great hall was firmly confined within the circle of flames, and not even a trace of energy leaked out anymore.

The audience who were seated close to and around the arena recovered their calm, and once they turned back toward the arena, their gazes were filled with terror.

When Duke Yuan Que attacked, he had done so at full force. Even though his name had shaken the heavens for many years, the power that he displayed when he attacked was still beyond the imaginations of anyone who had witnessed it for the first time. This was especially so for the strong individuals from outside the Demon Imperial City, as they could scarcely believe this power had come from such a young person.

But even facing such an attack as this one... Yun Che could actually still meet it!

Duke Yuan Que personally witnessed his own spear energy beam being destroyed with just one sword stroke from Yun Che... Only one sword stroke. Yun Che was still standing at his original position and his feet had not even retreated half a step. Before Duke Yuan Que even had the time to be shocked, a figure suddenly blurred into existence in front of him, and that vermilion greatsword had abruptly cleaved down right in front of him.

Duke Yuan Que's pupils shrunk and the silver spear in his hand fiercely shot out, but before the spear could complete its movement, the spear slash had already collided with the Heaven Smiting Sword.

Scree!

To no one's surprise, Duke Yuan Que's spear beam was shattered by the Heaven Smiting Sword like so much thin glass, and it did not even create any resistance as the sword sailed through it with a loud explosion. Duke Yuan Que desperately poured all the profound energy in his body into the silver spear as he gritted his teeth and blocked the onrushing Heaving Smiting Sword.

Boom!!!

With a giant ring, the Heaven Smiting Sword heavily smashed into the horizontal section of the silver spear that was being held by Duke Yuan Que, and the silver spear immediately bent to a great degree. An incomparably violent heavy sword energy traveled from the silver spear directly into Duke Yuan Que's body... In that instant, Duke Yuan Que's gaze darkened, his entire body shook, and he felt as if all the bones in his body were going to shatter into fragments. He felt as if he was not receiving a blow from a sword, but instead a thirty thousand meter tall mountain had fiercely smashed into his body. He had been smashed with such force that he could only endure it for that instant and in the next moment, he fiercely shot through the air.

The boundaries of the arena had been set and once a competitor exceeded those boundaries, it would signal his defeat. The flying Duke Yuan Que widened his eyes and he let out a low roar that sounded like the howl of a wild beast. As he was flying, he thrust his spear towards the ground. The body of the spear sank deep into the ground and both his hands held onto the spear in a death grip while he forcibly slowed down the speed of his flying body. By the time his body had finally stopped, he was no further than one meter away from the boundary of the arena, and in front of him was an incomparably straight pitch black trench which stretched one hundred meters; the trench had been caused by his silver spear plowing into the ground.

That sword smash from Yun Che was so strong that he needed to fly at least five kilometers away before he could reduce the strength of that blow. Due to the fact that he could not leave the arena, he had to forcibly endure all of the energy of that attack, and it caused all the energy and blood in his body to fluctuate wildly. He calmed down his own agitated blood and energy flow, but his right hand, which held the silver spear, still trembled steadily, and his complexion looked incomparably awful.

Before this, he still had countless suspicions over how Yun Che had used a mere two sword moves to heavily injure Duke Hui Ye, given Duke Hui Ye's power and his profound armor. Now that he had experienced the fearsomeness of Yun Che's heavy sword, he had come to realize that Duke Hui Ye's heavy injuries and crushing defeat were not the least bit unjustified. If not for the profound armor's protection, it was highly possible that he could have just died miserably then and there.

Yun Che did not take advantage of the situation to pursue and attack his opponent; instead, his chest rose and fell violently. Today was the first day he had truly used the Heaven Smiting Devil Slaying Sword in a real fight. The degree of strength it displayed had caused him to exclaim silently to himself in glee but the amount of physical and profound energy it took to handle this sword was more than ten times the amount he used to handle Dragon Fault. He came to the realization that even though he had shattered Duke Yuan Que's spear energy with one slash and sent him flying with another, just these two slashes were enough to cause his body to experience a momentary feeling of emptiness... He was very clear that given his current physical and profound power, handling the Heaven Smiting Devil Slaying Sword was still a bit of a reach.

Even though it allowed him to display an incomparably huge and tyrannical might in the instant his sword struck, it also wore him down by a huge margin... it could completely be labeled as a form of disguised overdraft.

It looks like I still have to find a way to raise my profound strength as quickly as possible.... Yun Che thought silently.

Even though Yun Che was the clear winner of the last clash, he was also very aware that given his present condition, beating Duke Yuan Que would be no easy feat. After all, he was still at the peak of the sixth level of the Tyrant Profound Realm and his profound energy was extremely robust and solid. Even though he had been sent flying by Yun Che's sword, the silver spear in his hand had resisted at least fifty percent of that blow's strength, and that spear had never left his hand since the beginning.

Duke Yuan Que stood up and his complexion was extremely dark and gloomy. His eyes flashed for a moment, then, he suddenly grinded his teeth together. As if he had made some sort of resolution, he violently pulled the silver spear from the ground with his left hand while his right arm also made an abrupt flourish. Following a flash of black light, an entirely jet-black long spear appeared in his right hand.

"Ah? Two spears? Could it be that he wants to use two spears at the same time?"

Duke Yuan Que gave a huge roar and all the muscles in his body suddenly twitched strangely at the same time. The twitching began to increase in intensity, and following that, the sound of joints exploding rang through the air with a series of successive bangs and pops. At the same time, the already shocking aura that he exuded suddenly increased dramatically by several times.

An extremely intense profound energy flooded out to collide directly with him and this caused the charging Yun Che to take half a step backwards as his brows sank. The profound energy protecting his body began to make a series of chaotic popping and hissing noises... and it was just this explosive aura that nearly caused the profound energy protecting his body to be torn apart.

Duke Yuan Que's aura still continued to rapidly strengthen, and at this moment, his forehead, the back of his hands, his arms, and his chest became layered with fine, dark gray scales; these scales looked like dragon scales.

Even though Duke Yuan Que had inherited a thin amount of the Demon Emperor's bloodline, his biological mother was the Chiyang Clan's current Patriarch's, Chiyang Bailie's, own sister, so he had ninety percent of the Scorching Sunfire Dragon bloodline. Based on the thickness of his bloodline alone, Duke Yuan Que's main bloodline was not that of the Demon Emperor's bloodline, but of the Scorching Sunfire Dragon's instead!

Chapter 565 - Berserk

The silhouette of a huge flame dragon appeared behind Duke Yuan Que amidst the firelight. The image of the fire dragon that had appeared was wreathed in flames and its face was malevolent and twisted. It roared toward the sky and the cry it released contained endless wrath and despair, as if it was being tormented in the Nine Hells of Purgatory.

All the people who heard this dragon roar felt the energy and blood within their body uncontrollably dance in agitation, feeling like their blood was about to burst out of their pores. At this time, the rapidly-expanding aura around Duke Yuan Que finally came to a stop and the entire arena trembled under the weight of his terrifying aura.

"What... What... What is this strength? Duke Yuan Que's aura actually doubled in power in this short span of time... No, it has more than doubled!" After looking at the current Duke Yuan Que, the entire

audience was stunned into insensibility; at least ninety-nine percent of them had never heard of Duke Zhong Palace ever possessing this sort of ability.

“What... What is this?” Xiao Yun stood up as he exclaimed in shock. That terrible aura caused his heart to be filled with terror.

“This is a sort of special profound skill that can manifest when the Demon Emperor bloodline mixes with the Scorching Sunfire Dragon bloodline, and it has appeared many times in the history of the Demon Imperial City.” Yun Qinghong said with a grave expression on his face, “Using the power of the Golden Crow bloodline to ignite the Flame Dragon bloodline, all of one’s energy is gathered together and explosively rises for a short period of time. For a set period of time, the user can display a power that far exceeds the power he usually has. Duke Yuan Que’s current strength is more than double his normal strength when he is at full power. Moreover, he can now also use both of the Dragon Purgatory Double Spears at the same time; a pair of spears which can normally only be used one at a time.

“Then... then what can we do? Big Brother will be in danger,” Xiao Yun said anxiously.

Yun Qinghong remained silent and did not reply as his brows were tightly knit together.

This unique profound skill that was manifested from the mixing of the Golden Crow and Chiyang bloodlines, was known by extremely few people, even within Demon Imperial City itself. Because even though the amount of people in the Illusory Demon Royal Family who had both bloodlines mixed together was not considered few, the frequency with which this profound skill appeared was extremely low. Using the Golden Crow bloodline to ignite the Flame Dragon bloodline was originally a forbidden skill to begin with, because even though it allowed its user to have an explosive spike in power for a short period of time, this explosive spike would be followed by extremely serious consequences... For at least three months after the use of this skill, the user would be in an extremely weak state. It was also highly possible that irreversible damage would be done to the user because the profound veins and body of the user endured too heavy a burden from the usage of this skill.

Thus, this ability would only be activated in desperate situations.

As members of the Illusory Demon Royal Family, all of whom were immediately established at the summit of the Illusory Demon Realm from birth, whom possessed status and power that people of the realm would admire and look up to; what kind of desperate situations would they face in their life? So even though it was easy to use this skill, the majority of the people who had both the strength and ability to do so would have never use it even once in their lifetime.

But Duke Yuan Que had chosen to use this forbidden power, and even though it was clear that he was slightly deranged with anger, Yun Qinghong did not feel that it was too out of the norm. He had a high and noble status, was a duke who looked down on the entire realm, and he was a supreme genius who was ranked number two amongst the Illusory Demon Seven Scions. How could he tolerate losing in front of all the heroes of the realm, and how could he tolerate becoming the stepping stone of someone, who before this day, was a complete unknown?

“How can... this duke... lose to you?!!”

Duke Yuan Que held the silver spear in his right hand and the black spear in his left. All the dragons scales on his body rippled and all the muscles in his body bulged. The silhouette of the dragon behind

him roared malevolently and the expression on his face looked like he was in an exceptional amount of pain. Duke Yuan Que lifted up both spears and gave a huge roar as he rushed towards Yun Che.

A scorching storm barreled towards him but Yun Che met it with a slash of his sword...

“Overlord’s Fury!”

Boom!

Both of Duke Yuan Que’s spears added together still could not compare to the giant size of the Heaven Smiting Sword. When the Heaven Smiting Sword smashed against the dual silver and black spears, a loud ringing sound spread out across the arena. As the two opponents clashed together, the Black Profound Jade floor around them began to crack and break apart, forming a rapidly expanding spiderweb of cracks with them at the center.

The Duke Yuan Que that he was facing seemed to have become a completely different person. In the previous clash, his spear was bent with a single slash from Yun Che and even his body was sent flying. Right now, when he was wielding two spears at the same time, not only did the bodies of the spears refuse to bend in the slightest when they clashed with Yun Che’s sword, even his body did not retreat a single step. The vermilion Heaven Smiting Sword was being firmly pinned down and Yun Che’s feet sank deeply into the ground. As the black profound jade under his feet began to fracture completely, both his feet began sinking deeper and deeper into the ground...

This was the direct confrontation that favored Yun Che the most, but he was at present being firmly held back by Duke Yuan Que!

Bang!!

Both combatants abruptly separated and Yun Che’s body seemed like it was going to rise in the air when he suddenly barreled forward and smashed his sword towards Duke Yuan Que’s head. When both of Duke Yuan Que’s spears came out to meet that strike, Yun Che’s figure blurred, his true body appeared behind Duke Yuan Que as he used Star God’s Broken Shadow to get behind him, and he slashed heavily at Duke Yuan Que’s back.

Bang!!

The ground exploded and Duke Yuan Que was fiercely smashed into the floor, but he instantly bounced back up, thrusting his black spear forward while sweeping his silver spear across as he made his counterattack. Both his pupils revealed an ominous glint that was similar to the gaze of a vicious wolf.

Hm?

Yun Che’s heart faintly wavered because he was more than clear on the power of the attack he had just made. If an Overlord who was in the initial stage took this blow, even if that Overlord did not die, he would at least lose half his life. But it was clear that Duke Yuan Que did not suffer much injury and he could even immediately bounce back up and launch a counterattack... It was clear that even his energy and blood had not gone awry.

That explosive rise in profound strength... was clearly accompanied by the great bolstering of Duke Yuan Que’s defensive capabilities.

Yun Che swung his sword out to meet the attack.

Clang!!!

As both sword and spear collided, the extremely ear-piercing ring of metal practically tore through the roof. Yun Che's body bent backwards and he was sent sliding across the ground for tens of meters. Then Duke Yuan Que, whose body had remained rooted throughout, let out a furious roar as he rushed forward, and the two spears which carried a ferocious aura swept forward together.

Bang! Boom! Clang! Boom...

The dual spears frenetically clashed with the heavy blade and as two tyrannical powers continued to crash against one another, the floor and the ceiling began to fracture, and fragmented jade fluttered in the air. The sound of gigantic forces crashing together was akin to the roar of the divine lightning from the ninth heaven crashing to the earth. The mere sound of this explosive and loud roar caused the blood and energy of all who were present to churn and surge.

Boooooom....

As a profound energy storm began to rise up, the entire Demon Imperial Hall began to fiercely shake as the roof of the hall began to be covered with cracks which seemed to become longer and longer; it looked like it would cave in at any time.

The attribute of Yun Che's profound energy was 'Berserk', and the weapon he used caused his attacks to be incomparably hard and fierce. After Duke Yuan Que had ignited his bloodline, his frantically swelling power urgently sought an outlet and every single one of his blows were as wild as a tsunami. So the combat between the people raged on and every clash of spear and sword was akin to two mountains colliding together.

The scene within the arena had rendered the entire audience completely dumbfounded and there were even some young disciples who had turned pale after receiving the impact from the soundwaves. They were completely convinced that if not for the barrier which the Little Demon Empress had set up, the overflowing energy would have instantly minced their insides, and they would have died on the spot with blood flowing from all seven facial orifices.

"This... Is this really a fight between two people of the younger generation?" A senior said with a face full of shock and terror. This fight was unfolding right before his very eyes, yet he just could not bring himself to believe what he was seeing. The person who said that was a grandmaster who reigned over one of the southeast regions of the Illusory Demon Realm.

"Duke Yuan Que's profound strength suddenly increased by a huge amount so he most probably used some kind of secret art... But even so, Yun Che can actually still meet him blow for blow! This is simply too inconceivable!"

"Duke Yuan Que is at the sixth level of the Tyrant Profound Realm while Yun Che is only at the tenth level of the Sky Profound Realm. He is even lower than me by a whole realm, but the kind of might he is still displaying is so great that I wouldn't even be able to meet a single one of his blows... Just where did his strength come from?!"

“However, it seems like Yun Che has been at a disadvantage from the start, and even though both of them appear to be in a deadlock, the one who has retreated has always been Yun Che. If Yun Che just gets a little careless, then it is possible that...”

Boom!!

Boom!!

Boom!!

In the blink of an eye, Yun Che and Duke Yuan Que had already clashed against each other for a more than one hundred exchanges. Sometimes they clashed in the air and sometimes they fought on the ground, and like two berserking savage vicious beasts, they clashed with incomparable intensity. Every single collision would shake the heavens and rend the earth as the power of these blows caused the world to tremble.

Duke Yuan Que derived all of his strength from the source that all profound practitioners did, profound power.

But no one would have thought that Yun Che only derived half of his strength from profound power... and it was a profound power that was heavily bolstered by the Evil God's Profound Veins at that. The other half of his strength came from his own body and physical might!

After his profound power had gone wild, Duke Yuan Que was indeed fearsome, and when the two of them exchanged blows, Yun Che had become the one who was under constant pressure, though he did not fall behind. Yet, his expression still remained calm from start to finish, while Duke Yuan Que became more and more panicked with each successive strike.

He did not hesitate to activate his secret ability, having resolved himself to suffer from the extremely serious side effects, and it caused his strength to run wild. He had originally thought that with this, he would most definitely defeat Yun Che swiftly, and he also believed beyond the shadow of a doubt that killing Yun Che would be even easier. What was completely out of his calculations was that even though his strength had berserked to such an extent, he was only able to suppress Yun Che by a small margin. He resolutely grit his teeth and he attacked desperately, and every blow wildly released his full power as he intended to directly smash Yun Che into little fragments. Yet every single one of his blows had been blocked by Yun Che, and despite his finishing moves and his roars which shook the heavens, he simply could not blast aside that vermillion greatsword.

This kind of berserker state was caused by surging all of his profound energy in a concentrated burst and it was not something that could be maintained for too long. During this period, his body and profound veins had to endure an immense burden. The warping of his face and the pained expression were definitely not pretense.

At this point, he was beginning to feel his profound energy running empty as his entire body was wracked with pain and even his brain started to experience a faint but unending sensation of dizziness... But the Yun Che in front of him was still calm and unruffled, even though he had been suppressed throughout their exchange.

“Rarghhhh!” Duke Yuan Que’s eyes widened and all the blood vessels in his eyes popped out. He let out a roar that was filled with violence and pain, and both his spears swept forward at the same time, as if he wanted to ruthlessly smash Yun Che’s body into pieces. But along the howling of the wind brought by the sword, his spear force and energy were still firmly blocked. Yun Che’s heavy sword was locked with the two spears, and even though his chest rose and fell fiercely, his eyes were still as tranquil as still water. He looked at the Duke Yuan Que, who was gasping like a bull and had completely bloodshot eyes, and he suddenly gave a bland smile, “What’s the matter? Is that all you’ve got?”

Duke Yuan Que’s explosive increase in profound strength would most likely cause any profound practitioner to be filled with shock. However, it was not even something for which Yun Che would spare a glance. Berserking profound energy was a state with which Yun Che was all too familiar. From Evil Soul, to Burning Heart, and then to Purgatory.

An ability that caused one’s profound power to temporarily increase by two times was already something that was considered heaven-defying in the eyes of all the people.

But just from using the Evil God power’s lowest form, the Evil Soul state, Yun Che already increased his profound strength by two to three times.

Duke Yuan Que’s berserk status not only lasted for a short period of time, but it also brought along immense side-effects.

Yun Che, on the other hand, could now maintain the Burning Heart state at any and all times, and it did not even place any burden on him. Even the Purgatory state was something he could maintain for a relatively long period of time now, and as long as he did not overuse it, the only side-effect it brought about was accelerated exhaustion.

So for Duke Yuan Que to play his hand at causing his profound strength to go berserk in front of Yun Che... It was safe to say that Yun Che was not the least bit entertained.

At the same time, Yun Che was exceptionally clear about the consequences of causing one’s profound strength to go berserk. Initially when he had forcefully opened Evil Soul, Burning Heart, and Purgatory, the burden that his body and profound veins had to bear caused his body to feel like it was going to rip itself apart; that sensation was still fresh in his memory.

At the present time, he had the body of the Dragon God, the bloodline of the Phoenix, and he had been tempered by the energy of heaven and earth. Moreover, he had also survived the baptism of the spatial storm, so for him to bear the burden of a profound strength that was far beyond his current profound strength was something that did not create any pressure for him whatsoever. But if it were Duke Yuan Que... the most he could endure was one hundred breaths.

So right now, Duke Yuan Que’s strength and spirit seemed to have started collapsing.

“This cannot be... This cannot be! This duke’s current state... How can it not be enough to defeat you?!!”

Yun Che’s words and his confident expression were like one hundred thousand steel needles which pierced into Duke Yuan Que’s soul. He gave a wild howl and swept both of his spears across, sending Yun Che flying into the distance. His whole body ignited and the flames crazily swirled about, and the

image of the dragon behind his back flickered into and out of existence before it let out a hoarse dragon roar filled with pain.

Bang, bang, bang...

All of the veins on Duke Yuan Que's body swelled as parts of this dragon-scaled body bulged out grotesquely and parts of his skin cracked open, sending blood flying everywhere.

"Ah, he's really going all out." Looking at Duke Yuan Que's present appearance, Yun Che grasped the Heaven Smiting Sword and positioned it in front of him. Even though his eyes were calm, his heart was definitely not relaxed. After having endured over a hundred of Duke Yuan Que's explosive strikes, his energy consumption had been exceptionally enormous. Coupled with the fact that he had also used up quite a bit of energy over his last four fights, his present profound and physical strengths were not even at thirty percent of what they normally were.

Waiting after this was a far scarier opponent than Duke Yuan Que waiting for him, Hui Ran!

So it looked like he could not let this battle continue any longer and he needed to finish him as soon as possible.

Yun Che had originally planned to focus on defense, wait until Duke Yuan Que could no longer endure the burden on his body, and then defeat him. This method would consume a lot less energy and allow him to preserve more strength. But looking at Duke Yuan Que's current state and seeing as how he continued to desperately fight with his life on the line, Yun Che had no choice but to once again reconsider.

"Ultimate... Sky Dragon Sunder!!"

All of Duke Yuan Que's energy poured desperately into both of his spears and the black and silver long spears began to generate two profound energy storms. Both storms enfolded one another and they carried an aura which threatened to destroy the heavens and the earth. In an instant, the storm had engulfed the entire arena, and within the boundaries of the arena, which could only be described as 'small and narrow,' Yun Che was left with no way out.

This was simply Duke Yuan Que's last stand, where he put everything on the line as he was about to fall into despair. Facing the all-out onslaught of the violently surging energy wave, a scarlet light flashed across Yun Che's pupils.

"Pur... gatory!!"

Duke Yuan Que's fearsome attack produced a change in everyone's gaze and soul and all of the people in the audience strained their eyes wide as they prepared to see how Yun Che would deal with this attack. But at this time, everyone suddenly felt the aura around Yun Che's body abruptly rise dramatically!

"Wha... What... Wha... What?!!" The dignified Patriarch of the Su Family, Su Xiangnan, looked at Yun Che and the cry that he inadvertently let out caused him to stumble over his words.

This match had been extremely intense and it had gone far beyond what anyone had anticipated. Even when Duke Yuan Que had used the forbidden ability and gained a massive power up, Yun Che was still

able to hang on. From how everyone saw it, this was already a miracle that was beyond miracles. He was being suppressed by Duke Yuan Que with every move; everyone in the west wing was worried that Yun Che would suddenly be unable to withstand it and get smashed by a thrust of Duke Yuan Que's spear.

But... what they would never ever have imagined was that under such conditions, Yun Che's aura actually abruptly flared up tremendously... this was a pure and genuine spike in power! And the degree to which his power was increased far exceeded that of Duke Yuan Que. In just a short span of time, he completely covered the aura of power emitted by Duke Yuan Que after he had powered up.

Chapter 566 - Five Consecutive Victories

Duke Zhong, who was seated in the middle of the east wing, stood up suddenly and his face had become extremely warped with astonishment. In regards to Duke Yuan Que's lack of hesitance in activating his forbidden art, he actually approved of it silently. As the young master of Duke Zhong Palace, if Duke Yuan Que was defeated, it also signified the defeat of the entire Duke Zhong Palace. Even though the side-effect of being weakened for three months as a result of using the forbidden bloodline art to completely crush Yun Che was serious, it was at least better than the consequence of falling in defeat.

Yet Duke Yuan Que, who had made his profound power go berserk, could not crush Yun Che under his feet, and this already caused Duke Zhong to feel ill at ease. At this moment, Yun Che's aura suddenly expanded explosively and it shocked him to the point where he had nearly vomited blood on the spot.

This aura of power which explosively rose up and abruptly assaulted Duke Yuan Que caused the raging duke to suddenly grow sluggish, and even the spear aura he emitted grew gentler. Facing Duke Yuan Que's all-out attack, Yun Che no longer went on the defensive; instead, he abruptly ran forward to face the attack head on and he sent a fierce 'Falling Moon Sinking Star' crashing forward.

Bang!!

The strength of the blow that came from Yun Che was much more tyrannical than that of his previous strike. The profound energy storm that had been raised by Duke Yuan Que's dual spears crashed into it like a thousand foot wave crashing into a ten thousand foot tsunami, and in an instant, it was suppressed and devoured. An incomparably tyrannical and immense attack smashed into his dual spears before continuing onto his body.

An immense explosion ripped through the air as both his arms completely lost all sensation. His entire body was like a leaf fluttering in a storm as it flew over a great distance until he violently smashed into the roof of the Demon Imperial Hall. The Demon Imperial Hall shook greatly before his body smashed heavily into the floor, which caused the great hall to shake once again.

However, since he had been smashed high into the air, he was not sent flying out horizontally. When his body came to a standstill, it did not leave the boundary of the arena.

Duke Yuan Que looked incomparably pathetic as he propped himself up with both his spears and pulled himself upright amidst the shattered stones. All the energy and blood in his body were thrown into complete chaos, and the hands that gripped both spears were torn and dripping with blood. Because of the protection of his strong protective profound energy, this slash did not inflict much damage, but his already wavering belief had taken a huge hit.

While in the state of 'Purgatory', Yun Che had to bear an immense consumption of energy and burden on his body, so naturally he could not waste even half a second. Just as Duke Yuan Que stood up, he rushed in swiftly and sent his sword sweeping forward.

All the veins in Duke Yuan Que's body were either swollen or torn, but a crazy, ominous glint suddenly flashed across his eyes. Every single dragon scale on his body swelled up greatly and ghastly blossoms of blood shot into the air...

"This duke... wants your life!!"

Both of Duke Yuan Que's eyes had turned crimson and a few of his teeth were broken. He raised both his hands and with a low, pained roar, he unreservedly poured all the energy he had left into his spears. The silhouette of the dragon behind him shattered and the image of two fierce dragons appeared on the bodies of his spears; one of them silver, while the other, black.

"It is the finishing move of the Duke Zhong Palace, Demon Dragon Slaughtering the World!"

"Che'er, be careful!" Yun Qinghong swiftly shouted.

As one of the Duke Zhong Palace's ultimate finishing moves, Demon Dragon Slaughtering the World was normally incredibly difficult for Duke Yuan Que to perform. For him to forcefully use this move when he was in such a state, one could well imagine the kind of burden he would have to endure. But at this moment, Duke Yuan Que's spirit was on the verge of collapse, so why would he still care about the consequences?

After this move, if anything went wrong, there was even a possibility that his profound veins would be heavily injured.

But even with his current strength, it was still incomparably terrifying.

"Yun Che... go and die!! Demon Dragon Slaughtering the World!"

Both the silver and black fierce dragons flew from his spears and they fiercely snaked out as they intertwined and pierced the air. Before both dragons came close to Yun Che, he had already been pinned down by the impact of the assault, his clothes were swiftly torn into shreds, and he could barely even open his eyes.

This was truly a strong move... But this fellow had released this strength only after he had endured a heavy burden for a long period and his profound energy was nearly empty...

Was he tired of living?!

"Sealing Cloud Locking Sun!"

The Evil God barrier appeared for an instant, and the two fierce dragons were completely consumed by Yun Che's barrier. The destructive power surged violently and erupted and the Evil God barrier was battered by the impact. A cutting sound filled Yun Che's ears, and after three breaths, the Evil God barrier was finally broken, but ninety percent of the power of Demon Dragon Slaughtering the World had been reduced as well. Even though the remaining energy sent Yun Che flying for tens of meters, he had only sustained some light injuries.

“Ah, I can finally end it...” Yun Che wiped blood from the corner of his mouth, his figure blurred as it pierced through the sand that was flying all around, and he smashed his sword into the completely dazed Duke Yuan Que’s body.

Duke Yuan Que had already wagered all of his remaining energy in that single blow and there was not even a shred of profound energy left to protect his body. Yun Che’s sword at a mere two-tenths of its power caused his body to fly through the air like a sack of rotten meat.

Bang!

Duke Yuan Que’s body hit the floor heavily and his entire body was covered in blood. However, the injuries that Yun Che had caused were all internal injuries which either snapped muscle or fractured bone. The blood covering him was due to his body being unable to withstand the overbearing burden and rupturing.

A huge amount of fresh blood flowed from Duke Yuan Que’s head, body and the back of his hands. He lay still on the ground and his eyes were directed at the blurry ceiling of the great hall. They were dull and lifeless and it seemed as if he was in some extremely ephemeral dreamscape. He opened his mouth but no sound came out at all, and his consciousness completely flew away. His head rolled back as he thoroughly fainted dead away.

Duke Yuan Que had lost!

The entire hall had fallen into a dead silence and one could even hear the sound of a pin drop.

Not even Duke Zhong Palace made a move for a long time after seeing a bloodied and unconscious Duke Yuan Que lying on the ground... they had all been struck dumb.

“Big Brother... is simply too incredible! Big Brother, you are way too awesome!!”

A loud, emotional cry rang through the great hall, Xiao Yun was already dancing about excitedly as he wildly cheered until he lost his voice.

Xiao Yun’s cheers were like the spark that ignited the powder keg, and the entire Demon Emperor Hall exploded into sound.

“Yun Che won again... Yun Che actually won again!! My heavens! This is simply... simply... simply...”

“Duke Yuan Que used all of his power and displayed all of his finishing moves. He did not even hesitate to use a forbidden art. Even after Yun Che had fought four matches, and all four of his opponents were individuals who stood on the summit, whose names had shaken all of Illusory Demon Realm, Yun Che had still won each and every battle... he’s simply a monster!”

“I have personally witnessed the glorious ascension of a supreme genius today! For me to come to Demon Imperial City and see with my very eyes a genius that seems to have walked out of mythology, this competition... is enough to satisfy me for the rest of my life!”

“After his previous bouts, Yun Che’s name would definitely shake the heavens. But after this match, he has qualified himself to be recorded in the very annals of our Illusory Demon Realm’s history! Defeating five mid-stage Overlords with his strength only at the Sky Profound Realm has never been seen before in the history of Illusory Demon Realm, and it is likely that such a feat will never be seen again after.

“Good... Good!” Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou clasped their hands together and they were so moved that they could barely speak.

All the young disciples who were present had been stunned senseless. Any of them were peak existences amongst their peers, and normally, they were incomparably proud and arrogant. After witnessing that bitterly fierce battle, Yun Che’s extremely terrifying strength had caused every single one of them to be scared witless, even to the point where their courage had been completely torn to shreds. In front of such strength displayed by a person who was of a similar age, they felt that their power was not even at the standard where it could be displayed as a disgraceful sideshow.

When Su Zhizhan had fallen in defeat, the east wing still had a whole six competitors, while the west wing was only left with one. Furthermore, the strongest competitors left in the east wing consisted of Hui Ye, Yuan Que and Hui Ran, and any one of them could completely defeat Su Zhizhan. On the other hand, the west wing’s final combatant, Yun Che, had a profound strength that was so weak, everyone disregarded him.

All of those seated in the west wing thought that this match would end up exactly as they had originally predicted... either that or it would end up as a defeat that was even more miserable and humiliating than anticipated. But not a single one of them could have predicted that Yun Che would actually defeat Jiufang Yu, Xiao Donglai and Chiyang Yanwu...

To think that he would defeat the one who was ranked third amongst the Illusory Demon Seven Scions, the one who had both the bloodline of the Demon Emperor and the strongest profound art, Duke Hui Ye...

And to defeat yet another member of the Illusory Demon Seven Scions, the second-ranked Duke Yuan Que, who had not even hesitated to use a forbidden profound skill!

Five consecutive victories!

Every single one of his matches had shaken the very soul of all who were watching. It was a string of five consecutive victories that had completely overturned all logic!

This was a series of five matches that would stir a huge commotion in the entire Illusory Demon Realm. Beside such a string of victories, all the previous defeats that had occurred on both sides had become woefully insignificant and all the previous victories were not worth mentioning. This series of matches looked like a competition but was actually a secret gamble between two large factions who were pitted against each other. It was a struggle between loyalty and ambition, but all of this had been overshadowed by Yun Che, who had become the sole protagonist as he drew all the attention and won the hearts of all those present.

When those seated in the west wing gazed toward Yun Che now, every single gaze was filled with a radiant splendor that had not existed before. The gathered elders of the Yun Family were filled with such emotion that they were either rendered speechless or they could not form coherent sentences. Regarding the matter of the ‘foster son’ that Yun Qinghong had taken in, originally everyone felt like it was inappropriate and they even despised him because his profound strength was too low. Only now did they realize that the Yun Family had actually picked up a huge treasure!

The unconscious Duke Yuan Que was carried out of the arena by the people from Duke Zhong Palace as they swiftly brought him out of the Demon Imperial Hall. If he did not receive medical attention soon, there was a very high chance that he would be crippled from then on. Duke Zhong did not leave with them, but the expressions on his and Duke Huai's face had become grave and ugly... In each of Yun Che's five matches, it was only after the match had concluded that they had realized how much they had underestimated Yun Che. This match was no exception!

From the conclusion of Yun Che's third match onwards, Duke Huai had wanted to kill him. But right now, he had never ever felt such an intense desire for someone to immediately disappear from the face of the earth!

He had been shocked too many times by Yun Che and accompanying each shock carried with it an incomparably thick and heavy aura of danger.

He had no knowledge whatsoever of Yun Che's true origins, the only thing that he did know was that Yun Che was only twenty-two years old... what was twenty-two years old? The son with whom he was most pleased, Hui Ran, the publicly acknowledged future number one in Illusory Demon Realm, definitely did not have such strength when he was twenty-two years old!

If he continued to mature, before long, he would even surpass Hui Ran! If he was allowed to completely develop in the future, he would completely transcend him.

Someone of this caliber was even a foster child of the Yun Family! Someone who stood on the side of his enemies!

Duke Zhong and Duke Huai exchanged glances, and they were both able to see the extremely intense killing intent in each other's eyes.

Thump....

In the middle of the arena, Yun Che supported himself with his heavy sword as he gently knelt to the pockmarked ground. His entire body trembled faintly, and he continuously gasped for breath; the sound of each breath was extremely rough and heavy. His previous four battles, and especially the one with Hui Ye, had consumed a large amount of his energy. Furthermore, he had just crossed swords with Yuan Que for over one hundred rounds, and in the end, he had opened the gate of Purgatory. He had even activated 'Sealing Cloud Locking Sun' when he had activated Purgatory, so his energy consumption was incomparably immense. Now that he had relaxed, he could feel a pressure that was as heavy as a mountain pressing down on his entire body. For him to even stand to his feet was an exceptionally difficult task.

"Ah? Big Brother!" After seeing Yun Che kneel on the ground, Yun Xiao's heart tightened and he hurriedly exclaimed, "Father, hurry up and ask Big Brother to leave the stage! Big Brother has already fought five consecutive battles and it is simply not possible for him to continue fighting... Moreover, the only one left on the other side is the most fearsome Hui Ran!"

Hui Ran, the head of the Illusory Demon Seven Scions, eighth level of the Tyrant Profound Realm. He was an existence that completely surpassed the rest of the young generation and he was the undisputed number one, described as 'obscenely strong' by those who lived in the Demon Imperial City.

Even though he, Hui Ye, and Yuan Que were grouped together in the top three ranks, his ability did not exceed Hui Ye and Yuan Que just by a little bit. Instead, it had surpassed theirs to the point where even if you added the strengths of Hui Ye and Yuan Que together, it would still be far behind the strength of Hui Ran.

Even though the strength that Yun Che had displayed in his five consecutive victories had shocked all who witnessed it, those who knew the true ability of Hui Ran would definitely not think that Yun Che was Hui Ran's match.

More importantly, the Yun Che who had already fought five consecutive battles did not have much strength left.

"Patriarch, quickly... quickly get him to leave the stage!" The Yun Family great elder Yun Waitian said anxiously, "If Hui Ran takes the stage, given Duke Huai's temperament, he will definitely get Hui Ran to deal a killing blow to Yun Che."

"Patriarch, I have to concur! For Yun Che to be able to accomplish this much is already a great victory for our Yun Family! Right now, it is obvious that his strength is at an end and he needs to immediately leave the stage; if not, it will be too late. Given Hui Ran's strength, if he wanted to kill the current Yun Che, he would only need the space of one breath! At that time, even if we were to try to intervene and save his life, it would be too late," The second elder added hurriedly. Given the strength that Yun Che had displayed and his status as a foster child of the Yun Family, they had already realized that the fate of Yun Che was a huge matter that would likely concern the future of the entire Yun Family.

Yun Qinghong was naturally more worried than anyone else when it came to Yun Che's safety. He swiftly sent a sound transmission to Yun Che, "Che'er, let Father represent you and renounce the final match of this competition."

If he personally stepped in to renounce the match with Hui Ran, it would naturally protect Yun Che's dignity to the greatest degree. But just as he had finished his sound transmission, he saw Yun Che tilting his head to look at him, and after that... Yun Che slowly shook his head. His entire face was covered in sweat and a fiery-red blush colored his face, but his eyes were as firm and resolute as iron.

Yun Qinghong's heart felt like it been struck heavily. He did not stand up, nor did he make a sound. Even if all the elders stepped forward to urgently advise him, and even if all the Patriarchs and dukes seated in the west wing incessantly used their expressions and sound transmissions to implore him, he remained unmoving.

"Husband..." Mu Yurou grabbed Yun Qinghong's arm, and the palm of her hand was deathly cold.

Instead, Yun Qinghong grasped her hand and whispered to her in a low and gentle, but resolute voice, "Yurou, this is Che'er's own determination, we have no right to arbitrarily make a decision on his behalf... but do not worry, he is our son, and even if I have to put my life on the line, I will definitely not let him fall into some wicked scheme."

But as he spoke, his other hand had already tightly clenched into a death grip, and a small cluster of frighteningly dense lightning was soundlessly gathering in the palm of his hand... if Hui Ran really attempted to murder Yun Che and Yun Che was not able to defend himself, even if he completely lost all of his standing and reputation, he would not hesitate to kill Hui Ran himself!

Chapter 567 - Original Win

Not only was it the west wing, where the Yun Family was located, the whole hall was filled with the sound of people yelling for Yun Che to immediately abandon the competition. The whole world knew how terrifying Hui Ran was. Not only was his skill abnormally high, he was also extremely brutal and violent. People who faced him in the past were either killed or crippled; even a serious injury was considered as getting off easy.

No one would be willing to see a genius getting crippled under the hands of Hui Ran.

Those who knew about Duke Huai's ambitions were extremely sure that if Hui Ran fought, he would definitely kill Yun Che right in the arena... now that Yun Che had almost used up all of his profound energy, he was half-kneeling on the ground. It would be impossible for him to even have any means to struggle.

The attitude Duke Huai had earlier, as if he was in control of everything, and his slight smile had already long disappeared. Since Yun Che won the third round, his expression had begun to look uneasy, and now it was even worse. The reason he suggested the competition between the east wing and west wing was to expel the Yun Family completely from the lineup of the Guardian Families, and at the same time step all over the momentum and dignity of the forces that were loyal to the Little Demon Empress.

After Su Zhizhan lost, he was laughing loudly in his heart, because everything was going just as he planned. This scenario of stomping all over his opponent had already made him picture himself becoming the Demon Illusory Emperor.

But now, he could laugh no longer.

The scenario of them enjoying the pleasure of torturing the other party and dominating was crushed single-handedly by Yun Che in an instant.

His Duke Huai Palace's young duke and Duke Zhong Palace's young duke used all of their powers and played all of their trump cards. However, not only were they unable to kill Yun Che as they wished, they all lost miserably, and were seriously injured by Yun Che.

Even though with Hui Ran on their side, their east wing would still win in the end, their goal of completely demolishing their opponent had completely failed; instead, they increased the other party's momentum, and they even increased the Yun Family's momentum. Duke Huai, who always had everything under control, failed completely this time, and he even felt regretful. If he had another chance, he would absolutely not instigate this competition.

While the whole audience was shouting for Yun Che to give up the last round, Duke Huai secretly gnashed his teeth. If they didn't "accidentally" kill Yun Che in the arena today, where it would be "perfectly justifiable", then it would be even harder to kill Yun Che with him standing with the Yun Family's and with the Little Demon Empress's most solid protection come tomorrow. By then, this Yun Che, whose talent and potential struck fear into even himself, Duke Huai, would certainly become a poisonous thorn in his heart. He wouldn't be able to eat, sleep, or be calm for each day it still existed.

But no matter how much the whole audience yelled, there wasn't any sign of Yun Che surrendering. After he violently gasped for breath for a while, he grabbed onto the handle of his sword and stood up

slowly. He looked at the east wing, and said without rush, "Isn't there still another person? Why hasn't he come out yet? Did you guys run out of people qualified to be sent out?"

Once Yun Che's words were spoken, everyone in the west wing was shocked. Even Su Xiangnan couldn't care about anything else and started yelling loudly, "Yun Che, you have fought enough, don't take on the last round."

Greatest Ambition Under Heaven yelled directly at Yun Qinghong, "Qinghong, why haven't you pulled that boy down from there?!"

However, Yun Qinghong did not speak.

The Little Demon Empress' crescent brows slightly slanted, then she suddenly opened her mouth and said, "Yun Che, the skill of the last person on the other side who has yet to come out yet is much stronger than you imagine. You have already fought for five rounds in a row, have exhausted most of your profound energy, and have almost no strength to go on. Are you sure you still want to fight the last battle?"

Yun Che said without any hesitation, "Even though my strength was greatly exhausted, I haven't lost yet. And since I haven't lost yet, of course I will keep fighting! I, Yun Che, have lost before in this life, but I have never voluntarily surrendered before!"

The Little Demon Empress' crescent eyebrows locked tightly, and her eyes deeply showed a sign of warning, "You think your persistence is noble? Hmph! A true man knows when to resist and when to yield, when to advance and when to retreat. There is no value at all in depending only on a rash persistence. Most of the time, it is only an action of a foolish death wish!"

The reminder in the Little Demon Empress' words were clear enough, but Yun Che grinned and said, "I, Yun Che... have never thought of myself as a foolish person! Little Demon Empress, who are you to say that I will definitely lose my last round?"

Even with facing the Little Demon Empress watching him intently, Yun Che wouldn't back off at all. The Little Demon Empress stopped saying anything else, silently gave Yun Qinghong a look, and said softly, "If you insist, then go on ahead."

Duke Huai, whose heart was originally filled with hatred and annoyance, was relieved. He stared at Yun Che viciously, and started laughing coldly in silence, "This boy's gifts and potential are really shocking, but he's young and reckless after all. He doesn't give up when there's a way out... and deliberately courts death!"

Yun Che is, after all, from outside of Demon Imperial City. It is very likely for him to be unaware of how scary Hui Ran's strength was, so he dreamed of using the last of his energy to make one last-ditch effort... Having thought of this, Duke Huai's eyebrow's twitched again... Why didn't Yun Qinghong come forward and forcefully pull Yun Che from the fight?

Was it possible, that Yun Che still has a trump card?

Duke Huai locked his eyebrows and thought deeply. From the overall strength Yun Che had displayed in these five matches, to the changes in his breathing, to his exhausted state for which it was absolutely

impossible to be an act, he thought for a good while, but still couldn't think of any possibility for Yun Che to beat Hui Ran.

Unless the sky suddenly dropped a fierce lightning while the two of them were fighting and killed Hui Ran.

At this moment, he suddenly noticed Yun Qinghong's tightly held left fist. Even though Yun Qinghong had sealed his profound energy tightly in his palms, after Duke Huai scouted with his mind congealing, he was still able to clearly feel an extremely high density of lightning profound energy.

That explained it. This Yun Che was too proud and arrogant, Yun Qinghong was afraid that if he forcefully pulled him out of the competition, it would hurt his dignity, and he would resent him, so he wanted to take action and rescue Yun Che the instant he was in danger fighting against Hui Ran...

Duke Huai immediately started laughing coldly. Since he knew about Yun Qinghong's actions, he had absolute confidence that he would be able to stop him before he rescued Yun Che... He would be stopping him from taking the liberty of interfering with the competition, and stopping him would be perfectly justifiable!

"Ran'er... Kill him! Kill him! Kill him!!"

Duke Huai sending three consecutive "kill him" sound transmissions to Duke Hui Ran in a deep voice showed how strong his murderous intent was. As Duke Hui Ran's father, he naturally knew best of Hui Ran's temper... he was naturally cruel and brutal, his greatest pleasure came from torturing his opponent, but at the same time, he was also extremely arrogant. He almost never truly took anyone seriously, and because of this personality, when he faced Yun Che, it was very possible that he would arrogantly give him time to regain his strength, and disdain fighting against someone who was exhausted.

Therefore, he reminded him by saying "kill him" three times.

Hui Ran's eyelids twitched when he received Duke Huai's sound transmission. He scoffed lightly between his nostrils, and stood up slowly. Step by step, he walked towards the arena without a hurry.

From the moment that he stood up, he attracted everyone's attention, and became the center of attention. He didn't release any profound energy aura, but the people who were watching him clearly felt an extremely heavy pressure.

The expression of the people in the west wing who knew well of Hui Ran's strength had all become stiff... However, up to when Hui Ran was standing right in front of Yun Che, Yun Che still hadn't made any sign of surrendering as they had hoped. Instead, he was standing straight, and he gazed right into Hui Ran's eyes.

"Please... do not get killed." The several great Patriarchs could only sigh heavily in their hearts.

Hui Ran stood in front of Yun Che. His slightly narrowed eyes were flickering with an extremely dangerous light. His body was already unusually tall, on top of that, every single one of his muscle were popping out. Just his figure alone already imposed a fearful pressure. Even though he didn't release his aura, there was an invisible pressure, and it had already heavily pressured on Yun Che's heart and soul.

“This guy’s strength is no weaker than than that Number One Under Heaven from the elven race,” Jasmine said coldly. “You are far weaker than him. Even if you were in your best condition, there is no question that you would lose fighting against him, let alone now when you only have ten percent of profound energy and strength left.”

“I am indeed not as strong as him,” Yun Che replied while gasping for his breath, “But that doesn’t mean... I can’t beat him today!”

Jasmine scoffed softly and said, “Under the rule of leaving the arena would count as a loss, it is indeed possible for you to beat him... but you will need enough luck!”

“My luck has never been bad.”

“Hmph.” Duke Hui Ran scoffed softly in contempt and arrogance. He crossed his arms over his chest, and looked at Yun Che indifferently, “Since you were able to beat this duke’s younger brother, you barely qualify to be this duke’s opponent. This duke had always disdained fighting against someone who had already almost used up all of their profound energy, but you... are even more not worthy for this duke to waste time on.”

He didn’t take out a weapon, pointed at Yun Che with one finger, and ticked his finger in contempt, “You can attack now.”

“Heh,” Yun Che laughed coldly, laughing with even more scorn, “As expected, you Duke Huai Palace people are only a bunch of trash who are just talk. Even though now I only have less than ten percent of my profound energy, it is enough to beat trash like you.”

With Hui Ran’s strength and prestige, he had never had anyone say anything like that to him from birth to now. No one ever had the ability or the guts to be so presumptuous in front of him. Duke Hui Ran’s eyes slowly narrowed. He didn’t get mad, he just smiled lightly, as a cold glare of brutality flashed deep in his eyes, “With just you?”

Suddenly, Duke Huai’s sound transmission was sent to his ears, “Stop chitchatting with him and kill him immediately!”

“Yes! With just me!”

Followed by a “clang”, Yun Che pulled out his heavy sword from the ground. A type of heavy yet insolent might was instantly released, and it made Hui Ran twitch his eyebrows slightly... but it merely made him twitch his eyebrows, it was still followed by a contempt wry smile.

Yun Che seemed to have not realized entirely that his strength was not enough to threaten Hui Ran at all. He raised his heavy sword and roared deeply, “Let me see how long you can stand under the attack of my sword! Haah!!”

Yun Che took a step, swung his heavy sword, and his whole person was as like an arrow shooting towards Hui Ran. His movement also made the expressions of everyone in the west wing extremely stiff. The several great Patriarchs had all stood up, and everyone’s expression was incredibly nervous. Even though Yun Qinghong didn’t stand up, his left hand had already been quietly placed in a horizontal pose before his body.

A wave of raging storm came head on, causing Hui Ran's clothes to flutter and make noise. Even though Yun Che had exhausted most of his strength, the power of the heavy sword was still extremely fierce. However, this didn't make Hui Ran show any expression of concern. He raised his right arm without hurry, and spread his fingers... he was actually going to catch Yun Che's heavy sword in his palms. The corner of his mouth showed a disdainful light smile, "Heh, you're overestimating yourself."

Everyone in the hall clearly saw just how scary Yun Che's heavy sword was before, and were even frightened by it. But no one thought that Hui Ran's actions which seemed extremely careless were made because Hui Ran had a death wish... because with Hui Ran's powers, he really had the ability to do so.

Hui Ran's actions made Yun Che slightly locked his eyebrows. While he was shifting his position in extreme speed, he was closing in on Hui Ran. In a blink of eye, there was only six meters left of distance between them. At this moment, Yun Che's figure suddenly slowed down slightly, and his eyes immediately released a mysterious, azure light. An azure dragon's silhouette appeared and flashed behind Yun Che, followed by a prestigious, domineering dragon roar that shook the entire universe as it came from the sky.

"Dragon Soul Domain!!"

To keep his mind's energy consumption to the minimum, this Dragon Soul Domain only cover up to thirty-three meters, but that dragon god cry which came from the Primordial Azure Dragon still sounded throughout the entire Demon Imperial City, and violently shook the heart and soul of everyone in this hall.

Especially the demon race who bore the bloodlines of beasts, under the dragon god cry of the king of all beasts, every one of them were shocked, and their souls involuntarily trembled. As a race of true dragons, everyone from the Chiyang Family expressed panic on their faces. Their dragon souls were agitated; they almost wanted to kneel on the ground and begin worshipping.

"This... This... What is that!!"

"It's... a dragon cry?!"

A pair of azure eyes that were as deep as the sky and as bright as the stars opened up three feet above Yun Che's head. Under the dragon cry which shook the skies and the terrorizing strength of the dragon soul, Duke Hui Ran's whole body was trembling. His expression instantly became stiff, then was followed by a strong feeling of fear. His pupil showed rapid shrinking, and even his body appeared to be trembling slightly...

Even if Yun Che's strength was far weaker than Hui Ran's; even if Yun Che was already extremely exhausted, this soul deterrence came from the soul of the Dragon God... With Hui Ran's powers, even if he had mental resistance, it was still impossible for him to defend at all, let alone now, when he wasn't on guard at all!

"Purgatory!!"

Facing the powerful Hui Ran, even if he was sunk within the Dragon Soul Domain, Yun Che still had to be cautious. He gathered all of his powers, and the silhouette of the phoenix flickered and appeared on his

body. The phoenix's cry hissed in the sky as it used speed and power that was several times stronger than before, and violently attacked towards Hui Ran.

"Get down there... Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing!!"

In terms of strength, Hui Ran was hands down stronger than Yun Che, but when danger was approaching, he abruptly woken up a little as he reached out his arms difficulty, and blocked the front of his body... However, after thirty percent of him had woken up, the other seventy percents were of fear and the collapse of his faith. His defensive powers weren't even at thirty percent of his usual. He was only able to brace himself for an instant, then got harshly knocked out under the violent shock of the Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing...

Yun Che was knocked backwards from the aftershock, but before he even landed, the Heaven Smiting Sword had already swung out once more. An azure wolf with scarlet flames tore through space, and ruthlessly attacked Hui Ran, who was still upside down in the air.

"Phoenix Sky Wolf Slash!!"

Like a meteor flying through the enormous Demon Imperial Hall, the Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing followed tightly by the Phoenix Sky Wolf Slash blew Duke Hui Ran's whole body across half the Demon Imperial Hall, across the seats, causing him to crash severely into the eastern walls of the hall. Followed by a violent quake in the hall, Duke Hui Ran's whole body was smashed into the east wall, as countless of cracks spread crazily.

Chapter 568 - Victory Round

Crack... crack...

In the enormous Demon Imperial Hall, there were more than ten thousand strong practitioners from all over the world, but besides the sound of the shattered jade falling from the wall, there weren't any other traces of sound at all... not even the sound of breathing. Everyone in the Demon Imperial Hall had already stood up with their eyes widened, mouths opened, and it was uncertain just how many jaws had almost dropped onto the ground.

Even the Little Demon Empress had already stood up from her throne, and was staring blatantly at the Hui Ran who was smashed into the wall.

Closest to the arena, standing on its edge, the eyes of Duke Huai, who had already built up his power in preparation to stop Yun Qinghong from rescuing Yun Che, bulged out, and the corners of his mouth, eyebrows, and chin, were all twitching as if they were cramping... For someone who was able to make the Little Demon Empress hesitate to mobilize against, able to make more than sixty percent of the Guardian Families and Duke Palaces abandon the Demon Emperor's bloodline and turn to him, his manipulative manner and temperament were as imagined. But at this moment, his mind became completely chaotic and his face became crooked watching this scene.

The strength of this round of battle displayed an extreme disparity... the gap was even wider than in any of the other rounds. Hui Ran's strength was already far stronger than Yun Che's strength, and on top of that, Yun Che had fought five battles in a row, and his profound energy was greatly exhausted. The focus

of the audience wasn't on who would win the battle at all, but whether or not Yun Che could survive to the end...

The whole process of the two fighting hand to hand only lasted an instant...

That instant was so short that no one had been able to react yet...

And one of them was knocked away fiercely, flew directly out of the arena, and was smashed into the east wall of the Demon Imperial Hall.

According to the rules, falling outside the arena, also meant the end of this battle!

The one who was blown away instantly wasn't Yun Che, but was the one whose strength was abnormally high, who could stomp Yun Che completely, the Hui Ran whom no one thought had any chance of losing!!

The scene that they saw, was no different from a dying little blade of grass suddenly knocking over a tall tree that had been rooted in the ground for ten thousand years... It was as mind blowing as the heavens and earth suddenly turning upside down.

"Big Brother... won..." Xiao Yun mumbled, as though he had lost his soul, then followed with an uncontrollably loud yell, "Big Brother won... Big Brother won!! Our Yun Family won!"

Xiao Yun's loud, excited yelling brought everyone back from shock. At that instant, countless exclamations assembled into an earthshaking, loud soundwave.

"Yun Che won... It's true... Yun Che won!!"

"Th-th-th... this is the most incredible thing that I have seen all my life!"

"Hui Ran lost... lost in only one move! Ahhhh... I cannot believe my own eyes, am I dreaming?!"

"This is impossible... Impossible! Who can tell me what happened, this is definitely impossible!!"

"Hui Ran was the last person from Duke Huai's side. Yun Che won... that means, the end result is the Yun Family's victory!!"

"Father... Hui Ran lost, and Yun Che won... We... actually... we won!" Su Zhizhan stuttered, his voice swayed, as if he was sleep talking.

"That's... right." Su Xiangnan nodded slowly, and his voice shivered heavily, "I believe no matter who it is, it would be impossible for anyone to expect this result. This Yun Che... what kind of god is he?"

The dignified Su Family Patriarch actually used the word "god" to describe Yun Che, but at this moment, it didn't sound exaggerated or unsuitable at all to anyone in the Su Family.

"Unbelievable... unbelievable... it really is unbelievable." Mu Feiyan said the word "unbelievable" three times in a row. This Mu Family Patriarch, who had lived for more than several hundred years, exhibited the emotion of "amazement" in his eyes, voice, and expression. He was just criticizing Yun Che earlier for being too young and rash, not knowing when to fight or yield, but he then realized that Yun Che knew exactly what he was doing. After he had reached a hundred years of age, he rarely misjudged anyone, but when it came to Yun Che, he kept underestimating over and over again...

Mu Yubai opened his mouth, and mumbled in a low voice, "This boy, where did this little monster come from..."

He had always been serious about being sworn brothers with Yun Che, but at this moment, he felt diffident in his heart. At first, he lowered himself at all costs and asked Yun Che himself to become sworn brothers. Half of it was because of his gratitude to him, and the other half was naturally because of his top medical skills which had cured Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou... If he got a brother like this, then it wouldn't just be him getting a few more lives, it would benefit the entire Mu Family.

The reason why he was so adamant on getting what he wanted and was a bit forceful back then, was because he was, after all, the Mu Family's young patriarch, and would soon become a true Patriarch of the Mu Family. He thought for sure that his background and ability was absolutely worthy enough. But now, after seeing Yun Che's incredibly shocking skills, temperament, and boldness, on top of his medical skills that could amaze everyone under heaven... this Yun Che, who had all of these qualities, was only twenty-two years old!

Him at the same age would be beaten by Yun Che instantly by who knows how many city blocks.

Since he had accomplished this kind of achievement at the mere age of twenty-two, it made his future accomplishments even more unimaginable.

If someone said he would become the number one of the Illusory Demon Realm in the future, probably none of the people here who had witnessed everything today would doubt it.

Therefore, under Yun Che's overly bright radiance, this dignified Mu Family's young patriarch became unconfident about lowering himself and taking the initiative to ask to become sworn brothers...

"Such a character has actually appeared in our Demon Illusory Realm." Greatest Ambition Under Heaven said in an impressed voice, "But unfortunately, he is Yun Qinghong's adopted son. If he were their biological son, the Yun Family wouldn't have any worries in the future... Firstly, Father originally thought that you overexaggerated, but in truth, Yun Che was even more impressive than you had described. This boy's achievements in the future will definitely shake the heavens. On top of that, he is the savior of our Under Heaven Clan... You all should make friends with him more later on."

All the brothers of the Under Heaven Clan were nodding their heads. Everyone's eyes were still filled with deep shock and astonishment.

Yun Qinghong stood tall. The Yun Family's elders who were behind him were already so riled up that they didn't bother to take note of their image, and started yelling with the young disciples until they almost lost their voices. He didn't yell, and didn't rush into the arena. He gazed at Yun Che as tears welled up in his tiger eyes. He knew clearly... Everyone knew clearly, this result, wasn't just as simple as an unimaginable miracle. He saved the Yun Family from its fate, saved all of the Guardian Families and Duke Palaces who were loyal to the Little Demon Empress, and most importantly, he saved the momentum and dignity of the Demon Emperor's bloodline.

He even gave Duke Huai's people, who were originally incredibly cocky, a severe, heavy strike.

"Che'er, Father is proud of you!" Yun Qinghong said while smiling. He didn't even look at Duke Huai... because there was no question that Duke Huai's face must have looked extremely awful.

Duke Huai's face awful-looking right then was not only awful, it was so crooked that it was hard to tell his facial features apart. The faces of Duke Zhong, other masters of various great Duke Palaces, and patriarchs from the east wing, all darkened to the color of a pot's bottom. They stood there, gazing at each other, but none of them were able to say a word.

"Ahhhh!!"

Bang!!

The east wall of the hall suddenly exploded in a beast-like roar. Hui Ran jumped out with disheveled hair and a face full of blood, and rushed directly towards Yun Che with bloodshot eyes, "Bastard... this duke will kill you!!"

Even though Hui Ran looked extremely beaten down, his momentum was still incredibly shocking. After taking two sword attacks from Yun Che under the state of Dragon Soul Domain, not only did his profound energy not collapse, judging from the surface, he didn't seem to have suffered from any serious injuries... Yun Che felt slightly cold in his heart. This Hui Ran's strength was indeed unusual.

A profound storm with a raging aura struck. The Yun Family's Great Elder Yun Waitian flew up, and immediately went in front of Yun Che to protect him. He roared furiously, "Hui Ran, what do you think you're doing?!!"

At present, the entire Yun Family treated Yun Che like their precious treasure, how could they possibly let him get hurt?

No matter how strong Hui Ran was, it was impossible for him to be Yun Waitian's match. Under the imposing aura of Yun Waitian, he was forced away immediately. Hui Ran was even angrier, as he roared furiously, "This bastard tricked me! With this duke's ability, how is it possible for me to lose to this kind of trash... Yun Che, do you dare to fight this duke fairly?!"

Yun Family's Second Elder Yun Duanshui also flew in front of Yun Che to protect him. He looked at Hui Ran, laughed coldly and said, "Hui Ran, a loss is a loss. No one here is blind. We all clearly saw everything. You are a dignified duke after all, and you can't afford to lose? Hmph, aren't you afraid of making your entire Duke Huai Palace the whole world's laughingstock?"

"Shut up!" Hui Ran pointed his finger at Yun Che, and his whole body was shivering. This extremely arrogant person had never lost in his entire life. But today, under everyone's eyes, he was blasted out of the arena by someone who was far weaker than himself, who had already exhausted most of his profound energy. He had never been humiliated like this ever in his whole life. "How could this duke possibly lose! Just now, it was clearly..."

"Enough!"

Duke Huai's face was as calm as the surface of water. He scolded Hui Ran harshly, "Are you trying to humiliate our Duke Palace even more!? Back down immediately!"

"Father..." Duke Hui Ran's face was cramping. Everyone's gazes were like knives on his back. He held his fists tightly in reconciliation, looked at Yun Che viciously, and gnashed his teeth while he turned around to walk out of the arena. As soon as he got back to his seat, he spat out a mouthful of blood violently... Yun Che's heavy sword wasn't so easy to bear.

“Very well!” The Little Demon Empress walked down slowly. That face which seemed to always be cold revealed some relief in a moment of extreme rarity, “What a remarkable competition. Yun Che was only in the Sky Profound Realm, but he alone fought six battles in a row, and won consecutively against our Demon Imperial City’s six geniuses. It was eye-opening, even to this empress, very impressive!”

"According from the rules that were set before the competition, if the Yun Family loses, they will lose the title of Guardian Family. The Yun Family was originally on the edge of the cliff, but Yun Che turned the tide himself, and turned defeat into victory. Looks like even the heavens are on the Yun Family’s side!”

The Little Demon Empress’ gaze slanted, swept across the east wing, and at last landed on Duke Huai, “Duke Huai, do you have anything else to say about this result?”

Before Duke Huai even spoken yet, Yun Che already said loudly, “Before Duke Huai says anything, may I remind Duke Huai... the wager that both of our sides had agreed to. Duke Huai, please don’t forget about it! If you win, our Yun Family leaves the Guardian Families. And if we win... heh! You all can shut up about our Yun Family’s business now. And... Helian, Chiyang, Nangong, Bai, Xiao, Lin, each of these families must submit two and a half kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals to our Yun Family within a month! And you, Duke Huai, must turn in ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals to our Yun Family within a month!”

The corners of Yun Che’s mouth arched, “Regarding this, we have the Little Demon Empress and everyone here as witnesses. You, Duke Huai, and the seven families agreed that easily... Duke Huai, I believe that you, as a dignified duke, wouldn’t go back on your words with everyone watching, right?”

After Yun Che finished speaking, the faces of everyone from the seven families all became the color of pig liver. This two and a half kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal was their lifeline, and even the Guardian Families that were on the peak of the Demon Illusory Realm would have to accumulate for hundreds of years to reach that amount. The reason that they followed Duke Huai’s lead and agreed to it, and let everyone witness, was because they were extremely sure that their side would absolutely not lose. This “bargaining chip” were merely there as a decoration.

And now, they lost...

If they really submitted two and a half kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals, then it would be the same as destroying the hundred years of the family’s progress. As for the Yun Family who had gathered a few dozen kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal, it would be hard for them to not ascend. They absolutely could not accept this... but unfortunately this was the Demon Empress’ Grand Ceremony, where all the strong practitioners from the Illusory Demon Realm gathered. Ten thousand strong Illusory Demon practitioners were the most solid witnesses in the whole world. If they went back on their words, then it would essentially mean peeling off the skin of their faces in front of all the people under heaven, ruining the family’s prestige and reputation, and being despised and humiliated by everyone.

But at this moment, Duke Huai was not panicking at all; instead he smiled lightly, “Of course this duke did not forget. This competition was brought up originally by me. No matter win or loss, this duke would naturally accept calmly. We would definitely not be a sore loser, would definitely not go back on what we had promised, and shame our Duke Huai Palace. I believe all of the Guardian Families are like this as well.”

“But, you seemed to have completely misunderstood something.” Duke Huai’s eyes narrowed in half, and said without a hurry, “This competition was about the fate of the Yun Family. The people qualified to represent each side for the battle must be under the age of thirty-five, and they must also be from the Guardian Families and Illusory Demon Duke Palaces.”

After Duke Huai spoke, the expressions of the people in the west wing changed, and the eyes of the people in the east wing all brightened up. Duke Huai said with a smile, “Yun Qinghong, if this duke remembered correctly, this Yun Che is only a son that you adopted from somewhere else? Since he is only an adopted son, then that means he does not have the Yun Family’s bloodline... Since he does not have the Yun Family’s bloodline, then how is he qualified to represent the Yun Family for the battle!”

Chapter 569 - Moving a Boulder Only to Smash One’s Leg

“Duke Huai, what is the meaning of this!” Yan Zijing roared as he rose up.

“Could it be that this duke’s words weren’t clear enough?” Duke Huai laughed lightly, speaking in a carefree manner. “Yun Che is merely an adopted son who was taken in by Yun Qinghong, and is not an actual member of the Yun Family. I believe everyone present is very aware of this point. When all’s said and done, an adopted son is nothing but an outsider. How could he possess the qualifications to represent the Yun Family in this competition... especially in this Demon Imperial Hall, when it also concerns the huge matter of the fate of a Guardian Family!”

“Yun Che’s strength is indeed absolutely stunning, and everyone present has witnessed it for themselves. Although luck played an extremely large role when he defeated my son, Hui Ran, a loss is a loss, and our Duke Huai Palace will definitely not deny it. However, the one who defeated my son, Hui Ran, as well as the final six participants from our side, was Yun Che, not the Yun Family! Ultimately, he does not even qualify to participate in this competition! The six matches in which he participated were indeed splendid spars. However, they were merely spars. They were completely unrelated to this competition, which decides the fate of the Yun Family!!”

Duke Huai’s words were like pots of cold water pouring down, causing chills and silent hatred to simultaneously fill the bodies of everyone in the west wing seats. When Yun Che first stepped up for the match, a large number of them had thought of this point. Even several elders of the Yun Family had thought of using this reason to request for Yun Qinghong to replace Yun Che with the most talented disciple among the Yun Family’s youths. However, because of Yun Qinghong’s persistence, Yun Che still went up, and not a single person in the east wing seats voiced their objections... Someone whose strength was so weak to the point of being only at the Sky Profound Realm, was actually representing the Yun Family in battle; they couldn’t wait to see him make a fool out of himself, so why would they point out matters such as him not being a disciple of the Yun Family, and not having the qualifications to participate?

After that, with every subsequent match, everyone was given a ruthless shock by Yun Che. Seemingly everyone had unconsciously disregarded this problem.

Currently, when Duke Huai suddenly brought this up, it was as though the extremely excited and joyful people in the west wing seats, especially the members of the Yun Family, had their Achilles’ heels stepped on instantly... Although it was evident that Duke Huai was denying everything that just happened, the reasoning behind his denial was so substantial, it was basically impossible to refute. Even

though Yun Che held the surname Yun, he wasn't a disciple of the Yun Family. Moreover, he couldn't be Yun Qinghong's biological son, and was merely an "adopted son" whom he had just taken in. Indeed, he basically did not have the qualifications to represent the Yun Family in battle!

A session of the Demon Imperial Hall occurred every hundred years, and in every session, there would always be an exhibition competition held by the various Duke Palaces and the Twelve Guardian Families. Some of the troubles and ideological conflicts between the Families and Duke Palaces had always been settled through such competitions... This competition that concerned the Duke Palaces and Twelve Guardian Families could naturally only be entered by members of the Duke Palaces and the Twelve Guardian Families. Outsiders were definitely not allowed to step in, and given the level of strength the Duke Palaces and the Twelve Guardian Families possessed, outsiders basically did not have the abilities and the qualifications to intervene in the first place.

It was even more so when it came to an unprecedented huge matter that concerned the fate of the Yun Family.

Hence, Duke Huai's words had truly stepped on their Achilles' heel.

"Duke Huai, you're clearly trying to deny it!" Su Xiangnan shouted out with a sharp voice. "Yun Che is Yun Qinghong's adopted son. Since he is his adopted son, he is also considered a member of the Yun Family. Why can he not represent the Yun Family in battle?!"

Su Xiangnan's words were deafening; however, his argument lacked confidence, no matter whose ears heard it. Sure enough, Duke Huai let out a bland laugh, "Heh, what a huge joke. Based on what Patriarch Su has said, in future competitions that are settled with displays of profound strength, this duke can casually find a few peerless experts, take them as my foster sons, and then have them represent my Duke Huai Palace in battle?! Hehe, what would be the point in the rankings of our various Duke Palaces and Twelve Guardian Families then? What would be the point in nurturing the next generation with all our might? We simply have to see who has the most godsons, and see whose godsons are more incredible, would that not be enough?"

"Patriarch Su, you actually approve to an outsider representing one of our Guardian Families or Duke Palaces in battle? Just how low do you place the dignity of our Duke Palaces and Guardian Families?!"

"You..." Su Xiangnan's expression turned dark, but he was unable to refute in the slightest.

"Duke Huai, since you say that Yun Che does not have the qualifications, then why didn't you say anything about it when he stepped into the arena? Why didn't you prevent it then?!" Mu Yubai asked with a cold look.

"Why would this duke have to prevent it?" Duke Huai rebutted with a question. "To allow an outsider to represent the Yun Family in battle is such a laughable and foolish action. The Yun Family had made this decision, and it was the Yun Family's foolishness for doing so, so they have to bear the consequences on their own. This duke wasn't obligated to remind, nor prevent them from doing what they did."

Mu Yubai's face turned as dark as charcoal, and hatred silently filled his heart. However, he simply could not refute it. Every single person seated in the west wing gritted their teeth, as today, it could be said that they had experienced the feeling of ascending from hell to heaven, only to suddenly fall from the heavens back to hell. Now, there were merely sighs, resentment and desolation in their hearts. In

comparison, the formerly ugly faces of the people seated in the east wing had completely disappeared. Every single one of their expressions were relaxed, and their scornful eyes even carried pity within them.

“Patriarch...” Yun Waitian and Yun Duanshui turned around, and looked towards Yun Qinghong. Unconsciously, everyone in the west wing had looked towards Yun Qinghong as well.

Yun Qinghong had not spoken a single word the entire time, and at this moment, Yun Che, who had finally managed to stabilize his energy and blood flow after taking several deep breaths, held his Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword. Walking up between Yun Waitian and Yun Duanshui who were protecting him, he faced Duke Huai, and said with an indifferent expression, “What Duke Huai has said is indeed correct. Without possessing the Yun Clan’s bloodline, and just based on the identity of an adopted son alone, that person indeed does not have the qualifications to represent the entirety of the one and only Yun Family in battle. However, Duke Huai, on what basis did you conclude that I’m not a son of the Yun Family?!”

Yun Che’s words caused Duke Huai to narrow his eyes, and laugh out loud right after. There were several people in the east wing who directly let out their laughter as well. When Yun Che voiced out these words, they were instantly able to guess Yun Che’s motive... Evidently, after landing in such a predicament, he was clearly being thick-skinned and trying to say that he was a member of the Yun Family. He might even make up a story in just a moment, and take out a few pieces of his so-called “evidence.”

If this was another family, such methods might have really caused them to feel uneasy; however, it just had to be the Yun Family he was talking about.

The Yun Family had a unique method to prove their own bloodline... the Profound Handle!

The Profound Handle was a bloodline power. Only people who possessed the Yun Family’s bloodline would have the power of the Profound Handle, with no exceptions! This type of bloodline power could only be passed on by males to the next generation, and it wouldn’t be inherited by females. Hence, sons of the Yun Family would definitely possess the Profound Handle.

Looking it from another way, people who could use the power of the Profound Handle would definitely be members of the Yun Family. This was common knowledge which everyone in the past ten thousand years of Demon Illusory Realm history knew.

Hence, to determine whether someone was actually a member of the Yun Family, there was only a need to see if that person could execute the power of the Profound Handle. If Yun Che could use the power of the Profound Handle, then he would definitely be a member of the Yun Family without question. If he couldn’t execute it, then he definitely wasn’t a member of the Yun Family, again without question!

Hence, in the eyes of Duke Huai, and the eyes of everyone else, if Yun Che wished to claim that he was a member of the Yun Family, it would simply be a joke.

“What? Could it be that you’re trying to tell this duke that you’re actually a member of the Yun Family? Hehehehe...” Duke Huai laughed with a very playful tone. “Then I wonder which elder of the Yun Family are you a son of? Or could it be that you’re actually an illegitimate child Yun Qinghong left behind somewhere outside, and this so-called ‘adopted son,’ is just a cover? Hahahaha!”

After saying that, Duke Huai had already begun to laugh out loud, and all of the Patriarchs in the east wing revealed mocking smiles as well.

Yun Che also began to laugh out loud, “Your highness, Duke Huai, you couldn’t be more correct. I am a son of the Yun Family, and I possess the truest and purest Yun Clan’s bloodline! Yun Qinghong is my biological father, exactly as you said!”

These words did not shock the entire audience, but they did still startle a few people. Mu Yubai slapped his forehead, and vexatiously said, “Haah, this little one is about to lose so much face this time. In this world, the hardest thing to fake is the Yun Family’s bloodline.”

The one with the most intense reaction was actually Mu Yurou. In the instant she heard Yun Che’s words, she grabbed onto Yun Qinghong’s hand, and tears began to uncontrollably well up in her eyes.

“Hahahaha...” Duke Huai wildly laughed for a long while, then was finally able to contain himself. Penetrating through his narrowed eye slits, his gaze landed on Yun Che, and a certain form of pleasure suddenly rose in his heart... Both of his sons were defeated by Yun Che, his plans completely crumbling was also because of Yun Che, and it brought about a huge backlash. Not only did he fail to humiliate and trample on the other party, he also boosted the other party’s morale greatly. His killing intent towards Yun Che rose; however, Hui Ye, Yuan Que, and Hui Ran were all unable to kill him. His hatred towards Yun Che was like a volcano which had seethed for a thousand years. At this moment, he finally found an opportunity to ruthlessly humiliate Yun Che, and Yun Che was actually the one who set up the opportunity on his own.

“Very well. Since you claim that you are a son of the Yun Family, and even the son of Yun Qinghong himself, why don’t you reveal your Profound Handle to this duke and to everyone present?”

“Profound Handle?” Yun Che’s brows slightly twitched.

“What? Looking at your expression, could it be that you don’t even know what a Profound Handle is? The Profound Handle is a bloodline power which is unique to the Yun Family. As long as one is a son of the Yun Family, he will definitely receive the inheritance of the Profound Handle. If you are able to reveal your Profound Handle, no one can deny your identity as a son of the Yun Family. As for the matter of you representing the Yun Family in battle, it will be perfectly justified as well. No matter if it is about banishing the Yun Family, or offering up the Purple Veined Divine Crystals, this duke will definitely not have the slightest bit of dissent. However, if you are unable to use the Profound Handle...”

Duke Huai’s eyes narrowed into a pair of even thinner slits, and both his gaze and voice turned especially cold, “If you’re unable to execute the Profound Handle, then, in the face of Little Demon Empress, and in the face of the heroes of the realm, posing as a member of a Guardian Family, and even moreso, the son of a Guardian Family’s Patriarch, do you know how large an offense that is?!”

“I have no interest in knowing that.” Yun Che took a step forward, and slowly stretched out his own arm. “I simply wish to remind Duke Huai that you had best not forget the words you have just said!”

Yun Che pulled up his sleeves, and revealed his left arm, “That’s right. The Profound Handle is the best way to prove our identities as members of the Yun Family. It can’t be faked, nor can it be imitated! Duke Huai, you’d best open your eyes wide... and watch carefully!!”

When Yun Che's voice fell, under everyone's attentive gaze, "Purgatory" silently activated, and on his arm, a cyan sword-shaped mark suddenly flashed.

The moment this mark appeared, everyone in the Yun Family suddenly trembled, "That... That is..."

Following after, Yun Che willed his thoughts. A ray of deep cyan light shot out from the mark, and floated next to him. Right after, it quickly turned into the shape of the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword as he willed it. A unique aura that could only belong to a Profound Handle was spreading outwards at a quick rate as well, filling the entire Demon Imperial Hall.

"Profound... Profound Handle!!" Yun Waitian and Yun Duanshui who were behind Yun Che, lost control of their voices at the same time and shouted.

At the moment the Profound Handle appeared, Duke Huai's expression had turned incomparably stiff. His pupils severely shrank, as though they had suddenly been pierced by needles.

Chapter 570 - Son of the Yun Family

WHOOA——

The Demon Imperial Hall was completely thrown into an uproar. The many elders and disciples of the Yun Family all stood up, and every single one of their eyes were widened until they were round, seemingly thinking that an illusion had appeared in front of them. "Profound Handle, it's the Profound Handle... It's our Yun Family's Profound Handle!"

"What's... What's going on here? Could it be that Yun Che is really our Yun Family's..."

"It's hard to believe, but that's an actual Profound Handle! If he isn't a member of our Yun Family, how could he possess the Profound Handle... And it's even the powerful cyan Profound Handle!"

"He's... he's... he's really a member of our Yun Family!" A Yun Family elder roared out loud out of excitement.

"That's... That's impossible!" The expressions of Duke Zhong, Helian Kuang, Jiufang Kui, Chiyang Bailie, and everyone else underwent a drastic change. They stared at the Profound Handle in front of Yun Che, and they could not believe their own eyes. Their assured and cold smiles earlier, had been replaced by shock, and fear that came right after. They deeply knew what kind of outcome would occur if Yun Che was truly a member of the Yun Family.

However, Yun Che... this adopted son whom Yun Qinghong had taken in, was someone who had clearly only arrived at Demon Imperial City for the first time three months ago, so how could he possibly be a son of the Yun Family?! Three months ago, no one had heard of this person's existence, and even Duke Huai was unable to find any clues of his background. Even his profound arts and profound skills were all completely unrelated to the Yun Family. Not to mention, looking at the expressions of everyone in the Yun Family, they did not know that he was someone from their family either.

However, the Profound Handle Yun Che released, just had to be the most indisputable proof. The Yun Family's Profound Handle was second to none, and even if its outer appearance could be imitated using profound energy, the bloodline aura and the power of the Profound Handle that belonged solely to the Yun Family could never be imitated, no matter what.

The entire hall was thrown into a complete uproar. This single day seemed to have the most ups and downs out of any day in their entire lives. Their nerves, which should have been incomparably resilient, were seemingly in a complete mess under the constant shocks they received. They felt that even if it were a dream, it wouldn't be as unbelievable, and it wouldn't have as many twists and turns as today.

Yun Waitian and Yun Duanshui, who were behind Yun Che, had completely lost their usually calm demeanor. Out of excitement, they were unable to breathe properly, to the point that it seemed like they could burst into tears. Although it was a huge surprise that left some questions unanswered, the Profound Handle was the most solid proof in the world. As Elders of the Yun Family, they couldn't mistake the Profound Handle, no matter what.

Facing Yun Che's Profound Handle, they were unable to contain their excitement. This definitely did not merely signify a complete victory for the Yun Family today... Yun Che being Yun Qinghong's adopted son and Yun Che being a pure and true member of the Yun Family, were two concepts as different as heaven and earth! The current generation of the Yun Family was in an unbearable state of decline. They were ranked the lowest out of the Twelve Guardian Families, and the decline in strength was even intensifying. But now that Yun Che was in the Yun Family, why would there still be a need to worry about being unable to flourish and prosper in the future?!

"Duke Huai, you can't possibly not recognize our Yun Family's Profound Handle, right?" The corner of Yun Che's lips were raised as he looked straight at Duke Huai and said. Although his expression looked relaxed, in actual fact, he was struggling very hard to maintain his composure. Since he was going to reveal his own Profound Handle in front of the heroes of the realm, then naturally, he had to reveal his Profound Handle at its peak condition! His grandfather Yun Canghai held the cyan Profound Handle, and his father held the cyan Profound Handle as well. Then, as the grandson of Yun Canghai, and the son of Yun Qinghong, how could he allow others to shame him when he executed the Profound Handle, the soul of the Yun Family?

His current peak condition for his Profound Handle, was cyan. And to reach the cyan Profound Handle, he had to be in the "Purgatory" state.

Hence, with every second of maintaining the cyan Profound Handle, his body had to endure a gigantic burden. Thus, when he finished voicing his question, he lightly waved his arm, and his Profound Handle transformed into a ray of cyan flowing light which flew back into Yun Che's arm.

Duke Huai's expression could be still be considered calm; however, his lips were clearly quivering, if only a little. Facing Yun Che's question, he, who usually had everything in the palm of his hand, was actually unable to utter anything for a moment.

Before this Hundred Year Reign Ceremony, he had done extensive planning and made sufficient preparations; he was even prepared to truly advance his ambitions on this day. Pointing his spearhead at the Yun Family in the beginning of the ceremony was the first step, causing a huge impact to all of the opposing Guardian Families and Duke Palaces was the second step...

He had initially thought that he was guiding and controlling everything stably. However, he suddenly realized at this moment that the situation had never been in his control. Everything, including Duke Huai himself, had clearly been guided by this youth in before his eyes!

From the moment he leapt out and shouted that he wanted to take part in the competition, to making use of his sharp tongue to coerce them into making a “wager”, to beating six people consecutively with just the power of a single man after everyone had believed that the west wing was about to suffer a terrible defeat... and again, to this moment, when he suddenly revealed his Profound Handle!!

Duke Huai was completely certain that he had foreseen that after defeating Hui Ran in battle, he himself would shout out that he did not possess the Profound Handle, and thus did not have the qualifications to represent the Yun Family. At the same time, he had even shouted that if he was a son of the Yun Family, then he would no longer have any qualms towards this “wager”.

In regards to sons of the Yun Family, the power of the Profound Handle was a huge form of support. However, in the six consecutive battles that he had fought, he basically did not make use of it. The reason why was clearly to lead him into saying these words, so that he would no longer have even the slightest of room to maneuver in.

Duke Huai was conceited ever since he was born. In his entire life, this was first time he felt that he was being treated like a monkey by someone else, and being played like one! And that someone was even a youth who was merely twenty-two years old!

This was first time he experienced the so-called “intestines turning green out of regret”, and “losing both his wife and soldiers”. For the matter of targeting the Yun Family, he had the support of seven Guardian Families and sixty Duke Palaces on his side. He was holding onto a stable upper hand in the first place; however, because of wanting to step on the opposing party’s morale and pride, he brought up the suggestion of a duel between both sides to decide the fate of the Yun Family... Only to result to such an outcome.

No matter whether it was about targeting the Yun Family or ruthlessly stepping on the opposing party’s morale, he should have succeeded in both of them. However, within his plans, a variable that was completely not included in his predictions had appeared... Yun Che.

Currently, facing Yun Che who was giving a light smile, an ice-cold intent actually rose in Duke Huai’s heart. Never would he have dreamt that the first person to ever cause his heart to skip a beat was actually a youth who was merely twenty-two years old.

To drive out the Yun Family... he had plotted and prepared for a long time, yet he suffered a terrible defeat in the first step he executed in the Hundred Year Reign Ceremony due to Yun Che, and his next plan to ruthlessly step on the opposing party’s morale had instead received several times the opposite effect... He aided in the rise of the opposing party, and had caused a backlash to his own side instead!

The seven Guardian Families had to each offer up two and a half kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals, while he himself had to offer up exactly ten kilograms... It had even turned from a joke, to an encroaching nightmare!

Duke Huai gritted his teeth, and his chest swelled up as he forcefully calmed himself. Suddenly, he turned his head, looked towards Yun Qinghong, and sharply said, “Yun Qinghong, what’s going on here?!”

When these words of his fell, several people were startled. Following after, their expressions turned strange. Under this situation, he did not reply Yun Che, but instead, had suddenly gone to interrogate

Yun Qinghong on “what was going on”. No matter who it was, he could clearly see that currently, Duke Huai had completely lost his cool and his mind was in a mess.

Yun Qinghong lightly smiled, and said in leisurely manner, “As you have seen for yourself, what he displayed earlier is the power of the Profound Handle of my Yun Family. Duke Huai, being so close to him, you couldn’t have not recognized it, right?”

“That’s impossible!” Duke Huai growled. “This person basically never once existed in your Yun Family! His first appearance in Demon Imperial City was even just three months ago... So how could he be someone from your Yun Family?!”

“I am not obligated to explain this to you,” Yun Qinghong lightly said. “Nor is there a need for me to argue with you. Earlier, you have said it yourself as well, the Profound Handle is the most indisputable proof to identify a member of the Yun Family. As to whether he is a member of our Yun Family or not, you should be extremely clear of that in your heart right now. But there’s one point, that I can tell you as an exception... Not only is Yun Che a son of my Yun Family, he is also the biological son of me, Yun Qinghong, and the future Patriarch of the Yun Family!”

When these words fell, it was as if a thunderclap had been thrown into the Demon Imperial Hall which had finally managed to quiet down, for it instantly sank under the surging waves of voices.

“Yun Che, is the son of the Yun Family Patriarch, th-th-this...”

“What kind of figure is the Yun Patriarch? He spoke these words in the face of Little Demon Empress, and in the face of the heroes of the realm, so how could it be false?!”

“Back then, everyone had suspicions in regards to the identity of Yun Xiao from the Yun Family. Patriarch Yun did not make any sort of response towards all of these suspicions. He did not admit, nor deny it. But when he said that Yun Che was his biological son in the face of the entire audience, his eyes were brightly lit, and his voice was absolutely resounding... No matter how you look at it, it doesn’t seem fake.”

“After a careful thought, it really isn’t hard to accept either. Although Yun Che had completely taken the spotlight today, he had completely offended Duke Huai, offended seven Guardian Families and sixty Duke Palaces! If he’s merely an adopted son, how could he possibly persist to such degree?! It’s because he is a son of the Yun Family, and even moreso, the son of Yun Qinghong... Other than Yun Canghai’s grandson and Yun Qinghong’s son, among the Yun Family, whose descendant would have such talent, strength, and boldness?!”

“Could it be that Yun Che is an illegitimate child Yun Qinghong conceived outside?”

“No, no! Yun Qinghong’s character is incomparably upright. Openly having a concubine might be a possibility, but it’s definitely impossible for him to conduct acts such as tainting other women in the dark. Twenty odd years ago, when Yun Qinghong and his wife returned from the Sky Profound Continent, because their bodies suffered from severe injuries, they invited many famous doctors in the entire world. According to the rumors of those famous doctors, Madam Yun was poisoned while pregnant. In order to protect the infant in her womb, she forcefully pushed the cold poison into her own five organs... which thus caused the cold poison to spread throughout her entire body, and was unable

to be cured. In other words, back then, Madam Yun had indeed gave birth to a child for Yun Qinghong... And the matter of Yun Xiao not possessing the Profound Handle is known by everyone as well..."

"In other words... Because Patriarch Yun was worried of the Yun Family's predicament back then, he purposefully hid his son, or perhaps searched for an incredible teacher for him... while the Yun Xiao he brought back was just a cover?"

"It's extremely possible!!"

Countless exclamations, discussions and guesses filled every corner of the hall. The group which was the most shocked was undoubtedly the people from the Yun Family. The fact that Yun Che possessed the Yun Family bloodline and was a son of their Yun Family, was already enough to allow everyone to be overjoyed. But if he was the son of Yun Qinghong... Then that would even more so a joyous gift sent down by heavens for the Yun Family! Because this signified that the bloodline of the Yun Family's Patriarch had not been severed!

The many Elders and Grand Elders of the Yun Family naturally deeply knew what kind of character Yun Qinghong had. In such an occasion, using such a tone, how could the words he shouted out be fake?!

"Huu... This scenario is really too bizarre," Su Xiangnan heaved a long sigh, unable to voice out his emotions.

"Yun Canghai's grandson, Yun Qinghong's son... No wonder, no wonder..." Greatest Ambition Under Heavens nodded, a little startled. The role of the Yun Family's Patriarch had been passed down from one generation to another, and in every generation, he would definitely be a dragon among men, an emperor among dragons, with no exceptions.

"The Yun Family is really going to once again rise into prominence," Yan Zijin said with a sigh.

Old man Mu Feiyan had been sitting there with a blank look for a long while. As though he had been suddenly woken up from a dream, he stood up with a "whoosh", and his beard wildly quivered from excitement. "Could it be... Could it be... he's the child that Rou'er lost... in the Sky Profound Continent...?"

Back then, the encounters which Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou had in the Sky Profound Continent, especially the matter regarding the child, were not known by a single outsider. However, as Mu Yurou's father, how could he not be aware of it?

"There's definitely no mistake!" Mu Yuqing said out of excitement as well. "He possesses the Yun Family's bloodline, brother-in-law has personally admitted it, and the eyes little sister is looking at him with... and most importantly, other than little sister's son and our old man's grandson, whose child could be this talented?!"

With Mu Feiyan's several hundreds of years of age, he had always been dismissive towards his three sons' boot-licking talk. However, Mu Yuqing's flattery this time had actually made Mu Feiyan ecstatic. His upper body leaned forward, and his hands trembled. "That's right... Rou'er's child, my grandson... Ha... Hahahaha... This is my grandson... My biological grandson!!"

"So this kid is actually our nephew!" Even Mu Yukong was grinning from ear to ear in excitement. However, when he turned his head, he saw Mu Yubai was covering his face with both his hands, and his

head was seemingly about to droop towards his crotch. With widened eyes, he gave him a slap. "Hey, big bro! Our little sis' son is back. He's our biological nephew, you know... What's with this reaction of yours?"

"Heheh," Mu Yuqing laughed gloatingly. "Before this, our big bro has been shouting and screaming about being sworn brothers with our nephew..."

"Shut up!" Mu Yubai landed a kick on Mu Yuqing's buttocks. "Whoever dares to bring this matter up again will be beaten to a pulp by this daddy here!"