

## The Heavens 241

### Chapter 241: Training Plaza

On the western side of the Shang Clan Manor, Shang Jian and Xu Huizhu stared into the skies and watched as the giant spear slowly dissipated. Even though it was gone, their gazes were still stuck in the air.

The two of them were experts who had entered the Martial Intent Realm for a long time and they were well aware of the power contained in the strike.

“How long has it been?! Not only did he learn how to manipulate the heaven and earth qi in the air, his inner qi seems extremely pure! Is the inheritance of your Shang Clan really so terrifying?” Xu Huizhu asked with a trace of trepidation in her voice.

Still looking in the direction of the giant spear, a complicated emotion flashed across Shang Jian’s face. “Everyone has their secrets. Maybe he’s extremely suited to cultivate our Shang Clan’s secret art.”

Turning to look at Shang Jian, Xu Huizhu whispered, “Are you regretting what you did?”

“In the past, I had the chance to accept our clan’s inheritance too. However, I felt that it didn’t suit me as I excel in the dao of the sword.” Shang Jian sighed. “Moreover, the path of cultivation of the Providence Chapter of our clan is too narrow. I will never be able to train in the art of the sword ever again. As such, I chose to take my own path. I might be able to create a sword inheritance, opening another path for disciples of the Shang Clan in the future.”

A resolute look could be seen in Xu Huizhu’s eyes and she muttered gently, “I’ll support you no matter what happens!”

Shang Jian chuckled softly in response, “Soon. I’m at the very last step. Once I step through this bottleneck and enter the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm, I’ll be able to leave behind my inheritance for the clan. It might not be as good as the Providence Inheritance, but it will be a lot easier to train in. In order to become a truly great clan, we need several inheritances. The Providence Inheritance might be powerful, but it’s too difficult to train in. It might become some sort of restriction for our clan instead.”

Xu Huizhu nodded, however, she soon whispered, “What about... What about Dong’er and Bei’er?”

“Relax.” Shang Jian watched on as another ray of spear light shot into the skies. This time, it was multi-colored. “Duan Hong will start crafting his low-grade spear soon...”

...

Not too far away from their courtyard, Shang Yang had similarly been attracted by the spear light shooting into the skies. However, he managed to address one of the attendants who had been following him all that while. “Where’s my wife and kids?”

“This... Madam and the two young masters have already arrived at the border connecting the Ji and You Continents. They'll only be able to arrive in a few more days. After all...”

“Hmph.” Shang Yang's expression sank and he growled, “They're probably not too willing to come over and are doing everything in their power to drag their journey out.”

His attendant replied cautiously, “Madam is from the Ji Continent originally and the two young masters lived in the Ji Continent all their lives... it's understandable that they don't wish to leave...”

“Hah, do they think the You Continent is some sort of garbage land compared to the Ji Continent?” Shang Yang snapped in irritation and continued, “Go tell them to hurry up. The longer they take, the more dangerous their journey will become...”

His attendant acknowledged before taking his leave.

Watching another multi-colored spear light shoot into the skies, Shang Yang called over another attendant and asked, “Did Duan Hong visit the Yifeng Pavilion earlier?”

“Ninth Master, Master Duan Hong did indeed head over to the Yifeng Pavilion. However, he had already taken his leave.”

Shang Yang nodded before adding another question, “Did Duan Hong say when he plans on starting the refinement of the spear?”

His attendant replied promptly, “Most of the attendants and disciples in the clan have been busy getting things ready. He should start in a few days...”

Waving his hand in the air, Shang Yang grunted in acknowledgment. “Hm. Alright, you can leave.”

Watching the multi-colored spear light dissipating, Shang Yang revealed a bitter smile while shaking his head. “Hehe, It's getting difficult to be this brat's uncle. How can I even think of obtaining benefits from that brat at this point in time?”

...

Shang Xia naturally didn't realize that his actions were well-evaluated by his two uncles.

Finally deciding to return to the institution after more than a month since his return from the battlefield between the two worlds, Shang Xia left the Shang Clan Manor.

“So... The training plaza in the Tongyou Institution would turn into a competition venue every afternoon with the disciples of other institutions challenging our members?” Shang Xia asked Yan Qi as he made his way over to the training plaza.

Following behind Shang Xia, Yan Qi quickly explained, “Yeah. The situation here took a turn for the better a while ago. They no longer targeted the students of the Tongyou Institution. Now, the plaza is a place where the disciples of the five institutions can exchange pointers freely. Sixth Young

Master, now that you entered the Martial Intent Realm, you shouldn't lower yourself to those weaklings who are plotting against you."

Stopping dead in his tracks, he turned to stare at Yan Qi. "Seventh Uncle, when did you change the way you address me too?"

"Oh, sorry, Young Master!" Yan Qi gasped.

Nodding slowly, Shang Xia continued on his way. "Even though they can only blame themselves for being weak when they lose to their opponents, I don't mind helping them out a little. Their behavior of blaming me is a little disgusting, but it's fine. I'm not petty enough to hold it against them. However, the disciples of the other institutions seemed to have gone overboard."

Yan Qi saw that Shang Xia had already made up his mind and knew that dissuading him to do whatever he was about to do wouldn't work. In the end, he could only remind Shang Xia softly at the side, "Since that's the case, Young Master, you should hold back a little in case you trouble Patriarch Shang and the higher-ups of the institution."

Chuckling softly, Shang Xia didn't say a word in response. Yan Qi was also unable to tell anything from his expression.

As the most famous student in the institution, the news of Shang Xia's return spread to every corner of the institution the moment he stepped through the gates.

When he arrived at the training plaza, every single student in the Outer and Inner Divisions had arrived. A portion of students from the upper division also made their appearance.

The news spread further and further, and the disciples of the other institutions made their way over as well. Many of them had different intentions in mind, but it didn't stop them from gathering at the training plaza in the Tongyou Institution.

By the time Shang Xia arrived, there was a brilliant battle going on in the middle of the plaza. As an inner disciple whose fame had risen sharply since his return from the battlefield between the two worlds, Dou Zhong became even more well-known as he was one of the one few who managed to defeat the geniuses of the other institutions.

The members of the institution would even argue that he was the source of their pride in the month that passed!

It was especially so for disciples of the outer division who were promoted with him. He received endless praise and support from his peers.

In the middle of the plaza, Dou Zhong sent out 21 consecutive stabs and every one contained a piercing chill that would jab deep into the bones of his opponent.

When he sent out his 22nd attack, his opponent was finally unable to withstand the effects of his sword art. As a disciple of the Yanmen Institution who was in the Martial Extremity Realm, he failed to hold his own against Dou Zhong, a disciple of the Tongyou Institution who had barely broken through to the Martial Extremity Realm. His forearms were frozen and he found it hard to keep his grip on his sword.

The 23rd sword was the one that ended it all. With a clatter, Dou Zhong's opponent's short sword fell to the ground.

“Great!” The cheers came from all directions in the plaza, but the atmosphere quickly changed. The cheers died down almost instantly as a formless pressure pressed down on everyone present.

“Many thanks for the pointers.” Even though Dou Zhong could feel the suffocating tension in the air, he had to say something to his opponent. His tone became gentle and he tried to give his opponent some tips for his recovery. “I apologize for the frosty qi that invaded your body. Due to the nature of my secret art, the icy qi might be a little too heavy for regular sparring. When you return, take three days to expel the icy qi in your body. Otherwise, you might be left with hidden injuries.”

The disciple who was defeated responded kindly when he saw that Dou Zhong had no intentions of insulting him after the battle and was even giving him advice on how to recover. “Dark Icy Sword, Dou Zhong. You really deserve your title. I accept my loss.”

After he left the plaza, Dou Zhong turned around only to realize that the entire plaza was flooded with people.

“What’s going on?! Don’t tell me...” Dou Zhong knew that his progress was rapid, and he made a name for himself in the institution. However, he also knew that he didn’t possess the reputation to gather so many disciples of all five institutions in the training plaza.

There was only one person who had the ability to do that currently!

“He’s here!”

A voice rang through the air and the crowded plaza quickly made a path. A familiar figure stepped into the plaza under the multitude of gazes from those present.

Chapter 242: Huang Xing of the Wuwei Institution

Basically, every single genius of the five institutions who had come to the Tongyou City was gathered in the training plaza by the time Shang Xia arrived.

If anyone else were to take Shang Xia’s place, they would probably be paralyzed with fear. Unfortunately, that was Shang Xia they were talking about! He managed to keep his calm in front of so many geniuses.

When he returned with the convoy of the Shang Clan more than a month ago, he defeated the star sword cultivators of the other four institutions in one go. The most terrifying part was that even the most talented inner disciple of the Jianmen Institution, Hou Yuchun, was defeated in a single blow!

The battle might have ended, but the effects it brought about still lingered in the minds of those present.

In the time that passed, many of the disciples of the other institutions who challenged the disciples of the Tongyou Institution did so because they felt that Shang Xia was too arrogant the other day. Due to his actions, he humiliated the other institutions. Conveniently forgetting that they were the ones who threatened the safety of the Shang Clan’s convoy in the first place, they decided to take

their anger out on the members of the Tongyou Institution. Naturally, none of them had the guts to go knocking at the Shang Clan Manor to challenge Shang Xia personally.

With the news of Shang Xia preparing to attack the bottleneck of the Martial Intent Realm spreading like wildfire. No one would dare to challenge the bottom line of the Shang Clan and the Tongyou Institution by interrupting his training at the crucial moment.

Of course, even if they did try to mess with his cultivation, none of them had the confidence to defeat him!

Under the gazes of those present, Shang Xia casually walked into the heart of the training plaza.

The path would get wider everywhere he passed, and other than the shuffling of feet, nothing else could be heard in the plaza.

At that moment, it was as though an invisible spotlight was directed straight on Shang Xia!

The aura around him, along with the dignified air that surrounded his entire being, seemed to create a formless pressure that descended on those present. The weaker ones even felt a sense of inferiority filling their heart.

Dou Zhong, who had just won his battle realized that he had subconsciously retreated to the corner to join the crowd.

The central region of the training plaza had been given entirely to Shang Xia, the glory that was supposed to belong to him was gone!

Even though Dou Zhong's expression was considerably calm, reluctance filled his heart. He clenched his fists so hard that his nails dug into his skin.

Arriving at the center of the training plaza, Shang Xia snapped his fan shut. He swept his gaze across those present and saw a multitude of gazes staring right back at him.

His voice transmitted perfectly through the air.

“Come.”

Other than the sounds of breathing, nothing else could be heard.

...

“If this keeps us, there's no need to battle! They're going to lose before it even starts...” Wei Zhongwen muttered.

The training plaza was built in the middle of various structures to begin with. In the higher floors of a building beside the plaza, several elders watched the scene of Shang Xia's entry.

After Wei Zhongwen spoke, he sighed deeply. A trace of worry could be heard in his voice.

“Suppressing the entire field... The divine sense of this newly advanced leader of his division can actually be so strong! He already surpassed whatever we were capable of when we were young.” Yu Chengjin added. The praise was truly genuine.

Wei Zhongwen raised an eyebrow in surprise, “Elder Yu and the rest of you, aren't you afraid that their dao heart will be affected if no one dares to step out against him?”

Yu Chengjin glanced at him from the corner of his eye and the smirk on his face told everyone that he wasn't afraid about the progression of the disciples of the Jianmen Institution at all.

Only a white-browed, black-bearded old man clad in feathered robes beside Wei Zhongwen chuckled at the side in explanation, "Mister Wei, you can rest assured. Many of our disciples went through life-or-death training. Even though he's able to suppress them right now, I believe none of our disciples will suffer a roadblock in their path of cultivation. They might be waiting for someone to take the lead before they try anything."

The elder who just spoke was called An Baimei. He was also a Martial Extermination Realm cultivator and he rushed over to take You Haibiao's place from the Beihai Institution.

Wei Zhongwen frowned in response as he didn't really believe what he said. He couldn't help but speak up again when he saw the calm look on their faces. "Even if they've been through some tough training, they have never been into the battlefield between the two worlds. Their mentality hasn't transformed under desperate circumstances against enemies of the other world. Now, their cultivation can't even match up to the kid! Look, Brother Ji, aren't you afraid that the other disciples of the institution will be affected?"

Without even looking at him, Ji Wenlong muttered, "If they can't even endure something like this, they should just back down now. They'll only be cannon fodder if they fight against the outsiders with their weak mental strength."

"This..." Wei Zhongwen was still hesitant, but he couldn't say anymore after seeing everyone else's attitude.

He cursed at all of them in his heart. The way the institutions trained their disciples was cruel indeed. The number of casualties reported by the Tongyou Institution in the battlefield between the two worlds was no secret. Compared to that hellhole, the various continents in the Azure Origin World seemed like paradise.

The White Deer Paradise he came from was truly considered a holy land of cultivation. After all, the conditions where they trained were much better than the five institutions who guarded the border regions. The experts who came from the White Deer Paradise were spread all over the world to extend their influence.

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The disciples in the plaza naturally had no idea that they were being watched by several Martial Extermination Realm experts.

As Shang Xia stood in the middle of the plaza, he was completely unperturbed by the various gazes thrown his way.

Finally, someone in the crowd lost their patience. Naturally, they couldn't stand Shang Xia's high and mighty stance.

"I'll go first!" A roar came from the back and shattered the silence.

When everyone turned to look at the source of the voice, they saw a tall and sturdy figure clad in a sheepskin coat striding out. He had a straightforward appearance, and he looked rather weathered. Holding a broadsword in his hand, he went straight for Shang Xia.

Before he could reach the center, his information had already spread through the audience.

“That’s the Far Reaching Sword, Huang Xing. He’s an inner disciple of the Weiwu Institution. When Ma Qi’s sword was grabbed by Shang Xia during the battle, he suffered endless humiliation. Now, Huang Xing is going to take revenge for him!”

As he dragged his broadsword across the plaza, a deep trail could be seen behind him.

“I am Huang Xing of the Weiwu Institution. Please advise me.”

Seeing the fellow who was half a head taller than him, Shang Xia muttered with an expressionless face. “Do you know that I have already entered the Martial Intent Realm?”

“Of course. Even though I’m only at the Martial Extremity Realm, I had to get a taste of your sword.” Huang Xing replied.

Seeing his forthright attitude, Shang Xia nodded seriously in response, “Alright. I have heard of your sword skills too. I’ll seal my cultivation to the large completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm. I hope Brother Huang will give it his all.”

Staring at Shang Xia in shock, Huang Xing gasped, “How... How can you tell that my cultivation is at the large completion stage?”

With a smile finding its way onto Shang Xia’s face, he casually stuck a talisman onto his body and his aura started to fade. “That’s not all I can tell. I also know that you’re a mere step away from entering the grand completion stage! I’m afraid your true motive is to use me as a grindstone for you to comprehend your martial extremity intent, right?”

Chapter 243: Pointers

“Hah... This crafty bastard actually hid his true level!” Some cultivators in the crowd who had crossed paths with him in the past yelled. The anger in their voice was apparent.

Huang Xing’s ‘innocent’ and ‘straightforward’ expression fell slightly as he waved his broadsword before him. “Please!”

Shang Xia twisted his wrist and a long sword appeared in his hand. Those who noticed what happened gasped in shock.

Spatial artifacts were still extremely rare objects. Even among Martial Intent Realm experts, it was really rarely seen, much less the disciples of the various institutions.

Seeing as a sword had already been in Shang Xia’s hand, Huang Xing didn’t say anymore. He started his assault. Twirling his sword, a formless sword light slashed towards Shang Xia.

Holding Jade Creek in his hand, Shang Xia turned most of his attention to his dantian.

Due to the presence of the restraining talisman, Shang Xia discovered that the small ball of chaos in his dantian had been sealed up for the time being.

However, the seal was paper thin. With a single thought, Shang Xia could shatter the seal instantly. The nature of the seal wasn't the problem. Instead, he was more interested to see if the ball of formless chaos in his dantian would transform back into the Yin Yang Diagram.

It was a shame he was bound to be disappointed. The Yin Yang Diagram was nowhere to be seen. Instead, he discovered that every strand of his inner qi seemed to contain traces of yin and yang. It could transform into any attribute he wanted!

Ever since his breakthrough, the Yin Yang Diagram and the tiny swords that symbolized his comprehension of the various sword intents transformed and fused together! He could use them anytime he wished. That was what happened when he entered the Martial Intent Realm previously.

As Huang Xing swung his broadsword, he unleashed seven slashes in the blink of an eye.

Every successive slash was stronger than the other, and as the sword light tore through the air, deep cuts could be seen in the ground below.

As the sword lights approached, Shang Xia finally moved! Waving his Jade Creek Sword lightly, each of the seven sword lights were shattered completely. That wasn't all. His sword seemed to cross space and it tapped directly on the body of Huang Xing's broadsword.

"Clang!" A deafening blast rocked through the air and Huang Xing's body trembled uncontrollably from the recoil.

Withdrawing his sword, Shang Xia also retreated slightly. When he finally stopped, he was several dozen feet away.

"You..." Huang Xing hadn't lost his grip on his sword, but there was a trace of unease in his eyes.

"A broadsword is fundamentally different from an epee. There's no need to play such games with me. Hurry up and show me your true strength." Shang Xia said indifferently. However, Huang Xing felt as though Shang Xia's words were a huge sledgehammer that slammed into his heart. At the same time, the crowd around them went wild.

Huang Xing was one of the most outstanding disciples from the Weiwu Institution during the 'exchange' with the disciples of the Tongyou Institution. In fact, he was ranked among the top even among the other institutions.

With his strength, many people couldn't block several strikes from him before they were defeated. There were even disciples who had reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm who had lost to him due to a moment of carelessness!

Practically everyone felt that he was training in light and heavy qi due to his technique. Not to mention the fact that he was waving a giant sword around.

From what Shang Xia mentioned, it seemed as though Huang Xing wasn't training in light and heavy qi at all! There were many people who doubted his judgment, but their suspicion quickly disappeared when they witnessed the following scene.

Huang Xing's expression sank as he changed his stance.

How deep was this fellow actually hiding?!

That was probably the thought that ran through the minds of those present. When they looked at his 'honest' and 'silly' appearance, many people realized that he had been hiding his true cultivation and martial arts all along!

Holding his broadsword in a reverse grip, his other hand held onto the blade of the sword, making it look more like a giant shield.

Releasing a loud roar, Huang Xing held the broadsword before him and charged towards Shang Xia.

Standing his ground, Shang Xia's inaction caused many people to feel slightly worried for him. If he was really hit by Huang Xing's reckless charge, he would really turn into meat paste.

When Huang Xing was barely three feet away from him, Shang Xia stabbed his sword forward. Not a trace of sword light was released, and there weren't any signs that he had released any sword qi.

It was a stab that couldn't be more ordinary!

The Jade Creek Sword which was barely longer than Shang Xia's forearm seemed to ignore all distance as the tip of the sword appeared directly in front of Huang Xing's forehead!

Huang Xing wasn't able to raise his sword to defend himself when Shang Xia's strike arrived.

It was at that moment Shang Xia realized how tyrannical the Shang Clan's Irregular Sword Art was. It was too damn amazing!

Even though a portion of the disciples currently watching the battle had reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm, and some of them had even entered the Martial Intent Realm, they couldn't help but gasp in admiration at Shang Xia's strike.

Shang Xia knew how frightening his sword art was, but he also knew that it wasn't enough to fully secure the victory.

A loud cry rang through the air and the sound of metal scraping followed. His sword was eventually deflected.

Sword light filled the air like fireworks as Huang Xing released 27 strikes in succession. Every slash was stronger and faster than the last.

His right hand was still holding on to his broadsword, but a second thinner sword could be seen in his left hand.

Slashing through the air quickly, he managed to force Shang Xia to take several steps back.

"This guy isn't training in the dao of light and heavy. He's training in the dao of speed! He's using fast and slow qi!"

"He can actually wield a sword with his left hand!"

“When did someone like him appear in the Weiwu Institution?!”

Gasps of shock filled the plaza as many people imagined themselves to be in Shang Xia’s position. Realizing that they would have lost instantly, they couldn’t help but sigh.

In the training plaza, Huang Xing looked as though he had finally gained the upper hand. However, those who knew what was actually going on could tell that Huang Xing’s attacks were flashy at best. It was extremely messy and there wasn’t much substance behind it.

Shang Xia might look to be at a disadvantage, but he was able to move leisurely across the battlefield. He could attack and retreat as he wished. The scene even reminded some of them when their teachers were holding classes.

“Something is wrong. Huang Xing is following the dao of speed, but why isn’t he releasing his broadsword? Won’t the large blade hamper his speed?” Several disciples quickly pointed out the abnormality.

Shang Xia, who seemed to be suppressed by Huang Xing, brought out another sword all of a sudden. He shattered the array of sword lights around him in the blink of an eye before rushing straight towards Huang Xing.

Once again, he simply stabbed straight ahead. Like before, there was nothing flashy about it.

Instinctively, Huang Xing raised his broadsword to protect himself.

“Clang!”

Once again, a clear ringing sound filled the air. This time, Huang Xing’s back was drenched in sweat.

Everyone could tell that Shang Xia didn’t put much effort into his last strike. Only the person facing him, Huang Xing, could tell that Shang Xia was showing mercy.

If Shang Xia chose to release his inner qi and send a sword light out towards Huang Xing, he would be dead before his sword could hit the floor.

Naturally, not many people in the plaza would be able to see Shang Xia’s intention. The same couldn’t be said when talking about Huang Xing’s secret.

“Offense and defense! This fellow wants to use the dao of speed to comprehend the dao of offense and defense!” Someone yelled.

Shang Xia finally broke his silence and reminded, “Do you still not understand? What’s the point in using your broadsword to defend yourself? The best defense is a strong offense!”

“So that’s it... That’s it!” Tossing his broadsword away, the glow around his thin sword became all the more resplendent.

The dao of speed and a sword boundary that consisted of offense and defense. Huang Xing finally understood the essence behind his sword intent! At that moment, he truly stepped into the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm!

Chapter 244: Invincible

Since the battle started, Shang Xia only used two strikes. One of them forced Huang Xing to reveal his true strength, and the other allowed Huang Xing to comprehend his sword intent.

The battle between the two was intense, but it barely took any time at all. Those who were watching couldn't believe that the battle was over. Many of them even hesitated and wondered if they should be cheering or not.

Shang Xia's two strikes were executed perfectly. He didn't utilize any sort of sword light, but they were more eye-catching than any type of sword light summoned by any of those present.

That was how it assisted Huang Xing in taking the final step. The perfected stabs found the weakness in his attacks, allowing him to find a way to patch up his weakness.

In order for something like that to happen, the difference between the two of them wasn't simply large. It was comparable to the distance between the heavens and the earth!

The moment Huang Xing stepped into the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm, he understood the difference between the two of them. Admitting defeat immediately, he thanked Shang Xia before taking his leave.

The disciples who were gathered in the plaza stared at Shang Xia with a burning gaze after watching how Huang Xing broke through with several pointers. The moment Huang Xing took his leave, countless disciples swarmed Shang Xia.

"I am Liao Qingfeng of the Beihai Institution. I hope to receive Chief Shang's pointers." A challenge rang through the air and the disciple who spoke leaped into the air. A pair of familiar-looking copper truncheons slammed down towards Shang Xia's skull.

Shang Xia clearly didn't expect his simple actions of pointing out some flaws in Huang Xing's cultivation technique to cause so many people to challenge him.

Out of the five institutions, the Tongyou Institution was the only one with a 3-6 years education period. The other four institutions had different ways of nurturing their students.

Unlike the Tongyou Institution with outer, inner, and upper divisions, the other institutions focused more on their disciple's cultivation level. They might be split into ordinary, elite, and even direct disciples of various teachers.

Whatever it was, the greatest difference between their methods and those of the Tongyou Institution was that the Tongyou Institution could churn out many more experts every year. Now that they experienced a huge victory in the battlefield between the two worlds, they would expand their intake of students immediately while lowering the barrier of advancing into the inner and upper decisions respectively.

The other institutions were more focused on the quality of their disciples. They poured resources into promising disciples despite their already huge disciple base. Disciples would face a huge barrier when they tried to be promoted to the next level. That was also the reason disciples of the other institutions would become desperate after staying at their current level for a long time. They wanted nothing more than to improve themselves!

That was the reason behind their enthusiasm after they saw how Shang Xia assisted Huang Xing in breaking through his bottleneck. Liao Qingfeng was clearly someone who thought he was smarter than the rest by attacking without any warning. He felt that Shang Xia would have to fight him now that he struck first.

He was clearly stupid. His actions only caused Shang Xia to feel unhappy.

Willingness to point Huang Xing in the correct direction was one thing, but becoming a stepping stone for others to challenge as they like in order to break through was another.

Without any intention to give Liao Qingfeng any pointers at all, he simply sent out a ray of sword light in response.

As Liao Qingfeng slammed his truncheons downwards, the world around him started spinning. Before he knew it, his weapon was flying through the air. In his state of shock, he felt another wave of energy slamming into him and he was soaring through the air before he knew it.

It took barely a breath of time before he was sent flying. There were many people who didn't even know what happened.

However, Liao Qingfeng's actions started a chain reaction. A second cultivator soon jumped out at Shang Xia.

“Zheng Huaiwen of the Yanmen Institution requests your teachings, Chief Shang!” His attack was slightly more insidious than Liao Qingfeng. In the air, two flying needles shot out at Shang Xia.

With his palm trembling slightly, Shang Xia drew a circle in the air with his Jade Creek Sword. A ball of energy surrounded the needles. When that happened, the space around them seemed to turn solid and the needles found it hard to advance.

In the next instant, they were sent flying back.

Zheng Huaiwen, who was in mid air, found it impossible to dodge. He could only throw two more needles out to deflect the ones he threw earlier. Sparks flew through the air when the needles collided.

Even then, Zheng Huaiwen's expression changed drastically and he forcefully circulated his inner qi. Risking inner injuries, he twisted his body to the side.

Two soft hisses passed his ear and two tiny holes appeared in his clothes. Flailing unsteadily through the air, he crashed into the ground below.

Just like that, he dealt with Zheng Huaiwen with one move.

Now, even more people came. The instant Zheng Huaiwen hit the ground, the third person appeared. “Su Yufei of the Jianmen Institution...”

“Jia Junle of the Wuwei Institution...”

“Junior Brother Shang, take my blade!”

Shang Xia couldn't be bothered with the first two. However, the last one really ticked him off.

A trace of irritation filled Shang Xia's heart.

“What’s this?! Do you think this granddaddy here is opening some charity breakthrough center?! You guys are stuck in your own bottleneck, what the fuck do I have to do with it?!” He didn’t wish to be bothered by everyone the entire time, and a strange rage filled his heart. A silver light emerged from his Jade Creek Sword and it spun once around him.

In the next instant, countless sword lights and strands of sword qi erupted with Shang Xia as the center and flooded outwards. It filled the space around him.

The three of them who leaped out at him felt the blood draining from their faces as they closed their eyes to await death. Due to the shock they felt, they completely forgot to dodge.

As the torrent of sword lights closed in on them, they turned illusory and dissipated before causing any real harm.

Only then did most people in the plaza discover the changes in the battlefield. Only a few blind souls decided to continue charging towards Shang Xia.

With the frustration in his heart reaching its peak, the restriction talisman Shang Xia placed on himself finally fell off. His strength reached the peak instantly as bolts of lightning emerged from the tip of his sword. It formed a giant web that enclosed the area thirty feet around him, forcing everyone back.

#### Chapter 245: Boss Fight

Seeing as everyone was trying to get him to assist them, Shang Xia decided to deal with everyone with one simple move. After forcing them back, they no longer dared to make a rash move.

As the lightning slowly dissipated, the Jade Creek Sword in his hand disappeared. Shang Xia swept his gaze across the entire plaza and those who dared to meet his eyes were Martial Intent Realm cultivators.

Silence returned to the plaza once again.

“Everyone.” Shang Xia spoke, drawing everyone’s attention once again. “I’ve been in seclusion this whole time and I heard that led to many misunderstandings between the disciples of the other institutions and students of our Tongyou Institution. Now that I have emerged from my seclusion, I am here to clear up these misunderstandings. I can’t do this alone. I hope you are also willing to cooperate with me, and those who hope to break through by challenging me can refrain from stepping out. I don’t have time to play around with you guys. Why don’t the various senior brothers and sisters here who have entered the Martial Intent Realm step out instead?”

The moment he spoke, the expressions of many disciples of the Tongyou Institution turned complicated.

In the days that passed, Shang Xia had been getting ready for his breakthrough. The most talented disciples of the Tongyou Institution were mostly stationed in the battlefield between the two worlds and were unable to return on short notice. As such, most of the disciples left in the institution had

been mercilessly suppressed by the disciples of the other institutions. They were in a miserable state indeed.

One had to know that they were currently in the Tongyou Institution! Being suppressed in their home turf wasn't exactly a glorious matter.

That was precisely the reason why they had a really bad impression of Shang Xia. They felt that he wasn't taking responsibility for the trouble he had caused.

Even though he had been preparing to enter the Martial Intent Realm, many disciples still felt that he was using it as an excuse to avoid taking responsibility for the situation.

Despite their feelings, many of them subconsciously anticipated the scene where he suppressed the disciples of the other institutions when he arrived. Even though their gazes were filled with disgust, they were silently hoping for him to deal with the injustice they were facing. They wanted nothing more than for him to teach them a serious lesson.

The contradiction caused many of their expressions to change now that he was challenging the Martial Intent Realm experts of the other institutions.

When he appeared, he suppressed his cultivation to the large completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm and managed to defeat Huang Xing in two strikes. That wasn't the end. Not only did he defeat the other party, but his moves also allowed Huang Xing to be enlightened, stepping into the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm. Next, he easily dealt with several disciples of the other institutions jumping out at him.

With his strength, he suppressed the entire plaza singlehandedly, venting the frustrations the disciples of the Tongyou Institutions had been festering in their bellies for the past month or so.

Cheers for him eventually emerged from the lips of several disciples of the Tongyou Institution. They only fell short of calling him their invincible leader.

...

When Shang Xia challenged the Martial Intent Realm disciples of the other institutions, the Martial Extermination Realm experts who were observing the situation silently in the building beside the plaza started their discussion again.

"This kid seems to be a little cocky now that he defeated several Martial Extremity Realm disciples in succession. Hmph, didn't he break through not long ago?" Elder An Baimei of the Beihai Institution frowned.

He didn't like disciples who liked to show off. In fact, he preferred those who progressed steadily while maintaining their humble attitude.

In his eyes, Shang Xia's actions were a little too presumptuous.

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Speaking of breaking through not too long ago, Han Chongwei of the Weiwu Institution from the Liang Continent also entered the Martial Extermination Realm not too long ago. He had a fierce and mighty appearance, but in reality, he was the most junior member among those present.

When he heard what Elder An said, he chose to express his displeasure too. “Hah, when he kid sealed his cultivation earlier, not even Martial Intent Realm disciples will be able to match up to him. Now that he released the seal on his cultivation, he’s even stronger than before.”

Glancing at Han Chongwei from the corner of his eye, An Baimei muttered indifferently, “Elder Han, do you not have confidence in your own disciples? The difference between cultivators in the Martial Extremity Realm and the Martial Intent Realm is huge, much less the distance between a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator and one in the Martial Intent Realm. He might be an outstanding disciple at the Martial Extremity Realm, but after entering the Martial Intent Realm, he might not be stronger than those who had consolidated their foundations and reached higher accomplishments. Which one of our disciples here isn’t geniuses? Do you think ordinary Martial Intent Realm cultivators can compare to them? Much less some kid who barely broke through.”

Chuckling in response, Han Chongwei decided not to argue with An Baimei.

Deputy Patriarch Yu Chengjin of the Jianmen Institution of the Shu Continent spoke up at that moment to address Ji Wenlong. “Brother Ji, what do you think?”

A smile appeared on Ji Wenlong’s face as he laughed in amusement, “They’re just kids playing around, why do we care so much about who’s going to come out on top?”

Chang Huaiwu of the Yanmen Institution from the Bing Continent turned to Ji Wenlong with a crafty smile and suggested, “Since that’s the case, why don’t we make a few friendly wagers?”

...

Due to the lack of bountiful resources, the Tongyou Institution focused on letting their students fend for themselves. The other institutions had a different way of education. When the disciples of the other institutions reached a certain level, the path of advancement would become fairly narrow.

The method the other institutions adopted was to focus on inheritances. Elite disciples would accept a teacher and receive their inheritance.

Even though the higher leveled disciples of the other four institutions took a huge hit in numbers, those who remained were able to experience a rapid increase in strength once they received their teacher’s inheritance. They would also be specially nurtured by the institution, allowing them to maintain a high level of combat strength.

When Shang Xia challenged the Martial Intent Realm disciples of the four institutions, four individuals stepped out.

One had to know that they were currently in the Tongyou City. There was no way the other institutions brought everyone they had. With four of them present, the difference between the institutions was clear.

The number of disciples in the upper division of the Tongyou Institution who had reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm was high. However, Shang Xia only knew one of those who had broken through to the Martial Intent Realm recently, Sun Haiwei.

Before he returned from the battlefield between the two worlds, he heard that Tian Mengzi was preparing to attack the bottleneck of the Martial Intent Realm too. However, he hadn’t heard anything since. He wondered if Tian Mengzi succeeded.

Despite the difference in teaching styles between the Tongyou Institution and the other four institutions, one couldn't say that the Tongyou Institution was worse. After all, the institution had a rule to state the longest one could remain as a student was six years. There were many who completed their education in the Tongyou Institution in three short years, and they would leave to begin their own adventures.

The disciples of the other institutions were clearly receiving different treatment. Elite disciples who found a master in the institution could remain for a long time. As long as their master didn't recognize their ability and strength, they wouldn't be allowed to graduate.

That was the reason behind the lack of Martial Intent Realm disciples in the Tongyou Institution. In contrast, Martial Intent Realm disciples were easily seen in the other institutions.

Seeing the four disciples who came from their respective institutions, Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in surprise. "How may I address senior brothers and sisters?"

"Disciple of the Jianmen Institution, Song Yuzhi."

"Yanmen Institution, Qin Daxing."

"I am Tan Xinya of the Beihai Institution."

"Ma Jianfan of the Weiwu Institution."

Chapter 246: On the Verge of Breaking Out

With Shang Xia in the mix, there was a Martial Intent Realm disciple from each institution present.

"Why would Chief Shang call all of them out at the same time? Don't tell me he plans to challenge them all on his own?"

"Hmph, this guy is getting too cocky. Does he think that he's unbeatable in the Martial Intent Realm? There's always someone stronger out there! It's time for someone to put him in his place."

"He's strong in the Martial Extremity Realm, but that doesn't make him unbeatable in the Martial Intent Realm. The strength of their divine sense has nothing to do with their previous cultivation anyway."

"That's right. There were too many previous cases of cultivators who dominated their peers at the Martial Extremity Realm but failed to adapt when they entered the Martial Intent Realm. They couldn't take the sudden change and turned into wastrels. Comparatively, there were unknown Martial Extremity Realm cultivators who condensed a powerful divine sense after breaking through."

"Hah, for someone like Shang Xia who's backed by the Shang Clan, his journey of cultivation has been smooth sailing. There are countless experts helping him out in the open and in the dark. He hasn't been through any dangerous situations... He won't be able to form a powerful divine sense!"

“Yeah, you’re right!”

“Don’t forget, the Martial Intent Realm disciples of the other institutions are definitely geniuses if they were sent to represent their institution in our Tongyou City. They can’t be weak.”

“Exactly! Not to mention that Shang Xia is the youngest of the five. The others are at least several years older than him. Even though cultivation isn’t really about age, they definitely experienced more than him. Hah, it has barely been half a month since Shang Xia entered the Martial Intent Realm. That’s not enough time to consolidate his foundations. There’s no way he had time to practice a martial art fit for cultivators at the Martial Intent Realm.”

“...”

...

As those standing around whispered under their breath about Shang Xia, the five Martial Intent Realm disciples standing in the middle of the training plaza started their exchange in the dark.

Shang Xia stood in the very center, with the four disciples from the other institutions surrounding him in all four directions.

Their positions gave Shang Xia a huge disadvantage as he wouldn’t be able to focus the entirety of his divine sense on any one person but they could easily pressure him in unison.

However, he was able to remain unperturbed even in the face of the four of them. That alone shocked them.

Even though the four of them looked calm, the impression of Shang Xia they had in their heart increased by several times.

Testing each other out with their divine senses was only an initial probe. At the very best, it allowed them to gauge each other’s strengths.

If they truly wanted to decide upon a victor, they could only do so through battle.

A casual light flashed through Shang Xia’s eyes. Even though he looked relaxed, his nerves were taut. Of course, he had to maintain his appearance. “Since senior brothers and sisters have taken the chance to show themselves, let’s decide on how we should do this. Why don’t we establish who goes first?”

Tan Xinya of the Beibai Institution was known for her straightforward attitude. She was naturally the first to speak. “We’ll follow the intentions of the host here. After all, you called us out here. You should decide on how to proceed.”

“I only entered the Martial Intent Realm recently and I’ve been wanting to receive pointers from all of you here. Since Senior Sister Tan said so...” Shang Xia muttered.

However, someone interrupted him before he could finish his sentence. “Junior Brother Shang, don’t tell me you’re planning to challenge us one by one?”

A frown formed on Shang Xia's face. He turned to look at the person who spoke. "Senior Brother Qin, I wonder what advice you have for me?"

Cupping his hands together, Qin Daxing laughed, "Junior Brother Shang, you exaggerate. Regardless, it's difficult for all of us to be gathered together. If we fight you one by one, you'll achieve your goals. However, we won't get anything in return. Why don't we fight a free for all instead? Last man standing wins!"

Song Yushu of the Jianmen Institution ran his fingers through his hair and said indifferently, "Sounds good to me."

However, Ma Jianfan didn't look so good. His eyebrows were furrowed tightly together and he asked, "The idea sounds good, but it's a little inappropriate, isn't it? It might sound like a good idea, and I'm sure we would really get a kick out of a battle royale like that, but there are only five of us. If anyone forms an alliance to get rid of any party, won't that be unfair for the person eliminated?"

Taking a second to think about it, Tan Xinya continued, "It's easy! If it ever becomes a two-on-one, they can only exchange three moves at best! If it's a three-on-one, they can only exchange two moves! If it ever becomes a four-on-one, the victorious side will be decided in one move. The side that breaks the rule will be eliminated."

Tan Xinya's explanation was simple, but everyone was able to understand how the battle would be carried out.

When exchanging pointers, no one dictated that only one on one battles could be fought. A messy and chaotic battle was also one of the ways cultivators used to train themselves. Naturally, there would be rules set by earlier cultivators who adopted the tactic.

The rules that Tan Xinya set were actually rules that were adopted by Martial Intent Realm cultivators whenever they chose such a chaotic mode of battle.

Since that was settled, Tan Xinya flashed a toothy smile at Shang Xia. "I wonder if Junior Brother Shang finds it acceptable?"

Seeing as everyone had already come to a conclusion without him getting an input until that very moment, he knew that there was no way of rejecting it. He chuckled in response, "Sure."

Song Yushu of the Jianmen Institution spoke up yet again. "Wait. There's another problem. This place isn't suitable for the five of us to spar."

The training plaza might be several hundred feet long and reinforced with some type of formation, but it could only withstand the might of cultivators in the Martial Extremity Realm and below.

Once Martial Intent Realm cultivators started manipulating the heaven and earth qi, the power contained in their blows would become a lot more terrifying. There was no way the training plaza could withstand the shockwaves of their battle, much less the lower-leveled cultivators in the crowd.

As the words left his lips, several runes appeared in the air around them.

Gasps of fright could be heard, but the runes that filled the air didn't stop. As the runes slowly linked with one another, the heaven and earth qi started to gather around the plaza. It formed a giant screen that surrounded the five Martial Intent Realm cultivators.

“Our Tongyou Institution might not possess a strong foundation, but we can at least create a space for Martial Intent Realm cultivators to spar.” A voice came from afar and students who recognized it could tell that it belonged to Ji Wenlong.

As soon as he spoke, the space within the formation started to expand. The distance between the five people in the formation increased greatly.

The crowd in the plaza quickly quietened down and the five Martial Intent Realm cultivators got ready for battle.

Retrieving his low-grade Waning Moon Spear from his Embroidered Cloud Case, Shang Xia grasped it firmly in his hands.

Tan Xinya’s weapon was a pair of foldable hooks.

Song Yushu pulled out his sword that he slung on his back, and the body of the blade resembled the finest of jade.

As for Song Daxing, his weapon was a nine segmented metal mace that he held on his right shoulder.

Ma Jianfan, the last of the four, pulled out a hatchet that had a weirdly exaggerated bit.

The battle between the five Martial Intent Realm disciples of the various institutions was about to begin!

Chapter 247: Mad Suppression

When the spatial formation was complete, Shang Xia and the other four Martial Intent Realm disciples moved at the same time.

The moment they did, the only thing Shang Xia wanted to do was to curse out loud. All four of them chose him as their first target!

Shang Xia would rather beat himself to death than to believe that the four of them didn’t plan it in advance.

Shang Xia wasn’t the only one who was surprised by the sudden assault. The disciples crowding the plaza broke out into clamor.

It was especially so for the disciples of the Tongyou Institution. Even those who didn’t like Shang Xia to begin with, couldn’t help but curse out loud.

The four of them attacked Shang Xia together the moment it started. Didn’t that show that they wanted to kick him out immediately?

Naturally, there was a reason behind their actions. His position was too sensitive. He stood in the middle of the four before the battle started. If all of them chose to attack the closest target, he would be the best choice.

Luckily for Shang Xia, he would only have to take a single strike due to the rules of the duel. The four of them wouldn’t be able to continue their joint assault on Shang Xia if he managed to hold on. Well, at the very least they couldn’t do so in the short term.

The key to the entire thing was whether Shang Xia could take on the combined strike of the four. Unlike most of the Martial Intent Realm cultivators Shang Xia ran into in the past, those four were the elites of the other institutions. They were nurtured using a lot of effort and resources. Almost all of them could leap ranks and defeat those with cultivation bases slightly higher than themselves. At the very least, they were comparable to Dongfang Mingyu of the Rose Party.

In such a critical situation, Shang Xia forced himself to remain calm.

His divine sense that had spread in all four directions earlier returned to him.

With his divine sense concentrated in one place, he quickly regained his mobility. The four of them felt as though he became as slippery as a fish in the water. Even with their divine sense operating at full power, they couldn't lock on to him.

“He is extremely adept with his inner qi and the use of his divine sense. How can someone who just entered the Martial Intent Realm do that?”

The same thought flashed in the minds of the four.

It was the exact same moment Shang Xia made his move. Stabbing Tan Xinya with his Waning Moon Spear, he released his divine sense to lock on to her at the same time. His inner qi raced through his body and he quickly entered a miraculous state. He became one with his spear, and he ignored the others.

With the way he was acting, it seemed as though he was going to drag one of them down with him no matter what happened.

At that instant, the battle became less about pure strength. It became one of willpower!

It would be difficult for him to fight all four of them alone. However, it was certain that he could take any one of them down if it was just them alone.

With his complete focus on her, Tan Xinya eventually decided to retreat.

Because of that short hesitation from her, the cooperation among the four broke down instantly.

That was what he had been aiming for in the first place.

Tan Xinya wasn't willing to be sent out of the battle by Shang Xia immediately, but the same went for Shang Xia. There was no way he could accept being defeated the moment the battle started.

Shang Xia finally comprehended the first move in his Providence Spear Art!

Piercing the void, a ray of light was left behind. The strike he just unleashed had reached the peak level! It also traveled extremely quickly.

With a trace of hesitation from Tan Xinya, the sword light forcefully tore a void through their fighting formation.

The heaven and earth qi contained in their spatial battlefield trembled violently as ripples appeared on the surface of the barrier separating them from the outside world.

In the eyes of those in the plaza, the five figures contained within started to distort. However, no one dared to chuckle. Instead, they were feeling a little resentful about the fragility of the barrier.

They weren't the only ones as the Martial Extermination Realm experts were also feeling a little annoyed due to the lack of visibility.

With the Martial Extermination Realm elders stepping in to stabilize the protection screen, it quickly regained its calm. No matter how much the heaven and earth qi fluctuate, the protection screen didn't waver in the slightest. The battle between the five unfolded clearly in front of everyone's eyes.

Inside, Shang Xia seemingly managed to take advantage of the gap to escape. However, the truth was that he only avoided Tan Xinya's hooks. The three other weapons were still flying his way.

With his previous actions, he only managed to change the situation from a four-on-one to a three-on-one!

There was no hiding or running away, he had to take the three of them on at the same time.

Waving his spear, another ray of spear light emerged. It was the second move he comprehended, but it hadn't been perfected yet.

His attack was fast, but it was different from his first.

His first attack was called Rift Crossing, and he was able to find any weakness in his opponent's stance.

His second move was called the Lightning Stonefire. The principle behind it was brute force. It allowed him to use his Origin True Qi to its greatest strength.

This time, he was going to meet their attacks head-on!

A massive spear light bloomed in front of him like a flower, forming three separate offensives.

Three loud blasts rang through the air as the spear light slammed heavily into Song Yushu's sword, Qin Daxing's mace, and Ma Jianfan's axe.

All three spear lights he summoned were real. Moreover, all of them contained a strand of his Origin True Qi!

It was terrifying enough that he managed to repel all their attacks! With the three of them being flung through the air from the recoil, an uneasy look appeared in their eyes when they looked at Shang Xia again.

Stopping all three of them at the same time proved how powerful he was. His tyrannical strength caused them to look at him in a different light.

Naturally, Shang Xia exerted a lot of energy in order to release his second strike. When he took several steps back, he turned deathly pale. However, he quickly recovered.

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The spectators surrounding them released several cries in shock, and chaotic discussions broke through the crowd.

A portion of them was shocked that Shang Xia could hold the three of them back alone. After all, the three of them were elite cultivators at the Martial Intent Realm! They wondered how powerful Shang Xia truly was. If the strength he displayed was something he could unleash at will, his chances of winning just skyrocketed!

The other portion was extremely suspicious. In fact, they were also starting to panic. The bulk of disciples who made up that group were the disciples of the other four institutions. However, they rejoiced when they saw his reaction after taking on the three's combined strike. They felt that he was an arrow at the end of his flight.

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"Damn, that's an amazing strike!" Several Martial Extermination Realm experts managed to see through the intricacies of his previous strike.

Chapter 248: Domination Continues

"What martial art is he using? He just summoned a spear light that blossomed into three different attacks that struck the sword, mace, and axe!

Han Chongwei of the Wuwei Institution gasped in admiration when he saw the intricacies behind Shang Xia's attack.

"Providence Spaer... It's the Shang Clan's inheritance. Everyone in the Shang Clan who trained in it would be able to comprehend a technique unique to themselves." Chang Huaiwu said.

Chang Huaiwu of the Yanmen Institution had a great relationship with those from the Weiwu Institution due to the cooperative relationship between the two institutions. His personality was pretty easygoing, and he looked like a kind old man.

"Oh? Is there really such a miraculous spear inheritance?" Han Chongwei raised his eyebrows in shock.

"Becoming one with the spear... Did he really just enter the Martial Intent Realm? Not even seasoned cultivators in the Martial Intent Realm will be able to reach such a level.' An Baimei added from the side. He was clearly impressed.

Wei Zhongwen who came from the White Deer Paradise nodded and evaluated in a serious tone, "This kid's divine sense is extremely solid. He seems to have a huge reserve of inner qi too. He could withstand the consumption of inner qi to send out three of those spears at the same time. If no one told us, we wouldn't believe that he just entered the Martial Intent Realm."

Ji Wenlong who had been quiet all that while finally spoke up, "That brat's using this chance to transform his residual inner qi that he gathered in the Martial Extremity Realm.

"Brother Ji, don't tell me his inner qi hasn't been fully transformed?! He could summon three spears like that while converting his Martial Extremity Realm inner qi to his Martial Intent Realm inner qi... How terrifying is that?" Chang Huaiwu asked.

"Well, he's transforming it very quickly." Ji Wenlong muttered.

"Indeed. It's hard to believe he can do something like that!" Yu Chengjin shook his head and whispered softly.

Returning to his usual serious self, Ji Wenlong continued, “When he was in the Martial Extremity Realm, the quality of his inner qi was exceptionally pure...”

“Brother Ji, do you mean that the kid’s inner qi already possessed the properties of a Martial Intent Realm cultivator’s inner qi when he was only at the Martial Extremity Realm? Is that how he’s able to transform it so quickly?” Yu Chengjin followed up with a question.

Hesitating slightly, Ji Wenlong nodded his head.

A sigh escaped An Baimei’s lips. “This kid isn’t simple... I’m afraid his true intention isn’t to decide a victor among the five of them. He’s probably using them as his grindstone to accelerate the conversion of his inner qi!”

Everyone’s expression changed when they heard what An Baimei said.

...

Forcing the three of them to retreat with one spear, Shang Xia felt a sense of weakness. The amount of Origin True Qi in his body nearly couldn’t keep up with his consumption. After all, he used two moves in a row! With the void in his dantian due to the expenditure of his Origin True Qi, the remnant Yin Yang Essence Qi started to transform.

Traces of Origin True Qi started to gather in his dantian as they completed their transformation.

After pushing himself to the limit, the transformation of his inner qi accelerated. Shang Xia couldn’t help but sigh. Actual combat was truly the best way to stabilize one’s foundations.

When he tried converting his inner qi in secluded cultivation, the efficiency was nowhere near comparable to what he was doing now.

Of course, that wasn’t the time to think about how quickly he was improving. The battle at hand was the more pressing matter.

After Shang Xia pushed the three of them back, Tan Xinya, who he had dealt with earlier, came back into the action.

However, her target this time wasn’t Shang Xia. Instead, she leaped towards Song Yushu who was the closest to her.

With her hooks carving strange lines in the air, two rays of frosty light turned into a giant pair of phantom hooks in the air that slashed towards Song Yushu.

When the giant hook in the air formed by the surrounding heaven and earth qi did their thing, her actual weapon went for Song Yushu’s sword.

The moment his sword was bogged down by her relentless assault, his combat strength would decrease by a huge half!

In actuality, she could easily rally the other three and launch another attack on Shang Xia. After all, he broke up their cooperation earlier by separating Tan Xinya. He only took on three of them at once and joining hands again to attack Shang Xia was within the rules.

However, none of them were shameless enough to do that. As elite disciples of their respective institutions, they could somewhat explain the fact that they joined hands to attack Shang Xia the moment the battle started. They could chalk it off as an attempt to intimidate him, but if they tried it again after their previous failure, everyone could tell that they were targeting him specifically.

When that happened, they would be the ones embarrassing themselves and their institutions.

No matter how much they wanted to defeat Shang Xia, they couldn't make their move at that moment! Their pride wouldn't allow it!

That was why Tan Xinya went for Song Yushu instead.

Song Yushu wasn't surprised by Tan Xinya's sudden attack. In fact, he was ready for it.

As a disciple of the Jianmen Institution, he was an accomplished sword cultivator. There was no way he would allow anyone to restrict the movement of his sword.

Responding with a horizontal slash, a giant ray of sword light slammed against the giant hooks in the air.

The resulting blast forced Tan Xinya back, but Song Yushu couldn't escape unscathed either. He took several steps back unsteadily.

When that happened, Qin Daxing and Ma Jianfan continued their assault on Shang Xia.

Who would have thought that instead of taking their attacks passively this time, Shang Xia would take the initiative?

As he twirled the Waning Moon Spear in his hand, two streaks of spear light shot at them.

Ma Jianfan was in mid air when a lightning bolt fell towards his face. Unfortunately, it was sliced in two by a second axe that appeared in his hand.

Qin Daxing's nine segmented metal mace trembled and smashed apart the spear light before wrapping itself tightly around Shang Xia's Waning Moon Spear.

A burst of joy filled his heart and Qin Daxing yanked hard as he tried to pull Shang Xia's spear away. Even if he failed to force Shang Xia to release his weapon, he had to hinder his movements.

Tightening his grip on the Waning Moon Spear, Shang Xia sent a tyrannical surge of energy through the mace. Seven different types of energy wrapped themselves around the mace.

All Qin Daxing felt was a horrifying backlash and he didn't know how to neutralize Shang Xia's energy at all. He could only watch as his mace was sent flying.

Reacting quickly, he locked onto his weapon and dragged it back towards him. If not for his quick reaction to release his control over the whip to allow it to disengage from Shang Xia's spear, it might have been destroyed entirely!

Even though Shang Xia had changed the usage of his Seven Laceration Sword earlier to transform them into strands of qi that wrapped around Qin Daxing's mace, the power contained behind it was even stronger now that he was using Origin True Qi.

Shang Xia was surprised to discover that the seven different types of qi possessed some destructive capabilities to his opponent's weapons!

## Chapter 249: I'm Your Daddy

After Shang Xia comprehended his martial extremity intent, the Seven Laceration Sword, he discovered that he didn't need to use a sword to use his martial intent.

With the Waning Moon Spear in hand, Shang Xia could still unleash his martial extremity intent.

Of course, using the seven different types of qi was all he could do. There was no way to unleash a sword formation with his spear.

Forced to retreat, a trace of fear lingered in Qin Daxing's heart. Using the momentum of the backlash, he distanced himself from Shang Xia. At the same time, his mace whipped towards Song Yushu's back.

Despite being focused on Tan Xinya, Song Yushu wasn't oblivious to his surroundings. He felt a strange feeling coming from behind and he quickly leaped forward. Sending out 27 consecutive slashes. It stopped both Tan Xinya's hooks and Qin Daxing's mace.

Rolling on the ground after repelling their attacks, he cut a sorry figure.

Without Qin Daxing's assistance, Ma Jianfan was thrown into a sticky situation. He leaped backward in a state of panic as he tried to widen the distance between himself and Shang Xia while tossing out his axes as distraction.

As the five of them battled, less than three moves had been exchanged per person when Song Yushu, Ma Jianfan, and Qin Daxing felt a mighty sense of oppression. Before the battle, they were extremely confident in their strength. Now, they had no choice but to admit that none of them was a match for Shang Xia if they fought him alone!

No matter how reluctant they were to accept the fact, that was the truth of the matter.

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When they tried to imagine themselves in Shang Xia's place, they discovered that they wouldn't be able to escape without a scratch when facing the attack of three experts at their level.

They knew that Shang Xia was spent after so many consecutive exchanges, and one more attack would be all it took to defeat him. They might be able to continue attacking him under the rules they had set, but they would destroy their reputation in the process.

More importantly, the aim of their battle was to exchange pointers! It wasn't a life-or-death struggle.

As a result, Shang Xia was able to gain precious time to catch his breath. The inner qi in his body continued to transform into Origin True Qi.

Due to the fact that Shang Xia's Yin Yang Essence Qi was of extremely high quality, the transformation process became a lot smoother.

With Qin Daxing joining the skirmish between Tan Xinya and Song Yushu and Ma Jianfan retreating, no one bothered Shang Xia for now.

Casually picking up the axes that Ma Jianfan threw away, Shang Xia saw how Ma Jianfan drew two more axes from his sleeves. Instead of attacking Song Yushu who was currently being attacked by two other people, he went for Tan Xinya.

She could only choose to give up on her assault as she turned to face her new opponent.

According to the runes, Shang Xia couldn't remain idle. He had to attack someone.

No longer hesitating, his Waning Moon Spear swept outwards and a giant spear formed from heaven and earth qi shot outwards. It went towards the four of them and those watching couldn't help but gasp in shock. Was he planning to attack them at the same time?

Stopping their fight instantly, Qin Daxing and Song Yushu turned around to meet Shang Xia's spear.

Qin Daxing swung his mace and the segments separated slightly. They stabbed into different parts of Shang Xia's summoned spear. Grunting loudly, Qin Daxing sent some of his inner qi into his mace and shattered Shang Xia's spear light.

Qin Daxing's move seemed to be something he comprehended when he was in the Martial Extremity Realm, and it somewhat resembled Liu Qinglan's style.

The instant Shang Xia's spear light was broken, Song Yushu followed up. His sword stabbed towards Shang Xia and borrowed the heaven and earth qi that scattered due to the destruction of his spear light. A huge illusory sword appeared in the air before it chopped down towards Shang Xia.

Before the sword could land, Song Yushu saw Shang Xia twisting his wrist slightly. A cold light emerged from his sleeves and clashed against the sword light in the air.

A soft ring could be heard and a ray of frosty light in the air stopped momentarily. The appearance of Shang Xia's Jade River Sword was revealed and it drew a beautiful arc through the skies. It seemed to possess a mind of its own as it sent a streak of qi towards Song Yushu without anyone's control.

"Defensive Sword Art?!" Song Yushu revealed a look of shock.

As a disciple of the institution that specialized in the way of the sword, Song Yushu was clear about what a defensive sword art was. That was also the reason he was shocked by Shang Xia's sudden revelation. It was extremely difficult to practice a sword art like that, and in order to bring out its full potential, one had to be in the Martial Extermination Realm.

When Song Yushu was about to unleash his own technique to break Shang Xia's sword art, the glow around the Jade River Sword expanded yet again. When he slashed horizontally to block Shang Xia's incoming strike, the Jade River Sword seemed to teleport and it appeared in front of his face, forcing him into a dangerous situation.

Luckily for him, he was a seasoned cultivator. He didn't panic and at the last second, he released his grip on his sword. A strand of sword qi emerged from his fingers and landed directly on the Jade River Sword.

A loud blast rang through the air as Shang Xia's sword was sent flying. With the threat dealt with, Song Yushu managed to retrieve his sword.

Naturally, Shang Xia's Jade River Sword wasn't done there. In the blink of an eye, it recovered and shot towards Song Yushu. As the man and sword exchanged close to twenty blows in a few breaths of time, sword qi filled the battlefield and the crowd outside the barrier gasped in shock.

After several more moves, Song Yushu finally managed to suppress the Jade River Sword. He was about to strike it down when a voice rang in his ears. “Song Yushu, what do you think you’re doing?!”

Raising his head in fright, he discovered Shang Xia smashing his spear heavily into Qin Daxing’s mace. The powerful blow sent Qin Daxing flying out of the barrier.

Without anyone’s assistance, Qin Daxing was easily defeated by Shang Xia.

To summarize what happened earlier, Shang Xia used three moves to send Qin Daxing flying. His first move shattered Qin Daxing’s martial extremity intent, his second move overpowered Qin Daxing’s martial art he practiced in the Martial Intent Realm. His third move was the one witnessed by Song Yushu.

It seemed as though Qin Daxing of the Yanmen Institution was the first to be eliminated in the battle royale among the Martial Intent Realm disciples!

#### Chapter 250: The Dust Settles

According to the rules, when it was a four against one, the party that outnumbered the other could only make one move. Two moves when it was a three against one and three moves when it was a two against one. Once the attack failed, they would have to change their target immediately.

Shang Xia fought one against two and suppressed Qin Daxing with his spear while sending out his Jade River Sword to keep Song Yushu busy. However, their exchange had already broken the three moves rule.

No one expected the two of them to be the ones suppressed instead! The rule was there to prevent anyone from intentionally suppressing an individual, but it no longer mattered when the individual was able to take down the two of them! If they wanted to take technicalities into account, Shang Xia only used three moves to kick Qin Daxing out of the arena. Song Yushu was fighting with a sword so that technically didn’t count.

Naturally, neither of them would be thick skinned enough to complain about him breaking the rules. They might find it hard to accept the loss, but being a sore loser would affect their reputation much more negatively.

That was precisely the reason why Qin Daxing stood silently outside the area for a full minute before chuckling to himself under his breath. Turning around, he left without saying a word.

He didn’t even bother staying behind to watch the ongoing battle.

Since his ally had been kicked out of the arena, Song Yushu knew that he wouldn’t be Shang Xia’s opponent. He immediately turned to join the chaotic battle between Tan Xinya and Ma Jianfan.

Similarly, the two who were embroiled in a tough battle intentionally moved closer to where Song Yushu and Shang Xia were.

At the start of the battle, they wanted to knock Shang Xia down a peg because of his supposed arrogance when he defeated the elite sword cultivators of the five institutions. That was the reason they worked together previously. Now, they finally realized that Shang Xia’s strength was enough to threaten anyone present.

Due to the expanded space in the arena, the three of them weren't able to carry out their plan right away. However, their subtle actions caught the attention of many.

Watching the 'despicable' actions of the Martial Intent Realm disciples from the other institutions, the disciples of the Tongyou Institution had already forgotten their anger towards Shang Xia.

Shang Xia's display of strength helped them to vent their pent-up frustrations. Now, they were cheering for their chief as he fought for the prestige of the Tongyou Institution.

Since Tan Xinya, Ma Jianfan, and Song Yushu's plan to work together had been noticed by the spectators, the disciples of the Tongyou Institution couldn't help but snort in contempt. Some of the more hot-tempered ones even unleashed a barrage of expletives on the three.

The feelings of the disciples from the other institutions took a huge hit. Their original excitement became a lot more subdued.

Their expression turned all the more somber when the three started to close in on each other and became the target of curses by the disciples of the Tongyou Institution. Anger smoldered in their heart when they heard how the disciples of the Tongyou Institution were insulting their esteemed senior brothers and sister, but no one dared to say anything. Their faces flushed red in anger and they wanted nothing more than to bury their heads into the ground.

There were even some who chose to leave the plaza completely.

Due to the barrier around the arena, Shang Xia had no idea what happened outside. Regardless, he wasn't surprised by their decision to work together.

He didn't bother with the Jade River Sword that Song Yushu had sent flying earlier. Instead, his spear came crashing down towards Song Yushu who was running away.

"Rumble..." A dense web of lightning appeared and formed a domain thirty feet wide.

When Shang Xia was in the Martial Realm, he comprehended his first martial intent, the Chaos Essence Lightning Palm. The power contained in it only increased with his cultivation. Currently, he unleashed it with his Waning Moon Spear.

"Does he not need to recover from his true qi expenditure? How can his meridians withstand so much pressure constantly?" Song Yushu grumbled silently. However, he was pretty jealous of Shang Xia's strength too.

His thinking didn't slow him down in any way as rays of sword light emerged to fill the space around him. It sliced open the web of lightning that was attempting to stop him from regrouping with the other two. He continued to accelerate towards Tan Xinya and Ma Jianfan.

On the other hand, the two of them took the chance to stop the fight between each other as they moved to resist the web of lightning summoned by Shang Xia.

Even though Shang Xia's attack didn't injure any of the three, he managed to slightly restrict their movements.

At that moment, the third strike he comprehended from the Providence Spear Art was unleashed. Flashing Meteor!

Like the first move, it emphasized on speed.

However, it was fundamentally different from the two strikes before it.

Rift Crossing, the first move, was focused on breaking through the weak points in his enemy's technique. His second move, Lightning Stonefire, was a tyrannical strike that blew apart everything in his way.

Flashing Meteor seemed to be a combination of the two moves. It was especially powerful, and it could be considered his ultimate strike. In a certain sense, it had the ability to decide the outcome of the battle.

In fact, Flashing Meteor closed in on the ranks of a martial intent!

After Shang Xia unleashed the move, he felt his residual Yin Yang Essence Qi transforming rapidly into Origin True Qi. A feeling of having entered the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm filled Shang Xia's mind.

That wasn't the most surprising thing. Instead, his spear art seemed to have broken through in that instant.

It shot out at an even quicker speed and the power contained in it increased slightly. His spear shot out like a meteor.

This time, Shang Xia took the initiative to attack.

When Song Yushu gathered together with the other two, the three of them felt their heart pounding strangely.

Staring in Shang Xia's direction, they were greeted with the sight of a shooting star flying right at them. That attack contained Shang Xia's full-powered divine sense, and with so little time to react, none of them could try to avoid it.

With a huge blast resounding through the air, a burst of white light filled the arena. The soundwave was so powerful that it managed to emerge from the protection screen, deafening those outside. Other than the blast, no sounds remained.

As the light faded, a figure was sent flying out of the arena. When the dust settled, everyone saw Tan Xinya's sorry figure.

Beads of sweat dripped down her forehead as a look of fear remained in her eyes. All of a sudden, her hooks came flying out of the arena. Reaching out to grab them, she snorted softly before turning to leave.

The crowd parted to let her through, but no one bothered to look at her retreating figure. Everyone's eyes were glued onto the arena that was filled with tiny arcs of lightning.

Before anyone could react, Song Yushu and Ma Jianfan were sent flying out one after the other. Stabilizing their bodies, Ma Jianfan was the first to speak. "That fellow is too demonic!"

"Brother Ma, forget it. His strength is truly terrifying. All we can do is accept our defeat." Song Yushu interrupted.

As the words left his lips, a thunderous cheer broke out in the crowd. Even those who were partially deafened from the blast earlier seemed to regain their hearing that instant.

Their cheers filled the plaza and this time, Shang Xia truly achieved complete domination. With his strength alone, he suppressed everyone!

The barrier that surrounded the arena started to dissipate, but the scene that greeted the cheering disciples was kind of disturbing.

In the heart of the plaza, Shang Xia's Waning Moon Spear was stabbed deeply into the ground. His buttocks were stuck firmly to the ground as he leaned his body back. He stretched his legs out in front of him and a weary expression was plastered on his face.