

Pursuit of the Truth

#Chapter 51 — Lad, We Were Fated to Meet Each Other! - Read Pursuit of the Truth Chapter 51 — Lad, We Were Fated to Meet Each Other!

Chapter 51: Lad, We Were Fated to Meet Each Other!

Su Ming did not find the elder and the others among those who looked at him. Most of the members of the Berserker Tribe were from Wind Stream Tribe. Su Ming had left after the elder and the rest but arrived quicker than them.

Once Shi Hai placed Su Ming down, he gave him a black plate. He did not say anything and left, turning into white mist.

Su Ming stood there alone and surveyed his surroundings. Not a single familiar face was in sight. He had no choice but to remain silent. He lowered his head and looked at the black plate in his hands. There was a number on it written in the language of the Berserker Tribe. It was 109.

The black plate looked normal. It was made of stone but when he held it in his hand, it felt cold.

"I heard that the amount of people taking the test this time is the largest in history. There's more than 100 people taking the test!"

"It's more than 100 people now. This is just the first stage. I'm certain there won't be so many people taking the tests for the second and third stage. After all, if they don't have enough strength to handle it, there's no need for them to be there to humiliate themselves."

"You're wrong on that account. There are three stages in the test and the first stage is the hardest! The second stage is about power and speed whereas the third stage is a test in actual combat. These two stages require a certain amount of power and it also involves luck. This is something that has been proven in the past. The first stage may not seem to require any sort of power but in reality, this stage is a test of stamina and potential!"

"There's no way to cheat in this and it's really brutal! No matter how much power you have, once your results in the first stage aren't good, it just means that you don't have enough stamina and potential. The tribe won't pay much attention to these tribe members after that."

Su Ming lowered his head and toyed with the black stone plate as voices of discussion from the people around him traveled into his ears.

"But still, in every single test that was ever held, the top 50 people mostly consisted of us, Berserkers from Wind Stream Tribe. The other tribes only barely made it in. It's especially so for the top 10 places. I heard that there has never been an outsider who made it in."

"Obviously, it'll be the same this time. Honestly, those who will place in the top 10 and top 40 will be the same people, especially the top 10. Besides those monsters in the tribe, no one else will be able to make it."

Su Ming listened and gradually heard similar discussions on the same topic. Not all of the people gathered here were going to take the first stage of the test. Most of them were only here to watch.

As he listened, he thought about the six numbers the elder told him. Suddenly, Su Ming lifted his head towards his side as he felt something. There was an elderly person approaching him quietly. When he saw Su Ming looking at him, the elderly man quickly smiled at him and closed the distance between them in a few brisk steps.

The old man wore beast skins and bone earrings. Judging from his attire, he should have been from Wind Stream Tribe.

"Lad, I am Bei Qiong. I saw a stone plate in your hands. You must be entering the first stage of the test. That's why I decided to come and talk to you. I have no ill-will, promise." The old man looked hilarious. He had a sharp mouth and cheeks that resembled a monkey. When he smiled, his entire face seemed to move, leaving a deep impression on other people.

Su Ming's demeanor remained the same. Once he heard the old man's words, he nodded.

"Lad, I'll say this straight. Don't mind me. The level of my training may not be high but I've lived a long time. If anything, I've got a pair of good eyes. I see your potential... and well... you're very normal." The old man winked.

"This test only happens once every few years. I've always come here to watch. With your potential, it'll be difficult for you to get into the top 50. Based on my experience, you'll only get into the top 100... but..." The old man took a few steps towards him with

a mysterious look. He looked around to check whether there was anyone looking at them. Then, he quickly spoke in a low tone.

"But you're in luck since you have met me, lad. I have an herb here that allows a person to bring out his full potential for a short period of time. Entering the first stage with this, you can get a place in the top 50 ranks! If you buy more of these and eat them at once, entering the top 10 ranks is not impossible," the old man spoke in a low tone. He opened his shirt slightly, quickly revealing some of the herbs he had within before covering it up again. The mysterious air around him became stronger. He seemed afraid that the herbs would be discovered by too many people.

Su Ming was momentarily stunned. He looked at the old man and found himself speechless.

"You don't believe me?" The old man saw Su Ming's expression and immediately spoke in a low tone once again. "Lad, you're still too young. You can only determine the authenticity of these things after you've tried them. Once your placing increases, treatment towards you in your tribe will be completely different. Looking at you, it seems like you aren't treated well in your tribe."

"That's enough. If that herb of yours is really that effective, why is it that the top 50 places in the test mostly consisted of Wind Stream Tribe members in the past? No outsider has ever made it into the top 10 ranks either. I won't buy it. Go and sell it to other people." Su Ming frowned and retreated a few steps.

The old man widened his eyes and gave a thumbs up to Su Ming with his right hand, praising him.

"You're good, lad. You're really good! Great of you to think of this so soon. Looks like I've been wrong. You may not have a lot of potential but at least you have a smart head on your shoulders."

"But lad, you're wrong on this account. It's not that there have never been any outsiders who made it into the top 10 in the first stage. Fifty years ago, there was one person who managed to continuously get first place. Surely, you have heard of this person before - Mo Sang, the Elder of Dark Mountain Tribe! Do you know how he made it? He bought a lot of these herbs from me that year."

"There was also someone from Black Mountain Tribe. He too bought my herbs and got a place in the top 40. Then, there was also someone from Dark Dragon Tribe. She also did the same."

"Hey, don't go. I'll give you a recent example. In the previous test, there was a lad called Bei Ling who got into the top 50, who bought..." The old man was like a chatterbox who would not stop talking. Su Ming frowned and took a few more steps back.

"Lad, we were fated to meet each other. That's why I'm selling this to you. If it were anyone else, I would not be selling it to them. I sell this herb to others for 10 stone coins each. I'll sell this to you for three stone coins. How about it? Three stone coins is extremely cheap. Hey, if I shout out loud that I'm selling this herb for such a cheap price, there will definitely be a lot of people who will surround me to buy it. Since fate has allowed us to meet each other, if you buy one, I'll give you another for free, I..." The old man kept talking and as he spoke, his spit flew out of his mouth. Moreover when he spoke, he even clapped his hands together, getting more excited by his own pitch. Su Ming was stupefied. He instinctively took another few steps back.

The old man was about to continue when suddenly, there was a commotion in the field. The sky started twisting and a giant dark python entered. There were several people standing on the python - the elder and the others.

"It's the people from Dark Mountain Tribe!"

"I heard that the Elder of Dark Mountain Tribe is extremely powerful but there is no one in the tribe who can inherit his position. I heard that as of late, there's been a youngster called Bei Ling who got the 49th place in the previous test though."

The dark python disappeared. The elder and the others descended upon one corner of the field. He stole a glance at Su Ming from afar and averted his gaze. Bei Ling stood over there, carrying himself in an aloof manner. His face was cold.

Lei Chen and Wu La looked around with small hints of excitement.

"Do you see that old man and the cold-looking boy by his side? They're Dark Mountain Tribe's Elder, Mo Sang and Bei Ling." The old man standing beside Su Ming quickly spoke up. His face was still schooled to express mystery.

As he spoke, there was uproar once again and it was much louder this time. The space outside the field before them started twisting and five people sauntered in. The individual who led the team was a bald young man wearing a black robe. It was Wu Sen. His face was dark, showing small signs of anger. It was obvious that the incident on the previous night was a great humiliation to him, especially the loss of his dark green blood. It made him anxious but he did not reveal any of his anxiety.

The four people behind him were also silent as they followed Wu Sen into the field.

"Wu Sen!"

"He's one of the people from Wind Stream Tribe who'll definitely get into a spot in the top three. I heard that the Berserker's Method he's training with is really strange..."

"Quiet. His mood changes at the drop of a hat..."

"Shut up!" As Wu Sen walked, he suddenly growled. His surroundings fell into silence instantly. Wu Sen's face was dark as he walked past Su Ming. The moment he walked past, he turned around and looked at Su Ming coldly. There was a hint of uncertainty in his eyes.

Still, after he scrutinized Su Ming closely, he found that the person before him was not the person he met the night before. He snorted and walked past him, sitting down cross-legged at a distant spot after that. The four people with him surrounded him to protect him.

Su Ming looked at Wu Sen and then at Bei Ling, who was standing in the distance before he shifted his gaze.

"Wu Sen trains in the Devourer of Corpse Blood. He worshiped an evil statue of the God of Berserkers in Wind Stream Tribe. He's a fierce one and he's always in a bad mood. He's not the good sort!" The old man standing beside Su Ming whispered softly as if he was angry but also afraid that Wu Sen could hear him. Judging from his looks, he had failed in his attempt to sell the herbs to Wu Sen and probably even suffered because of it.

"Lad, don't bother that person... But if you end up bothering him, it's fine. I have another type of herb with me. If you eat it, you'll get stronger physically for the rest of your life..." The old man looked back and tried to persuade Su Ming again.

Su Ming frowned, thinking that the old man was far more talkative than Lei Chen. In fact, Lei Chen was considered quiet compared to him.

The old man continued trying to persuade him. It seemed like he was not going to let Su Ming off unless he bought his herbs.

At that moment, the space outside the field twisted once more. This time, dozens of people arrived. These people were talking and laughing amongst themselves. They stood in a protective formation around the person in the center similar to how stars would surround the moon. The person was not tall and was slightly plump. He was laughing and talking to the people beside him while waving his hands around as though he was gesturing something.

He had a vague presence which stood out among the dozens of people. Everyone focused their gazes on him the moment they saw him.

"Chen Chong!" Wu Sen, who was sitting cross-legged opened his eyes and stared at the slightly plump person. He narrowed his eyes.

Su Ming's gaze also landed on the person. He could feel a faint presence but it was not Qi. It was something else he found hard to describe.

"Chen Chong is a lad everyone knows in Wind Stream Tribe. He's a good lad, much better than Wu Sen," the old man quickly whispered.

"Don't tell the others about this but Chen Chong is a huge customer of mine. He always comes to buy herbs from me."

Chapter 52: By the Side

Before long, the rest of the representatives from the other tribes arrived. These people either came with their tribes, or alone.

Gradually, the amount of people in the field increased. The place bustled with activity as the people talked among themselves.

After all, the grand ceremony was only held once every few years. The number of people joining the test this year was also much higher compared to the previous years.

Su Ming used the chance when there were a lot of people around to take a few quick steps forward to avoid the old man who kept bothering him. The old man's constant chattering was giving Su Ming a headache. Once he avoided him, he saw - from between the gaps formed by the people - the old man looking around the crowd for him. Su Ming quickly lowered his body, not wanting to be spotted.

There may be a lot of people gathered in the field, but Su Ming did not recognize most of them. His appearance was also very normal among the crowd so no one paid any attention to him.

In truth, Su Ming was not the only who was trying to be unassuming. There were quite a large number of examinees who were not from Wind Stream Tribe entering the test for the first time.

"Look, that's Wu Sen! I heard that he's one of the prodigies from Wind Stream Tribe."

"Isn't that Chen Chong? His name is like thunder. I heard of him before, but I didn't expect him to look like that. He really does have quite the presence, though."

"Did you see Dark Mountain Tribe's Bei Ling? I heard that he's also an extraordinary one. He got a place within the top 50 in the previous test. If we can befriend him, it'll be good for us. There'll be a lot of people who will be jealous of us when we return to the tribe later as well."

The ones besides Su Ming did not seem like first timers. They were whispering to each other while their faces were filled with admiration.

"This might be our chance. If we can catch either Wu Sen or Chen Chong's eyes and stay by their side, then our position in the tribe will surely be different."

"Ha. There're plenty of those who have the same thoughts. Can't you tell that there're a lot of people who want to approach them to talk? Why don't we try it as well? Hey, you, I see that you're alone. This must be your first time, right?" an honest looking young man by Su Ming's side smiled and said to him.

Su Ming's lips curled up into a polite smile, and he nodded at the young man.

"Brother, not everyone has arrived yet, but it looks like the first stage of the test is about to begin. Why don't we go to Chen Chong and try talking to him? How about you all? Let's go together. If we go alone, he might ignore us," the young man quickly spoke as he tried persuading Su Ming and the people around him.

"Look at Wu Sen, his face is like thunder. I'm pretty sure his mood is terrible. We shouldn't go and bother him. That Chen Chong looks like a straightforward person, he should be easier to approach." Some of the people around him were swayed by the young man's words and he managed to gather about seven to eight people to go towards Chen Chong.

Su Ming did not want to go, but he was dragged along by that enthusiastic young man, so he had no choice but to follow the crowd.

Just as they were moving forward, the space outside the field twisted once again, attracting everyone's attention. As the space twisted, five people appeared. The person who led the team was a man in his forties. The man wore a sackcloth and looked incredibly strong. There was a shocking presence of Qi surrounding his body.

There was a clear scar on his face that stretched from his left brow diagonally until it reached the right corner of his lips, causing him to look extremely ferocious and terrifying.

"It's Black Mountain Tribe. That person... Could it be Black Mountain Tribe's tribe leader? I heard that there's a terrifying scar on Black Mountain Tribe's tribe leader's face, so it must be him."

"That's right. I heard that the Elder from Black Mountain Tribe is absent this time. Their tribe leader is leading the team."

There were four people behind the man. They slowly walked into the field. At first glance, the four people seemed normal, but if someone looked closely, then they would

easily find that among the four three were young men about the same age, while the last one was a sturdy-looking man in his forties.

Strangely, the man and the other two youths following behind the tribe leader were surrounding one of the young men like they were his subordinates. They even instinctively did not surpass the young man as they walked.

That young man was about 18 to 19-years-old. He wore a black hide shirt and had long hair. His face could not be clearly seen because the collar of his black shirt was pulled up to cover his entire face besides his eyes. He also had his head lowered, thus preventing anyone from seeing his face clearly.

That young man was silent. He ignored the gazes that fell upon him and walked towards the crowd with his tribe leader. They sat down cross-legged at a corner far away from Dark Mountain Tribe.

It could also be seen by how he sat down that the young man was different. He sat alone, not mixing with the other members of his tribe. Nonetheless, once he sat down, he lifted his head slightly and looked towards Dark Mountain Tribe. Disdain appeared briefly in his eyes.

Su Ming's eyes also fell upon the people from Black Mountain Tribe, just like the others'. He paid special attention towards their tribe leader and the unsociable young man.

Su Ming was not surprised by the tribe leader of Black Mountain Tribe's power, but that unsociable young man made him feel a faint sense of danger. He could almost be certain that this person was extraordinary.

But in his heart, he hated this sort of behavior, of pretending to be much more intelligent and powerful than other people. Compared to him, Su Ming even felt that Wu Sen was much better than that person. At the very least, Wu Sen did not pretend to be mysterious.

Black Mountain Tribe's arrival did not incite much discussion. Compared to them, the people were much more interested in the prodigies of Wind Stream Tribe. After all, the reputations of these people were very impressive around the region.

Su Ming went with the crowd to Chen Chong under the very enthusiastic young man's persuasion. He did not stand out as he stood among so many people. No one would notice him because he looked so normal.

"I'm telling you all, I never go to those places in the tribe, and even if I went, I only go there to watch the fun. Don't you believe me?"

As he got nearer, Su Ming saw Chen Chong gesturing with his hands and talking with the people around him, eliciting laughter from them. But it was clear that most of the laughter was just to humor him.

There were even some laughing instinctively because they wanted to become friends with Chen Chong. It was as if they wanted to use laughter to fit into the group.

The young man and the rest of the people besides Su Ming were doing just that. They were laughing non-stop. Su Ming stood there and smiled. He felt calm. He looked at Chen Chong, who was surrounded by all these people, and knew that Chen Chong's status was very high, and it was something he could not compare.

He looked at the people beside him, who were laughing in order to try to join the group. They even used the chance to introduce themselves. They may not look as if they were trying to flatter Chen Chong, but no matter who it was, it was clear that they wanted to get closer to Chen Chong.

Dark Dragon Tribe walked into the field at that moment. When the tribe appeared, they did not incite much discussion. After all, Dark Dragon Tribe was really small. They could not even compare with Black Mountain Tribe's fame.

But the moment Dark Dragon Tribe appeared, all the people, even Chen Chong, who had been talking and laughing, and Wu Sen, who had been meditating and fuming, lifted their heads and looked towards them.

The young man in black from Black Mountain Tribe, who was pretending to be mysterious by covering half of his face, also looked in their direction.

They were looking at a girl in white with unparalleled beauty walking among Dark Dragon Tribe! There was a fragment decorating the center of her brows glowing brightly as it reflected the light from the sun. There was a certain wildness to her beauty that made hearts race as people looked at her.

She was Bai Ling.

Bai Ling blushed slightly because she was under so many people's scrutiny but did not lower her head. Instead, she swept her gaze quickly among the crowd. Once she found Dark Mountain Tribe, happiness appeared on her face, but once she looked carefully, the happiness disappeared. She did not find Su Ming.

Bai Ling lowered her head and followed behind the Elder of Dark Dragon Tribe towards the field. She did not notice a normal looking teenager watching her quietly from among the crowd in the distance. She also did not notice the looks of desire and greed from the young man in black from Black Mountain Tribe, who was pretending to be mysterious, once he saw her.

Wu Sen only looked at Bai Ling for a moment before closing his eyes again. Bai Ling may be unparalleled in beauty, but he was completely unmoved. At the moment, he was feeling anxious, and he couldn't spare another thought for anything else.

Su Ming looked at that beautiful face and stood quietly where he was. He suddenly felt that the distance between him and Bai Ling was incredibly large...

"Bai Ling!" A voice that suggested that the speaker was smiling spoke up from where Su Ming was. The voice was not loud, but it spread around the area and travelled to Bai Ling's ears.

"Brother Chen Chong." Bai Ling lifted her head and saw Chen Chong walking towards her from the crowd. There was a smile on her face, but there was also sadness hidden underneath that smile.

Chen Chong laughed loudly. The people in front of him immediately retreated. Su Ming stood there and did not move. He looked at Chen Chong walking by him towards Bai Ling.

As he watched, Su Ming closed his eyes. He did not know what he should be feeling at the moment. There was only calmness within him.

When he closed his eyes, it was as if he ignored everything around him until someone snapped him out by grabbing his arm and swinging it excitedly.

"Ye Wang! It's Ye Wang!"

"Look, that's Ye Wang, the most powerful person among the younger generation in Wind Stream Tribe! Ye Wang!"

He is the Ye Wang who won 1st place in all three stages of the test for two consecutive times! That person has incredible talent and he's the strongest of the younger generation around the region! I heard that he has the highest hopes for reaching Transcendence realm among the younger generation! He's also currently being trained by the entire Wind Stream Tribe! He's the future Elder of Wind Stream Tribe!"

Su Ming opened his eyes and saw a person walking towards the field from a distance.

That person was wearing a red shirt. He did not have Wu Sen's sullenness, Chen Chong's popularity, nor the fake mysteriousness from the young man in black from Black Mountain Tribe. He was alone, and he walked by his lonesome self towards the field.

Chapter 53: Open the Path to Wind Stream Mountain!

His red shirt was like fire!

It was as if there was an invisible flame on Ye Wang that made all eyes burn as they stared at him, forcing everyone to lower their heads before him.

He was of average looks and did not look handsome. His physique was not very powerful either, but as he walked into the field, he aroused a feeling that was difficult to describe among those who were looking at him.

Ye Wang's black hair swayed on his shoulders as he walked slowly towards them.

He did not have Wu Sen's sullenness, but the calmness within his eyes made others terrified of him, even more than they were of Wu Sen. Neither did he have Chen Chong's charisma to attract people to his side, yet though he was alone, he had a presence that far surpassed other people so much that it created pressure.

Similarly, he did not try to pretend to be mysterious, unlike the young man from Black Mountain Tribe, but as he walked towards the field, his power and his name brought about a sense of mystery that far surpassed that from the young man in black.

He was mysterious because he was Ye Wang. He was the best among the younger generation in Wind Stream Tribe. He was the most brilliant existence around the region. He was the one that was revered to as the future powerful Berserker of the Transcendence realm!

He walked towards them calmly like a king. He did not need to talk to anyone. There would be countless people who would ignore Wu Sen and Chen Chong while they bowed down their heads before him and cleared the path for him.

There were no longer sounds of discussion, either. Once he appeared, all sounds abruptly disappeared. The silence continued even when he reached the center of the field and sat down cross-legged.

After a long while, faint sounds of discussion begun to arise.

"Hey, you saw that big shot, right? We're lucky to see Ye Wang coming here, at least our trip wasn't wasted," the honest-looking young man beside Su Ming whispered softly as his eyes were filled with admiration and satisfaction.

Su Ming fell silent. After a while, he nodded his head lightly.

There were still some people who arrived after Ye Wang. In an hour, all participants of the test arrived, and when they did, the sky suddenly darkened.

As the clouds rolled forward, thunder roared and shook the area, making most of the people who heard the sound tremble. As they lifted their heads, they saw the clouds in the sky gathering together from all around at lightning speed. In the span of a breath, they had already fused together and turned into a gigantic man of clouds that was so tall its head could touch the sky!

On the head of the cloud giant sat a man in purple with his legs crossed. That person was the Elder of Wind Stream Tribe - Jing Nan!

He sat there cross-legged and did not look downwards. Instead, he was looking at the tall mountain located not too far away. That was the mountain that reached the clouds, and only half of which was visible to the eye!

"This mountain is the most important treasure of Wind Stream Tribe. There is none other like it!

"It was passed down to us by the Ancients. It is the origin of Wind Stream Tribe. Without this mountain, then perhaps there would be no Wind Stream Tribe! The mountain you're seeing is not complete. That is only the peak of the mountain... The peak of the real Wind Stream Mountain!

"There is a mysterious beast sealed at the top of the mountain. That beast has been sleeping for millions of years and has never woken up... Perhaps it will never wake up... This mountain has a pressuring might that surrounds the entire mountain and its surroundings. The higher you climb, the more pressure you will feel!

"There are paths up the mountain. There are 281 stairways leading straight to the peak of the mountain. This is the 1st stage of the test!

"The same rules from the previous tests apply. You have no time limit. All of you who are taking part in the 1st stage of the test and are holding onto the plate can find any route you want leading up to the mountain. We will determine your rank based on how many steps you managed to take at the end.

"There are a lot of you here who are taking this test for the first time. For fairness' sake I will tell you this. The pressure on this mountain is the strongest during midnight!

"Now, I will break the seal on this mountain. After that, you must go in quickly!" As Jing Nan spoke on top of the giant made of clouds, he lifted his right hand and waved at the towering mountain.

Once he brought his hand down, the giant made of clouds immediately lifted its head and let out a shocking roar. It took huge steps and moved quickly towards the peak of the mountain. It lifted its two gigantic arms and tore at the space before the mountain as if it was trying to tear apart heaven and earth.

Once it did so, heaven and earth roared. A giant crack appeared out of nowhere. The crack was horizontal, and it opened up vertically between heaven and earth. It was as if there was an invisible screen before the peak of the mountain, and it was now being torn apart, revealing the true view of the mountain within.

It was still a tall mountain, but it was no longer the mountain Su Ming saw before. The top of the mountain was covered by black mist that was rolling up towards the sky. The black mist looked gloomy and let off a presence that made hearts pound in terror.

At the same time, there was also a pressuring might that was nigh indescribable spreading out from within the cracks. It was like a typhoon blowing towards them from the sides. It lifted many people's hair, some even turned pale because of it and instinctively retreated a few steps. It was as if it was not a mountain within the crack, but a colossal mysterious beast that reached heaven and earth.

The moment the crack was torn open, multiple faint silhouettes of people quickly manifested beside the cloud giant and turned into eight people!

Shi Hai was one of those eight people. Each of them had shocking power, and at that moment, they bit through their tongues and each coughed out a mouthful of blood. Their blood mixed together and formed a complex looking mark that glowed red. It sped towards the crack as if to imprint itself on the mist mountain within the crack.

The mountain, surrounded by mist and clouds, roared the moment the mark touched it. The mist rolled upwards and revealed multiple ancient stairways that had endured through time.

"Once you enter the mountain, if your plates leave you for even a second, it will disappear. You will also lose your qualification to take the exam and will be automatically transported out of the mountain. This is the only way for you to give up once you find that you cannot handle the pressure of the mountain. The plate will also record the amount of steps you have taken and will accordingly show the numbers to all those spectating.

"Well, aren't you going in?" The person who shouted towards the crowd gathered below him was Shi Hai, who was standing among the eight people.

A person suddenly turned into a rainbow and sped towards the crack. That person was the young man who wore a red shirt, Ye Wang! Wu Sen was the second who rushed towards the crack, followed closely by Chen Chong. Gradually, a huge amount of people from all tribes taking the first stage of the test rushed towards the crack.

Bei Ling, Lei Chen, Wu La, Si Kong, and even Bai Ling were among the crowd going towards the crack. Once they entered the crack, they went to a stairway that was not taken by anyone and disappeared within it.

Once a stairway was taken by someone, a layer of mist would fall down and cover the path from view.

Su Ming did not choose to move alone. He chose to move with a huge crowd and walked into the crack. The moment he stepped in, he immediately felt the difference between the place and the world outside. There was a pressure there that felt as if an invisible pair of hands was pressing on his body, causing him discomfort.

Many of the paths leading to the stairways were already covered by mist—a clear sign that someone had already taken the path. Su Ming did not worry, but instead ran further away from the entrance. There were plenty of people that were like him, searching for a way into the mountain.

However, the shape of the foot of the mountain was uneven. Some of the paths leading to the stairs seemed to be shorter. These paths were usually fought over by people, and whoever took the first step on the stairway would lay claim to it.

Su Ming did not join them but went to a place that was further away. There were multiple paths there. He stood at the crossroads and fell into deep thought for a while. Just as he was about to move, he suddenly turned his head and looked to his right. As he did so, his pupils shrank, though it was barely noticeable.

He saw the young man wearing black beast skins from Black Mountain Tribe, who loved pretending to be mysterious, walking towards him with his face still covered. He did not even look at Su Ming as he walked towards one of the paths.

For a moment, Su Ming watched as mist rolled down from the mountain and covered the path that was taken by the person, then he looked away. He walked towards a normal looking stairway. The moment he took the first step, he felt as if the entire mountain trembled. At the same time, a wave of heat spread from the plate hanging over his chest, but it did not spread into Su Ming's body, it just kept giving off heat.

Soon, he was surrounded by a large amount of mist. He could not see what was by his side, neither could he see what was behind him. The only thing he could see was the faint outline of a winding staircase in the mist before him and the dim sun hanging above him in the sky.

It was quiet. That silence even gave him the impression that he was the only one on the mountain.

Su Ming took a deep breath. He did not move immediately but chose to feel the pressure of the land. Once he was slightly used to it, he moved forwards step by step with resolution and persistence in his eyes.

He did not know that the moment all of them went in, the crack gradually closed up. Shi Hai and the other seven people all sat down cross-legged at various corners in the field once they descended from the sky.

The Elder of Wind Stream Tribe, Jing Nan, also made the cloud giant disappear and descended upon the field. He went to Mo Sang's side and an invisible wave of air surrounded them, which prevented anyone from eavesdropping on them.

There were still hundreds of people on the field, and their gazes were all focused on the nine gigantic eagle statues around them.

Lines of words gradually appeared on the nine statues.

1st place: Ye Wang, 97 steps.

2nd place: Wu Sen, 51 steps.

3rd place: Chen Chong, 47 steps.

4th place: Bi Su, 46 steps.

...103rd place: Mo Su, 6 steps.

The steps taken by all the people taking the first test were clearly displayed for all to see due to the plates they had in hand.

"I knew it. The 1st place is Ye Wang. 97 steps, he has such a huge margin over the 2nd place... Look, it changed again! 115 steps! Didn't the test just start? That's too fast!"

"Who is that Bi Su? I've never heard of him before. He's not from Wind Stream Tribe, but he managed to get such a high rank since the start? I heard that during the last test, Ye Wang managed to take 803 steps. I wonder how far he'll go this time. It'll be more difficult the further they go. Since the very first test, no one has ever been able to make it past 930 steps!"

The Elder of Wind Stream Tribe, Jing Nan, was also looking at the bird statue by his side with Mo Sang. There was a smile on his face as he glanced at a name called Mo Su.

"Mo Sang, he should be Su Ming, right? But looking at his rank, it'll be difficult for him to get into the top 40. How about this? I'll make the conditions easier, if he can get into the top 60, then he'll pass."

Mo Sang did not speak. He just quietly looked at the name Mo Su on the bird statue. There was a hint of expectation hidden deep within his eyes.

Chapter 54: The Secret of the Six Numbers!

There were a few hundred people on the field. At that moment, they were all looking intently at the nine eagle statues. All of the rankings on it were the same. When they looked at it, they began discussing among themselves.

Sometimes they would cheer when a person's name went up the rankings, and at other times they would feel sorry for another person who fell down the rankings.

It can even be said that the test within the mountain was secondary in this grand ceremony and that the most important part of the ceremony was in the field. There were a few hundred people in the field, and while most of them were from Wind Stream Tribe, there were still quite a number of them from other tribes. It would be accurate to say that almost all of the tribes in the region were gathered here.

They would bring the rankings of the three stages back to their tribes so that everyone would know about it.

That was the tradition, and it had been done in previous tests as well.

As time passed, Ye Wang, who was in 1st place, had taken his 345th step, and he was gradually slowing down.

Chen Chong was behind him. He had already taken his 189th step. As for Wu Sen, who everyone had high expectations for, was in the 9th place for some unknown reason. He had only taken 127 steps.

However, the person called Bi Su had brought a lot of attention from the field on himself. He was in the 3rd place, and he had taken 188 steps!

"Who is that Bi Su? How can he be so strong? Could this person actually make it to the top of the first stage this time?"

"This is interesting. It has been a long time since any outsider has managed to get into the top 10. Never mind that, no outsider has made it into the top 30 for a long time as well."

As the people were talking among themselves, the tribe leader of Black Mountain Tribe was sitting down cross-legged as he stared at the rankings on the eagle statue nearby. There was a prideful smile on his lips. He also swept his gaze to where Black Mountain Tribe was.

Shan Hen was seated with his eyes closed at where Dark Mountain Tribe was, seemingly uninterested with the rankings. As for the Head of the Guards, he was frowning as if he was feeling anxious.

He looked at the rankings on the eagle statue beside him and found Bei Ling, who was at the 57th place, Lei Chen, who was at the 73rd place, and Wu La, who was at the 91st place.

The old woman from Dark Dragon Tribe and the rest of the tribes were also intently staring at the eagle statues. There were not a lot of changes on their faces. As the leaders of the tribes, they had to learn how to conceal their emotions. Unless there was a great change, they would usually not show strong emotions on their faces. As for the Head of the Guards from Dark Mountain Tribe, if it were not for Bei Ling, he would not look anxious.

The situation in the hundreds of stairways within the mountain was different from the field, which was filled with hundreds of people discussing and staring at the statues. The people taking the first stage of the test felt as if they were the only ones on the peak of the mountain.

Not only did the thick mist cover their sight of each other, even the people outside could not see what was happening inside. Even Jing Nan, the Elder of Wind Stream Tribe, could not see through the mist which was created as a form of seal. He could not tell for sure what was happening inside.

Nonetheless, there would not be any danger in this place. After all, the test had been held far too many times.

Bai Ling bit down her bottom lip. Sweat beaded on her forehead as she walked forwards. She could not see the end of the stairs. It seemed like there was no end to it, causing the people who were walking on it to fall into the illusion that it was endless. The increasing pressure as they walked further ahead also made them feel as if they were being repelled by the place. It was as if there were a countless number of voices whispering in their ears to give up.

Lei Chen was growling nonstop not too far away from Bai Ling. He had even torn away his hide shirt and revealed a strong upper body. There were beads of sweat trickling down his body, making him look ferocious even though he was tired. He kept walking forward, eyes lit with madness and persistence.

Further ahead, Bei Ling's face was pale. He had given too much blood from the centre of his brows to Wu Sen lately. His body was still weak. He would be able to obtain a small drop of Berserker Blood from Wu Sen during the third stage of the test according to their promise, but he was worried. He did not know whether the promise still held.

Bei Ling gritted his teeth. He did not want to lose completely, so he walked forward with the pride of Dark Mountain Tribe on his shoulders one step at a time.

Compared to their difficulty, the most brilliant prodigy of Wind Stream Tribe, Ye Wang, was much more at ease. He had his hands behind his back as he walked forward one step at a time at an unhurried pace. This was not the first time he walked these steps, but the third!

He remembered clearly that he managed to make it to more than 800 steps during his second time. This time, he would make it to 900!

'The elder once said that the mountain seemed tall, but there were only 999 steps. The structure had some sort of mysterious power that seemed to change heaven and earth.

'The amount of steps you could take reflected how many blood veins you would be able to manifest at the end.'

"I have to eat less next time. Ah, I definitely have to eat less next time..."

At another path behind Ye Wang, Chen Chong was panting harshly as he walked forward, mumbling under his breath. He was slightly on the plump side, and as he walked, the flesh on his body seemed to tremble, but there was a sharp glint in his eyes. He looked at the plate in his hands. If he stared at it with the plate in mind, he could see all the rankings in it. He knew that there was a person called Bi Su who was right behind him!

Located further away was the young man in black hide skin from Black Mountain Tribe. His face was calm, as if there was no need for him to be serious about walking these stairs yet.

'This is the first time I've come here. Since I'm here, then Wu Sen, Chen Chong, and even Ye Wang, will have to stand behind me!

'This time, I will let everyone know that I, Bi Su, am the best of all the prodigies in the region!'

There was a crazed look on the young man's half-covered face.

Compared to these people, Su Ming was far behind them. His footsteps were slow. As of then, he had only taken his 32nd step.

In fact, when he was at the 32nd step, Su Ming did not move forward, but lowered his head and fell into deep thought. He stared at the steps underneath his feet, and his eyes began wavering as he fell into his thoughts.

'The elder mentioned 6 numbers... The first number was 32... Could he have meant the 32nd step on the stairs?'

As Su Ming was thinking, he slowly lifted his feet and stepped onto the 33rd step. Once he placed his foot down, he did not feel any different. It was the same amount of pressure he felt at the 32nd step.

'There's nothing strange about it... It's the same...'

Su Ming frowned, then went to the 34th step. Yet, the moment his right foot landed on it, his body trembled suddenly.

'Same... Same...? No!' He closed his eyes and felt the slight increase of pressure as his right foot remained on the 34th step.

Then he opened his eyes and quickly retreated to the 31st step. He raised his foot and stood on the 32nd step, then on the 33rd. At that moment, Su Ming's eyes lit up and he took a deep breath.

'I see. There is an increase of pressure between the 31st and 33rd step, but only the 32nd step retains the same pressure no matter whether I move forward or backwards. It's as if... the 32nd step doesn't exist. Even if the 32nd step is not around, everything is still the same.'

After a moment of thought, Su Ming did not move forward any longer. Instead, he sat down cross-legged at the 32nd step to feel the pressure from both sides as they pressed against his body. It made him feel uncomfortable, but 40 something blood veins manifested on his body.

The moment these blood veins appeared, the pressure against Su Ming's body lessened by a great margin. If he did not pay attention to it, he would not have realized it.

'I can feel two sorts of pressure on most of the steps in this mountain. One of them comes from above me, and the other is the residue pressure coming from behind me from the steps I've taken... Only this 32nd step can balance the pressure I feel... The six numbers the elder told me must mean that there are six similar spots in this mountain!

'Perhaps this is what the elder experienced when he took the test in Wind Stream Tribe. It's his secret...'

As Su Ming sat down, he closed his eyes slowly and activated the blood veins in his body. After a moment, Su Ming opened his eyes and frowned.

He did not feel that he benefitted from it. Even if he circulated his Qi around his body, he felt normal. There were no changes whatsoever.

Su Ming could not figure out the answer in his silence, but he knew that the elder would definitely not tell him the numbers because he felt like it. There must be some sort of secret within the elder's words that he had yet to discover.

Still... Su Ming scratched his head. The elder had always loved saying these sort of things since he was young to let him think and figure things out on his own. If he understood it, then that was that. If he did not, then the elder would occasionally tell him the answer.

After a moment of thought, Su Ming sighed. He looked at the 49 blood veins on his body. With their presence, he could ignore the pressure in this place.

'Really, elder...? Can't you just tell me the answer...? Ah, just what is the secret behind this...?'

Su Ming did not want to give up. He continued sitting there as he thought carefully.

'Pressure... the same amount of pressure from both sides... I could feel the pressure before, but when I sit here, the pressure will make my blood circulate faster, thus my blood veins will appear automatically to fight against the pressure... this...'

Su Ming's heart suddenly jumped, and a thought flickered through his mind, but he had a feeling that he could not handle it completely.

He opened his eyes wide and took in a deep breath as he looked at the 49 blood veins on his body.

'Could the secret behind the elder's words be actually to tell me how to control the blood veins in my body so that they could all appear at the same time, then disappear one by one...? Then precisely because the pressure in this place is balanced like the world outside, it could turn the impossible possible...?'

Su Ming jolted.

'The purpose of this is to let me have a much better control over my blood veins. When I swing my fist, I have to control the number of blood veins in my body so that with each punch, I will have just the right amount of power and not waste any of my energy...'

Su Ming licked his lips unconsciously and closed his eyes. In his silence, he tried to control the blood veins in his body and let them revert back one at a time.

It was difficult!

Chapter 55: Fine Control!

It was very difficult!

All things were easier to do when you went along with the tide, but if you went against it, it became difficult! It was the same for the blood veins. They would appear one by one as a person circulated the Qi in his body. It was also possible for all of them to appear at once in an explosive force. That was easy to do.

If someone wanted to call back the blood veins one by one, then they would need to control the speed of the Qi in their bodies with extreme precision. Su Ming would have to control his Qi at a fine state to arrive at that level of precision.

It was extremely rare for a Berserker at the Blood Solidification Realm to do so. This was in fact, not something for a person still in the Blood Solidification to do. This was a skill for a strong Berserker in the Transcendence realm to understand and perform.

Su Ming did not know about this. What he knew was that the elder taught him to do it. It was like a riddle, he had to find the solution on his own and find out what he was supposed to do as he thought deeply about it.

He did not feel as if he was being forced into it, nor did he feel it was difficult trying to solve the problem. Everything happened naturally. So naturally in fact, that Su Ming felt that he should try it.

If he did not, then it would be a waste because he spent so much time thinking about it.

Two hours passed by slowly. During those two hours, Su Ming sat with his legs crossed and did not move. As he continued trying to control the circulation of his Qi, a strange change happened to the blood veins on his body. The number of blood veins would suddenly decrease by dozens, then would suddenly return to its full number - 49. As this change continued, it gradually progressed to a steady state.

All of this was largely related to the pressure in this place. It could even be said that it was by this external force that a Berserker in the Blood Solidification realm could even perform one of the detailed controls that only a Berserker in the Transcendence realm could do.

Time passed by, and very soon, it was dusk. The mist in the mountain thickened during dusk. It was quiet, but the situation in the field outside was different from the mountain. It was bustling with activity, and sounds of discussions rang through the air. There were even some who took out stone coins and started placing bets.

"As expected, the 1st is still Ye Wang. Look at him, he has already taken 561 steps! The 2nd is Chen Chong, he's only at 326 steps!"

"That's nothing. I'm paying attention to the 3rd place, Bi Su. This person is definitely the dark horse in this test. I believe everyone thinks the same way. This person, about whom we've never heard before, has taken 327 steps! He has been switching back and forth with the 2nd place for the entire afternoon."

"But I wonder what happened to Wu Sen, he's only at 12th place..."

At a corner of the field, Mo Sang and Jing Nan sat cross-legged. No one dared to bother them. There was an invisible barrier around them that separated them from the world.

"Mo Sang, Su Ming has been staying at the 32nd step for the entire afternoon. I think he's already exhausted. He's placed last." Jing Nan frowned slightly, feeling that something was out of place.

Mo Sang did not speak but chose to look at the rankings on the eagle statue instead. His face was as calm as usual, but in his heart, he was happy. He knew that Su Ming figured out his riddle.

To him, if Su Ming could understand it on his own, it was much more precious than obtaining the Berserker Blood.

The sun and moon appeared at the same time during dusk and started changing places with each other. Su Ming's rank did not bring about anyone's attention. They would only sweep a glance at him to see who was in the last place.

As of then, Su Ming still sat on the 32nd step. He did not seem any different, but if anyone looked closely, then they would see that the number of blood veins on his body was changing rapidly. It would sometimes be 46 blood veins, sometimes 47, and sometimes 48. The change was too rapid, hence if no one paid attention, they would not see it.

When the sun was completely hidden and the moon became clearer in the sky, the blood veins on Su Ming's body changed once again. Gradually, the number of times the blood veins went up to 48 increased from once to twice, to thrice... until it reached eight times, and nine times!

At that moment, Su Ming opened his eyes and a flicker of excitement appeared briefly in his eyes. He made it! It may not be perfect, but he made it!

During those ten times, there were nine times where he managed to only make one of the blood veins in his body disappear!

Making one blood vein disappear may seem insignificant, but it meant that Su Ming had begun managing to control the circulation of his blood and Qi. His blood was no longer like a wild horse rampaging around, he had managed to put a lasso around it!

Slowly, he sat there and gradually reduced the number of blood veins on his blood to 47, 46, 45... It was not until the 38th blood vein that Su Ming began to lose control, and his Qi began to go into turmoil.

Su Ming knew that the balanced pressure on the 32nd step was no longer enough to help him. If he wanted to improve, then he would need to go to the 79th step!

Su Ming's eyes were bright. He stood up without hesitation and stepped onto the 33rd step. He continued moving forward with certainty. As he moved forward one step at a time and the pressure on the mountain pressed onto him, all 49 blood veins from Su Ming's body appeared suddenly and circulated rapidly in his body. The fine control he gained that afternoon was not just an achievement, he also gained control over his blood veins, causing a muffled boom to resound in Su Ming's body as the blood veins appeared.

As the sound echoed in the air, the 50th blood vein suddenly manifested on his body!

The 51st blood vein also appeared once the 50th blood vein manifested itself, and it did not stop there. As Su Ming continued walking up the steps until he reached the 37th, 42nd, 49th, 58th...

Once he reached the 60th step within a short amount of time, the 52nd blood vein suddenly manifested on Su Ming's body!

Just one more, and he would reach the fifth level of the Blood Solidification realm! In fact, he could already begin training the Berserker Art - Dark Blood Dust!

The muffled sounds coming from his body may not have echoed too far, but Bi Su, who had taken 300 something steps on the path closest to him, heard it as he was walking. He stopped and turned back to look.

'This is the sound of someone surmounting the number of blood veins he currently has... Just who is it that managed to increase his blood veins in this place...?'

He fell into brief thought, but did not pay too much attention to it. He continued walking forward. It may be his first time being in this place, but he already made preparations before he came.

Bi Su knew that the pressure in the mountain would increase by several fold at night compared to the day. That was why almost all would choose to stop moving when it was night and the moon was hanging high in the sky. After all, if they continued moving forward, then they would have to pay a much higher price, and it was not worth it.

It was much better if they rested for a night and continued the next day. If they did that, they would be in the best possible condition. That was why, he would continue moving forward as much as possible before midnight arrived, and then would have to rest.

When the blood veins in Su Ming's body increased to 52, he continued moving forward. He moved quickly up the stairs towards the peak of the mountain that could not be seen.

He did not know that his speed had caused a small commotion in the field outside.

The few hundreds of people in the field may only be paying attention to the top 50 rankings in the test, but they would occasionally look at the person called Mo Su who was placed last and mock him in their hearts. To them, the person who stayed an entire afternoon at the 32nd step had already exhausted his strength.

But now, when one of the men in the crowd looked at the changes in the top 50 ranks with admiration and stole a glance at the last place unconsciously, he was stunned momentarily, then he widened his eyes. He saw with his own eyes the numbers behind Mo Su's name, who had been stuck at the last place, suddenly increase.

33, 37, 45, 48... up until 61, 63... and it continued increasing!

He also looked at the rankings and saw that Mo Su had climbed up dozens of ranks from the last place, and his rank continued increasing!

Very soon, he was not the only one who noticed the change. Many people noticed it and when they looked over, they were all astonished. From that moment, the interest towards the top 50 ranks was no longer as high as the increase in ranks by the person who was previously in the last place.

"That person called Mo Su has started to rise! Haha! Could it be that he rested for the entire afternoon and just woke up?"

"He's already at 137th place. He climbed up so many ranks from the last place. Is he the type that has sudden explosive power much later into things? Let's see whether he can make it within 120."

"He's in! 119th place, 79 steps!"

"Huh... why did he stop?"

"He stopped again!" The people who were paying attention to Su Ming's rank were looking at Mo Su's name at 119th place. When they saw that there was no longer any change to the number of steps he took, which was 79, they were disappointed.

"I thought I'd see another miracle, but it looks like he doesn't have enough strength. Looks like he's at his limit at 79 steps. He must have stored up an entire afternoon's worth of power and let it all out."

Gradually, no one in the field paid any more attention to the common looking name. They turned their attention back to the top 50 ranks. Midnight was near. According to tradition, no one would continue climbing the steps at midnight. The ranks at that time would be the final score for the day.

At a corner of the field, Mo Sang looked at Su Ming's name as he rose up in ranks until he finally stopped at the 79th step. A smile appeared on his face.

As for Jing Nan, who was sitting beside him, he was frowning. When he looked at the eagle statue, the hundreds of names on it seemed to have disappeared in his eyes until there was only one left.

119th: Mo Su, 79 steps.

As Su Ming's ranking rose, Wu La, who was at another small stairway in the mountain, grew nervous. She held the plate in her hands as she looked at the rankings on it.

118th: Wu La, 82 steps.

After a long while, when Wu La saw the person called Mo Su was still at the 79th step, she let out a sigh of relief and with gritted teeth continued climbing upwards.

Chapter 56: The Night Was His!

Su Ming sat on the 79th step. He looked around him, and especially at the moon in the sky. There was still some time left before midnight, even so, night was a comfortable moment for him.

Ever since he started training in the Fire Berserker Art, Su Ming fell in love with the night. He especially looked forward to the nights when the moon was full. Yet ever since Su Ming started practicing the Fire Berserker Art, he had never seen the full moon.

It may have appeared once, but the moon was covered by dark clouds that day. He could feel restlessness in his body when he was in the fire cave, but there was not much change within him in the end. Su Ming had analyzed it himself, if the moon had not been covered by dark clouds that day, then he may have had some obvious changes.

It was a pity that today was not a full moon either, but Su Ming still felt at ease. At the same time, as the pressure increased with each step he took, the pressure also increased as the moon rose into the sky.

‘The Elder of Wind Stream Tribe did mention that pressure in the mountain would increase at night, looks like it’s true.’

Su Ming smiled. He was not bothered by it. To him, as the pressure at night increased, it meant that his power would reach its peak.

Su Ming was much more terrifying at night than he was at day!

Su Ming averted his gaze from the moon and sat down cross-legged on the 79th step. He took a deep breath and began to quietly feel the difference in this place.

It was just as he expected. This was the 2nd place on the stairs where the pressure was balanced. The pressure may be balanced, but it was still much stronger than the pressure on the 32nd step. This place was extremely suitable for him to continue controlling the Qi in his body to a profound state and control the amount of blood veins he wanted to manifest on his body to extreme precision.

As of then, Su Ming also knew that the additional three blood veins that manifested when he walked to the 79th step were due to him being able to control the Qi in his body to extreme precision. Just one more, and he would be able to reach the 5th level of the Blood Solidification realm!

This made Su Ming extremely excited with the prospect of just how many blood veins he would be able to manifest once the 79th step was no longer enough for his training and he would have to go higher!

Su Ming slowly closed his eyes and began circulating his Qi around his body. Once again, he entered into the fine state of controlling his Qi and tried to control the speed of his Qi reverting into his body, making it slow down according to his will.

As time passed by, the 52 blood veins on his body gradually began to reduce at a steady rate from the erratic pace when he first started training at the 79th step as he began to get used to the state. Slowly, he began approaching his previous limit at the 32nd step, but now that he had three extra blood veins on his body, there were still 40 blood veins left on his body as the blood veins disappeared one by one!

Su Ming was calm. There was not a shred of anxiety on him. He slowly circulated his Qi and focused on exercising fine control. Very soon, two hours passed by.

At that moment, many people had already stopped moving forward in the mountain. They chose to sit down cross-legged on one of the steps to train and observe the

rankings on the plate in their hands. They were also waiting for daylight to arrive so that they could continue competing against each other.

Wu Sen panted harshly. His face was pale. After he gritted his teeth and arrived at the 295th step, he finally caved under the pressure and sat by the side. His face was dark. As he looked at the mist, there was uncertainty in his eyes.

'My Blood of Corpses... Sheet! That person stole my Blood. Without it, not only will I be unable to use my powers accurately, I'll also weaken rapidly... I can already feel myself becoming weaker...

'I cannot let the elder know about this. If he learns that I lost my Blood, then even if he helps me retrieve it, I'll lose my value in his eyes...'

Once he thought of the horrific consequences, Wu Sen clenched his fists. There was a hint of fear under the layer of uncertainty in his eyes as well.

'I definitely can't let other people know about this, especially the people who offered me their Corpse Blood in the past. I've been oppressing them these past few years because I was strong and my status in the tribe was high. If they knew that I lost the Blood of Corpses, they'll immediately betray me.

'What should I do...? What should I do...?'

Wu Sen's face was vicious as he gritted his teeth. Still, there was uncertainty on his features.

Chen Chong was panting harshly. He was mumbling under his breath as he walked. When he looked at the brightening moon in the sky despite it being covered by mist, he wanted to rest and wait for tomorrow. Yet the moment he looked at the rankings on the plate in his hands and saw that the person called Bi Su had surpassed him by two steps, he felt challenged.

"You bastard! I won't take this lying down!" Chen Chong gritted his teeth and continued walking.

At the same time, Bi Su from Black Mountain Tribe was also panting harshly as he looked at the plate in his hands and continued walking despite the increasing pressure brought by the moon. It was as if he was competing with Chen Chong and was forcing himself to continue climbing the steps.

It was not until an hour later that Chen Chong let out a huge roar and sat down by the side with his legs trembling. He growled a few times at the quiet mist around him.

"Go! Go on ahead! You bastard, I won't compete with you today anymore! I'll do it tomorrow!"

Perhaps Bi Su felt it, because after he took a few more steps, he flopped onto the ground. Yet when he looked at his rank, there was a dark smile on his lips.

Lei Chen was sitting somewhere around the 130th step with extreme unwillingness and was panting heavily.

Many people had already stopped, but there was one person who kept moving forward.

"563... 567... 572... Ye Wang is actually walking during midnight!"

"The 2nd place is Bi Su. He only took 397 steps, but Ye Wang is already up to 500 something steps. Could he be ignoring the stronger pressure at night and wanting to continue walking?"

"As expected of the strongest among the younger generation. That perseverance of his is not something the others can compare!"

The few hundred people in the field were all staring at the rankings on the eagle statues. Right now, the only number of steps that was changing on the board belonged to the person at 1st place.

The others who were partaking in the 1st stage of the test had all stopped.

"587! 589!"

"It changed again. This time it's 595!"

The field was in an uproar. Everyone's attention was focused on the 1st place. Even the leaders from other tribes were also sighing in respect for Ye Wang.

"Mo Sang, my tribe's Ye Wang has really high potential. How is he compared to you?" the Elder of Wind Stream Tribe, Jing Nan, smiled as he looked at the ranks on the statue and spoke slowly.

Mo Sang was calm as he smiled.

"Not bad."

Jing Nan smiled, but he no longer talked about it.

At that moment, Ye Wang's gaze was firm as he continued walking forward with his hands behind his back despite the sweat pouring down his forehead. Every single step he took was hard, but he did not hesitate. He only stopped when he reached the 600th step. There was a smile on his face as he sat down by the side.

"The last time I was here, I went up to 580 steps on the first night. This time, I surpassed myself by 20 steps. That's good enough... I wonder if there's anyone who'll be able to find the test at the 562nd step... Still, I'm pretty sure it'll be same as last time. No one will have the right to experience the test at the 562nd step," While mumbling under his breath, there was a prideful look on his face that could not be concealed.

The 562nd step was a trap. He failed it when he arrived at that place the first time he took the test and only succeeded the second time. It was now his third time, and he no longer paid too much attention to it. To him, there was no one among the people taking the test who could hope to compete with him. There was no one who had the right to obtain his attention, either.

He had been looking at the plate the entire day as well. However, he was not comparing his score with the other competitors but with himself.

Once he stopped, sounds of discussion arose continuously in the field outside. In their sights, once Ye Wang stopped, the competition for the day had also halted completely. After that, they would have to wait for the next day for the next round.

"The 1st is Ye Wang, 2nd is Bi Su, 3rd is Chen Chong... 12th is Wu Sen... until now, there's only one outsider among the top 10 ranks, the others are all from Wind Stream Tribe!

But the 48th place is Bei Ling, and the 49th place is Si Kong. They're also outsiders. I wonder whether those two will be able to maintain their rank in the top 50 tomorrow. After all, today is only the first day. The key that decides the results of the competition is tomorrow!"

"Just where did Bi Su come from? That's a shocking result he has, he's in second place! He even topped Chen Chong! This person will be a famous Berserker in the future!"

"It hasn't ended yet, something unexpected might happen..." The buzzing sounds of discussion gradually died down. The hundreds of people on the field sat down cross-legged and waited for the second day to arrive.

Gradually, the only sounds within the field that could be heard were ones of breathing.

"Mo Sang, let's go back to the tribe together and continue playing chess. We'll see whether your Su Ming can reach the top 50 tomorrow." Jing Nan smiled and looked at Mo Sang.

Mo Sang did not speak, but looked at Su Ming's name on the eagle statue instead. His rank had fallen from 120 to 123. He nodded his head.

Just as they were about to leave, the elder's pupils shrank as he saw something at that moment. Very soon, some of the people on the field who had yet to rest and were still looking at the ranking board occasionally let out surprised cries.

"He moved! That person called Mo Su moved!" That surprised cry immediately led those who had already closed their eyes to open them once more instinctively and look over. When they saw it, there was amazement on their faces.

Jing Nang, who was about to leave, stopped. He, too, turned over and stared at the statue.

He was not the only one. All the people on the field, including Dark Dragon Tribe's Elder, Black Mountain Tribe's leader, and the leaders from other tribes, looked over. After all, everyone who was partaking in the test had already stopped moving that night. The sudden rise in the ranks by that one person was incredibly eye-catching!

Deep in the mountains, Su Ming, who was sitting and meditating on the 79th step, suddenly opened his eyes. His control over the reduction of the blood veins in his body stopped at the 28th blood vein. That was his limit. He could no longer continue. This time, it was much easier and smoother than before. The time he spent was also much shorter. The reason was because it was night!

There was a faint hint of the red moon in Su Ming's eyes as he sat under the moonlight. He slowly stood up and looked at the winding staircase. A bright flash appeared briefly in his eyes.

'The next place...'

Su Ming lifted his right foot. Under the moonlight, there was no other person who would dare continue walking up the mountain besides him, be it Chen Chong, Bi Su, or even Ye Wang. No one else dared to continue moving forward. Only he, Su Ming, pressed on!

The night was his!

Chapter 57: The Fifth Level of the Blood Solidification Realm!

There was brightness in Su Ming's eyes. Under the moonlight, when no one dared to move an inch in the mountain, he welcomed the incredible pressure brought by the mountain and walked forwards one step at a time.

80th step, 81st, 82nd...

The pressure in the mountain during midnight was much stronger than in the day, and it became even more startling the higher he climbed. The moon shone brightly in the sky, and nothing seemed out of place. Yet it was precisely because it was night, and the night belonged to Su Ming, that as he walked, fine threads of moonlight that were unnoticeable fell onto the land and fused with Su Ming's body, causing the faint shadow of the moon in his eyes to become clearer.

Slivers of cold circulated in Su Ming's body, causing the speed of his footsteps to increase as he continued walking. 87, 88, 93... Very soon, Su Ming arrived at the 99th step.

Just as his right foot landed on the step, Su Ming trembled. Waves of heat caused by his Qi erupted forth from his body, making him shake slightly. Immediately, 52 blood veins appeared on his body. The blood veins seemed to twist around to form a strange picture.

Su Ming stopped and roared towards the heavens. The sound was not loud, and it only echoed around his surroundings. Nonetheless, the 53rd blood vein manifested suddenly on his body!

The appearance of that blood vein meant that Su Ming broke through the fourth level of the Blood Solidification realm and reached the fifth level!

There was a muffled sound of thunder roaring within his body at that moment, and the sound echoed in his surroundings, causing a string of booming noises. Yet the sounds seemed to be swallowed by the black mist by his side, and he did not know where the sounds went.

The moment Su Ming broke through the fourth level of the Blood Solidification realm and reached the fifth, on another stairway nearby was Chen Chong, who was sitting down exhausted as he was mumbling under his breath and was about to rest. His body suddenly jolted due to shock, and he looked at the black mist by his side instinctively. There was a muffled booming sound echoing in his ears. It was a sound he was familiar with!

"This... This is...! Damn it! Someone actually managed to breakthrough in this place?" Chen Chong was stunned momentarily, and disbelief filled his eyes. The flesh on his face trembled. He had never heard of anyone who managed to breakthrough and reach the next level in the first stage of the test. This was the first time it happened!

He rubbed his eyes with force, then, when he felt that there was something wrong with his actions, he immediately changed to rubbing his ears. He turned his head to listen carefully, and his ears moved strangely before they turned red in the blink of an eye.

Chen Chong had been blessed with great talent, and his hearing was especially good. Even if the distance was great and no one else could hear a thing, he could still hear clearly.

This was something he was used to since he was young. Now that his powers increased the higher he was in the Blood Solidification Realm, he became even more proud of himself.

As he listened, bitterness appeared on Chen Chong's face. He also felt indignant.

"Damn it, just what sort of luck is this? How could he breakthrough here, of all places! God, why didn't this happen to me...?" Chen Chong lamented as if he was extremely jealous.

Most of the other people besides Chen Chong, who had exceptionally good hearing, did not notice the muffled boom in the air. The only other person who noticed was Black Mountain Tribe's Bi Su, who was extremely close to Su Ming. He was sitting somewhere above Su Ming when he opened his eyes abruptly. He looked surprised as he turned and looked at the mist behind him.

'Someone broke through to a new level!'

Bi Su's face was dark. He remembered hearing the sound of blood veins increasing on a person some time ago. Once he connected the dots, there was a flash in his eyes, but he was not too bothered by it.

He took out the plate and looked at the change in the rankings. With just one glance, he saw a name suddenly rising through the ranks rapidly as everyone else was staying put!

At that moment, there was an uproar in the field outside the mountain due to Su Ming's actions. Almost everyone's focus was on the one line belonging to Mo Su on the ranking board on the eagle statues.

In the past, everyone would choose to rest during the night for the first stage of the test. It was the action chosen by those within the mountains, and it was the same in the field. Yet this night was different from those of the past!

All of this was because there was a name rapidly rising up the ranks at that moment!

"He moved! 99 steps! He moved from 79 steps to 99 steps! That person has been like that since the beginning. Once he rested enough, he'll start climbing at a mad pace!"

"He's Mo Su, I remember him! He was in the last place previously, then suddenly rushed forward with an explosive force and went up to the 119th place before he stopped. He fell to the 123rd place after that!"

"Look, he's now ranked 113th... No, 109th, 10- 101st! He's ranked 101st now! He's good!"

"Haha! I didn't expect to see such a thing tonight! Very well, let's see just how far that Mo Su can go!"

There were multiple discussions as the field went into an uproar. It was even livelier than it was during the day. The people who did not bother looking at the names after the hundredth were also looking with their eyes wide open.

In the previous tests, almost no one would pay too much attention to those placed at the bottom. Their attention would usually be on the top 50 ranks, or even fixed at the top 30 ranks up till the top 10. Some would even only look at the top 3.

But it was different this time. A situation that was rarely seen brought about talk among the people in the field.

Yet as they talked among themselves with excitement, keeping their eyes glued to the ranking board, they did not put much importance on it. To them, that young man called Mo Su just found a way to spend his time while everyone else taking part in the test was resting.

Once daylight arrived and all the contestants started moving once more, they would automatically ignore Mo Su. After all, Mo Su could not hope to compare with the prodigies no matter how high his rank or how many steps he took.

At that moment, Su Ming's actions also caught the attention of most of the contestants on the mountain. Most of them were resting as they looked at the plates in their hands. The ones who were placed at the lower end of the ranks were especially nervous, but those who were placed higher up just took a look at it and no longer paid attention to it.

Wu La was very nervous. She was sitting at the 112nd step as she widened her eyes and stared at the plate. She took special notice of the person called Mo Su because that person had managed to climb up many ranks from the last place in one go, and it made Wu La feel extremely stressed.

'I've worked hard for the entire day to make it to here and finally managed to get into the top 100! That damn Mo Su! Just who is he? How could he do this? Everyone is resting right now, and the pressure has increased due to the night! Why is he doing this?'

Wu La gritted her teeth due to her anxiety and grievance.

But after a moment, Mo Su stopped moving up the ranks once he was at the 101st place as if he had stopped moving. Wu La let out a sigh of relief.

'He's at his limit...'

Lei Chen was sitting down cross-legged at the 135th step and looking at the plate in his hands. He was also looking at Mo Su's name, but there was a different look in his eyes. It was as if he was deep in thought.

At the same time, Bei Ling, who was sitting at the 206th step, was also looking at the ranks on his plate, but he did not pay much attention to it. To him, that person was just trying to get attention. He did not move during the day but only moved at night, what else could he be doing besides trying to get attention?

'Such a cheap trick!'

Bei Ling smiled coldly.

Situated somewhere around the 200th step, but at a location lower than Bei Ling, was Si Kong from Dark Dragon Tribe. He was frowning. He had been looking at the plate multiple times during the day and was searching for Su Ming's name, but he could not find it. He automatically ignored Mo Su's name climbing up the ranks.

To him, Su Ming's rank should be around his. There was no way he could be in the hundreds. If that was really the case, then he would find it hard to accept that he lost to a weakling.

On another staircase was Bai Ling, who was sitting somewhere around the 130th step. She lifted her head and looked at the moon. She did not look at the ranks. There was uncertainty on her face as she thought about something.

The people on the field waited for a while. When they saw that Mo Su was stuck at the 101st place, they became disappointed but were also not too bothered by it, as if they expected that to happen.

The leaders of the tribes averted their gazes and no longer looked at the ranks.

The old woman in Dark Dragon Tribe closed her eyes slowly. She never looked at the ranks since the beginning, as if she was never interested in them in the first place.

There was a mocking smile on Black Mountain Tribe's tribe leader. The only person he was paying attention to was Bi Su. If there was anyone else worth his attention, then it would be Ye Wang. To him, the only person who could be Bi Su's opponent was Ye Wang!

Once they saw that there was no change in Mo Su's rank after a while, the sounds of discussion gradually disappeared in the field.

"It's clear that that person accumulated his strength and chose to move when no one else was moving. He must know that he won't get much attention otherwise and is using this method to gain some fame."

"That's right. That's a good move though. At the very least, I remember him now. I'd like to see how he looks like."

"Forget it. Let's go rest. Tomorrow is the main event. The top 50 ranks might change... Ah, he's moving! He's moving!" Just as the excitement from before was about to completely die down, a surprised cry echoed through the surroundings.

Mo Su's rank climbed up once again. The number of steps behind his name was also rising up at an unbelievable pace.

100 steps. 103, 107, 112...

Chapter 58: Do You Believe It?

Su Ming started moving again. He lifted his foot and placed it on the 100th step. He stayed on the 99th step for a long time before because the moment the 53rd blood vein manifested, the Qi in his body started churning madly and surrounded his body. He needed to get used to the sudden explosive appearance of the blood vein before he could continue onwards.

After all, the manifestation of that blood vein meant that he reached a breakthrough. It was not just some normal manifestation of a new blood vein.

Once he started moving, Su Ming rushed forward abruptly. His body seemed to continue absorbing the moonlight as he pressed onwards. In the blink of an eye, he reached the 115th step.

He did not stop. As he felt the pressure of the mountain increasing on him, Su Ming rushed forward. 120 steps, 130 steps, 150 steps, 160 steps!

Within the span of a few breaths, Su Ming took about 60 steps. When he was standing at the 160th step, Su Ming suddenly felt as if there was an abrupt increase in pressure from the mountain. It was as if a sudden force erupted forth and pressed onto his body.

Yet at that moment, the bright moonlight surrounded Su Ming's entire body, causing his tied up hair to move on its own under the moonlight.

It would have been fine if he did not move, but now that he did, half of the people in the mountain and the entire field outside fell into dead silence!

Wu La was stunned momentarily. She had been worried about her own ranking. She originally felt affronted and defensive, but now, as she was stunned, the complicated

feeling she had disappeared completely. She understood then that she was not at the same level as the other person. If they were not even in the same level, then why should she compare herself to him? If she did, then she would just be embarrassing herself, nothing more.

Lei Chen stood up abruptly and stared dumbly at the plate in his hands. He had been trying to guess the identity behind the person called Mo Su, but now, he was beginning to doubt his own guess. He could not say for sure whether what he had been thinking was correct.

Bei Ling glared at the plate in his hands as his heart pounded against his chest. There was a brief moment where he felt as if a chill crawled down his spine as he watched the person called Mo Su climb up 60 steps within the span of a few breaths. That speed was unbelievable and he almost forgot to breathe because of it.

He originally thought that the person was just trying to gain attention. That was why he chose to travel at night. Yet as he looked at it, there was no way Mo Su was doing it to gain attention. It was clear that he had the ability to do so since the beginning!

If that was not the case, it would have been impossible for him to climb up 60 steps within the span of a few breaths!

The entire mountain was in silence. Within that silence, Chen Chong blinked rapidly. He did not want to be bothered by it, but his instincts told him that that person called Mo Su was the one who brought about the sudden roar just now!

'It should be him... It should be! But just who is he? He's not from Wind Stream Tribe, that's for sure. I wonder whether I saw him on the field just now.'

Chen Chong still did not know that while he was still on the field surrounded by people, there was one person whose smile was extremely faint as he stood among the crowd trying to get into his circle of friends by laughing. He was of average looks, so average that people would not notice him.

That person was looking at Chen Chong as he laughed and chatted with his friends, surrounded and practically worshipped by the people around him, and watched as he walked towards Bai Ling...

Just as Chen Chong was troubled by his thoughts, Bi Su widened his eyes where he sat on the stairway closest to Su Ming. It was as if he was trying to see through the mist and look at the person who was walking on the stairway right beside his.

Bi Su was different from Chen Chong. He was too close. He could practically tell that the person called Mo Su was very close to him, and he was right behind him on the other stairway covered by mist.

'He's just at the 160th step, though. There's still more than twice the distance between us. He's of no threat to me! If you can come close to me, then it'll be not too late for me to pay attention to your existence.'

As Bi Su thought about it, he smiled coldly and closed his eyes.

On another stairway on the other side of the mountain, Wu Sen stared at the ranks on the plate with a dark face. His gaze stayed especially long on Bi Su and Mo Su's names.

'I'm at the 12th place and only at the 295th step... I won't be able to get into the top 10. I can tell that I'm getting weaker... The person who stole my Blood must be one of these two!'

Wu Sen was not stupid. He was, in fact, very intelligent, or else he would not have been able to maintain a relatively high position within the tribe, which was filled with strife and confrontations, much less control Bei Ling and the others.

'Bi Su!'

Wu Sen's eyes swept past Mo Su's name, and he stared at Bi Su's name, who was ranked second on the plate with a vicious look in his eyes. Even so, there was a hint of fear and caution hidden deep within that viciousness.

Wu Sen had no confidence that he could snatch back his Blood from a person ranked second in this test...

Si Kong was nervous. As of then, his demeanor was similar to how Wu La had acted before. When he looked at ranks and at Mo Su's name, who was at the 160th step, his heart pounded against his chest. He was afraid that he would be overtaken.

He would not be so worried if it was daylight, but it was night time now. He had no confidence to continue onward. Besides, he was currently ranked 49th. Once he was overtaken, then he would be placed at the 50th spot. It may seem like it was just small difference, but the meaning within the rank was completely different.

Besides them, almost everyone taking part in the test had their eyes fixed on Mo Su's name on their ranking plates.

Only Ye Wang never looked at the plate. It was not as if he did not know about what was happening. It was just that with his personality, even if he knew, he would not pay attention to it.

However, the field was even quieter compared to the silence in the mountain. It was as if even breathing was halted, and the field was enveloped in dead silence.

The force that was halting the people's breathing on the field was their own shock, which stemmed from the one name they were all looking at on the ranks shown on the eagle statues.

63rd: Mo Su, 160 steps.

After the sudden explosive increase in steps, many among them no longer treated Mo Su as an entertainment to pass time. They were regarding that name with importance because the sudden increase of 60 steps caused them to be in shock and disbelief!

If it was during the day, then perhaps they would be just shocked, but it was night. It was night, when the pressure in the mountain was a hundred times stronger than during the day. Most of them believed that if he could take 60 steps within the span of a few breaths during night, then that number would increase by several folds during the day!

There were few who could do what Mo Su did among all those participating in the test!

"Just... who is he...?"

"Mo Su... Mo Su... I just did a calculation. He went from 99 steps to 160 steps within less than 10 breaths...! This... is unbelievable!"

"His rank went up from 101 to 62 within the blink of an eye. This person... if he had this sort of ability, then if he did what he just did during the day, he would have gotten into the top 30 ranks. Why is he doing this at night...?"

After a long while, sounds of discussion gradually rose within the field, and they grew stronger by the moment. Even the leaders from other tribes were also looking at the ranks.

However, the old woman from Dark Dragon Tribe and the tribe leader of Black Mountain Tribe still paid no attention to it.

That night was bound to be different. On that night, all attention was bound to belong to one person - Su Ming!

There was a faint smile on Mo Sang's lips as he looked at the ranks on the eagle statue. The expectation within him became stronger. He knew that Su Ming had completely understood the meaning behind the six numbers.

As for Jing Nan, he looked calm as he stood beside Mo Sang. There was no changes whatsoever on his face. If he could not hide his emotions, then he would not have been able to obtain his current power and status.

"Not bad, Mo Sang. You taught the child you brought back well. Honestly, I've always been curious about his birth..." Jing Nan smiled as he looked at Mo Sang.

"Curious? Would you believe me if I told you he was the prince of the Great Yu Dynasty?" Mo Sang looked at Jing Nan and smiled as he spoke. Jing Nan could not tell whether he was lying from his demeanor. Perhaps Mo Sang would forever be the only one who knew the secret to Su Ming's birth.

"Why don't you just say he's the Son of the God of Berserkers? Interesting. How interesting." Jing Nan was momentarily stunned, then he started laughing out loud.

"Perhaps he might be." Mo Sang smiled as he spoke.

Jing Nan laughed, but in his heart, he was shocked. He was not sure whether he should believe in Mo Sang's words. He did not like that thought. For all the years he had lived, he would always have that sort of feeling whenever he met Mo Sang.

At that moment, there was another cry of surprise among the discussions and commotion in the field!

"He's moving! Just when is he going to stop! Look, 168 steps!"

"172, 179. This speed... he seems to be slower than before..."

"This should be his last charge. I say he'll only reach 200 steps at most, nothing more!"

"That's about it. I think the 190s would already be very difficult for him now. This is night time, after all. The higher he climbs, the stronger the pressure will be!" Numerous pairs of eyes were focused on the ranks on the various eagle statues amidst the sounds of discussion. Some of those gazes were cold, some disdainful, some expectant, some admiring, and some filled with jealousy.

At that moment, Su Ming's entire body was surrounded by moonlight as he continued walking forward one step at a time on the stairway. As he walked, the 53 blood veins on his body let out a brilliant red glow. As he pressed onwards, the 54th blood vein also manifested suddenly.

The 55th, 56th, 57th blood vein also appeared simultaneously soon after the 54th, causing the blood red glow on Su Ming's body to become stronger. It filled his body with a powerful force that seemed ready to erupt.

Su Ming growled and took another big step forwards onto the 186th step. Once he did so, the banging sounds that signaled the increase of blood veins reverberated once again through his body. That sound made Bi Su frown on the other mist covered stairway. It also made Chen Chong, who was listening carefully, grit his teeth, hoping and wishing fervently that his body would make the same sounds.

189, 192, 199... 200!

The ranks on the eagle statues in the field changed once again!

1st: Ye Wang, 600 steps.

2nd: Bi Su, 397 steps.

3rd: Chen Chong, 391 steps.

...

48th: Bei Ling, 206 steps.

49th: Si Kong, 201 steps.

50th: Mo Sang¹, 200 steps.

Chapter 59: Unimpeded!

50th: Mo Su, 200 steps!

The faces of all people who saw that one line on the ranks shown on the eagle statues changed. The previous looks of disdain, scorn, or even amusement were completely gone like the wind.

No one treated Mo Su as an entertainment for them to spend their time anymore. They had just witnessed a miracle and saw something unbelievable happening before their own eyes!

This person made it from the last into the hundreds, then to the 50th place!

There were even some in the field who were in disbelief to what they just saw. They did not imagine that such an incident could occur.

Mo Su even did this while everyone was not moving, and he pushed forward from the last place to the top 50 ranks. He even did all this during midnight. This was too shocking, hence most of the people in the field had already ignored the striking results in the top 10 ranks, neglected Bi Su, who was in second place, and had all their attention drawn to Mo Su's name.

"Just how far can he go...?"

"He'll definitely make it to the top 30!"

"I don't think so. He seemed to not have enough energy during the last charge. But no matter what, if he can enter the top 50, then it means he's very powerful!"

The sounds of discussions continued like waves and did not stop. The night should have been quiet, but at that moment, it was impossible for the spectators to remain silent when they had just seen something they had never seen before. In fact, the field was even livelier than during the day.

Su Ming made it to the 50th place, and all eyes were on him, no matter whether it were the hundreds of people on the field, or the participants of the test who were also in the mountain.

While those who were below the top 50 were angry that he suddenly surpassed them, they were also filled with respect. As for those within the top 50, they were all staring at the plates within their hands and looking at Su Ming's rank. To them, Su Ming had just become a threat. The threat may yet not be great, but nonetheless, they started placing some importance to his existence.

As for those in the top 20 and above, they did not place much importance on him.

However, the ones who were the most anxious at that moment would definitely be Si Kong and Bei Ling. One of them was placed 49th, and the other 48th. That person who suddenly made it to the top 50 was like a thorn in their side.

It was especially so for Si Kong, whose face was pale at that moment. He clenched his fist. He was the son of the tribe leader of Dark Dragon Tribe. He had gritted his teeth and made it to this rank after much difficulty. He had felt prideful for his achievements, but as of now, his heart was racing against his chest.

'Don't go up! Don't go up! Don't go up!'

He was screaming in his heart while he stared at the rank shown on the plate with bloodshot eyes.

On a stairway located further away, Bei Ling stood up. He was also extremely nervous. He widened his eyes and stared at the plate, but did not scream in his heart like Si Kong. Instead, he gritted his teeth and turned, walking towards the 207th step.

As most of the people were staring at the plate, Su Ming stood at the 200th step and took a deep breath. The persistence in his eyes was as hard as steel. On his body, all 58 blood veins were shining brightly. If there was no mist covering them, then the light would have definitely shone with dazzling brilliance, and even those far away would be able to see it. Yet now, due to the presence of the mist, everything was hidden away deep within the mountain.

Su Ming felt a strong power blossoming within his body. He lifted his head and then looked at the night sky and the moon through the thin layer of mist above him.

He did not know why, but ever since he started training in the Fire Berserker Art, he fell in love with the night. He did not hate the day, per say, but he no longer looked forwards to it.

"Among all those living on the land, who will be able to see the end of the horizon...?" Su Ming mumbled under his breath as he stared at the dark sky. There was a brilliant flash in his eyes that disappeared as soon as it appeared. If no one was looking into his eyes closely, they would not have discovered it.

Su Ming lifted his right foot and went forward once more. He stepped onto the 201st step and the 202nd step. The moment his feet landed, Si Kong, who was on a stairway further away from him, stood up with a vicious look and roared towards the sky, then moved forward in a frenzy.

He watched with his own eyes as his own ranking fell from 49 to 50. It was just a difference in one place, but that was akin to the difference between heaven and earth. It made Si Kong, prideful as he was, unable to accept it.

If he had been overtaken since a long time ago, he would not have minded it, but once he had managed to get into an advantageous position from the start and then had his position suddenly taken, he found it hard to accept. He gritted his teeth and walked forward step by step as he growled lowly under the incredible pressure caused by the moon on the mountain with a vicious look on his face.

At the same moment, Bei Ling also moved!

Their actions were like a butterfly effect. The people placed 47th, 46th, and 45th also could not hold still any longer and stood up, unwilling to give up. All of them began walking once more.

Once they started moving, it was as if the few hundred people in the field were given a powerful medicine that made them excited. The sounds of discussion were like the endless waves in the sea.

"Si Kong's moving! 202, 203... He stopped..."

"Bei Ling won't stay still anymore either. 207, 208, 210..."

"Interesting, with Mo Su getting into the top 50, the rankings are now thrown into chaos. There's bound to be a person who'll fall out of the top 50. If that's the case, then they'll definitely be nervous!"

The moment the discussions became louder, a sudden silence fell upon them. The sounds of speaking turned into the sounds of sharp intakes of breath. All of their gazes were focused on the one name climbing madly up the ranks!

Even the old woman from Dark Dragon Tribe, who was never interested in the ranks, opened her eyes and stared at the name on the eagle statue beside her jumping up the ranks. She looked calm. If there was any change in her thoughts, other people would find it hard to detect.

However, the tribe leader of Black Mountain Tribe still did not look at the ranks.

49th: Mo Su, 205 steps.

46th: Mo Su. 213 steps.

42nd: Mo Su. 221 steps.

39th: Mo Su, 232 steps.

37th: Mo Su, 239 steps.

34th: Mo Su, 247 steps!

Si Kong stared at the ranks on the plate in his hand. His entire face was pale while his body trembled. It was as if he lost all his strength and fell to the ground. He gritted his teeth, but it turned into a sense of helplessness. He only managed to take two steps and could no longer bear the pressure brought about by the night. He had to stop.

Bei Ling's face was bitter as he also gave up on continuing. He did not have any more strength to move. The pressure of the night was not something he could withstand.

The others also stopped. As they looked at the shocking sight of Mo Su going from the 50th place to the 34th place, a sense of powerlessness arose within them.

Su Ming stood at the 247th step. That was not even half of the mountain. Compared to the seemingly endless stairway, he was only a small distance up the stairs. Even so, even if it was just a small distance, as he stood there, it was as if he was standing in midair. There was no wind where he was, and due to the mist surrounding him, it was difficult for him to see the world outside. Yet as Su Ming lifted his head and looked at the moon, he felt as if it was now closer to him.

Su Ming took in a deep breath and lifted his foot once again to land on the 248th step. The moment he stood there, the blood veins in his body increased once again, and it rose from 58 blood veins to 59 blood veins!

Su Ming lowered his head and looked at the blood veins on his body. There was a smile on his lips. He could clearly feel the similar balance on the 248th step, just like in the previous two places.

The sky was still dark. There was still some time before daylight, but Su Ming gave up on moving onwards. He sat down with his legs crossed on the 248th step and closed his eyes. He immersed himself within the circulation of his Qi and began controlling it with finesse.

Due to the increase in his blood veins, the difficulty in fine control had also increased. Yet Su Ming was not anxious. He did not want to give up on this sort of a rare chance. Besides, the purpose of the elder telling him the six numbers was for him to treasure the chance in the first place.

When Su Ming went into meditation to control the speed of the circulation of Qi in his body, time passed by slowly. Once the participants who were in the later 30s saw the final result, their uncertainty gradually turned into contemplation. As for those before the 34th place, they began to relax from their anxiety.

Those within the field were filled with different theories and expectations once Su Ming stopped once again.

"Just who is he?"

"Which tribe does he belong to?"

"Why did he choose to move at night?"

"Why did he stop once he reached 34th place? Is he tired, or does he have another plan?"

"Can he maintain his rank, or will he fall out of the top 50, or will he... get into the top 30, and even the top 20...?"

"Could he perhaps... get into the top 10?"

Numerous questions appeared within the hearts of the people in the field. As the sounds of discussion gradually died down, they buried their queries in their hearts and waited for the moment they would obtain their answer.

There were also quite a number of them who did not think highly of Su Ming. They believed that Su Ming would stop moving soon. More importantly, as daylight was about to arrive and the others would start moving once again, Su Ming's rank would fall.

Yet no matter what, even those who did not expect too much from Su Ming had to admit that Mo Su's name brought about a change during that night. Due to that, his name

would be remembered forever by all the people. In fact, even after many years had passed, they would still remember it...

That night, Mo Su's brilliance was greater than the people's in the top 10 ranks, and it could even be said that it was greater than Ye Wang's!

It was destined that Mo Su's name would be taken into account occasionally even when day arrived. No matter what the spectators' thoughts were, most of them held some form of expectation towards that name.

Mo Sang was still smiling as he looked at Su Ming's rank. He might not know how and why Su Ming changed during the night, but he understood that everyone had their own secrets. As his elder and guardian, there were times where he did not have to know everything about his protégé, but would have to protect him.

"Do you believe what I said now?" For the first time since he came to this place, Mo Sang took the initiative to speak to Jing Nan.

Jing Nan's face was calm as usual, but when he looked at the rankings, he frowned slightly. He became even more uncertain towards what Mo Sang said about Su Ming's birth.

The night slowly passed by. The field sank into a peaceful silence. Almost everyone became quiet due to the different thoughts occupying their minds. Yet their gazes would still occasionally wander to the eagle statues and stay on the line belonging to Mo Su.

After a long while, the first rays of light brightened up the horizon. A new day had arrived.

Chapter 60: A Shocking Move!

It was the second day of the first stage of the test!

The moment the first rays of sunlight arrived, some of the pressure on the black misted mountain, where the Ancients sealed the strange beast, left. The moment it returned to normal, Ye Wang was the first to move.

He opened his eyes calmly and got up before moving towards the 601st step. He had no idea what happened last night. To him, who had always been prideful, there was no need to look at the plate. He still believed that there was no one who could become his opponent. The only person who could compete with him was himself.

Ye Wang walked pridefully one step at a time up the stairs. He had a resolve. He must make it to the 900th step this time during the first stage of the test this time. He could still remember clearly that the final step he took last time was when he was in the 800s. He had been exhausted and was unable to move any longer. When he had to finally give up, he lifted his head and seemed to see a strange stone statue at the summit of the mountain far away.

It was a pity, however, because he could not see the statue clearly due to the distance between them. Nonetheless, that one glance alone made Ye Wang become persistent. His pride and extraordinary talent would not let him rest. He would see that summit that no one has ever seen before!

He longed to stand there and look down towards the people beneath him.

He was prideful, and he continued walking further up the stairs within the mist in his fire-like clothes. He might not have looked at the rankings, but he knew that he was in the 1st place!

Chen Chong was gritting his teeth as he continued mumbling under his breath and climbing upwards with all his strength. He might be panting harshly, but he did not stop to rest. Instead, he would occasionally look at the plate in his hands to check Bi Su's rank.

Bi Su was still higher than him by three steps. Both of them seemed to have made rivals of each other and were constantly competing against each other. In truth, this had already happened since yesterday, and Chen Chong absolutely refused to resign himself to losing.

"You bastard. Choose either to walk faster and widen our distance so that I won't be bothered so much, or slow down a few steps. Aren't you tired? Well, if you're tired, I'm tired too!" Chen Chong was drenched in sweat. It may be day time, but he, who was currently in the 400s, could feel the pressure from the mountain beginning to suffocate him. Fatigue rushed forward through his entire body like a tidal wave.

Bi Su was also panting harshly. He may have rested for an entire night, but as he continued climbing upwards, and the pressure continued increasing, the arrogance within his heart was gradually stifled. It was especially so when he saw Ye Wang, who remained in first place, walking steadily up the stairs in the 600s. It made a bit of respect grown in him towards the man.

Without the desire to compete for first place any longer, he started directing his attention towards Chen Chong, wanting to win against him. To him, his opponent was only Chen Chong. Once he completely overcame this person, even if he lost first place to Ye Wang, his name would ring throughout all the tribes around the region.

Especially since the elder was now... Bi Su smiled coldly. There was a hint of yearning and fantasizing within his eyes.

Wu Sen's face was pale. He may have rested for an entire night, but his condition did not become better. As time continued trickling by, the weakness brought by the loss of the Blood of Corpses from his body began revealing itself. His face was dark as he continued walking forwards. He would occasionally look at the ranks in the plate and at Bi Su, who was ranked 2nd. There was a look of discontent on his face.

He was still ranked 12th, but Wu Sen knew that he no longer had any hope to enter into the top 10. The people before him were usually no match for him in the tribe, but now...

Wu Sen sighed.

Compared to them, Su Ming was much calmer. He did not continue climbing up the mountain but was sitting cross-legged on the 249th step controlling the speed of the Qi circulating in his body to a profound state.

He was using every ounce of his abilities and the balanced pressure in this place to limit the increase and decrease of his blood veins to only one at a time.

To him, exercising fine control was very interesting. This was the same to him as when he was quenching herbs, but this time, his body was the cauldron, the Qi in his body was the flames, and his body was the herbs. He would control the strength of the fire and refine his body.

As time passed by, the hundreds of people in the field outside looked at the ranks on the eagle statues and started talking among themselves again.

"There's no doubt that Ye Wang will be in the first place. He's in the 680s, no one can catch up to him."

"The second and third place are definitely Chen Chong and Bi Su. Look at them, those two are chasing after each other. I'm pretty sure they're competing against one another."

"It's a pity for Wu Sen. I wonder what happened to him. I just can't understand it."

"It's a pity for Mo Su too. It's already noon, but he hasn't moved at all. Now his rank has been overtaken multiple times, and he's at the 47th place..."

As they were discussing among themselves, one name ranked in the 100s suddenly glowed with a gray light on the nine eagle statues. As it flickered, the name turned gray.

The sudden change immediately caught the crowd's attention, but they were not surprised.

"Someone gave up!"

"Since the past, a huge number of abdicators will appear on the second day of the first stage of the test. They no longer have any strength to continue onwards and can no longer withstand the pressure in the mountain. If they don't leave, then they will face the danger of their blood pressure increasing."

The air suddenly twisted, soon followed by a wisp of mist coming from the mountain towards the field. Once it disappeared, a young man around 20 years of age staggered and almost fell onto the ground with a pale face. It was clear that he was forcefully transported out.

It was as if he felt uncomfortable with the gazes of the people on him. He lowered his head and quickly went to his tribe located in the distance. He sat down quietly with disappointment.

The number of people who gave up like him increased in the afternoon. The names that turned gray, and the black mist that transported the people out of the mountain from the twisted space became the spectators' main attraction on the second day.

The people who gave up would mostly sigh in disappointment and return to their tribes. There were quite a number of them who came from Wind Stream Tribe.

"Those ranked in the 100s have all given up. Hey, look. By tonight, all those ranked below the top 50 will give up, and by midnight, there'll also be a number of people who will give up. After all, even if they don't move forward during midnight, they won't be able to resist the incredible pressure in their exhausted state."

"Every single time during the first stage of the test, the rankings are not the only entertainment. Looking at the people who gave up is also a form of entertainment."

"Isn't it? It's especially so for those who got a pretty good ranking and gave up. Those looks of anxiety and fear that someone else will overtake them are really interesting."

Just as the sounds of discussion echoed in the air, a person's face suddenly lit up in excitement as he looked at an eagle statue.

"Mo Su moved!"

The moment the words were spoken, it immediately caught almost everyone's attention. Numerous eyes fell upon the statues and on the line that belonged to Su Ming.

Su Ming opened his eyes. After spending half the day exercising fine control, the blood veins in his body had reduced to 21, and he could no longer continue decreasing the number. Su Ming lifted his head and looked at the stairs shrouded by mist before him. He slowly stood up.

He did not know that he was under the scrutiny of a lot of people. As of then, he only had two thoughts in his mind. Besides using this place to exercise fine control and train, he also did not want to let the elder down.

‘I’ll do my absolute best and give it my best shot!’

Su Ming was, after all, still a teenager. He had a teenager’s spirit and determination.

There was a flash in his eyes before he took a quick one step forward and landed on the 249th step. An incredibly strong amount of pressure pressed against him, causing Su Ming to tremble.

‘What great pressure!’

Su Ming’s face was pale. He felt as if there was a ferocious mythical creature roaring towards him down the stairs.

Su Ming’s eyes were firm. As the pressure came forth, he activated and circulated the Qi in his body until all 59 blood veins appeared, then he rushed forward.

251, 255, 258... Su Ming took a deep breath and continued taking 20 something steps. When he stood at the 270th step, only then did he exhale slowly.

There was sweat beading on his forehead. Without the help of the moonlight, walking on the stairs during the day to Su Ming was more draining. Yet the more it was so, the more firm he was in his resolution. More importantly, as the pressure increased on his body and lashed against the 59 blood veins on him, it made Su Ming feel as if his blood veins were about to increase once again.

He knew that this was all due to him being able to discover the secret of the six numbers and continuing to exercise fine control over the circulation of his Qi. Because of this, not only did he gain precise control over his Qi, the potential within him was also forced out due to the fine control.

It was especially so since the elder used the True Awakening on him and Su Ming obtained a drop of Berserker Blood from him. Those gifts given to him by the elder were truly absorbed into himself once he practised fine control multiple times on the mountain and was aided by the pressure as he continued climbing upwards.

Su Ming gritted his teeth once more and continued moving forwards quickly. Muffled booming sounds echoed within his body as he continued moving ahead, and the 60th blood vein immediately manifested on his body!

61 blood veins, 62 blood veins... The moment Su Ming landed onto the 301st step, the 67th blood vein manifested itself with an explosive force on his body!

The 67 blood veins surrounded Su Ming's entire body and made him feel as if he had an unlimited amount of energy. He may be drenched in sweat, but the unwavering determination in his eyes became even stronger.

Su Ming did not know the amount of shock he brought onto the hundreds of people in the field the moment he moved from the 248th step to the 301st step!

The tribe leader of Black Mountain Tribe looked towards the statue abruptly. There was a rare serious look on his face.

"60 steps again! When that Mo Su doesn't move, he's unassuming, but the moment he does, he shocks the world!"

"Haha! I was waiting for him to move all this while. He didn't let me down. Mo Su, get into the top 30! Even better, get into the top 10!"

"He didn't move for the entire day. Even if he did now, he's only placed 36th, unlike yesterday..." There were hints of jealousy within the voice of the person who was pretending to be speaking in disdain among the sounds of discussion. That person who spoke suddenly widened his eyes and swallowed down the words he was just about to speak.