

Time 391

Chapter 391 - 391 Thundergod's slash!

"Death's Chant?"

The white-robed old man mumbled in a voice filled with disbelief as he stared at Liu Mei's hand that was covered with black strands of death qi.

As for the yellow-robed disciples, they had all fallen silent as they heard the old man's voice that reverberated throughout the spacious hall.

A few seconds later, a young man looked at the elder who was dressed in white robes, before he asked in a hesitant voice

"Elder Zhuan... weren't the requirements for a disciple to train in 'Death's Chant', that they first had to comprehend the Dao of Death?"

The white-robed elder turned his eyes to look at the young man who had just spoken and nodded his head with a serious look in his eyes, before he once again turned his gaze towards the screen of light at the center of the hall, at Liu Mei's figure that had already started to disappear.

Seeing the thoughtful look on Elder Zhuan's face, a young woman took a deep breath before she asked curiously

"Elder Zhuan, is the 'Dao of Death' that powerful? Is it even more powerful than senior brother Huang's 'Dao of Eternal Night'?"

Serious looks immediately appeared on the faces of the disciples around the young woman when they heard her question, as they all then turned their attention towards Elder Zhuan as they waited for his answer.

Elder Zhuan however didn't reply right away, and instead, he kept staring at the gigantic screen of light at the center of the hall.

Without moving his gaze, the white-robed elder shook his head a few moments later, before he said seriously

"I can't be certain whether that girl's 'Dao of Death' or if inner disciple Huang's 'Dao of Eternal Night' is actually stronger if both of them were at the same level, but I do know one thing.

The 'Dao of Death' is definitely much more dangerous to comprehend than the 'Dao of Eternal Night'!

Although both of these Daos have a high degree of danger to start comprehending them, the 'Dao of Death' actually requires a cultivator to peer through the Abyss of Death and live.

However, the one similarity that the 'Dao of Death' has with the 'Dao of Eternal Night', is that cultivators who train in these Daos need to kill hundreds and thousands of cultivators in order to advance!

Of course, this can be both a boon and a bane..."

The young woman who had asked the previous question seemed like she had wanted to ask some more things the moment that she heard this answer, but seeing that Elder Zhuan wasn't willing to

reveal anything else, she suppressed her curiosity as she turned her eyes towards Liu Mei at the gigantic screen of light once again.

Liu Mei's body was covered by a bright white light, as her silhouette that had already started to fade, finally disappeared from the dark cave.

As Liu Mei disappeared, the third day soon came to an end as well.

Inside his own cave, Shun Long was completely oblivious to the commotion that Liu Mei's results had caused, as well as the revelation that she had comprehended the Dao of Death, causing plenty of disciples of the Holy sect to pay attention to her.

Instead, he kept sitting cross-legged on the ground, as he continued to comprehend the 'Thundergod's slash'.

At times, Shun Long would occasionally inject part of his qi inside the black sword, and make the strange patterns on its surface lit up, while at other times he would simply continue sit inside the cave silently without even circulating his qi.

During this time, Shun Long also felt himself coming a step closer towards the 'Dao of Lightning'.

However, comprehending a Dao, even in its initial stages was never easy.

As the fourth day came to an end and the fifth day started, the disciples of the Holy sect who were watching the remaining participants of the second test in the gigantic screen of light in front of them, seemed to have exhaled a sigh of relief, as they started to chat between themselves in light-hearted tones

"It's probably pointless to wait another day for the second test to finish! Those that were strong enough to pass and advance to the third test have already done so! There is no point in waiting! Let's see the third test already!"

"Junior brother Mu is wrong. It's possible that there are still some people who are hiding themselves and are still trying to comprehend the cultivation technique or the martial skill that they have chosen as much as they can, before they test themselves in the barrier of knowledge."

"Senior brother, what's the point of waiting instead of competing with the rest about who is fastest? Isn't that a more accurate representation of their talent? Besides, it's not like the third test will wait for them either! I am sure those kids have already started!"

"Hehe, there really were some terrifying brats among them! I wonder how many of them will manage to enter the test and become our junior brothers and sisters. However, let alone entering the sect, the third test itself is already terrifying enough to eliminate most of them!"

At the same time that the disciples of the Holy sect were chatting between themselves, Shun Long who had been sitting cross-legged on the ground for the past 3 days finally opened his eyes.

His golden-colored eyes had a sharp and serious look inside them, while his gaze resembled that of a sharp sword that was finally leaving its sheath!

As he slowly stood up from the ground, Shun Long focused his gaze on the azure-colored barrier in front of him, as he mumbled to himself in a curious voice

"Let's see the true power of a Saint low-grade martial skill'."

Holding the black, star-rank sword in his hand, Shun Long started to inject large amounts of his qi inside it, lighting up the strange patterns on the sword's surface!

At the same time, sparks of lightning appeared on the sword's surface as the golden-colored patterns started to light up, as Shun Long steadily raised the black sword in the air.

Using his spirit sense, Shun Long guided the lightning around the sword's surface towards the sword's edge, practically forcing the berserk 'Dao of Lightning' to follow his will.

Staring at the azure-colored barrier of knowledge, Shun Long narrowed his eyes as he slashed the star-rank sword forward at full force while he roared in his mind

"Thundergod's slash!"

Almost 80 percent of his qi had been sapped from the 81 balls of qi above his head in a single instant, before a terrifying black-colored slash filled with berserk lightning left the black sword's edge, and flew towards the azure barrier of knowledge in front of him like a wild magic beast!

This scene instantly attracted the attention of the disciples of the Holy sect in the spacious hall, as they saw the powerful black-colored slash collide with the barrier of knowledge!

The scene in front of Shun Long's eyes, was completely different from the first time that he had used the 'Thundergod's slash'!

Crackling sounds could be heard from the sparks of lightning that were mixed in the powerful slash, as they kept trying to destroy the azure-colored barrier!

Shun Long saw the enormous 'barrier of knowledge' in front of him ripple a few times, before the 'Thundergod's slash' lost its remaining strength and slowly disappeared.

Shun Long's lips curved up into a smile when he saw the power of the 'Thundergod's slash', and without any hesitation, he took a few steps forward, as he stretched out his right hand and placed it on the palm imprint of the azure-colored barrier!

Chapter 392 - 392 The third test's rules

The spacious hall of the Holy sect had fallen completely silent, as the yellow-robed disciples and even the white-robed Elder Zhuan, were all staring at Shun Long's results with eyes filled with shock!

They couldn't believe the scene that they were seeing!

The words that had appeared on the barrier of knowledge in front of Shun Long weren't gold in color, but instead, they were shining with the brilliance of stars in the middle of a starry night.

They were filled with a pure white color that had a goldish hue inside it, while their content had left the Elder of the Holy sect and the yellow-robed disciples completely dumbfounded!

"Saint low-grade martial skill, 'Thundergod's slash'!"

Level of comprehension: 92 percent!

Pass!"

A deathly silence had filled the spacious hall for a few moments, before a young man in yellow robes was the first one to speak, as he could no longer restrain his shocked voice

"Did the barrier of knowledge make a mistake?"

The rest of the disciples around this young man seemed to have been brought back to reality after hearing his words, as a flurry of discussions erupted in the previously dead-silent hall

"Could it really be that the barrier of knowledge made a mistake? Or perhaps... this person already knew of the 'Thundergod's slash' beforehand, and he simply comprehended it further in these 4 days!"

"This is impossible! The barrier of knowledge in the second test, will not allow someone to pick a skill that they already knew before taking the test, and it will only react to the skill that that person has chosen.

In other words, if this person already knew of the 'Thundergod's slash', the barrier wouldn't have allowed him to pick it, and neither would it have reacted just now!"

The person who had said these words, had obviously said them with absolute confidence in his voice, but he still turned his head at the same time to look at the white-robed Elder Zhuan, almost as if he was waiting for the elder's confirmation.

Seeing that every disciple inside the hall seemed to have turned their attention towards him, Elder Zhuan nodded his head somewhat absent-mindedly, while his eyes were still staring at the handsome blue-robed young man in the screen of light in front of him.

"What kind of monster is this? This is the first time that I am seeing someone reach above 90 percent during the second test! Just how high is his comprehension of the 'Dao of Lightning'?"

Although Elder Zhuan's voice wasn't loud, and it was actually suppressed quite a bit, in the dead silent hall, every single disciple could hear it clearly in their ears.

Of course, as one of the Elders who was supervising the tests of the Holy sect and was responsible to pay attention to any abnormalities, it wasn't rare for Elder Zhuan to see people comprehend 50, 60, or even 70 percent within 4-5 days.

However, seeing that someone had managed to comprehend a Saint low-grade martial skill to more than 90 percent during this period of time, was indeed shocking to the Elder!

One could only imagine the Elder's reaction if he knew that, not only had Shun Long not comprehended the 'Dao of Lightning' before, but it was also the first time that he was coming in contact with a Saint low-grade martial skill as well.

Of course, due to the 'Dao of Lightning' inside the star-rank sword that was at an extremely high-level and could aid Shun Long when he was learning martial skills related to the 'Dao of Lightning', as well as the fact that during the past 2 years that he had been comprehending the 'Dao of Time' Shun Long had also felt his own level of comprehension rising as well, learning the first move of a Saint low-grade martial skill was no longer as difficult for Shun Long as it had been in the past.

"Isn't this level of talent and comprehension, at the same level as an inner disciple's?"

It was unknown who had spoken this time, but it had instantly caused everyone in the hall to stare at Shun Long's figure with even more serious looks in their eyes.

After all, even when compared to Liu Mei's or Xie Xingyi's results, Shun Long's was indeed even more shocking!

...

Completely oblivious to the commotion that the results of his second test had caused, Shun Long had turned his attention to the azure-colored barrier in front of him, when suddenly, a bright white light shot out from the barrier's surface like a bolt of lightning, as it completely enveloped his body like a white membrane.

The moment that the white light covered his body, Shun Long could feel his vision blur, as a feeling similar to that of spatial fluctuations appeared from the white membrane around him.

The darkness of the cave and the light of the azure-colored barrier in front of him slowly disappeared as the light of the sun once again illuminated Shun Long's surroundings.

As his vision slowly returned, Shun Long found himself standing at the foot of a small mountain, while trees of different sizes had filled the forest around the mountain.

However, before Shun Long could completely take in the scene in front of his eyes, the same powerful voice that he had heard during the first test, suddenly boomed inside his mind like a sudden bolt of lightning

"Welcome, to the third test of the Holy sect, the World of the one-thousand cities!

The rules of this test are simple.

There are one-thousand cities spread throughout this world, and each city has an army of Spirit realm and Nascent Soul stage cultivators inside it!

Every single one of those cultivators has been apprehended by our Holy sect, and they have either r.a.p.ed men, women, or children, or have committed other heinous acts that exiled them into this place.

Inside every single city, there will be a single yellow-colored token of my Holy sect.

Of course, a token may be hidden somewhere inside the city, or it may be held by the strongest person in there!

All you have to do is obtain one of those tokens, and make sure not to lose it.

You have 25 days left!

If you don't manage to find a token within these 25 days and hold on to it, you will be instantly eliminated!"

Chapter 393 - 393 Hidden meaning

As the booming voice finished its words, it instantly vanished from Shun Long's mind, like a wisp of smoke being dispersed in the wind.

At the same time, shock had filled Shun Long's eyes when he heard the rules of the third test, while his mind instantly ruminated over the hidden meaning behind them.

"There are actually 1000 cities in this place, and according to that voice, all of them have been filled with death row criminals that the Holy sect has gathered for this test.

At the same time, according to that voice's tone, it is going to be almost impossible to gather even a single token without creating a massacre, and this is probably what the Holy sect wants as well. To nurture cultivators who are not afraid of killing and punishing evil-doers.

Hmm, this test also seems to have even more meanings as well!

On one hand, the Holy sect seems to be wary, that many of the disciples who are participating in this test may be talented but not prepared to kill. This can make sense since many of those disciples may have had very powerful backgrounds back in their own continents, but they may haven't stepped foot outside their homes due to this as well.

Thus the Holy sect is looking to either forcefully temper everyone this time, or weed out those who are not strong enough to do what the sect wants them to.

Although this test looks similar to the first test, but in reality, it's completely different!

Despite that voice saying that the main aim of this test is to obtain a token from a single city and just hold it for the remaining 25 days, there are many underlying meanings behind that.

What does it mean to hold the token?

It obviously means that anyone who manages to obtain a token, will then have to protect himself from those who are trying to steal it!

Otherwise, the Holy sect could simply allow the first person who grabs a token, to instantly pass this test!

After all, since there are only 1000 cities, and each city has a single token, there are at most 1000 disciples who will be allowed to pass this test!

There is no way that people won't try to steal the tokens that others have in their possession!

At the same time, it's going to be extremely difficult for a single person to exterminate everyone inside a city.

I suspect that the Holy sect has already foreseen how strong the disciples who are taking part of the test really are, and the strength of the strongest people inside the city won't be much weaker.

Besides, there is no way that those criminals don't know what's going on!

Although they may not be willing to willingly hold a token and wait for the disciples to come and kill them, it's very likely that the Holy sect itself will kill them if they leave the city.

And even if they willingly give up the token to the first person who comes into the city, what about the remaining people who will follow?

Hence, their best course of action is to band together and resist the disciples who will want to kill them.

Hmm, it's also possible that the Holy sect has promised to let them go if they managed to survive for a certain period of time, giving them even more hope for them to struggle in order to stay alive."

As Shun Long reached this conclusion, he rubbed his temples with his thumb and his middle finger in frustration, as he understood that there were even more hidden meanings than he had originally expected behind the sect's test.

It was just a single test and yet, there were so many things going on behind the scenes and Shun Long wasn't even certain if this was everything!

After a brief moment of deliberation, there was a deep look inside his eyes as he mumbled in a low voice

"At the same time, the Holy sect seems to be warning its disciples, that it won't tolerate evil cultivators. Those who commit heinous acts may very likely find themselves in these cities in the future...?"

After coming to this conclusion, Shun Long immediately soared in the sky, as he ascended the mountain in front of him, flying all the way towards the mountain's peak.

Barely 5 minutes later, he had already arrived at the mountain's peak, as his eyes took in the scenery around him from the high vantage point!

A forest that spanned for a few hundred miles seemed to have surrounded the mountain that he was standing on from all sides, while past this forest, Shun Long could see the vast plains that spanned as far as his eyes could see.

At the same time, a few hundred miles away from the east of this forest, Shun Long saw a city being erected in the midst of the boundless plains.

This was definitely one of the thousand cities in this world!

After hesitating for a moment, Shun Long had a serious look in his eyes, as he flew directly towards the east, heading straight towards the city in the distance!

...

At the same time, at the peak of a small mountain in a somewhat narrow cave, Liu Mei was sitting cross-legged on the ground while a look of pain had appeared in her eyes!

Originally, she had intended to comprehend the 'Death's Chant' for the full 5 days before she passed the second test, but how could she expect that as she was comprehending the Saint low-grade martial skill, she would unconsciously enter a state of enlightenment and she would feel her breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage arrive out of nowhere?

Without any other solution, her only option was to pass the second test as quickly as possible, before she attempted to complete her breakthrough during the third test!

Thankfully, the third test lasted for a much longer period of time than the second, giving ample time to Liu Mei who wanted to find an isolated place and try to complete her breakthrough.

After all, unlike her previous breakthroughs, Liu Mei knew that this breakthrough was going to be extremely dangerous for her, and it was even possible for her to lose her life this time!

The reason behind this was her own cultivation technique, the 'Blood Absorption art'!

Chapter 394 - 394 Group of disciples

Liu Mei's white robes were drenched in sweat, while an expression of agony and pain had filled her face!

She knew that she was about to breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage, and there was no way to delay this matter any longer!

Despite the piercing pain, that was similar to needles stabbing her soul, Liu Mei still did her best to take out a bottle filled with purple-colored pills from her spatial ring and hold it tightly in her hands.

This was the same bottle that Shun Long had given to her before they entered the white gate outside the Heaven's Dome city, to participate in the first test of the Holy sect!

Liu Mei clearly remembered that Shun Long had seriously exhorted her, to consume these pills before she attempted her breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage!

Feeling her spirit sense that was wildly churning inside her spiritual space like a wild animal that could no longer be contained, as well as her qi that seemed to be on the verge of exploding, Liu Mei opened the pill bottle in her hands with great difficulty, before she placed all 3 pills inside her mouth without any hesitation!

Although she didn't know the effects of these pills, Liu Mei believed that there was no way for Shun Long to harm her.

Since he had told her to consume these pills before her breakthrough, Liu Mei would do so without any hesitation.

The moment the pills entered her mouth and turned into a stream of purple-colored medicinal essence that slid down her throat, Liu Mei didn't hesitate any longer, as she hurriedly closed her eyes and begun to circulate the 'Blood Absorption art', beginning her breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage!

At the same time, Liu Mei already knew, that the breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage would be a qualitative change to her.

Not only would her spirit sense transform into soul sense and be able to leave her body after breaking through the Nascent Soul stage, but she also knew that if the body of a Nascent Soul stage cultivator died, as long as the soul stayed intact, it was possible to possess another body and start cultivating from the beginning!

Additionally, since the insights of the Daos that the Nascent Soul stage expert had comprehended, as well as the memories and experiences that they had acquired wouldn't be lost, it wouldn't be too hard to reach the Nascent Soul stage again in the future.

Of course, the quality of the qi as well as the foundation Dao of the cultivator, would also experience a huge change after breaking through to the Nascent Soul stage!

Liu Mei knew, that as long as she managed to successfully complete her breakthrough, she would become many times stronger than before!

The moment that she started to circulate the 'Blood Absorption art' however, endless and insufferable pain filled every inch of her body, while her eyes instantly turned red!

Suddenly, black and incorporeal tendrils of death qi appeared from her body, covering Liu Mei inside a black cocoon!

...

At the same time, completely oblivious to the fact that Liu Mei had fallen into a state of enlightenment during the second test and was now in the process of breaking through to the Nascent

Soul stage, Shun Long was advancing through a lush forest, as he headed towards the small city that was located a few hundred miles past the east of the forest, amidst the vast plains in the distance!

As he traveled through the forest, Shun Long had been somewhat surprised to find out, that aside from a few early and middle rank 4 magic beasts, he didn't even find a single peak rank 4 beast, let alone an early rank 5 one.

However, after thinking about it for a moment, he realized that it made sense.

"Hmm, since the aim of the third test, is to make the disciples participating in it fight against the criminals inside the 1000 cities, the Holy sect wouldn't go out of its way to place rank 5 magic beasts near the cities' surroundings!"

And yet, despite reaching this conclusion and knowing that it was unlikely for a rank 5 magic beast to appear in this forest, Shun Long didn't get complacent and lower down his guard, as he carefully continued forward.

"Even if there are no rank 5 magic beasts inside this forest, it is still more than likely for other disciples who are undertaking this test, to set up an ambush and attempt to try and rob others.

Perhaps if they are lucky, they will even find a token of the Holy sect among the treasures of their victim, allowing them to pass through the third test effortlessly."

As this mocking thought flashed through his mind, he continued to check his surroundings without letting down his guard, as he continued moving forward!

Of course, Shun Long wasn't afraid of being robbed and he would even welcome these people with open arms if this was in the past, but this time, he didn't want to waste too much time inside this forest, in case the token inside the city gets taken away while he wastes time inside this forest.

2 hours quickly passed, as Shun Long left the lush forest behind him without any issues.

It was unknown if there were no disciples who had set up an ambush, or if Shun Long had simply failed to meet them on the way.

As soon as he left the lush forest and entered the vast plains, Shun Long saw his field of view expanding, as a small-sized city appeared in the distance ahead of him, slowly getting bigger and bigger in his eyes as he continued forward.

An hour quickly passed, and Shun Long was just 10 miles away from the city, when he saw a small crowd gathered in the vast plains just a few miles away from the city gates!

Almost 200 young men and women dressed in different types of clothes were gathered together, and all of them were staring at the city gates in the distance with serious looks in their eyes.

Turning his eyes towards the small city ahead of him, Shun Long immediately realized the reason why these people were gathered here, and why they were staring at the city gates with solemn looks!

More than 1000 men and women were gathered in the city walls, staring at the small group of 200 disciples with mocking looks on their faces.

There was a serious look in Shun Long's eyes as he also stared at the scene in the distance, without heading towards it straight away.

"Although most of them seem to be at the rank 1 of the Nascent Soul stage, there are still more than 1000 of them! Additionally, it's impossible for these people to be the entire force of the city, without any rank 2 or rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts hidden inside!"

As this thought flashed through Shun Long's mind, he then turned his eyes to look at the group of 200 disciples who were standing less than 10 miles away from the city, only to see that some of them were also staring back at him.

All of a sudden, Shun Long saw a handsome young man dressed in luxurious silver-colored robes whose cultivation was at the early rank 3 of the Nascent Soul stage, as that person stood up and walked towards Shun Long's direction.

Chapter 395 - 395 Temporary alliance

Seeing that there wasn't any direct hostility coming from this person, Shun Long who had already guessed what was going on in his mind, calmly waited to see what this person's intention was!

As soon as he arrived just a couple of meters away from Shun Long, the silver-robed young man smiled brightly as he looked at him, before he said in a warm tone

"This brother, my name is Qiu Lei and I am from the Northern region!

Since you are here, then that means that you have also managed to pass the second test as well!

As you can see, there are 176 more people like you and me in this place, and we have all gathered together to pass the third test!"

Shun Long's lips curved up when he heard the last part of this sentence, as he stared at the young man who called himself Qiu Lei without interrupting him.

Qiu Lei smiled even brighter when he saw Shun Long's smile, as he then continued with what seemed to be a genuine expression on his face

"It looks like this brother has already realized the reason why I am here.

Indeed, it is to invite you to fight alongside us as we attack that city!"

Pointing at the small city in the distance that had more than 1000 experts at the peak of rank 9 of the Spirit realm, as well as early rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivators in its walls, Qiu Lei then continued with a serious look in his eyes

"There are more than 1000 cultivators stationed on the city walls, and as you can very likely guess, this is definitely not going to be that city's full strength! There are definitely bound to be rank 2, and even rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators inside the city and they are waiting for us to attack!

Otherwise, if it was just those 1000 people, even a middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator wouldn't have too much trouble to destroy this city, let alone peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts!

Since it's almost impossible for even rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts to storm the city by themselves, we are planning to wait here until the end of the day, and see if there are any more people who pass the second test as well and come here!

By the time night falls, regardless if it is just us or if more people come, we will definitely make our move!

As for the token of the Holy sect inside the city, we will leave that to fate! After all, there is only one token inside that city, and there are almost 180 of us here."

As he finished speaking, Qiu Lei looked at Shun Long with that same warm smile on his face as he waited for his answer.

Shun Long however, thought seriously for a while, without answering straight away.

He first looked at Qiu Lei, before he turned his gaze towards the small city in the distance.

Based on what Qiu Lei had said, this indeed sounded like a situation where everyone would only gain to benefit from it.

After all, Shun Long wouldn't say that he was definitely stronger than a peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage expert right now and he could storm the city by himself!

"Although I am confident enough in taking care of this city if it was really just those 1000 people on the city walls, the situation is definitely not going to be that simple.

Teaming up with these people to take care of the powerful rank 2 and rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators inside the city and find the Holy sect's token, is indeed a much better and safer choice.

However, the problem lies in this matter as well!

Everyone will be paying attention to find the token as well! Without having advanced to the Nascent Soul stage, I won't be able to locate the strongest person inside the city and find the token first."

It only took a moment for Shun Long to realize the crux of the matter behind this alliance.

After all, although all of these disciples seemed to have grouped together at first glance, once they entered the city, everyone would look to find the strongest person and obtain the token of the Holy sect!

In that case, it was more apt to call it a temporary alliance instead! After all, the moment that someone obtained the token, the other disciples around him would definitely pounce on him like a pack of wolves! Since there were only 1000 disciples who could obtain the tokens and pass the third test, there was no way that anyone here would allow someone else to just take the token and leave in the end!

After thinking about it seriously for a few more moments, Shun Long looked at Qiu Lei, before he nodded his head and said with a calm smile as well

"In that case, let's enter this city together."

Seemingly as if he had expected this answer, the smile in the silver-robed man's, Qiu Lei's face widened even further, as he pointed towards the group behind him and said to Shun Long

"Let's wait until night falls! Then we will all move together at the same time as we attack the city!"

Nodding his head, Shun Long followed Qiu Lei as he walked towards the group of disciples in the distance.

Shun Long was surprised to see, that there were only 10 Spirit realm cultivators among this group, and just like him, they were all at the peak of rank 9 in the Spirit realm!

As for the rest of these disciples, they were all at the Nascent Soul stage, while most of them were even at the early or the middle of rank 2 in the Nascent Soul stage!

Shun Long's appearance attracted many looks from the disciples in this group, as the time to attack the city was getting near, but since he wasn't hiding his aura and was only a peak rank 9 Spirit realm cultivator, many people quickly ignored him after a precursory glance!

After all, there was no way for a peak rank 9 Spirit realm cultivator to even think of obtaining the Holy sect's token and passing the test!

Even the other peak rank 9 Spirit realm cultivators only threw a few more glances at Shun Long, before they closed their eyes and did their best to bring themselves to peak condition, since there were only a few hours left until they attacked the city!

At the same time, every single one of these disciples here knew, that the third test of the Holy sect wasn't a place to make friends! If they were inside the sect, it would be a completely different matter, but here... despite being in an alliance, they were all competing against the others as well!

Shun Long wasn't expecting a warm reception in the first place, and after finding an empty patch of grass to sit down, he closed his eyes as he waited for night to fall.

Half a day quickly passed and by the time that night had fallen, Shun Long only saw 2 more people joining the 'temporary alliance' in the end.

Seeing that it was already time to move, Shun Long saw Qiu Lei, as well as 6 young men and 3 young women next to him, all standing up at the same time, as they looked at everyone else with serious looks in their eyes.

From Qiu Lei's group, a young man dressed in luxurious golden robes was the first one to take a step forward, and facing the rest of the disciples who had joined the temporary alliance and were now looking at him, he said in a commanding voice

"There is no reason to wait any further! We will now attack this city that is filled with criminal sc.u.m!

Remember, that although this may be an alliance, but at the same time, it's every man for himself!

The goal is to take the Holy sect's token and pass the third test, not to help each other! The only common goal that we have, is that we are all looking for the Holy sect's token while we eradicate the sc.u.m inside that city!

Now, if you are ready... follow behind me!"

Without waiting for a response, the golden-robed young man led Qiu Lei and the other people around him, as he turned around and headed towards the small city in the distance!

Chapter 396: Attacking the city!

After hesitating for a moment, the disciples of the alliance looked at each other, before they all followed the golden-robed man's group as they headed towards the small city in the distance. ;

The moment that they arrived just 2 miles away from the city, Shun Long saw Qiu Lei's group split into 3 different groups, as the golden-robed young man and Qiu Lei, as well as 2 more people at the rank 3 of the Nascent Soul stage spearheaded the attack in the city, while the other 2 groups attacked from the sides! ;

Although the disciples of the alliance turned somewhat chaotic when they saw the unexpected splitting of the group in the lead, most of them still followed the first group, while less than 30 disciples followed the other 2 groups. ;

At the same time, as Shun Long flew after the first group, he also realized that the conjecture that he had arrived in during the first test, was actually wrong. ;

Just the alliance of disciples that was attacking this city alone, numbered close to 200 people! ;

This meant that, if there were 200 disciples that were attacking each one of the 1000 cities in this world, the total number of disciples that are participating in the third test would reach close to 200.000! ;

Even if the second test actually eliminated half of the disciples that took part in it, if Shun Long factored in, that only one-fourth of the disciples that were originally participating in the first test managed to successfully pass it, the number of people that entered the Holy sect's test in the beginning, must have definitely surpassed 1.5 million! ;

"1.500.000 disciples, all of them either at the late-stages of the Spirit realm or the Nascent Soul stage..." ;

As Shun Long came to this conclusion, he realized how terrifying the Holy sect's influence really was. After all, in the entire Night star continent, there were only 200.000 people who met the criteria to participate in the Holy sect's test. Even if some people had decided to participate in the entrance selection of the 'Demon Emperor Palace' instead of the Holy sect's, these people definitely didn't number more than 50.000. ;

As soon as Shun Long's group neared closer to the city gates, the Nascent Soul stage cultivators that were stationed in the city walls instantly sounded the alarm, before waves of attacks flew towards Shun Long and the rest of the disciples like a tsunami that was about to drown them. ;

Flame arrows, water pythons, sword and saber slashes filled with qi, ice shards, as well as many other types of attacks, all looked to bury this group of disciples, before they could even approach close to the city walls. ;

At the same time, Shun Long saw the golden-robed man in the middle being covered in a burst of flames, that incinerated every attack that dared to come close to him! Even his hair were covered in flames, not allowing even an inch of his body to be unprotected as he continued to fly forward. ; ;

It didn't matter if it were the flame arrows, the ice shards, or any other type of attack, everything that came in contact with the crimson flames around this man's body was instantly destroyed.

At the same time, Shun Long also realized, that this young man was actually a peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage expert! ;

As for Qiu Lei and the rest, they all had their own means to easily resist these attacks, as they continued to fly towards the city walls. ;

Surprisingly, Qiu Lei's cultivation which was at the early rank 3 of the Nascent Soul stage, was actually the weakest one among the 4 people in this group! Aside from the golden-robed young man who seemed to be the strongest, the other 2 disciples around him were actually at the middle of rank 3 of the Nascent Soul stage as well. ;

Of course, since these people were previously concealing their cultivation, it was impossible for Shun Long who had yet to breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage and form his soul sense, to sense their levels before these people started fighting. ;

As for the attacks that came his way, Shun Long had it just as easy as the peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage young man, as he activated the 'Monarch's Domain'! ;

Every attack that entered inside the 'Monarch's Domain', was akin to entering Shun Long's kingdom, unable to approach any closer to his body, as the flow of time around them was forcefully frozen. ;

In front of Shun Long's 'Monarch's Domain', even the attacks of rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivators were practically worthless. ;

To avoid attracting too much attention however, Shun Long didn't activate the 'Monarch's Domain' to its fullest, only allowing it to cover a small area around his body. ; ;

The rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivators on top of the city walls were stunned when they saw that their attacks were actually useless against the enemies' group! ;

Against 140 cultivators, most of whom were already at the early or middle rank 2 of the Nascent Soul stage, once they started to work together, the onslaught from 1000 rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivators and late-stage Spirit realm ones was practically nonexistent. ; ;

As for monsters like Shun Long or the golden-robed young man and the rest of the rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators, they didn't even need to team up with others as they easily ignored these attacks and continued flying towards the city. ;

The moment that he arrived above the city walls, the golden-robed young man was the first one to attack, as he gathered his qi in his left hand and sent a powerful punch forward! ;

A fist of crimson flames escaped his arm, and flew towards the city walls below him at extreme speed, catching the late-stage Spirit realm and the Nascent Soul stage cultivators completely off-guard! ;

Before they had any time to escape, more than 10 rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivators, and almost 30 late-stage Spirit realm ones were submerged by the gigantic fist of flames, as they were killed in an instant! ;

Not willing to waste any more time than necessary against the 'small fries', the golden-robed young man threw a mocking look at the remaining people on top of the city walls, before he instantly spread his soul sense and flew towards the east of the city, followed by Qiu Lei and the 2 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators behind him! ;

Chapter 397: Abrupt change

Seeing the powerful rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts that flew deeper inside the city instead of staying here to eradicate them, made the late-stage Spirit realm and the Nascent Soul stage cultivators on top of the city walls heave a sigh of relief!

After all, against the 4 rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators, and especially that peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage young man in golden robes, they knew that they were completely powerless to put up any resistance.

The moment that Shun Long saw Qiu Lei's group heading deeper inside the city however, he stopped holding back as well, as a blue light instantly covered his body before his speed increased by more than 5 times.

He was like a bolt of blue lightning, as a moment later, he quickly appeared above the city gates, before he also flew deeper inside the city, completely ignoring the people who were staring at him with wide-open eyes!

After all, for a peak rank 9 Spirit realm cultivator to be just as fast as the 4 rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts was a visually shocking scene that no one of them had seen before. Even if the rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators weren't flying at full speed, Shun Long's speed was definitely faster than any rank 2 Nascent Soul stage expert!

Of course, Shun Long knew that he couldn't lag behind if he wanted to have a chance to obtain the Holy sect's token so he could only go all out this time.

Since he hadn't formed his soul sense just yet, he could only use his wits as well as his own strength if he wanted to have a chance at obtaining the token.

Since that golden-robed young man had first spread out his soul sense before he led Qiu Lei's group towards the east of the city, Shun Long knew that this must have meant, that there was a powerful Nascent Soul stage expert in that direction.

Thus, heading towards that direction also meant that there was a good chance to find the Holy sect's token.

After all, instead of searching throughout the city blindly, following after the 4 rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators was a much better choice.

Of course, Shun Long wasn't the only one who was chasing after their group either.

A few peak rank 2 Nascent Soul stage cultivators had also passed through the attacks of the people at the city walls almost effortlessly, as they chased behind the group of rank 4 rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts as well.

Less than a minute later, Shun Long saw Qiu Lei's group arriving above an old tower that seemed to be on the verge of crumbling to pieces.

The golden-robed young man had a profound look in his eyes as he looked at the tower in front of him, as he then gathered the qi in his hands, and without any warning, he sent a powerful flame fist towards it.

The crimson flames looked as if they were about to burn the air itself, as the gigantic fist flew towards the old tower.

BOOM!

Without any suspense, the moment that the flame fist touched the already half-broken tower, the tower collapsed into countless pieces.

However, the flames that were supposed to completely burn down the old tower into dust were suddenly extinguished, as a gigantic sandstorm erupted out of nowhere, as it completely covered the now-destroyed tower.

At the same time, from the debris of the collapsed old tower, Shun Long saw a young woman with a cold look in her eyes emerging from it, followed by a young man in brown robes, as well as a middle-aged man who was holding a large greatsword, as they all shot towards the sky at the same time, facing off against the golden-robed young man from Qiu Lei's group.

The golden-robed young man however didn't seem to be surprised by this woman's appearance. Instead, it looked like he had everything under control, as he looked at her with a cold look, before he said in a commanding tone

"Hand over the Holy sect's token and I will allow you to live. Refuse, and I will simply bury you all here today!"

Anger instantly colored the young woman's expression when she heard these provocative words, while the sandstorm that was swirling around her started to turn even more powerful. However, the short-haired young woman didn't flare up, and instead, it looked like she was trying to suppress her fury, as she looked at the golden-robed man from Qiu Lei's group as she said in a questioning tone

"You fool, didn't you notice that there are 2 more peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators in this city aside from me? What makes you think that I have the Holy sect's token?"

Besides... you really are too arrogant to claim that you will bury me here today!"

The golden-robed man didn't seem angry when he heard the black-robed woman's response. Instead, a mocking look appeared in his already cold eyes, before he then said with a similarly mocking smile on his face

"Do you take me for a fool, or do you really think that you are smarter than you actually are? You may be able to fool the others who have already split up and are chasing after the other garbage in this city, but I am not an idiot like them!"

Since you revealed your strength the last time, did you think that no one would notice that you are actually the strongest one in this city? Do you really think that you were the only one who was holding back at that time?

If it wasn't because there were 9 of you and just 6 of us, I would have already buried all of you criminal trash!

Enough talk! Hand over the-"

Before the golden-robed young man could finish his words, he suddenly turned his gaze to the side with an incredulous look in his eyes.

It wasn't just him, even Shun Long who by now had already understood that the golden-robed man's group had already met this young woman's group a few days ago, and had either lost or they had been forced to retreat, was now staring at the scene in front of him with eyes that betrayed his shock.

Seemingly out of nowhere, a black-robed old man had appeared behind Qiu Lei, and before anyone could react, the old man stabbed a pitch-black dagger in Qiu Lei's back.

Before Qiu Lei could react, the old man instantly removed the dagger, before he slammed it on the back of his chest a second time!

The silver-robed Qiu Lei had a look of pain on his face, as he tried hard to turn around and see his assailant's face.

He couldn't believe that he had been sneak-attacked with his guard up.

His body however seemed to have lost all of its strength, as the silver-robed Qiu Lei felt his eyes losing their focus while his body started to plummet.

Unable to support himself any longer, he fell from the sky like a cannonball, as he crashed on the ground with a bang!

An early rank 3 Nascent Soul expert had been instantly killed just like that!

Chapter 398: Realization!

The golden-robed young man looked at Qiu Lei's lifeless body that had crashed on the ground, having lost its remaining vitality, before he turned his eyes towards the black-robed old man who was standing in the sky just a few meters away from him.

The old man however didn't seem afraid of the young man in golden robes despite seeing the murderous look in his eyes, or the crimson flames around his body that had increased in intensity and were looking like they were about to swallow everything in sight, and after flashing him a ghastly smile that revealed his crooked teeth, the old man's body quickly disappeared, looking like it had blended in the surrounding darkness.

At the same time, the golden-robed young man narrowed his eyes, before he gathered his qi in his arms and punched forward, towards the old man's disappearing figure.

This time though, it wasn't a flame fist that had appeared from his arms, but a pillar of crimson flames instead.

The scorching hot flames that flew towards the black-robed old man looked like they were about to expand and engulf the entire city, razing down everything in sight, while even from a distance of nearly a mile away, Shun Long could still feel the hot temperature in the city that was rapidly rising.

It was obvious that the golden-robed young man was going all out this time, and wasn't willing to give the old man a chance to escape!

The pillar of flame accurately struck the old man's disappearing figure, before it continued flying further into the distance, before it landed on a small house 3 miles away, instantly reducing it into molten rocks.

In fact, the buildings that the pillar of flames had flew above, clearly showed signs of melting as well, despite being barely grazed by this crimson pillar!

The golden-robed man however didn't seem to be satisfied with the result, as he turned his gaze back towards the young woman, who seemed to be leisurely staring at him with an expressionless look on her face.

By her side, the figure of the black-robed old man started to quickly materialize, revealing his body that was devoid of injuries.

Only the edge of his right sleeve had barely been grazed by the scorching red flames, but that was a small price to pay, considering that he had managed to easily kill Qiu Lei amidst 3 other rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts!

At the same time, Shun Long was also stunned by the old man's powers, as well as the strength of the flame pillar from the golden-robed young man.

It had instantly destroyed more than a dozen buildings, while at the same time, it had also raised the temperature of its surroundings, affecting more than one-fourth of the city in a single instant!

This made Shun Long remember, just how powerful Nascent Soul stage cultivators really were!

During the past 3 years that he and Liu Mei were traveling through the Night star continent, thanks to Little Black's enormous strength as well as the poison that he had concocted from the 'Soul Poisoning hell grass', the times that Shun Long had to directly face Nascent Soul stage experts or rank 5 magic beasts were actually very few.

This had caused Shun Long to effectively not place too much attention to the previous cultivation realms, making the Dao King realm his next direct goal. After all, he already knew that once someone became a Dao King, their Dao would experience a qualitative change.

However, seeing the fight in front of him right now made Shun Long suddenly recall the ever-growing progress that he had experienced in the last 4 years, nearly causing himself to fall in a daze in the process, as he stared at the black-robed young woman's group which was now confronting the golden-robed young man's.

Unknowingly, Shun Long had actually entered a state of sudden enlightenment as countless thoughts flashed through his mind one by one, while scenes of himself slowly advancing in his cultivation flooded his head!

"Qi condensation cultivators are those who have just stepped a foot in the world of cultivation and are barely stronger than average mortals. Nevertheless, since they can absorb the qi around them inside their bodies and can train in cultivation techniques, they are still considered cultivators.

As for earth grade cultivators... the moment that a cultivator manages to break through to the earth grade, they will experience an immense increase in the amount of qi that they can store in their dantian, and they will even be able to start training in martial skills that allow them to control their qi outside of their bodies.

Even without the use of martial skills however, an earth grade cultivator can't be compared to a Qi condensation one in terms of pure strength! After all, a single earth grade cultivator can easily take care of dozens of Qi condensation cultivators without any problem.

The most noticeable increase however, comes when one of them breaks through to the Heaven grade. After all, earth grade cultivators are still stronger than normal humans, but unless they have comprehended a martial skill, they are still nothing more than very strong humans in the end.

However, the moment that someone breaks through to the Heaven grade, they will see an enormous increase in their strength.

After all, Heaven grade cultivators have not only gained an enormous increase in the purity and the quantity of their qi, but they can also freely control it outside of their bodies as well, even allowing them to fly.

However, the biggest benefit in their strength comes from the fact that a Heaven grade cultivator has obtained an initial comprehension of their Dao!

The power of the Daos is simply the biggest difference between a Heaven grade cultivator and an earth grade one! No matter what, even a thousand earth-grade cultivators may not necessarily be able to defeat a Heaven-grade expert in the end, unless they manage to exhaust all of his strength first.

And above the Heaven grade is the Spirit realm...

Finally, once a cultivator reaches the Spirit realm they can be considered a powerful cultivator. Even in the Night star continent, one needs to be at least at the Spirit realm to safely roam throughout the continent.

After all, not only will the comprehension of the Dao experience a big increase once a cultivator breaks through to the Spirit realm, but so will their spirit sense as well as the amount of qi that they have.

At the same time, once a cultivator manages to breakthrough to the Spirit realm, their strength will also multiply by many times!

If an average Spirit realm cultivator exploded with their full strength, their attacks could probably flatten a sect like the 'Floating Cloud sect' in a matter of minutes. Unless there is another Spirit realm cultivator to fight them off, Heaven grade cultivators are like ants in front of a powerful Spirit realm expert!

And yet... the Spirit realm is in reality, nothing more than just preparations before the breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage!"

As Shun Long's thoughts reached this point, a bright blue light started to appear from his body, covering him from head to toe.

Chapter 399: Transformation

Although the blue light coming from Shun Long's body wasn't too bright, in the midst of the dark night it instantly attracted everyone's attention.

The golden-robed young man and the 2 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts who were alongside him, were just about to start fighting with the black-robed young woman's group, when they suddenly turned their attention towards Shun Long's direction all at the same time.

Shun Long's body now resembled a shining blue-colored star whose light was illuminating everything around him!

The light coming from his body was also expanding at a rapid rate, instantly submerging everything around it.

Seeing that the blue-colored light coming from Shun Long's body was now expanding towards their direction and was about to touch them, actually gave the rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts a feeling of immense danger!

Even the golden-robed young man and the black-robed young woman, as well as the black-robed old man who had just killed Qiu Lei, all 3 of which were peak rank 3 Nascent Souls stage experts, they could all feel a sense of danger coming from Shun Long, one that was not inferior to another peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage expert at all!

The black-robed woman led her group, as she instantly turned tail and fled away without any hesitation, heading towards the north of the city.

Chances were that even if Shun Long wasn't a friend of the golden-robed young man, he would still be her own enemy and would be looking for the Holy sect's token as well.

Thus, as long as Shun Long wasn't a direct threat to her, leaving the area and taking care of the golden-robed young man first was more important!

The golden-robed young man had a deep look in his eyes as he stared towards Shun Long's direction for a few moments, before he turned his attention back towards the fleeing black-robed woman's group!

After a moment of serious thinking, he turned his eyes to look at the 2 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators by his sides, before they all nodded their heads simultaneously, as they chased after the black-robed woman.

At the same time, that the 2 groups left the scene, Shun Long who was sitting on the ground with his eyes closed, had completely lost all sense of his surroundings.

His mind that had entered a state of sudden enlightenment, didn't allow any conscious thinking!

Although he could vaguely feel that his surroundings were changing in some way, he wasn't certain of what was going on, and neither could he actively think about it either.

The only thing in Shun Long's mind right now, was his breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage that had unconsciously begun!

As the invisible figure of an hourglass appeared around him, 81 bright balls of qi had also appeared above his head at the same time, while the bright blue light that was coming from his body was giving off a sense of lethal danger, that didn't allow even peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts to touch it.

Shun Long could feel his spirit sense inside his spiritual space that was churning madly, like a wild beast that was finally unshackling itself after a very long time!

Circulating the 'Monarch's Hourglass', Shun Long started to fuse the 81 white balls of qi with each other, while at the same time, he could feel his spirit sense that was becoming stronger with every passing moment!

At the same time, right above his head and next to the invisible 'Monarch's Hourglass', Shun Long was now unaware that a gigantic black-colored vortex had also appeared, sucking in the qi in the air from the entire eastern part of this small city.

Shun Long's body that needed vast amounts of qi to supplement the 'Monarch's Hourglass' for his breakthrough, for the very first time seemed to be lacking the qi that it needed.

Since Shun Long couldn't absorb any qi from the 'Heaven Swallowing vine' that was still inside the 'Stone of Time', the 'Monarch's Hourglass' had naturally formed a gigantic vortex that stole the qi

from the air around the entire eastern part of the city, supplementing it all inside Shun Long's body. Using the large amounts of qi that were entering his body, Shun Long started to fuse the 81 balls of qi with each other, while at the same time, his thoughts continued to ruminate over the meaning of entering the Nascent Soul stage

"A Nascent Soul stage cultivator cannot be compared to someone who is still in the Spirit realm in terms of strength.

Now I understand!

Nascent Soul.. it doesn't just mean that a cultivator is using their soul...

It isn't just the stage of rebirth... the soul itself becomes many times stronger alongside the increase in qi and spirit sense... no, soul sense!"

At this point, Shun Long who was still comprehending the meaning of being a Nascent Soul stage cultivator, was completely unaware that the vortex above his head had now covered half of the city!

Be it the alliance members who were fighting the criminals stationed at the city walls, or the golden-robed young man and his group as well as the black-robed young woman's, everyone could see the black vortex that was now hovering above their heads like an omen of death!

"Senior brother Qiong, is this really a Nascent Soul vortex? How can it be this terrifying...?"

One of the 2 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators who was following the golden-robed young man couldn't help asking in a voice filled with disbelief, once he saw the gigantic vortex in the sky that was so similar, and yet at the same time so different from his own vortex when he was breaking through to the Nascent Soul stage!

After all, it was common knowledge, that once someone was breaking through to the Nascent Soul stage, their body would absorb the qi around them to supplement itself with enough qi for the breakthrough, but the scene created wouldn't be nearly as terrifying as this!

Perhaps the vortex would have a radius of half a meter, or it could be as much as 3 meters wide!

Even 'senior brother Qiong' however didn't seem to have an answer to this, as he stared at Shun Long's direction with a serious look in his eyes.

At this point, even he wasn't certain if this was really a Nascent Soul vortex.

After all, even his own Nascent Soul vortex in the past, had only reached a radius of a little more than 11 meters, and 'senior brother Qiong' was certain that he himself was definitely considered a genius!

At the same time, the 81 balls of qi above Shun Long's head had already merged into 27, and yet, this wasn't the only transformation that was taking place this time.

Shun Long could feel his spirit sense was that churning even more wildly, when suddenly, his spiritual space started to rumble!

It was like a terrifying magic beast that was finally waking up after an endlessly long period of slumber!

The moment that the 27 balls of qi were merged into 9, Shun Long felt a terrifying, soul-splitting headache assaulting him, before a booming sound that was similar to the Heaven and earth splitting apart resounded from his spiritual space!

Chapter 400: Sealed memories

The moment that this booming sound resounded inside his spiritual space, Shun Long who could feel a transformation taking place in his mind, suddenly felt a soul-splitting headache assaulting him, almost as if it was trying to tear apart his soul.

At the same time, his entire spiritual space had started to rumble violently, while only the 'Stone of Time' continued to float there calmly, as if these changes had no effect on it.

Despite having experienced endless amounts of pain and suffering in the past, including having his body reformed twice by the 'Monarch's Eternal body', Shun Long was unable to suppress this pain that was coming from the depths of his soul, as he subconsciously let out a roar

"AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH"

He could feel as if his own soul was slowly being torn apart... while something sealed inside him was slowly awakening! And yet, this very awakening was causing him so much pain, that Shun Long was already on the verge of breaking down.

At the same time, Shun Long had also realized, that this pain was no different from when he was absorbing the knowledge inside the golden book! Despite being half a step away from advancing to the Nascent Soul stage, he was barely able to endure this suffering while maintaining his consciousness.

However, just as Shun Long was trying to suppress the soul-splitting pain and merge the remaining 9 balls of qi above his head into 3, something completely unexpected suddenly happened.

ROOOOAAAAR!!

A powerful roar came from the depths of Shun Long's spiritual space, shaking his soul in the process, while at the same time, Shun Long could feel that whatever was sealed deep inside him had finally broken free!

At that same moment, the soul-splitting headache turned even more intense, as countless scenes appeared in Shun Long's mind, like a volcano that was suppressing itself for millions of years and had finally erupted!

Suddenly, a new scene appeared in Shun Long's mind, as Shun Long saw himself wearing a golden armor as he was flying in the sky, while in his right hand, he was holding a familiar black spear.

This scene didn't seem to be a memory that Shun Long was observing as an outsider.

Instead, he could actually feel that he was flying in the sky, as he led 10.000 black-armored soldiers towards a mountain that was hovering above the clouds!

As he turned his head around to look at the ten-thousand black-armored warriors, a single name appeared in Shun Long's mind

'The Heaven Trampling Legion!'

This name had been etched at the deepest parts of Shun Long's soul, and as he mumbled it inside his mind, a myriad of emotions suddenly appeared in his heart!

At the same time, Shun Long clearly remembered, that he had seen a similar scene once again in the past, back when he was breaking through to the fourth stage of the 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

However, back then, not only was Shun Long riding on Little Black's back, but the faces of the warriors of the Heaven Trampling Legion were blurry and indistinct, making Shun Long unable to recognize their facial features.

This time though, not only could Shun Long clearly see each and every one of their faces, but their names had also appeared in his mind at the same time!

Staring at the floating mountain in the distance, more and more memories continued to appear in Shun Long's mind, while at the same time, he could practically feel the overflowing killing intent coming from the Heaven Trampling Legion behind him.

They were all staring at the mountain peak high above the clouds with emotionless eyes, but the endless killing intent coming from their bodies, made them seem like a pack of bloodthirsty beasts that couldn't wait to raze the mountain to the ground.

"Right... back then, the Sky mountain's Xiong family had attacked Gao Jiahao's family, killing every last descendant of theirs in order to steal their family treasure, the 'Golden Immortal Bell'.

Jiahao and his elder brother weren't at the Gao family back then, managing to escape the disaster out of pure luck!

Once the 2 siblings learned of their family's destruction, they immediately fled the area they were in, trying to escape as far as they could.

... I still remember how Jiahao was carrying his big brother's body in his hands once he arrived outside the Heaven Trampling city, as he begged Xiao Ming to revive his elder brother that had died to magic beasts while they were on the run.

There were tears in his eyes as he knelt down and begged the 'Lord Immortal' to save his elder brother who had sacrificed himself to keep his younger brother alive... but alas...

After Xiao Ming took him in as a disciple, Jiahao dedicated himself into becoming strong enough to exact his revenge and trained madly for more than 2000 years.

However, even in my Heaven Trampling Legion, aside from my 10 commanders, only a handful of people could match the strength of the Sky mountain's Xiong family's head, Xiong Qin's.

I remember I then personally led the Heaven Trampling Legion to the Sky mountain, to completely eradicate the Xiong family!

...How many years has it been since then...?"

As these thoughts flashed through Shun Long's mind, he saw himself leading the Heaven Trampling Legion towards the Sky mountain, before he raised his hand in the air.

The sky above the mountain peak of the enormous mountain that spanned for thousands of miles instantly darkened, before the outline of an enormous black palm that spanned for thousands of meters appeared above the palace of the Xiong family!

"Who is it??"

At that very moment, voices filled with surprise and shock, as well as anger and killing intent sounded from the depths of the palace, as thousands of figures flew out from the palace's entrance, as they all shot to the sky at the same time.

All of these figures were the core members of the Xiong family!

However, the moment that these people saw the 10.000 black-armored warriors of the Heaven Trampling Legion, as well as the golden-armored 'Shun Long' who was leading them, a series of different expressions appeared on the Xiong family members' faces.

'Shun Long' however wasn't willing to give any explanations to the Xiong family members, as he stared at the palace stationed in the Sky mountain's peak, before he slammed his hand downwards.

At the same time, seeing the gigantic black palm in the sky that was descending towards the Xiong family's palace, a voice filled with fury and disbelief sounded from the depths of the palace as it shouted angrily

"STOP!"

At the same time, a small golden bell appeared in the sky above the luxurious palace, before it quickly enlarged in size, becoming just as big as the enormous black palm in the sky!

The enormous palm that had covered the sky however didn't seem to stop due to the voice, as it continued descending downwards, before it met the huge golden bell head-on!

BOOOOM!