

Time 421

Chapter 421: Assassinate

Shun Long didn't even need to look at them to understand, that these gazes were coming from 'senior brother Qiong' and the black-robed young woman that he was fighting against, as well as the old man in black robes who was looking at a chance to assassinate the golden-robed young man.

After all, how could the 3 peak rank 3 Nascent Soul experts allow anyone to step too close to their fight?

This was especially true for the golden-robed young man, 'senior brother Qiong'.

Although it was impossible for any cultivator to have their soul sense spread away from their bodies for an extended period of time, the golden-robed young man didn't have a choice this time.

The black-robed old man would more often than not disappear into the darkness, and would only occasionally leave his hiding place to try and launch a sneak attack on him.

Although it was extremely taxing to have his soul sense active for so long, 'senior brother Qiong' could do nothing but grit his teeth and endure it while keeping his soul sense active in a few meters around his body at all times, so that he wouldn't be assassinated by the peak rank 3 Nascent Soul old man while he fought with the black-robed young woman.

At the same time, Shun Long noticed that the entire northern part of the city had been leveled to the ground, while buildings had also started to melt under 'senior brother Qiong's' terrifying flames.

And yet, it was this same 'senior brother Qiong' who was forced in a passive position during his fight against the black-robed young woman, as the old man who continuously appeared and disappeared from the battlefield could take his life at any moment.

Seeing how everyone had suddenly turned their attention to him, Shun Long's lips quickly curved up into a smile as he took out a long, black-colored sword with strange patterns from the 'Stone of Time' and held it tightly with both hands.

The moment that they saw him taking out a weapon, 'senior brother Qiong', the young woman in black robes, as well as the old man who was also at the peak of rank 3 in the Nascent Soul, all had confused looks in their eyes as a single thought flashed through their minds at the same time

"Is this early rank 1 Nascent Soul brat going to join the fight?"

At that moment however, 'senior brother Qiong's' expression suddenly changed, while his eyes also narrowed as he looked at Shun Long.

"Early rank 1 Nascent Soul? Was that vortex that covered the entire city caused by his breakthrough to the Nascent Soul?"

The same thought flashed through the black-robed young woman's and the old man's minds barely a moment later, while their eyes stared at Shun Long with a deadly glint inside them.

After all, this small city spanned for more than 3 miles, and yet the Nascent Soul vortex that had appeared above Shun Long's head had covered it completely!

If it was really a Nascent Soul vortex that had caused this phenomenon, then the person in front of them was definitely a monster.

Even if such a person was only at the early rank 1 of the Nascent Soul, his talent, the cultivation technique that he was training in, as well as the Dao that he had comprehended, all of them must definitely be extremely terrifying to produce such a result!

After all, even 'senior brother Qiong' who could be considered a genius as well, had only managed to create a Nascent Soul vortex with a radius of 11 meters during his breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage back then.

No one of them had ever heard of such a terrifying Nascent Soul vortex!

Almost as if he hadn't noticed the expressions on the peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts faces, Shun Long continued to stand there comfortably while he leisurely played with the black sword in his hand, almost as if he was a spectator watching a play.

At the same time, an angry look appeared on the black-robed old man's face as he stared at Shun Long before he suddenly disappeared on the spot, almost as if his body had blended into the darkness of the night without any warning.

Watching this scene, Shun Long didn't choose to move from the spot he was standing on, but his previously black eyes instantly turned golden, while the invisible figure of an hourglass expanded from his body at the same time.

The black-robed young woman stared at Shun Long with a mocking look in her eyes, almost as if she was waiting for his body to be cut in half at any moment.

Even the golden-robed young man, 'senior brother Qiong' shook his head when he saw that, before he turned his eyes towards the black-robed woman in front of him ready to continue the fight.

In his eyes, Shun Long who had clearly not spread his soul sense around him, was already dead.

There was no other way to avoid the old man's attack if you didn't know when or where it was going to hit you from.

Instead, now that the black-robed old man was going to kill Shun Long, 'senior brother Qiong' could take advantage of this to take care of the black-robed woman in front of him and obtain the Holy sect's token from her body!

Barely a moment later, the old man's body suddenly materialized behind Shun Long, while a sinister smile appeared in the old man's eyes as he stared at the 'prey' in front of him.

Without waiting for Shun Long to react, the old man held the 2 pitch-black daggers tightly with both hands, before he thrust them towards Shun Long's neck as well as his back at the same time.

This attack was practically invisible, and even the sound of the daggers slashing the air couldn't be heard no matter how much attention someone was paying at it.

In the old man's eyes, no matter what Shun Long did, it was impossible for him to avoid this attack.

With that same smile on his face, Shun Long didn't seem flustered at all, as if he had already foreseen this attack a long time ago.

A blue light suddenly covered his body, while his speed increased by many times as the second 'Monarch's Domain' forcibly changed the flow of time around him.

Inside his own domain, Shun Long was equivalent to a god!

Turning around, his body and his light blue-colored robes left afterimages behind them, as Shun Long infused his qi in the black sword in his hands and swung it towards the black-robed old man.

The old man's eyes suddenly widened when he realized how fast the young man in front of him was, but before he had enough time to stop his attack and retract his hands, Shun Long's black sword chopped at him without any warning.

Slash!

Under the black-robed young woman's horrified eyes, as well as 'senior brother Qiong's' gaze that was filled with disbelief, 2 hands that were holding 2 pitch-black daggers were chopped from their wrists, as blood started to spurt from the old man's wounds.

However, before the old man had enough time to back away, Shun Long suddenly blinked in front of him as he swung the star-rank sword sideways!

A head filled with an expression of fear as well as unwillingness was severed from its body, as the peak rank 3 Nascent Soul old man that was about to kill Shun Long immediately collapsed to the ground, his body losing all signs of life that it had left in the process.

Absolute silence filled the battlefield, as everyone turned their attention towards the early rank 1 Nascent Soul young man in blue robes who unhurriedly removed the old man's spatial ring, before he turned his attention towards the young woman in black robes in front of 'senior brother Qiong'.

Chapter 422: Sandstorm

Seeing Shun Long leisurely staring at her with that same, light smile on his face, the young woman in black robes involuntarily took a few steps back in fear.

She couldn't understand how Shun Long had not only managed to avoid the old man's attack, but he had also counterattacked as well.

It was the same for the golden-robed young man, 'senior brother Qiong' who was staring at Shun Long with a shocked expression on his face.

He had already fought against the black-robed young woman who had joined hands with the old man in black robes, and he knew very clearly how terrifying the old man's assassination attacks really were.

If he hadn't been using his soul sense all this while to avoid the old man's attacks, he would have definitely died long ago and wouldn't have lasted for so long.

Of course, the 2 peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators had no idea that Shun Long had never taken the old man's attacks to heart.

After all, how could Shun Long ever be assassinated when he was already expecting it? He had already foreseen this sneak attack thanks to his golden eyes and knew exactly when and where the old man would attack him from.

At the same time, after breaking through to the Nascent Soul stage, the effects of both of his 'Monarch's Domains' increased once again.

By activating both of the 'Monarch's Domains' at the same time, he had easily slowed down the old man's speed by 20 percent while augmenting his own speed at the same time.

Even with his cultivation at the early rank 1 of the Nascent Soul, it was extremely easy for Shun Long to compete with the old man if it was purely in terms of speed.

Unless it was a cultivator who had comprehended the 'Dao of Wind', the 'Dao of Lightning' or some other peculiar Dao that could help them increase their speed by many times, even average peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators had no hope of competing with Shun Long when it came down to a match of speed.

Of course, if these cultivators had a Saint-grade movement technique then things would be completely different.

The unsuspected old man had never expected that not only had Shun Long already foreseen his attack, but he was also much faster than him as well.

Additionally, with his thoughts being slowed down due to Shun Long's 'Monarch's Domain', the black-robed old man wasn't fast enough to retreat when he realized the danger he was in, resulting in both his hands being cut off.

The mental impact that this scene created, caused the old man's thoughts to become muddled for a moment, unable to fully process the scene that had just happened.

Of course, Shun Long wouldn't miss this chance, especially when his enemy was in their most vulnerable state and didn't have a chance to retreat.

Using blink, he instantly appeared in front of the black-robed old man and swung the star-rank sword in his hand horizontally, beheading the peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator with a single slash.

It was all of these factors together that had allowed Shun Long to instantly kill a peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator with a single move, but the effect was simply astonishing.

Whether it was the black-robe young woman, the golden-robed young man, senior brother Qiong, or the 4 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators that were fighting with each other, all of them stared at Shun Long with eyes filled with shock and incredulity.

After all, the old man was a peak rank 3 Nascent Soul cultivator!

Even if his strength was more suited towards assassination and sneak attacks instead of head-on fights, he still wasn't someone that an early rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivator like Shun Long should be capable of fighting against.

Of course, Shun Long didn't pay too much attention to these shocked gazes and instead, he continued to stare at the black-robed young woman who had an ugly look on her face.

Without the old man to support her, it wasn't even certain if she would be able to fight against the golden-robed young man head-on by herself.

If one included Shun Long's sudden arrival in this place, her chances of survival were almost zero!

Without any hesitation, the black-robed young woman spread her hands in the air, as a massive sandstorm erupted around her, instantly covering everyone on the battlefield.

It didn't matter if it was Shun Long, 'senior brother Qiong' or the 4 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators, all of them were trapped inside the sandstorm in a single instant while their vision was completely blocked.

'Senior brother Qiong' snorted when he saw this scene, immediately understanding that the black-robed woman was trying to escape, before his body suddenly lit up with a bright red light.

This was his most powerful attack, a Saint low-grade martial skill that could burn everything around him to ashes.

Even peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts would be badly hurt if they were inside the radius of this martial skill.

If it wasn't because he was wary of the old man sneak attacking him the moment that he finished this skill, 'senior brother Qiong' would have long since used this skill to take care of the black-robed woman and obtain the Holy sect's token from her body.

In the blinding sandstorm that covered the entire battlefield, his body suddenly lit up like the sun in the sky attracting everyone's attention.

The grains of sand around him were being burned quickly, slowly turning into ash and dust.

It was obvious that it was just a matter of a few seconds until the golden-robed young man completely extracted himself from this sandstorm.

At the same time however, Shun Long actually smiled despite being trapped inside the peak rank 3 Nascent Soul woman's sandstorm while his golden eyes lit up with a bright blue light that slowly expanded and covered his entire body.

With his gaze focused in the distance ahead of him, Shun Long then mumbled in a low but domineering voice as if he was the king inside this place

"Eternal Banishment!"

The single ball of qi inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass' started to churn, as the blue light around his body started to become even brighter than before.

At that moment, Shun Long's gaze was like the gaze of a monarch, ready to judge the life and death of all things around him.

It didn't matter where his gaze landed, the moment that his eyes looked at the sandstorm around him, the grains of sands didn't even touch him before they were being erased from existence.

It was almost as if they were being banished in a different realm, completely unable to resist the might of the blue light coming from Shun Long for even a second.

As the sandstorm in Shun Long's eyes thinned out, he saw the figure of a black-robed young woman flying away from the battlefield at full speed.

Clutching the black sword in his right hand, Shun Long raised his left hand in the air, and with a focused look in his eyes he slashed the air in front of him, opening a medium-sized space tear.

At that moment, the black-robed young woman seemed to have sensed something, as her body suddenly shivered while a sense of lethal danger overcame her!

Turning her head around, she saw a black space tear appear behind her seemingly out of nowhere, before a handsome young man in blue robes walked out from it.

The pupils in the black-robed woman's eyes widened when she saw Shun Long casually tear space open and appear behind her, as she immediately turned around and tried to escape even further.

She couldn't understand how Shun Long had managed to escape from her sandstorm so easily, but she knew that she couldn't fight him head-on just yet!

Her qi had been severely depleted after creating that huge sandstorm, causing a trace of fear to flash through her eyes.

Her only choice was to try and lure Shun Long to the place where the other peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators were, before they all killed him together!

Knowing that she wasn't in a condition to fight him head-on, Shun Long wasn't going to give the black-robed woman any chances to escape.

Using blink for the second time, he instantly appeared behind her, and without giving her a second to flee, he slashed the black, star-rank sword towards her using both hands.

The moment that 'senior brother Qiong' managed to escape from the sandstorm, a scene that he was practically unable to believe appeared in his eyes.

As Shun Long slashed the black sword in his hands horizontally a rain of blood filled the air, before the black-robed woman's body was split in half in a single instant.

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Chapter 423: Don't throw away your life

'Senior brother Qiong' couldn't believe that 2 peak rank 3 Nascent Soul experts had died under the hands of an early rank 1 Nascent Soul stage rookie, let alone with both of them being completely incapable of even putting up a fight.

They didn't even have enough time to resist before they were both killed in an instant.

Even for a genius like 'senior brother Qiong' who was one of the 3 strongest people in this alliance of disciples that attacked this city, this was still a shocking scene that couldn't be explained.

Of course, although it was true that the black-robed old man had most likely underestimated Shun Long while the black-robed woman was actually fleeing, the result was that they both died in a head-on fight.

In the end, they weren't even able to struggle before they were killed.

This was especially so for the black-robed woman's death. Before 'senior brother Qiong' even had enough time to escape from her sandstorm, Shun Long had already taken her life.

For 'senior brother Qiong' who had already suffered under the 2 peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators combined attacks earlier, seeing them getting both killed by an early rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivator one after the other made him shiver in his heart.

And yet, this wasn't something that he could accept so easily.

No matter what, he himself was a genius who would certainly pass the Holy sect's test! He was a peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator! How could he allow anyone else to obtain the Holy sect's token in front of his eyes? Let alone an early rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivator, he would even fight with other peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage geniuses if he had to.

Completely oblivious to the golden-robed young man's thoughts, Shun Long who was now standing in front of the black-robed old woman's body, waved his hand and removed her spatial ring.

However, after checking the ring's contents, he immediately turned his attention towards the black-robed woman's corpse in front of him that was split in 2 halves.

Aside from 10.000 middle-grade spirit stones and a few middle-grade rank 5 'Qi replenishing pills' as well as some healing and several 'anti toxin' pills, the black-robed woman's spatial ring didn't have anything else.

That meant that the Holy sect's token was either on her body or it was hidden somewhere else.

At that moment, Shun Long closed his eyes before his soul sense erupted like a volcano as it completely covered the woman's body.

As he opened his eyes, Shun Long stared at the bottom half of the black-robed woman's body as he mumbled to himself

"There is actually something hidden here!"

Waving his right hand, Shun Long used the black, star-rank sword, to slice open a small hole near the black-robed woman's butt as a palm-sized, golden-colored token with the character 'Holy' slowly revealed itself in front of Shun Long.

The moment that Shun Long was about to touch the Holy sect's token however, he could feel an intense feeling of danger sprouting in his heart, while his golden eyes lit up with a bright azure light.

Another scene appeared in his eyes, causing Shun Long to give up on picking up the Holy sect's token before he immediately dodged to the side without any hesitation.

Almost at the same time that he dodged, a huge flame pillar struck the spot that he was standing on, immediately enveloping the black-robed woman's corpse as well as the Holy sect's token.

As the flame pillar slowly dissipated, Shun Long saw the golden-robed young man, 'senior brother Qiong' standing a few meters away from him, staring at the Holy sect's token on the ground with a look of fervor in his eyes, before he slowly turned his attention back to Shun Long.

There was a serious look in the peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage expert's eyes as he stared at Shun Long, looking like he was staring at another powerful peak rank 3 Nascent Soul cultivator instead of an early rank 1 Nascent Soul rookie.

Shaking his head, 'senior brother Qiong' took a deep breath before he said with a serious look in his eyes

"Don't try and touch that token again or the next time it won't just be a warning attack."

Hearing 'senior brother Qiong's' words, Shun Long stared at the peak rank 3 Nascent Soul expert in front of him without any change in his emotions.

He had already expected that there was no way for the 'golden-robed young man' to give up on the Holy sect's token so easily!

Indeed, 'senior brother Qiong' stared at Shun Long with the same solemn look before he continued

"I admit that you are strong... at least strong enough for me to take you seriously, but the only reason that you managed to kill those 2 was thanks to me keeping that woman busy, as well as the old man not taking you seriously to begin with. If it wasn't because he underestimated your speed

since you are still at the early rank 1 of the Nascent Soul, there was no way that you would have even managed to harm him, let alone kill him. However, I'm not going to do the same mistake.

I am warning you because you are strong enough to do so, but don't think that you can fight against me head-on!

I am sure that you are aware that I am not like those 2 scum that you just killed.

I suggest that you don't throw your life away for a single Holy sect's token. If we really start fighting, I will not spare your life."

Shun Long slowly narrowed his eyes as he stared at the golden-robed man in front of him.

Although the man's words were laced with threats left and right, it was obvious that he didn't want to fight him head-on if he didn't have to.

However, it was also obvious that he wasn't going to give up the Holy sect's token either.

In 'senior brother Qiong's' eyes, Shun Long was a much easier target to deal with compared to the black-robed woman and the old man whom he was fighting against previously.

After all, no matter how strong Shun Long was, it was most likely only his speed that had reached the level of a peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator!

Additionally, if it wasn't because the black-robed woman knew that she had no chance of fight against Shun Long and 'senior brother Qiong' at the same time, she wouldn't have resorted to fleeing in the first place.

Staring at the young man in front of him who was waiting for his answer, Shun Long ignored the 4 middle-rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators who were previously fighting with each other and were now staring at the Holy sect's token on the ground like a pack of wolves ready to pounce at it, before he shook his head a moment later, and said in a firm tone

"You are indeed stronger than the old man and that woman, but you are wrong about something. Even if the old man was on his guard against me, he would still have died all the same.

At the same time, I would rather not kill someone I have no enmity with.

If you leave, you can still find another city and have a chance of obtaining another token to pass the third test. However, if we start fighting, don't expect to leave alive."

Sigh

The moment that Shun Long finished his words, he saw the golden-robed man's expression slowly darken before he let out a sigh.

Then with a look of disappointment on his face, 'senior brother Qiong' stared at him before he said

"I don't have enough time to waste with you. Either turn around and leave... or DIE!"

Boundless killing intent suddenly erupted from the golden-robed man's body when he uttered the last word, before an enormous flame pillar started to condense itself in the air around him.

Seeing that the golden-robed man had no intentions of avoiding this fight, Shun Long nodded his head without saying another word.

At this point, arguing with each other was useless.

Holding the black, star-rank sword with both hands, he closed his eyes for a moment as he infused his qi inside it.

The strange and intertwining black runes and patterns on the sword's surface started to lit up, while sparks of lightning started to appear on the sword's surface at the same time.

With a serious look, Shun Long then stared at the enormous pillar of flames above 'senior brother Qiong's' head that seemed to have reached its peak, before he mumbled to himself

"Hopefully you won't die from this. Thundergod's slash!"

Chapter 424: The power of the Thundergod's slash

As the sparks of lightning condensed themselves on the sword's surface, Shun Long used his soul sense to suppress them and make them gather around the sword's edge.

As the sparks of lightning all gathered in the sword's edge and the strange and complicated patterns on the sword's surface lit up with a bright golden light that seemed to have reached its peak, Shun Long slashed the sword forward using all of his strength!

At that moment, the sparks of lightning all merged together, as a terrifying, black-colored slash that seemed to be infused with the 'Dao of Lightning' emerged from the sword's edge and traveled towards the golden-robed young man opposite to Shun Long.

The moment that 'senior brother Qiong' saw the terrifying slash that was coming his way, his eyes involuntarily widened while a feeling of lethal danger appeared in his heart.

He could feel that this sword slash was powerful enough to completely kill him and even eradicate his soul if it ended up striking his body, leaving him with no room for survival.

"How is this possible? How can a small rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivator be so powerful?"

Originally, 'senior brother Qiong' had thought, that although Shun Long was probably slightly faster than the average peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator, there was still no way for him to pose any danger towards him.

However, after feeling the 'Dao of Lightning' and the terrifying force hidden inside this black-colored slash, he realized that he may actually be weaker than him even in a head-on fight!

At that moment, Shun Long saw the golden-robed young man's eyes suddenly become focused as the pillar of light above his head seemed to have reached its peak power.

Thrusting his palm forward, 'senior brother Qiong' then shouted

"Saint low-grade martial skill, Inferno pillar!"

The huge flame pillar above his head rapidly increased in size, becoming 3 times larger than before, before it flew directly towards Shun Long's black-colored sword slash!

As for the remaining 4 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators that were watching this scene, their faces immediately paled when they sensed the power behind Shun Long's and the golden-robed man's attack.

They could feel as if the blood was being drained from their bodies, as they scurried away from the scene without any hesitation!

Although their strength was only a minor level away from the golden-robed young man's and they had only stayed in this place because they were secretly waiting for a chance to sneak attack him and obtain the Holy sect's token, they could now clearly feel that none of them would survive if they were caught up between the 2 attacks created by 2 Saint low-grade martial skills.

Putting aside the fact that two of these middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators were originally subordinates of the black-robed woman and the old man, and had no hope of obtaining the Holy sect's token in the first place, the other 2 that were participating in the Holy sect's test, had actually chosen Saint low-grade cultivation techniques to comprehend during the second test.

Even if they erupted with their full strength, they would be unable to last for more than a second if they were caught in the midst of Shun Long's and the golden-robed man's attacks.

After all, most of the disciples participating in the Holy sect's test would usually choose cultivation techniques instead of martial skills from the barrier of knowledge.

Although martial skills could increase their strength during a crucial fight, cultivation techniques could help them increase their cultivation at an even faster rate than before.

Of course, those disciples who came from powerful forces and already had a few Saint-low grade cultivation techniques to choose from, would then choose martial skills during the second test of the Holy sect.

And this golden-robed young man was precisely such a person.

Finally, the moment that the 'Thundergod's slash' met 'senior brother Qiong's' 'Inferno pillar', the entire world seemed to have dimmed for a moment, before a horrifying explosion shook the small city!

BOOOM!

As the huge flame pillar collided with the black-colored slash that was empowered with the 'Dao of Lightning', it instantly attracted everyone's attention.

It didn't matter if it was the 2 other groups that were lead by peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts, or the disciples at the city walls that were fighting with the criminals there, everyone subconsciously turned their heads at the same time, as they stared at the explosion that shook the whole city.

Orange flames filled with lightning seemed to have filled in the sky, as the massive flame pillar collided with the black-colored slash.

And yet, 'senior brother Qiong's' expression finally changed when he felt the gigantic flame pillar that he had condensed, being destroyed inch by inch.

The powerful black-colored sword slash was barely stopped for a single moment by the huge flame pillar, before it started to cut through the flames, as it slowly split the 'inferno pillar' in half.

The golden-robed 'senior brother Qiong's' eyes widened in disbelief when he saw this scene, as he hurriedly started to inject even more of his qi into the flame pillar, in an attempt to stop the terrifying black-colored slash from cutting through it!

However, no matter how much qi he injected in it, he only managed to slow down the 'Thundergod's slash', and was unable to completely stop it.

"No! How is this possible? I am a peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage genius!"

The golden-robed young man could no longer hold back his shock as he shouted out in anger and disbelief.

He couldn't understand how it was possible for the attack of an early rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivator to overpower his 'inferno pillar', to the state where he was unable to completely stop it even after injecting a huge amount of his qi.

After all, the difference in cultivation between himself and Shun Long should have been impossible to be bridged, especially when they were both using Saint low-grade martial skills.

Of course, how could the golden-robed man's 'inferno pillar' that had barely reached a 20 percent level of comprehension, compare to Shun Long's 'Thundergod's slash'?

Not only had Shun Long's level of comprehension over this martial skill reached a shocking 92 percent, but his attack was also augmented by his extremely pure qi, and was also supported by a peak rank 1 star-rank weapon.

At the same time, during the last 4 years, Shun Long had only absorbed extremely pure qi from the 'Heaven Swallowing vine', while the qi inside his 'qi balls' was filtered even further thanks to the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say, that there was no other cultivator at the early stages of the Nascent Soul who could even come close to compare the purity of their qi with Shun Long.

It was these 3 factors that allowed Shun Long to be able to breach the difference in cultivation levels and fight equally against a peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage expert.

Anger and fear flashed through the golden-robed young man's eyes at the same time when he saw that the black-colored slash was about to completely cut through his flame pillar.

Finally, he gritted his teeth and gave up on the 'inferno pillar', as he immediately turned around and tried to escape.

Without any further support from his qi however, the flame pillar that was on the verge of collapse instantly dispersed, as the black-colored slash continued to fly towards the golden-robed man's direction.

"NO! I CAN'T DIE!"

The golden-robed man shouted madly as he tried to outrun the terrifying slash that was becoming bigger and bigger in his eyes.

However, no matter what he did, it was impossible to escape this attack.

As the powerful slash cut through his body, the peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage young man was split in two halves, and under the 4 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators' terrified gazes, his body lifelessly collapsed on the ground.

Chapter 425: Not even put him in my eyes

The rowdy battlefield immediately fell silent as the golden-robed man's body collapsed on the ground.

His body had been cut in half from his waist, and yet his face still had a look of anger and madness, as well as unwillingness and disbelief, almost unable to accept the fact that he had died.

Shun Long shook his head slightly when he saw 'senior brother Qiong's' expression after his death, but there wasn't any regret in his heart.

He knew that this was an unavoidable outcome once the 2 of them started fighting.

As soon as they both used Saint low-grade martial skills, only one of them would stay alive.

Although he and the golden-robed young man had no enmity between them, it was obvious that neither of them was willing to give up the Holy sect's token.

After all, as a peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator, how could 'senior brother Qiong' be afraid of someone who had just broken through to the early rank 1 of the Nascent Soul?

Of course, if he knew that even his 'Inferno pillar' was no match for Shun Long's 'Thundergod's slash', then he may have chosen to retreat and attack another city instead of fighting Shun Long head-on. However, in this world, there is no medicine for regret.

At the same time, even if Shun Long wanted to go easy on him and wasn't willing to kill him, he couldn't be certain that the golden-robed young man wouldn't chase after him once he had expended his qi.

No matter what, the 'Thundergod's slash' required an enormous amount of his qi to be activated, and even after breaking through to the early rank 1 of the Nascent Soul stage, Shun Long was unable to use it more than two times in a row before his qi was entirely depleted.

After staring at the golden-robed young man's body for a few moments, Shun Long took the spatial ring from his hand, before he turned his eyes towards the 4 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul cultivators who were staring at him from the distance with looks of fear and disbelief in their eyes.

The scenes that they had just witnessed had left them scarred in their minds, and the moment that they met Shun Long's gaze they couldn't help taking a few steps back in fear.

Not only had an early rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivator managed to kill the old man in black robes as well as the young woman with short hair both of whom were peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts, but he had even managed to kill the golden-robed young man who was fighting against those 2 earlier in just one slash!

A single sword slash had not only destroyed the gigantic flame pillar that was most likely a Saint low-grade martial skill, but it had even destroyed that person's body and soul in one go.

After staring at the 4 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators for a moment, Shun Long turned his attention towards the Holy sect's token on the ground.

Using blink, he instantly appeared in the air above the golden-colored token, before he swept it in his right hand.

Then, without any hesitation, Shun Long slashed his left hand in the air opening a large space tear, and ignoring the 4 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators who were staring at him with shocked looks on their faces, he stepped forward and entered inside the space tear, before he disappeared right in front of their eyes.

At the same time, in the hall of the Holy sect where the yellow-robed disciples of the sect were watching the test, the elder in white robes, Elder Zhuan, had already stood up from his seat, and was now staring at the wide screen of light at the center of the hall with a shocked look on his face.

His abnormal reaction had already caused the disciples of the Holy sect inside the hall to all turn their attention towards him at the same time.

Although they too had been shocked by Shun Long's ability to kill 3 peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators by himself, especially when he was still at the early rank 1 of the Nascent Soul stage himself, they had never expected that something like this would have even alarmed Elder Zhuan.

Even when Shun Long had comprehended 92 percent of the 'Thundergod's slash' during the second test the look on Elder Zhuan's face wasn't as exaggerated!

Ignoring the stunned looks of the disciples around him, Elder Zhuan took a deep breath and continued to stare at the screen of light in front of him, before he mumbled to himself in a low voice that didn't hide his puzzlement and shock

"This kid... has really comprehended the Dao of Space?"

No... it's not just that he has comprehended it, but it's probably the foundation Dao that he has chosen for his body refinement cultivation..."

The moment that Elder Zhuan's voice resounded in the air, the entire hall instantly fell silent.

The disciples of the Holy sect felt as if an explosion had taken place in their minds, as they all stared at the screen of light at the center of the hall with incredulous looks on their faces.

Some of them had shocked looks, others had looks of puzzlement, some of them were filled with envy, and there were even some who were filled with scorn.

Finally, a young woman in yellow robes who was the closest to the white-robed Elder Zhuan couldn't stay silent when she heard his words, as she asked curiously

"Is Elder Zhuan certain that it is the Dao of Space? Perhaps it's some kind of special talisman that can bend space for a few moments. I heard that junior brother Mu also has a similar talisman."

Some of the disciples inside the hall nodded their heads when they heard this question, before they turned their attention towards Elder Zhuan as they waited for his answer.

Elder Zhuan however only stared at the disciple who had asked this question for a single moment, before he shook his head and asked without any hints of anger in his voice

"Do you think I wouldn't be able to realize it if someone used a talisman under my watch? Let alone the fact that the third test prohibits the use of any talismans that someone hasn't personally crafted, that kid clearly didn't use any qi when he tore space apart, using just his physical strength! This is only possible if he has chosen the Dao of Space as his foundational Dao for his body refinement cultivation, otherwise, there will be at least some qi fluctuations when he creates a space tear."

As Elder Zhuan's voice finished resounding inside the hall, the disciples of the Holy sect fell silent once again, before a relatively tall and robust young man with long black hair stared at the screen of light with a scornful look in his eyes and said

"Even if it really is the Dao of Space, Elder Zhuan still gives that brat too much credit."

After all, his cultivation in body refinement is still at the peak of the fourth stage.

Even if he managed to get some insights in the Dao of Space in the past, he was still far too cocky to dare and use it as his foundational Dao during his breakthrough.

At the same time, even though his Nascent Soul vortex was abnormal during his breakthrough, he is still at the early rank 1 of the Nascent Soul in the end. I bet that it will take him at least a few thousand years until his body cultivation even breaks through to the early fifth stage. By then, which of us here won't have stepped into the Dao King realm?

Honestly, I don't even put that brat in my eyes.

As for his Dao of Lightning, although it will certainly enhance his speed, he is definitely not going to be anyone too important in the future!

Instead, I'd be much more wary of some of those brats that can destroy an entire city by themselves."

As the young man finished his words, everyone seemed to have realized that his words were probably true, and caused them to heave out a sigh of relief.

No matter how abnormal Shun Long's Nascent Soul vortex was, his Dao of Space was still something that he had comprehended and set as a foundation for his body cultivation.

This was something that even Elder Zhuan had confirmed.

At the same time, it was common knowledge that body cultivators took much longer to breakthrough to the next stage compared to qi cultivators, due to the strict requirements that they needed to adhere to as they tempered their body to its fullest.

Even if Shun Long broke through to the early fifth stage in body refinement in the future, considering that he had just broken through to the early rank 1 of the Nascent Soul, it would definitely take a hundred years at the very least until his body refinement managed to catch up.

By then, even if his qi cultivation had managed to catch up with his peers, he would definitely be left behind in terms of body refinement.

Elder Zhuan didn't reply right away when he heard the young man's words, as his eyes continued to stare at the screen of light at the center of the hall with a serious look inside them.

Chapter 426: Being careful

At the same time, Shun Long who had just entered the space tear, instantly appeared above the city walls a moment later, arriving right in the midst of the fight that had yet to end.

Originally, there were 1000 peak rank 9 Spirit realm and rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivators on top of the city walls trying to fend off the alliance of disciples that attacked the city, not allowing them to come closer.

However, the cultivation of the disciples in the alliance was still much higher than the criminals on the city walls, causing catastrophic losses towards the criminals, with less than 400 of them left alive at this point.

The moment that the disciples in the alliance managed to endure the first wave of long-range attacks and reached the city walls was the moment that the slaughter started, causing hundred of corpses to pile up on the city walls.

Of course, more than 30 of the original 170 disciples had also ended up dying during this fight, but most of them were either the few people that were at the peak of rank 9 in the Spirit realm or those who were at the rank 1 of the Nascent Soul.

At the same time, although Shun Long's appearance was noticed by people from both sides, no one paid too much attention to an early rank 1 Nascent Soul cultivator who appeared out of nowhere.

After taking a quick look at the situation below him, Shun Long didn't stay in this place any longer, as he raised his left hand for the second time opening another space tear, arriving 3 miles away from the city.

Shun Long repeated this action 3 more times until he was more than 10 miles away from the city.

Since he had already obtained the Holy sect's token there was no reason for him to stay in the city any longer.

Instead, staying in the city was actually even more dangerous to him.

After all, the 4 middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators who had seen him kill the golden-robed man, the black-robed old man as well as the young woman in short hair, already knew that he was the one who had obtained the token from the city.

If Shun Long wasted more time inside the city, it was very likely that he would end up clashing against the remaining peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators and their groups.

After all, Shun Long still remembered, that from the original members of the alliance that attacked the city, there were also 2 other peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators, each of whom led their own small groups when they attacked the city.

At the same time, he had also heard from the golden-robed young man's discussion with the black-robed young woman, that there were 2 other criminals at the peak of rank 3 inside the city as well, while the 2 groups of disciples from the alliance had already chased after those peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage experts.

Of course, although Shun Long had managed to kill the 2 black-robed old man and the short-haired woman who were at the peak of rank 3 in the Nascent Soul, as well as the golden-robed 'senior brother Qiong' all by himself, it was impossible for him to fight against 4 more people at the same level, let alone when they were all leading their own groups.

After all, he had already expended a large amount of his qi using the 'Thundergod's slash' once to kill the golden-robed 'senior brother Qiong'.

If he was besieged by 4 other peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators at the same time, then even in the best-case scenario, he would only be able to kill one of them before he ended up running out of qi and dying in their hands.

Of course, he had also considered killing the 4 people who had witnessed him obtaining the Holy sect's token, silencing them and allowing no one to know that he was the one who had obtained the

token in the first place, but this thought only flashed past his mind for a single moment before it was instantly extinguished.

In the end, these people were still middle rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators, and even if all of them were weaker than the golden-robed 'senior brother Qiong', their strength was definitely not too far off from the black-robed old man who was at the peak of rank 3 in the Nascent Soul.

Killing all 4 of them in a short amount of time was simply impossible.

At the same time, Shun Long was also aware that his fight against the golden-robed young man had already been noticed by the other cultivators in the city, causing all of them to head over to that place.

After all, his 'Thundergod's slash' slashing the huge 'inferno pillar' in half was probably noticed by more than just one or 2 people.

At that moment, everyone would immediately understand, that the only thing that could be enticing enough to cause 2 people to fight all-out using their Saint low-grade martial skills, could only be the Holy sect's token or something of similar value.

Thus, it would only take a few moments for the remaining 2 groups of disciples to move towards the north of the city where he was fighting with the golden-robed young man.

With these thoughts in mind, Shun Long didn't hesitate, as he flew towards the south.

Originally, he had also thought of flying towards the west, to the forest where he originally came from, but knowing that the disciples inside the city could very likely remember this and start combing through it, caused him to change his direction and head towards the south instead.

Shun Long flew towards the south at full speed, passing through many mountains and a small forest, but he still didn't stop.

Finally, more than 3 hours later, he arrived in front of an inconspicuous small mountain that was part of a small mountain range.

Seeing that there was a naturally formed cave near the small mountain's foot, Shun Long first closed his eyes and spread his soul sense to check if there were any humans or magic beasts around him, before he entered inside the cave.

Having obtained the Holy sect's token, the only thing he had to do was stay in seclusion for the next 25 days, and try to advance his strength as much as possible during this time.

In the blink of an eye, 24 days quickly passed, and the last day of the third test finally arrived!

Chapter 427: Golden door

As the sun slowly rose in this world of 1000 cities, sunlight seeped through the gaps of the cave's entrance, slowly illuminating the dim environment inside it.

More than 5000 spirit stones were piled up on the ground around Shun Long in an orderly manner, and all of them seemed to have lost their luster by now, looking like they were nothing more than average stones without any value.

In the last 24 days Shun Long hadn't moved from this cave at all, and he was either absorbing the energy inside the middle-grade spirit stones in front of him, or he spent his time trying to breakthrough to the next stage of body refinement.

Since he wasn't certain yet if there would be another test of the Holy sect after this one, breaking through to the early fifth stage of the 'Monarch's Eternal body' and increasing his strength as much as possible was the most important thing to do right now.

After all, in this third test alone, someone like the golden-robed 'senior brother Qiong' had already forced him to nearly go all-out after using the 'Thundergod's slash'.

If there was a fourth test and it was even harder than the third test, Shun Long guessed that even in the best-case scenario, not more than 200 out of the original 1000 disciples that passed through the third test would manage to successfully pass the fourth one.

It was too bad that during these last 24 days, Shun Long hadn't managed to break through to the early fifth stage in the 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

Although he could feel that his 'Monarch's Eternal body' had already reached the absolute peak of the fourth stage and his 'Dao of Space' was also at a high enough level for him to breakthrough by now, Shun Long could feel that he was still half a step away from succeeding.

At the same time, since he was still inside the Holy sect's test, Shun Long didn't dare to enter inside the 'Stone of Time' or summon the 'Heaven Swallowing vine' to swallow the middle-grade spirit stones and provide him with pure qi during this time.

Instead, he was absorbing the spirit stones in front of him by himself, and although it was a slow process with a much lower efficiency compared to the Heaven Swallowing vine's, this was still the only thing he could do right now to advance his strength.

After all, Shun Long knew that if the Holy sect learned of the existence of the Heaven Swallowing vine, then, even if they were a sect that would never rob its disciples, it was still very likely that there would be at least a few Elders who would be unable to reign in their greed and would choose to make their move.

After all, even in his previous life, Shun Long knew that the 'Heaven Swallowing vine' was a peerless treasure that could increase anyone's speed of cultivation, as well as provide them with endless pure qi.

This was something that had been buried in the annals of history, a treasure that hadn't been found for countless years.

Who could expect that something like it would appear in a place so small like the Desolate East?

Even Dao Emperors would have their eyes turn red with envy if they learned of the existence of this treasure, and would trade everything in their possession if it meant that they could get a hold of this treasure vine.

Of course, during these past 24 days, since he was unable to use the 'Heaven Swallowing vine' to turn the middle-grade spirit stones into pure qi, Shun Long knew that his 'Monarch's Hourglass' would end up expelling even more qi from the middle-grade spirit stones, causing him to waste even more spirit stones in the process.

After all, Shun Long knew, that the 'Monarch's Hourglass' wouldn't allow him to absorb the entirety of the qi contained inside a single middle-grade spirit stone, and would only absorb the tiniest amount inside it that contained the purest qi, rejecting anything that contained even the slightest bit of impurities.

Of course, the 'Heaven Swallowing vine' was still a treasure that could cleanse the qi regardless of its source, including the qi coming from the bodies of magic beasts let alone that inside the spirit stones, and turn it into pure qi that Shun Long would then absorb.

In reality, even the qi coming from the 'Heaven Swallowing vine' was still 'screened' by the 'Monarch's Hourglass' in the end, allowing Shun Long to only absorb 80% of it while rejecting the rest, but compared to the qi that was coming directly from the spirit stones, the difference in quality was simply incomparable.

At the same time, this was the only point that Shun Long couldn't help but lament on regarding his own cultivation.

After all, not only did the 'Monarch's Hourglass' require enormous amounts of qi compared to other cultivators at the same level as him, but Shun Long also knew that it would only allow him to absorb the purest qi possible inside his qi balls.

Thus, even with the 'Heaven Swallowing vine' and the foggy space inside the Stone of Time, Shun Long still had to spend more time cultivating compared to other cultivators at the same level as him.

Of course, after obtaining the golden-robed 'senior brother Qiong's' spatial ring, Shun Long definitely didn't feel the pinch of wasting 5.000 middle-grade spirit stones.

After all, 'senior brother Qiong's' spatial ring had more than 200.000 middle-grade spirit stones inside it.

Such wealth easily rivaled that of an average Dao King's in the Night star continent.

Of course, as a person who most likely came from a major power in his own continent, it wasn't too surprising for 'senior brother Qiong' to be this rich.

As for the old man's and the short-haired woman's spatial rings, Shun Long had been initially surprised to find out that they were practically empty.

However, after thinking about it for a while, he understood that this was only natural in the end.

After all, the Holy sect would definitely sweep their spatial rings clean before exiling them in this place, and would only allow them to keep their weapons to defend themselves and fight.

Letting them keep their spirit stones or any rare pills and medicinal herbs in their possession was simply impossible.

As the spirit stones on the ground completely turned to dust, Shun Long finally condensed the 7th ball of qi above his head, reaching the peak of rank 1 in the Nascent Soul stage.

At the same time, as the final day came to an end, Shun Long saw the Holy sect's token that he had placed beside him suddenly lit up with a bright golden light.

In the beginning, the light was dim and had barely covered the surface of the Holy sect's token, but as time went on it started to expand as it turned even brighter, slowly turning into a golden, incorporeal door.

The door started to ripple, and in just a few moments, it looked no different than a real door. The only difference was that this door that was created from qi had no handle on it.

However, with just a glance, Shun Long could see that this was definitely the exit from the third test.

This door didn't only appear in front of Shun Long.

Everyone else who had a Holy sect's token on their possession saw a similar scene appearing in front of their eyes.

In a forest far away from Shun Long, in a small, isolated cave, 2 peerlessly beautiful young women were staring at the 2 golden doors that were taking shape in front of them, with dazzling smiles on both of their faces.

It was like spring had come inside the small cave, painting a scene of indescribable beauty as the 2 kingdom-toppling beautiful women stood next to each other.

A moment later, the green-robed blonde beauty on the left looked at the young woman on her right who had just finished putting a white veil on her face and asked with that same smile

"Mei, are you ready?"

Liu Mei nodded her head a moment later, while Shun Long's image suddenly appeared in her mind, almost as if he was waiting behind this golden door, and without hesitating for a moment, she placed her left hand on the golden door's surface.

Xie Xingyi smiled and did the same, before the figures of the 2 beautiful women instantly disappeared from the cave, leaving nothing left inside.

At the same time, inside the small mountain he was in, Shun Long took a step forward and placed his right hand on the golden door's surface.

Golden light suddenly appeared from the door, completely covering his body from head to toe, before a moment later, Shun Long's body disappeared from the small cave.

Chapter 428: The fourth test's rules

The moment that his right hand touched the golden door, Shun Long could sense the familiar feeling of spatial fluctuations instantly covering his body, before the scene in front of his eyes started to blur.

At the same time, he could sense his surroundings that were rapidly changing, while different scenes flashed through his eyes one after the other.

Finally, an hour later, Shun Long could see the segregated colors around him as they started to come together, forming a completely unfamiliar place.

It was a large arena filled with empty seats, that seemed spacious enough to hold hundreds of thousands of people at the same time.

As Shun Long took a look around him, he instantly realized that he was no longer in the world of 'one-thousand cities'.

At the same time, he saw hundreds of other disciples around him dressed in all kinds of different clothing, all of them staring at their surroundings with eyes that didn't hide their confusion, clearly having no idea what this place was.

And yet, barely a moment had passed since Shun Long had appeared in this place, when the same powerful voice that he had heard back during the start of the third test suddenly resounded throughout the entire arena, like a bolt of lightning that was coming down from the sky, as it once again said in that same, domineering tone as before

"Welcome to the fourth test of my Holy sect, the entrance battle!"

As this booming voice resounded throughout the arena, everyone suddenly raised their heads to stare at the sky above the arena at the same time.

Turning his eyes towards the sky, Shun Long saw an old man in white robes standing above the arena, staring at Shun Long and the rest of the disciples around him with a calm smile on his face.

With just a glance, Shun Long's eyes instantly took in the old man's appearance.

He was thin and tall, with a long white beard and almost no hair on his head.

At the same time, from the smile that was hanging on his lips, anyone could guess that he was the person who had spoken just now.

However, everyone shook when they noticed the old man's aura.

Unlike his domineering voice, the old man's aura was completely retracted, making him look like an ordinary, harmless mortal.

And yet, this scene was actually even more terrifying to the disciples inside the arena, than if the old man had been openly displaying his strength. After all, to be able to stand in the sky without emitting the slightest bit of qi fluctuations, showed how terrifying this person really was.

"A Dao Emperor realm expert!"

This thought flashed through every disciple's mind practically at the same time, causing waves of shock to rise in their hearts.

This was especially true for those disciples who didn't come from a powerful force in their own continents and didn't know the true strength of the Holy sect. Seeing a Dao Emperor realm expert standing in front of them with a smile on his face caused them to tremble while some of them involuntarily lowered their heads, not daring to meet his gaze head-on.

At the same time, although Shun Long had already guessed long ago that a Dao Emperor realm expert was most likely presiding over the Holy sect's test, he hadn't expected that he would meet one today.

After all, in the last 3 years that he and Liu Mei had spent in the Night star continent, Shun Long hadn't even seen a single Dao Emperor realm cultivator!

He had only heard rumors that in the past, there were a couple Dao Emperor realm experts in the Night star continent, but they eventually left for the central continent and never came back.

After staring at the old man for a moment, Shun Long turned his gaze to the people following behind him.

A step behind this old man was another old man in white robes, with long white hair and a clean-shaven face, his appearance in sharp contrast to the old man in the lead.

This old man's aura caused another wave of shock to rise in Shun Long's heart.

Although this person wasn't at the Dao Emperor realm, his aura was definitely similar to Duan Zhu's from the 'Demon Emperor Palace', at the peak of the Dao King realm!

No, it was actually slightly stronger than Duan Zhu's!

Shun Long stared at this peak rank 9 Dao King realm expert for a few moments with a serious look in his eyes, before he turned his attention towards the young men and women who were standing in the sky behind him.

Most of those young men and women had arrogant looks on their faces, almost as if they were looking down on Shun Long and the rest of the disciples around him.

At the same time, these people were dressed in yellow robes, with the word 'Holy' engraved on the front part of their robes, near their chests, while the word 'Sect' was engraved on the back of their robes.

These were definitely disciples of the Holy sect.

At that moment, Shun Long's eyes suddenly narrowed when he realized how many of those disciples were present here.

There were precisely 1000 of them!

Before anyone could ask any questions however, the old man that was leading the Holy sect's group smiled before he continued speaking

"This is the fourth and final test of my Holy sect, the entrance battle!

The rules of this test are actually very simple, and yet... this can also be considered the most difficult test for you!

All you have to do is fight against an outer disciple of my Holy sect and defeat them.

Those of you who manage to pass this test and defeat your opponents will be able to join my Holy sect and become official outer disciples.

As for those of you who fail... you can only blame yourselves!"

As the old man finished his words, looks that were filled with both shock and disbelief immediately appeared on the faces of the disciples inside the arena, as they all turned their gazes towards the 1000 young men and women in the sky behind the old man.

The disciples of the Holy sect however weren't flustered in the slightest, obviously having already expected this, as they stared back at the disciples inside the arena with condescending looks in their eyes.

Chapter 429: Token numbers

"Defeat an outer disciple of the Holy sect?"

The old man's words reverberated like a bolt of thunder in everyone's ears, as the disciples inside the arena stared at the yellow-robed disciples of the Holy sect in the sky with shock in their eyes.

Even the weakest among the disciples of the Holy sect was at the early rank 4 of the Nascent Soul, while the strongest of them were actually at the early rank 6!

After all, not only did the disciples of the Holy sect have a much higher cultivation level than the disciples in the arena, but it was certain that most of them were most likely training in Saint grade cultivation techniques and martial skills as well.

No matter what, this test was simply impossible.

Even Shun Long was stunned for a moment when he heard the rules of the fourth test, before he turned to look at the old man with a curious look in his eyes.

"Is the Holy sect planning on eliminating everyone with this fourth test?"

As this thought flashed through Shun Long's mind, he quickly rejected it as it didn't make any sense. There was definitely more to this test than what the old man had explained just now, otherwise, the previous 3 tests would have been pointless.

Indeed, the old man smiled a moment later when he noticed the reaction of the disciples in the arena, before he continued explaining with an unperturbed expression on his face

"Hehe, don't be so afraid. The disciples that you fight will have their cultivation restricted at the peak of rank 3 of the Nascent Soul. Otherwise, I doubt that there would be any of you who would be able to pass this test, hehehe."

Sighs of relief quickly filled the arena when the disciples heard the old man's explanation, and yet, the condescending looks on the faces of those disciples of the Holy sect in the sky didn't disappear, as mocking smiles slowly appeared on their faces at the same time.

Staring at the Dao Emperor old man in the sky, a young woman that was at the middle of rank 3 in the Nascent Soul and was standing a few meters away from Shun Long took a deep breath, before she took a step forward, attracting everyone's attention, as she asked in a curious voice

"Senior, I-I want to ask... what happens to those who fail this test? Can they still join the sect?"

I heard that even if someone fails the third or the fourth test, they can still choose to become followers of an outer disciple. Is that true?"

"Hahahaha!"

The white-robed old man with an unkempt appearance started laughing when he heard the young woman's words, before he nodded his head and said with an amiable smile on his face

"That's right. As long as you pass through the fourth test, you can choose to take in 2 people along with you when you enter the sect. Those people can be your servants and will have to listen to everything you say. Additionally, if you fail the fourth test, if someone else who passes takes an interest in you, you can choose to become their servant and follow them in the sect as well.

Of course, if you fail the fourth test and you don't want to become someone else's servant, you can choose to return back to your own continent instead."

Most disciples nodded their heads as if they already knew about this matter. At the same time, Shun Long's eyes instantly widened, as he suddenly remembered what the old man from the 'Alchemists' Guild' in the Heaven's Dome city had said a little more than 2 years ago.

Back then, the peak rank 3 gold grade alchemist Zhao Lan, had told Shun Long that as long as he was willing to, the 'Alchemists' Guild' would give him a chance to groom him and allow him to become a 'follower' of one of the geniuses that enter the Holy sect.

This way, he would be able to follow them inside the Holy sect and become their so-called follower.

After all, a talented alchemist would be sought after by both individuals and large powers alike.

However, the Dao Emperor the Holy sect didn't use the word follower just now to describe the people who entered the sect this way, but the word servant instead.

This implied that those 'followers' would only have the same status as a servant inside the sect.

Even if their status slightly higher, it wouldn't be that much different from an actual servant's in the end.

"Thank you senior."

The young woman who had asked the question just now bowed to the Dao Emperor in the sky with a determined look on her face.

It was obvious that she had made up her mind to pass this fourth test no matter what.

Seeing that no one else took a step forward to ask any more questions, the white-robed old man waved his hand and took out a Holy sect's token from his spatial ring.

This token was practically identical to the one that Shun Long and the rest of the disciples here had? all obtained during the third test!

Seeing that everyone below him recognized the token in his hands, the old man's lips seemed to have curved up unnoticeably, as he then continued with that same smile on his face

"Each of you managed to obtain a token during the third test. It doesn't matter if you hunted others and stole it from them, or if you obtained it directly from one of the thousand cities in the test. The token in your hands is what will determine your opponent during this fourth test."

As soon as the old man finished speaking, the 1000 disciples of the Holy sect behind him all took out a golden-colored token from their robes, that looked identical to the one that Shun Long and the rest of the disciples around him had.

However, their tokens didn't have the words Holy sect on them but they had different numbers instead.

Those numbers ranged from number 1 all the way to 1000.

Taking a look at the token in his hands, Shun Long was stunned for a moment.

The words 'Holy' and 'Sect' that were engraved on the token seemed to have disappeared, as 3 numbers seemed to have taken their place instead

"351"

At the same moment that this number appeared on his Holy sect's token, Shun Long suddenly felt an unstoppable force enveloping his body, as he and the rest of the disciples in the arena were all sent flying towards the audience seats, no longer standing in the middle of the arena.

The unstoppable force slowly disappeared once Shun Long and the rest of the disciples arrived above the audience seats, allowing them to land safely.

Of course, this force had come from the old man in the sky, and it was nothing more than a simple wave of his hand.

Even a thousand Nascent Soul stage cultivators were unable to resist a single gust of air that came from the Dao Emperor as he swept his hand!

Ignoring the shocked expressions on the disciples' faces, the old man with an unkempt appearance turned his head around and stared at the 1000 disciples of the Holy sect behind him, before he asked in a domineering voice

"Who is fighting first?"

The disciples of the Holy sect all turned their eyes towards a tall, robust young man with long black hair.

This was the same young man who had said that he doesn't put Shun Long in his eyes during the third test, a peak rank 5 Nascent Soul stage expert!

The young man looked at the white-robed old man in the sky and bowed deeply, before he said in a tone filled with confidence

"Elder Cao, this junior is first."

The white-robed Dao Emperor, Elder Cao nodded his head after seeing the golden-colored token in the young man's hands that had the number '1' on it, and allowed him to go and stand at the center of the arena.

The young man smiled as he descended in the middle of the arena like a bolt of lightning coming down from the sky.

At that moment, his cultivation started to 'drop', from the peak of rank 5 in the Nascent Soul, until it finally stopped at the peak of rank 3 a few moments later.

As soon as his cultivation stabilized at the peak of rank 3, the robust young man turned his attention towards the group of disciples in the audience seats in the arena, before he called out in an arrogant tone as if he didn't place any of those disciples in his eyes

"Which one of you has the token with the number 1 on it? Come out!"

At that moment, everyone instantly turned their attention towards a handsome young man in sky-blue robes who shot towards the center of the arena with a serious expression on his face.

This young man stared at the tall and robust outer disciple of the Holy sect in front of him with a solemn look in his eyes, before he took out a golden-colored token from his robes.

This token had the number '1' on it.

At the same time, in the audience seats, Shun Long narrowed his eyes when he saw the blue-robed young man's face. After all, this was a person that Shun Long had already met once back in the 'Night star continent'!

Chapter 430: Difference

With just a glance, Shun Long instantly recognized this person as the young master of the Golden Exchange firm, the person who was ranked 4th in the House of Rankings of the Heaven's Dome city, Hu Liu.

This man with blue-colored hair and sword-like eyebrows was the same person who owned the 'Blue-tailed thunder leopard' and had allowed it to attack Little Silver at the entrance of the Golden Exchange firm in broad daylight.

Back then, Hu Liu hadn't chosen to suppress the 'Blue-tailed thunder leopard', and instead had a smile on his face as he observed the 2 magic beasts fighting with each other, almost as if he was watching a play.

And yet, his expression right now as he was about to face an outer disciple of the Holy sect lacked any hints of a smile, and was replaced by a serious and solemn look instead.

Staring at his opponent, Hu Liu seemed to have suppressed his usual arrogance as he cupped his hands and introduced himself

"My name is Hu Liu and I come from the 'Golden Exchange firm' of the Night star continent."

However, the robust young man in yellow robes opposite to him smiled when he heard this introduction, and after shaking his head lightly he took a step forward and said with a smile filled with mockery

"It doesn't matter who you are since you are getting eliminated here today.

As soon as you are ready you can make your move."

Hu Liu's expression changed when he heard the mockery and disregard on the robust young man's voice.

After all, in the end, Hu Liu was a person of extremely high status in the Night star continent, the young master of one of the peak powers in the Heaven's Dome city, the 'Golden Exchange firm'!

This was the first time that he had been treated like this and was brushed aside like a random beggar on the streets.

Not only did his opponent not introduce himself, but he even said that he was going to eliminate him without a change in his expression.

To a person like Hu Liu who had never lowered his head before to someone of the same generation, this was an insult that he couldn't swallow. The utter disregard and the ridiculing look in his opponent's eyes was no different than a fishbone being stuck in his throat.

Unable to endure this any longer, Hu Liu raised both of his hands in front of his chest and placed his palms against each other as he shouted in an angry voice

"Earth golem summoning!"

At that moment, Hu Liu's cultivation at the peak of rank 3 exploded outwards while the ground beneath his feet had also started to rumble at the same time. The earth around him started to come together, as it quickly turned into a large golem more than 15m(49ft) tall!

This was a Saint low-grade martial skill that Hu Liu had obtained from the 'Golden Exchange firm', 'Earth golem summoning'!

Of course, this was the only Saint low-grade martial skill that the 'Golden Exchange firm' had, and it was something that they had obtained by chance thousands of years ago.

This martial skill could only be practiced by cultivators who had comprehended the Dao of Earth, allowing them to summon an earth golem at the same cultivation level as themselves.

This golem had terrifying defensive capabilities, and it was almost impossible to be damaged by cultivators at the same level. Additionally, even if this golem was damaged, it was impossible for it to be killed as long as Hu Liu's qi didn't run out!

Without waiting for the robust young man from the Holy sect to respond, after summoning the huge golem, Hu Liu also summoned a thick layer of earth armor around his body, making him look no different than a miniature golem himself.

At the same time, he also took out a shining silver-colored shield from his spatial ring and held it in front of his chest!

This was the full power of the person ranked 4th in the Night star continent, and the reason why Hu Liu had been high in the House of Rankings for so many years!

The robust young man's expression changed slightly when he saw the shield in front of Hu Liu, but he didn't seem to care one bit about the golem that was standing in front of him like a guard.

Of course, as an outer disciple of the Holy sect, how could he not realize that the silver shield in front of Hu Liu was a rank 3 gold grade weapon?

It wasn't just an average rank 3 gold grade weapon either. Instead, it seemed to be very close to reaching the peak of rank 3 as well!

Of course, the robust young man's expression only changed for a single moment, as he turned to look at Hu Liu with that same smile on his face a moment later, before he took out a small snow-white sword from his spatial ring.

This was another peak rank 3 gold grade weapon, while its quality was actually similar to Hu Liu's shield.

Hu Liu wasn't surprised when he saw the peak rank 3 gold-grade sword in the young man's hands.

Although his origins as the young master of the 'Golden Exchange firm' were illustrious in the Night star continent, many disciples of the Holy sect originated from powerful forces as well whose statuses may not be inferior to Hu Liu's own.

Thus, he was already prepared if his opponent were to have a rank 3 gold grade weapon as well, which was why his father had given him this shield to use during the Holy sect's test.

After all, even for the 'Golden Exchange firm' which was one of the top powers even in the entire Night star continent, the number of rank 3 and peak rank 3 gold grade weapons that they had could be counted on two hands.

They only had a single peak rank 3 gold grade weapon which belonged to the head of the 'Golden Exchange firm', while the rest of their rank 3 gold grade weapons actually didn't exceed 10 in number!

Without waiting for the young man of the Holy sect to make the first move, Hu Liu then pointed forward with his shield, as the large earth golem in front of him raised its feet, and ran towards the tall young man in yellow robes in front of it.

The young man of the Holy sect didn't seem flustered by the fact that Hu Liu seemed to have taken the initiative, and instead, a mocking smile was slowly formed on his lips.

Raising his snow-white sword above his head, the young man infused his qi inside it as he said with a casual voice

"Ice Seal!"

A blinding white light instantly enveloped the small white sword, as large amounts of qi left the yellow-robed young man's body, rapidly forming layers of ice around the sword's surface.

At the same time, Hu Liu's earth golem had already closed the distance between itself and the yellow-robed young man, but at the same moment that it clenched its fist and sent its large fist flying towards the yellow-robed disciple of the Holy sect, the yellow-robed young man suddenly slashed the sword forward.

A powerful hailstorm instantly erupted from the sword's surface, instantly enveloping the huge earth golem.

Hu Liu's eyes instantly widened when he saw the scene inside the hailstorm!

The golem that he had summoned using his Saint low-grade martial skill was now trapped in a thick layer of ice, unable to even touch the yellow-robed young man in front of it.

Although its fist was less than 1 meter away from the yellow-robed man, the golem was unable to even move its muscles.

Hu Liu instantly saw his strongest skill being stopped without even inflicting any damage on the disciple of the Holy sect!

And yet, this wasn't the end of it, as the terrifying hailstorm that had already frozen the earth golem in its tracks, started to move towards Hu Liu.

Hu Liu wanted to dodge, but the hailstorm had already covered a third of the arena!

No matter where he went, he would still be trapped inside the hailstorm eventually!

At the same time, his biggest advantage was his own defense. If he backed down now, he might as well give up on the Holy sect's test.

Raising the silver shield in front of him, the blue-haired young man stood rooted on the spot as he actually resisted the powerful hailstorm head-on.

At that moment however, the yellow-robed young man from the Holy sect didn't stay idle, as he dove inside the hailstorm as well.

Sitting in the audience seats, Shun Long narrowed his eyes when he saw this.

Barely 3 breaths of time passed since that moment, as the hailstorm rapidly dispersed revealing the scene inside it.

The yellow-robed disciple of the Holy sect was holding his sword against Hu Liu's neck with a playful look on his face, almost as if he was looking at an ant that he was toying around with.

In less than 3 moves, the young master of the 'Golden Exchange firm', a peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator, the person ranked 4th in the Night star continent, Hu Liu had actually been defeated.