

Chapter 161

A Meeting Written by Fate " The Iron Sovereign ? " 82 Finished Serena froze on the spot when she heard the name . A strange light flickered in her clear eyes . In the Astria martial world , that name commanded unmatched reverence . Even someone as brilliant as Ethan Ashcroft could only bow his head in silence , knowing he fell short . " Of course , Ms. Claire ! Why didn't I think of that ? With your standards , only the Iron Sovereign in the younger generation could impress you ! " Serena's lovely face lit up with excitement .

Ever since the name " Iron Sovereign " had taken the martial world by storm , she had treated it like the name of a supreme idol . Every time someone brought it up , she would become giddy and lose control of her emotions . She had even fantasized about meeting him one day in a perfect and unforgettable moment . " Excuse me . " Just as the two women were chatting away , Leander suddenly spoke up , asking , " Who is this Iron Sovereign ? The Astria martial world really has someone like that ? " He looked confused .

From what he knew , the top figures among the younger generation were the Three Brilliants and Four Beauties , along with the Twin Stars of Highcliffe . There was no mention of any Iron Sovereign . Yet , judging by Claire's tone , this so - called Iron Sovereign carried even more weight than Ethan and the others , which stirred his

curiosity . At that , Serena immediately turned around with a look of disdain . Her beautiful eyes were filled with contempt . " You've never heard of the Iron Sovereign , yet you call yourself a martial artist ? " She waved a slender finger and scoffed .

" Not surprised . Someone like you , with zero cultivation , wouldn't know the Astria Power Index or the Iron Sovereign . But hey , I'm in a decent mood , so let me clue you in . " Serena crossed her arms and looked down at Leander like she was some seasoned expert schooling a clueless rookie . " The Astria martial world has an ancient and mysterious organization called the Divine Loom . It knows everything about everyone . They compiled a list of the strongest Martial Sovereigns across the nation .

1/4 17:34 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 161 A Meeting Written by Fate : 52 Finished " It's called the Astria Power Index . Only the fifteen strongest Sovereigns make it on the list . And the Iron Sovereign is ranked number one on it ! " His real name is Jeff Ashcroft . He's from Mornwick and a once - in - a - generation prodigy . He's not even twenty . Just a week ago , he killed both Grayson and Tsaric at the summit of Glidewing Mountain in Ravenridge . " That fight shot him straight to the top of the Astria Power Index . The Divine Loom even gave him the title Iron Sovereign .

He replaced Gareth Ashcroft as the new Grandmaster of Astria . " And you don't even know who he is ? That's just pathetic ." Leander paused for a moment . " The Iron Sovereign ranked first on the Astria Power Index ? " He murmured those words softly , an odd expression forming on his face . He had been wondering who this Iron Sovereign was . As it turned out , it was him all along . Serena saw his expression and

assumed he was stunned . She felt smug and let out a chuckle . " The Iron Sovereign is the true king of our generation . He's like a divine dragon in the heavens .

So young , yet already the top master in the martial world . " He's suppressed all the other Martial Sovereigns by himself . Only someone like that could win her admiration . " As for you ? Dream on . You were just acting like that to get Ms. Claire's attention , weren't you ? No matter what you do , you'll never be in her sights . Got it ? " Leander found it almost funny . He hadn't even been paying attention to Claire . Instead , he was just enjoying the lake's scenery . Where did this whole nonsense even come from ? He had no interest in wasting time on a childish tantrum .

After slightly shaking his head and turned back to the lake . Silently , he began to mull over this so - called Astria Power Index . He hadn't expected the battle at Glidewing Mountain to bring him so much fame . It pushed him straight to the top of the martial world . As he thought of Gareth Ashcroft , once the unrivaled number one , his gaze narrowed and a heaviness settled in his chest . Gareth , back in the Ashcroft family , I used to look up to you . I made it my goal to catch up and become one of the greats . But now , I've surpassed you !

You probably never imagined that the ten - year - old child you crippled and left to die in the wilderness is still alive . 2/4 17:34 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 161 A Meeting Written by Fate 1 (5 ?) . Finished His eyes gleamed . In just a few months , he would head to Highcliffe . That was when everything between him and the Ashcroft family would finally come to an end . Meanwhile , Serena took Leander's silence as a sign of guilt . Lifting her chin proudly , she turned back to Claire , claiming , " Ms.

Claire , now that I think about it , this Nodal Tournament is open to all young martial artists across Astria . " Jeff is part of our generation , too . Do you think there's any chance he'll show up ? " Her eyes sparkled with excitement . If she could meet Jeff at the tournament , it would be a memory she would treasure for life . A faint trace of anticipation showed in Claire's eyes as well . However , after a moment , she shook her head . " Even though Jeff is around our age , with his current level of strength , the Nodal Bronze Man means nothing to him anymore .

" " That is meant to help someone become a Martial Sovereign and explore the secrets of that realm . For him , Martial Sovereign is already in the past . His cultivation now is far beyond that . " He may have already reached the Transcendent Realm . Something like the Nodal Bronze Man couldn't possibly be worth his time . " Serena sighed in disappointment . They had no idea the very person they were talking about was sitting right behind them . About ten minutes later , Claire retracted her inner force .

The small boat gradually slowed and finally docked at a small island in the middle of the lake . The island itself was vast . It felt like a world of its own . Mist swirled through the air and cast a celestial glow that made it hard to look away . " This is where we part ways , my friend . I've got things to handle , but Sewill take you and the others to Silvermoon Abode . Take care . " Claire cupped her hands toward Leander . After she finished speaking , she took off into the distance and soon vanished from sight . " Come on , I'll take everyone to Silvermoon Abode !

" Serena waved to the young martial artists and led them forward . As for Leander , she gave him 3/4 17:34 Tue , Oct 14 A Chapter 161 A Meeting Written by Fate only a

passing glance and didn't spare him another thought . 52 Finished Leander followed at the back of the group . They passed through a grove of maple trees and finally arrived at an ancient - looking tower . Just as they were about to enter , a stir rose from the front of the group . Looking up , he saw a graceful figure approaching from a distance . Her eyes shone , while her face radiated soft beauty .

With a slender waist , it made her legs long and elegant . Her whole presence exuded gentle charm , yet carried a faint trace of fierce energy . From her face to her figure , everything was formed in perfect proportion . There wasn't a single flaw to be found . She seemed more like a divine sculpture than a person of this world , yet here she was . She was a rare beauty on par with Claire . Every young man present stood stunned , their eyes filled with admiration . Then , someone finally whispered in awe , " It's one of the Twin Stars of Highcliffe , Daphne Florian . It's really her !

" Leander's gaze flickered . Their paths finally crossed again after eight years . Send Gifts 60 B 4/4

Chapter 162 Sean Judie of the West " Daphne ! " A 52 Finished Leander stood among the crowd and went unnoticed while Daphne Florian appeared and drew every eye to her . She moved with quiet grace , her expression calm and proud in a way that was unmistakably feminine . Her eyes briefly passed over the young martial artists before she turned and walked straight toward Silvermoon Abode . That stubborn girl from back then feels like someone from another life . Eight years might not sound like much , but it's been a long time . Leander let out a quiet sigh .

Eight years had passed , and both he and Daphne were no longer the naive children they once were . " Daphne ! " Just as Daphne was about to step through the gates , a voice called out from the distance . Everyone turned to look - it was a teenage boy in a checkered shirt leaping and flipping from the top of a tree . His toes barely touched the soft branches before he launched himself higher . He landed beside Daphne with one final bound . The sight of them standing together drew even more attention . The young man was tall and striking , and she ? Stunning with an otherworldly grace .

They looked as if they were meant to be , perfectly matched in every way . " That's Ethan Ashcroft , the other Twin Star of Highcliffe . He's the son of former Grandmaster Gareth Ashcroft . " Quiet murmurs passed through the crowd as more eyes turned to Ethan , their gazes filled with awe . Topping the Sage Ranking above even Daphne and Claire , he stood on a level the others could only dream of reaching . But most of all , it was his lineage that commanded respect . Ethan's father , Gareth Ashcroft , was once the Ashcroft family's towering figure and Astria's former Grandmaster .

In the martial world , only the Iron Sovereign would speak his name without a trace of reverence . Leander's gaze sharpened . Back then , Ethan would follow him everywhere , always calling him " Leander " . He'd cared for him like family , but that was a long time ago . 1/5 17:34 Tue , Oct 14 A Chapter 162 Sean Judie of the West Once the Ashcrofts cast him aside , everything shifted . The bond they shared was gone , distance that could no longer be bridged .

452 Finished Jost to a What pained Leander more was that the martial meridian that had accompanied him for ten years now resided within Ethan . Yet , Daphne merely

nodded in response to Ethan's arrival . " Hi , " she said softly . Ethan smiled and dipped his head . The secrets of the Martial Sovereign realm were immensely important to young geniuses like him , who had already reached the half - Sovereign stage . Jeff's presence was like a mountain pressing down on him . Ethan needed a breakthrough to even have a chance of catching up , even if he couldn't surpass Jeff just yet .

As the two prepared to enter together , Daphne suddenly lifted her eyes and spotted Leander stepping toward the gate . " Who's that ? " Something shifted in her gaze as a quiet , inexplicable feeling rose within her . She stepped forward and blocked his path without a second thought . " Excuse me , " she said . " Please wait a moment . " Leander paused and turned his head slightly . His face was calm and unreadable . " Is there anything I can help you with ? " His eyes met hers without a single flicker of emotion . Whatever feelings he once had , he had buried them deep .

This isn't the right time for me to meet her ! The moment she saw his face , Daphne's sense of familiarity surged . She couldn't help but ask , " Have we met before ? " He smiled faintly and spread his hands . " Ms. Daphne , you're jesting . You're one of the top talents in all of Astria . Of course , I know who you are . You wouldn't know someone like me , who's still trying to gather the tiniest bit of inner energy . " His expression was flawless and completely natural . There wasn't a single crack for suspicion to slip through .

Although her heart was full of doubt , Daphne had no choice but to back down . " Sorry , I must've mistaken you for someone else . " 2/5 17:35 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 16 Sean Jude of the West " No worries . " Leander shook his head and walked leisurely into

Silvermoon Abode , 1 Finished Daphne watched his back disappear into the crowd .
That feeling of familiarity still lingered stubbornly . Beside her , Ethan stepped forward
and asked with curiosity , " Daphne , what's wrong ?

" " I just feel like I've met that guy somewhere before , but I can't remember where He
followed her gaze to Leander and felt his heart jolt for reasons he couldn't explain . "
Maybe we did run into him somewhere before . " Only after a long moment did Ethan
seem to realize . We met so many people back in Ilichcliffe . How could we be expected
to remember every single one ? It's especially so for someone like Leander , who hasn't
even managed to cultivate inner energy . " Forget it . Let's go in . The tournament's
about to start ," he reminded her .

Daphne finally regained her composure and nodded . Inside Silvermoon Abode , the
atmosphere was steeped in history . The buildings followed traditional designs , giving
the place the feel of an ancient capital . Hundreds of young martial artists from all
across Astria had already gathered in the central square . Leander had been assigned
to a spot near the edge . The others introduced themselves and talked happily .
Meanwhile , the " ordinary man " with no inner energy was left completely alone . " Hey ,
you must be bored here all alone , right ?

" Leander was happily enjoying the pastries Silvermoon Sect had prepared when
Serena suddenly dropped into the seat beside him . " Not really ," he replied casually
and popped an osmanthus cake into his mouth . " I saw you were a guest of Silvermoon
Sect and figured you must be bored , so I came over to keep you company ! " Serena
huffed and puffed in her usual arrogant way . " I really don't get it . What are you doing

here ? You haven't even formed inner energy . Everyone else is a top - tier fighter from the younger generation . Even the weakest among them are Martial Masters .

Of course , no one wants to talk to you ." 3/5 17:35 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 162 Sean Judle of the West 52 Finished Leander chuckled . Though sharp - tongued , she had a kind heart and came over when she saw him left out . " It's fine . I've got you to talk to , right ? " He grinned mischievously . " Hey , I'm here to chat . So , don't test me or I'll bounce ! " Serena put her hands on her hips and glared at him . Leander could only shake his head in amusement . He looked up toward the front row of the square , where nine people were seated . They were clearly being given special treatment .

Of them nine , he recognized four . They were Ethan , Claire , Daphne , and Emma , whom he had once saved by chance in Ravenridge . " You know who they are , right ? " Serena whispered . " Those nine are the top - tier young fighters in Astria's martial world , the Twin Stars of Highcliffe , along with the Three Brilliants and Four Beauties ! " " Is that so ? " Leander gave a light laugh and leaned back in his chair . When he folded his arms behind his head , it gave him an entirely different temperament . " Hey , what's with that attitude ?

" Serena pouted and was just about to scold him again . However , she could speak , a figure dropped from the sky and landed softly in the center of the square , her feet touching down on a white silk ribbon . The woman looked to be in her thirties , graceful and elegant . Her face was kind and serene . Despite her gentle appearance , every young martial artist present immediately straightened up with reverence on their faces .

" It's Master Elena ! " Serena exclaimed excitedly . The beautiful woman was none other than the Master of Silvermoon Sect , Elena Leigh .

She ranked eighth on the Astria Power Index and was known respectfully as the Lady of Silvermoon . Clad in a simple white gown , Elena gave a polite nod to the nine top talents , then turned to address the crowd . " Everyone , we discovered a Nodal from the Dynasty of Elegance inside Aurelia Hall in Klok Province three days ago . They say these Nodals hold the secret to becoming a Martial Sovereign . " Though Astria is home to many talented martial artists , few ever break through to that level .

4/5 17:35 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 162 Sean Judie of the West 2 Finished For the prosperity and growth of our martial world , we have invited you here to unlock the secrets of this Nodal together . Our hope is that Astria might gain a few more Sovereigns in the process . " She spread her hands and gestured toward the folding screen on the side of the square . " Now , let's have Mr. Sean from the Judie family in the West tell us more about the Nodal . " As she stepped aside , a man emerged from behind the screen . He looked to be in his forties or fifties , his expression kind and smiling .

A feathered fan rested in one hand , and an iron judge's brush hung at his waist . His gait was bold and steady , with a powerful aura radiating from each step . Electric light flickered faintly in his eyes . Gasps spread through the crowd . Even among the top nine geniuses , Ethan and Daphne's faces showed rare seriousness and respect . " It's Mr. Sean ! " Serena beamed with excitement , her face glowing with admiration . Leander looked toward the stage . The man carried deep reservoirs of inner energy .

With each step he took , Leander could sense the subtle formations shifting beneath his feet . Leander's lips curved into a faint smile of curiosity . " So that's the West Judie , Sean Judie ? " Send Gifts 名

Chapter 163 Clash at the Astria Power Index 52 Finished Before Leander had made a name for himself in the martial world , the Astria martial world was ruled by a group known as the Four Extremes . Among them was Sean Judie , known as the West Judie . " Hey , you don't know him , right ? " Serena said proudly . " That's Mr. Sean ! One of the legendary Four Extremes in the Astria martial world ! He was ranked fourth on the recently published Astria Power Index ! " Leander said nothing . He looked Sean over for a moment before turning away , a flicker of disappointment in his eyes .

" Not quite what I expected . " Serena heard his comment and immediately bristled . " What did you just say ? Do you seriously not know who Mr. Sean is ? He's a legend in the West ! " She continued , " Once wiped out 3,000 mountain bandits with sigils alone . Even the Ashveil Seven couldn't handle him . My master straight - up says she's not on his level . And you say he's not impressive ? Are you looking for trouble ? " Sean was a role model to her . She often dreamed of having strength like his , the kind that could save lives , help others , and turn someone into a legend .

So , when Leander dismissed him without a second thought , the fury that rose in her was instant and hard to contain . Leander didn't explain himself . He just simply shook his head . The disappointment stemmed from Sean's strength . He had assumed that while the Four Extremes might differ in cultivation , the gap wouldn't be so wide . Now that he was seeing Sean in person , he realized just how wrong he had been . Sean's

cultivation had only reached the late stage of Martial Sovereign . He was completely outmatched against someone like Grayson .

In a real fight , he wouldn't even stand a chance . Though Sean was highly skilled in sigils and could exponentially boost his power with them , who had the time to set up an array in the middle of a real fight ? If the array didn't form in time , the fight might already be over . Sigil cultivation couldn't stand on the same level as martial cultivation unless Sean became a Sigil Master and could use Mindweave Array at will . Otherwise , he didn't deserve to be among the Four Extremes . Serena saw Leander's indifference .

Her annoyance deepened as she turned away with a huff and refused to say another word . 1/5 17:35 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 163 Clash at the Astria Power index A 52

Finished Sean stepped onto the stage . Ethan and the others greeted him with bows and clasped fists . " Mr. Sean . " Sean smiled and nodded to them , then looked toward Ethan . " How has your father been ? " Ethan answered politely , " He's been busy with family affairs in Highcliffe . He was planning to attend this time , but if he had known you were coming , he definitely would've made the trip . " " Haha !

Not bad , Ethan , " Sean commented with a wide grin . " Give it ten years , and you'll have your name on the Astria Power Index for sure ! " The crowd was stunned . It was practically certain that Ethan would rise to prominence with Sean's personal appraisal . In the next decade , his rise in the martial world would be unstoppable . After a brief exchange with Ethan , Sean walked to the center of the plaza and stood beside Elena . " Get the stuff up here ! " His low voice carried inner strength that spread through the entire plaza .

A group of muscular servants stepped forward , carrying a large object wrapped in cloth . It was hard to see what it was , but the fact that it took ten men to lift made its weight clear . It had to be at least a thousand pounds . Once the item was set beside him , Sean grabbed the cloth with one hand and gave it a sharp tug . The fabric split open , revealing a shining golden bronze figure . The bronze man stood nine feet tall . Its muscles were sharply defined , and red markings traced its vital points . From a distance , it resembled a detailed diagram of the body's inner pathways .

" Everyone , this is what we call the Nodal ! From now on , each of you will have ten minutes to study it up close . After ten minutes , the next person takes over , and so on until everyone has had their turn . " Cheers broke out . Faces lit up with excitement . For a treasure like the Nodal , the chance for everyone to examine it for ten minutes , regardless of their rank or strength , was incredibly generous , especially for the younger warriors who hadn't yet reached Martial Sovereign . Ethan and the other eight top - tier prodigies exchanged glances and nodded .

This format eliminated direct competition and gave everyone a fair shot at unlocking the Nodal's secrets . " Well then , if there are no objections , let's start with the nine of you up front . Ethan , you first . " 2/5 17:35 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 163 Clash at the Astria Power Index 52 Finished As soon as Sean finished speaking , Ethan stood and stepped toward the Nodal . He had barely taken two steps when both Sean's and Elena's expressions changed slightly . Ethan and the other eight elites paused as a feeling of danger suddenly surged through the air .

Two streaks of light shot through the sky and slammed into the ground . The plaza quaked violently as stones flew and a cloud of dust erupted . Ethan jumped back several feet . His eyes were wide with shock . The young martial artists watching were all stunned . This is a grand gathering hosted by the Silvermoon Sect for the rising talents of Astria . Who dares cause trouble here ? Sean flicked his sleeve , and a breeze cleared the dust . In the middle of the plaza , two long swords stuck into the ground trembled softly while humming . " Nova Wren ? " Sean and Elena narrowed their eyes .

" Skyarc ? " The younger fighters looked confused . Just then , a loud laugh echoed . " Haha ! Sean , didn't expect you to remember our swords . However , when did the Judies start doing favors for the Silvermoon Sect ? " Laughter echoed through the air and grew louder with each passing second . Before anyone could react , two figures landed in the middle of the plaza . It was a man and a woman who looked to be in their thirties . Their appearances were unremarkable , but Sean knew that they were both already over sixty . Despite their mocking tone , Sean didn't get angry .

He simply smiled and stepped forward . " What brings you guys here ? " The man drew his sword with a calm ease as his aura surged around him . " Obviously , we're here for the Nodal . " The woman added , " Sean , you've dealt with us before . You know how we are . We're not here to argue , but rather , we want the Nodal . Once we're done studying it , we'll give it back to the Silvermoon . " Their words were blunt , and both Sean and Elena's expressions shifted . The other martial prodigies looked just as stunned . They're here to steal the Nodal ?

3/5 17:35 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 163 Clash at the Astria Power Index 52 Finished Sean frowned . " The Nodal Bronze Man is meant for the younger generation . You two are way past the Martial Sovereign stage . What do you even need it for ? " The man spoke firmly . " We've been stuck at the late Martial Sovereign stage for years . The Nodal might have some hidden techniques . If it works , we could finally break through and maybe even catch up to Gareth , Jeff , or the Grandmaster of Astria . " They didn't care much for worldly matters . All they ever chased was mastery in martial arts .

The Nodal , a relic from the Dynasty of Elegance , was just the kind of treasure they wouldn't let slip by . Elena finally spoke , but her tone was icy . " This belongs to us . Do you really think we'll just let you take it ? " The woman sneered . " Elena , you're ranked only eighth on the Astria Power Index . Do you think you can stop us ? " She flicked her sword , a wave of sword energy carving a deep trench in the plaza floor . " If you're smart , just hand it over . No need to mess up your sect . " The air was thick with tension . Silence settled over the plaza . No one dared to speak .

Even Ethan and Daphne stayed quiet . Only Claire stepped forward and stood behind Elena . She refused to back down as the chief disciple of the Silvermoon Sect . The entire crowd went still . Tension built like a storm about to break , yet Leander stayed calm , slowly sipping his wine . Serena watched him and felt like she was about to lose her mind . Seriously ? He's just chilling with a drink right now ? " Who are they ? " Leander downed his wine and asked casually . Though clearly annoyed , Serena still answered with a serious tone .

" Right now , they're ranked fifth and sixth on the Astria Power Index . People call them Skyarc . Their real names are Silas and Celina . They trained under the same master . Their sword techniques come from the Veilspire Hall of the Warring States Era , and have been famous for decades . " And now they're here to steal from us . Shameless ! Just wait till Master Elena and Mr. Sean teach them a lesson ! " She sounded fierce , but her face was painted with worry . Narrowing her eyes , Elena thought , We've never been threatened like this before .

She was just about to strike when Sean stepped forward and blocked her path . 4/5
17:35 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 163 Clash at the Astria Power Index A 52 Finished " This belongs to the Silvermoon Sect , " he reminded with conviction . " We've always had their back . If you want to take it , you'll have to deal with me first . " Silas ' sword trembled in his hand . A cold light flickered in his eyes . " Sean , you're one of the Four Extremes . I've always wanted to see how much of the Judie legacy you've inherited . " At those words , the entire plaza fell silent .

No one had expected the Nodal Tournament to escalate into a showdown between four of the top - ranked Martial Sovereigns in all of Astria . This kind of fight was beyond anything the younger generation could even imagine . The air pulsed with deadly intent . The battle could erupt at any second . The tension in the air was thick . However , Leander looked completely uninterested . He stretched lazily and seemed already bored with fights at this level . Just as he was about to leave , his eyes flicked toward the dense forest nearby . A sharp gleam flashed in his gaze .

Moments later , a small smile tugged at his lips as he commented , " Didn't expect to see this level of talent here today . Things just got interesting ! " Send Gifts 60 a

om Outcast to Overlord . The Unyielding Heir Chapter 164 The Former No 1 Finished In the arena , Elena and Sean had shifted their positions and placed the bronze man behind them . Sean extended his left hand flat and clenched his right into a fist . It was the opening stance of the Judies ' Eightfold Impact . Elena flicked her palm , and Claire instantly tossed her the sword . She caught it smoothly in one hand . They both understood how obsessed the Skyarc duo were with martial arts . The pair believed there were hidden secrets on the bronze man , and this battle was inevitable .

Silas and Celina exchanged a glance . One swept his sword wide while the other struck straight . Their movements were perfectly synchronized . A sharp and overwhelming aura surged through the air . Sword intent burst forth and sliced the falling leaves in an instant . Ethan , Daphne , and the others instinctively stepped back . Even as top - tier prodigies , they could not bear that kind of pressure . " Let's see what's so special about the Judies ' secret moves and Silvermoon's sword skills ! " Silas sneered . He slashed as his sword aura surged and cut diagonally toward Sean .

Celina struck at the same time , her blade forming two radiant points of light as she lunged at Elena . Their teamwork was seamless - synchronized down to the breath . Sean let out a cold grunt . He channeled inner force into his arms and struck toward the blade's glow with an open palm . Elena danced forward and clashed with Celina three times in a dazzling flurry of swords and exploding energy . The four Martial Sovereigns

fought with fierce intensity , each of them holding a place on the Astria Power Index .
The younger generation could only stand aside and watch .

Even Ethan , Daphne and Claire had no chance of stepping in . Amid the chaos ,
everyone watched in shock . Only Leander stayed calm . His eyes shone like stars as
he quietly observed the forest to the side . The battlefield shifted with each passing
moment . The Skyare duo moved in perfect harmony , their attacks sharp and precise
as they embodied the essence of the Arcstride Technique . Sean managed to hold his
ground , but Elena had been completely overwhelmed by Celina . She was struggling
just to stay in the fight .

1/4 17:36 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 164 The Former No 1 ๗ Finished Sean's heart sank .
Though he was ranked fourth on the Power Index , that ranking also reflected his
command of sigils . In pure martial skill , either Skyarc twin could match him . With the
battle moving so quickly , he had no time to set up formations . If Elena fell , both twins
would turn their full strength on him . He wasn't Jeff . There was no way he could hold
his ground against the two of them . Clang ! Silas ' blade landed squarely on Sean's
palm , which had been reinforced with inner energy .

Both men were knocked back three steps from the impact . Silas burst out laughing . "
Sean , your rank as fourth on the Astria Power Index is a joke . No wonder everyone
says you're the weakest of the Four Extremes ! Even with you around , that bronze
man's not getting out of this . Unless the top three show up , he's ours . " He roared .
His sword aura surged , and his momentum kept building . Meanwhile , Elena kept

falling back . Even when she unleashed Lucent Blade , the most powerful form of the Sword Canon , it made no difference . Celina's pressure was simply too much .

Claire and Serena watched in desperation . Ethan , Daphne , and the other top talents wanted to help , but had no strength to offer . They could only watch helplessly . Then , a strange laugh echoed from the sky . " Haha ! It's been over thirty years since I last came here . Never thought I'd walk into such a crowd today ! " The voice came from the nearby woods . All eyes turned in alarm to see a towering old man in a gray robe strolling out with hands behind his back . He was bald , with oversized earlobes and a round body like a laughing religious figure .

The man walked with calm precision . Each step covered three feet , and in moments , he stood at the center of the arena . Leander rubbed his nose , the corner of his lips lifting into a playful smirk . All four combatants immediately stopped and looked over in shock . The old man had been hiding in the woods barely a few dozen yards away , and none of them had sensed him . The old man smiled warmly and glanced at the bronze man before turning to the Skyarc . " I like this Nodal too . Wouldn't it be a bit rude to just snatch it from me ? " As he spoke , he raised a palm .

2/4 17:36 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 164 The Former No 1 52 Finished The strike looked gentle and almost weightless . Silas and Celina's expressions changed at once . They poured all their energy into their blades and attacked together . A muffled shockwave burst through the air . Their sword aura broke apart in an instant under an unseen force . The impact sent them flying . Blood spilled from their mouths as they crashed and

skidded more than thirty feet across the arena . Even before they could recover , the old man had launched a second palm . They barely had time to raise their swords .

The entire arena shook , the end result of Skyarc being struck again . Blood sprayed from their lips as a violent gust sent them flying . They crashed to the ground , their swords landing nearby , and trembled in the dirt . Ethan , Claire , Daphne , and the other young elites stared in stunned silence . The Skyarc was listed on the Power Index and had made names for themselves as elite Martial Sovereigns . Even Sean had trouble keeping them at bay , yet this old man had crushed them with just two palms . Who is he ? Elena's expression turned grim .

She didn't recognize the man , but Sean's eyes horror . " Laughing Monk of West Ridge ? " The old man beamed and nodded at Sean . " From the Judies , huh ? Not bad . At least you know who I am . " widened in Most younger martial artists had never heard the name . Ethan and Daphne exchanged a shocked glance as color drained from their faces . They had grown up in Highcliffe , where Gareth often told stories of martial legends . Among them , the Laughing Monk of West Ridge stood out as perhaps the most fearsome of all . He had risen to fame over a decade before Grayson and Maximilian .

Back when he ruled the Astria martial world , those two were still struggling to become Martial Sovereigns . He crushed every master on the Astria Power Index . From second place to fifteenth , he defeated them all single - handedly . He was known for his violent temper , so a single disagreement could spark a bloodbath . No one knew how many martial experts had died by his hand . For years , the entire Astria martial world 3/4

17:36 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 164 The Former No 1 52 Finished lived under his shadow .
About twenty years ago , he withdrew from the world to seek greater cultivation .

As the passed , his name gradually faded from memory . years No one could have imagined that this living legend would appear at Silvermoon Abode . Sean bowed respectfully . " Sir , you were the former champion of the Astria Power Index and a respected elder in the martial world . Why would you fight over the bronze man ? " The younger generation froze . This chubby , greasy old man is the former number one on the Astria Power Index ? They knew exactly what that title meant . It signified utter domination over a generation , just like how Jeff stood unmatched today .

The last time the Astria Power Index was published was more than twenty years ago . At that time , the Laughing Monk had already been crowned champion . Who knew what kind of terrifying level his cultivation had reached now ? If he wanted the bronze man , who could stop him , even with Sean present ? Claire , Serena , and the other disciples of the Silvermoon Sect felt their hearts sink . Everyone else ? They fell silent , too scared to say anything , while the young elites paled with fear . Only Leander smiled faintly while his eyes sparkled .

" The former champion of the Astria Power Index ? That's pretty interesting ." Send Gifts
60 B

Chapter 165 When Legends Collide 220 Frished The Laughing Monk appeared alone . The moment he stepped forward , the entire crowd fell into stunned silence as a chill crept into everyone's heart . The Astria Power Index was the most authoritative ranking in the entire martial world of Astria Only a handful of the strongest warriors ever made it

onto the list. To be included at all was a rare honor , but placing in the top three meant entering a realm reserved for the absolute legends .

And the Laughing Monk had once held the very top spot Over twenty years ago , he had already resigned over Astria and stood at the very peak of the martial world . No one could begin to guess how much stronger he had grown since then . Claire and Serena looked tense . Even with Sean there , facing the Laughing Monk felt hopeless . The Laughing Monk spread his hands and gave a smile that looked gentle and harmless . Im here for the Nodal . " he said . " I want to take it back and study it . Maybe it'll help me break into the Transcendent Realm . " You two better not upset me .

If you do , don't blame me for ignoring the Judies or the Silvermoon Sect . " His words were light , but the threat laced within them was clear as day . Sean and Elena both drew in sharp breaths . Sean stayed quiet for a long moment before giving Elena a nod . She lifted her voice at once and called out to the young martial artists gathered nearby. " Everyone , things have taken a turn . If you're not part of us , please leave now ! " Her message was clear . Sean had made up his mind to fight the Laughing Monk to the end .

However , if the younger ones didn't leave now and the Laughing Monk became angry , a massacre would follow . " Daphne , let's go , Ethan said seriously . He didn't know exactly how strong the Laughing Monk was , but Gareth had once warned him that even he might not win in a direct fight . That alone was enough to prove the Laughing Monk's strength surpassed the Four Extremes . For the younger generation , staying here would serve no purpose . Daphne bit her lip as hesitation clouded her eyes .

She had always admired the Silvermoon Sect and truly wanted to help , but the Laughing Monk's strength was overwhelming . Stepping in now would be foolish . It would be like throwing herself in front of a runaway carriage . 17:36 Tue , Oct 14

Chapter 165 When Legends Collide : 52 Finished After a moment of hesitation , she clenched her teeth and left with Ethan . In an instant , all the young martial artists gathered at the Silvermoon Abode dispersed . Only one remained . Leander remained where he was , sipping his wine and munching on snacks like nothing had happened .

Claire and Serena noticed he was still seated . Both tried desperately to signal him to leave , but he did not react . He was completely absorbed in his meal . " How could he still be eating ? Does he even get what's going on ? " Serena fumed as panic . tightened her voice . The Laughing Monk had no mercy when it came to killing . If Sean and Elena couldn't stop him , not one of them would make it out alive . " So , Sean , you cleared everyone out . Guess that means you're planning to fight me ? " Though Sean's heart was heavy , he stood his ground .

" Sir , you were already a legendary figure in Astria over two decades ago . I know I'm not your match . But the Silvermoon Sect has a connection with my family . " I will take this risk and challenge you today . If I lose , you may take the Nodal . But if by chance I win , I ask that you leave peacefully . Do we have a deal ? " " You're really betting your life on this ? " The Laughing Monk let out a loud laugh . " You kids really don't know when to quit , do you ? Fine , let's see what you've got . " He gave a dismissive wave . " I know the Judies aren't known for martial power .

Your strength lies in formations . Go on , show me that Arc of Eight your family treasures so much ." He looked completely unconcerned and even allowed Sean to prepare his formation . " Alright ! " Sean shouted , his anger flaring . The Laughing Monk's tone showed nothing but disdain toward the Judies ' ancestral techniques . Sean began moving swiftly around the Laughing Monk , each step precise , grounded in the principles of the Eight Trigrams and Nine Palaces . In less than a minute , he had stepped through thirty - six positions . " Arc Unbound ! " he whispered .

His inner force had already been injected into the ground with each step . The thirty - six points lit up and formed a complete formation , trapping the Laughing Monk inside . 2/4 17:36 Tue , Oct 14 %) 52 Chapter 165 When Legends Collide " Four Turns , One Formation ! " Finished His final step landed on the core in the southeast , and a soft blue glow shimmered over the arca . " Sir , the formation is complete . If you can break it , the Nodal is yours . " Sean breathed a quiet sigh of relief . Though the Laughing Monk was powerful , this formation had taken his entire life to perfect .

Even a half - step Transcendent might struggle to escape it . Claire , Serena , and Elena watched with tense anticipation . If Sean could stop the Laughing Monk , they could preserve the Nodal . " This is your Arc of Eight ? Man , your old man did it way better . " The Laughing Monk stood calmly in the center and showed no sign of fear . A smirk tugged at the corners of his mouth . " Watch me break it in one shot ." He stomped down hard right after saying that . A wave of invisible inner force surged from his foot into the ground . The stones around him exploded skyward .

Sean watched in horror as every single node he had carefully placed shattered at once . The Arc ? It collapsed completely . " No way ! " Sean stared in disbelief . The formation he had built his entire life around had been torn apart like paper . His body swayed , and his face paled . In that moment , he understood the truth . The formation wasn't the problem - he had failed . Formations drew power from their creator . Without a strong foundation , even the best design would fall short . The Laughing Monk's strength surged like an ocean .

One stomp wiped away every trace of Sean's energy from the ground . It was like watching a mirror of what Leander had once done on the Mount Lurvale platform . While Leander shattered a stage , the Laughing Monk destroyed a formation . " You really think you can stop me ? Dream on ! " He looked down coldly at Sean , who was now on one knee and unable to rise . Even Elena , ranked on the Astria Power Index , stepped back three times and lost all will to fight . " This is mine now !

" 3/4 17:36 Tue , Oct 14 mm Chapter 165 When Legends Colle Tinished The Laughing Monk walked toward the bronze man and lifted it with one hand as if it were nothing more than a towel . Just as he turned to leave , his eyes caught sight of Claire and Serena standing quietly to the side . His gaze brightened as he commented , " What a pair of lovely young ladies " The Laughing Monk was known for two infamous vices , killing and lust . Claire's graceful poise and Serena's youthful charm were exactly his type . " I'll take these two little girls with me , too !

" He set the Nodal aside and suddenly vanished , " No ! " Elena tried to stop him , but he knocked her away with a casual palm strike . 271 In the blink of an eye , he was in

front of Claire and Serena , saying , " Come on , you two . Keep me company . It's been a while since I've seen such pretty girls " His face twisted into a perverse grin as he reached out toward their shoulders . Both girls went pale . They tried to dodge , but his energy locked them in place so they couldn't move or escape . They could only watch as his hand crept closer , and despair settled over them .

Just as his hand was about to grab them , a sudden gust of wind swept in from the side . Send Gifts 60 B 4/4

per Outcast to bed The wielding Hea Chapter 166 The Unknown Challenger 12) Finished The Laughing Monk of West Ridge had planned to capture Claire and Serena , but suddenly felt a light breeze come in from the side He scored to himself , thinking whoever made a move was overestimating themselves . He pushed his palm out , already filled with inner strength . Then , he saw who it was a good - looking young man , probably not even twenty . " He doesn't know his place , he muttered with a sneer .

A cold fight flashed in his eyes as he added another ten percent of power to his palm , ready to crush the young man in one strike . In a split second , their palms clashed head - on . The Laughing Monk's expression changed immediately . The young man's palm didn't seem powerful at first , but the moment they touched , a force like a raging flood rushed up his arm . There was a dull thud as the Laughing Monk flipped backward in midair , flying ten yards away . He couldn't believe it .

Out of all the top fighters there , Sean was the strongest , yet someone had knocked him back with a single palm . And that someone was just a kid ? When Serena saw the Laughing Monk charging toward her , she had lost all hope and shut her eyes , waiting

for the worst . But then she felt a sudden gust in front of her , like someone had stepped in to block the attack . She opened her eyes right away . A tall , lean figure stood in front of her , still holding a wine cup . He looked relaxed and calm - it was Leander , the guy she always found annoying. " What just happened ?

" The Laughing Monk , who had just been so threatening , now stood ten yards away , looking pale . Serena looked confused . She hadn't seen what happened , but Claire , beside her , along with Sean and the other Silvermoon Sect disciples , had seen everything . 17:36 Tue , Oct 14 A Chapter 166 The Unknown Challenger They all looked stunned , shaken , and full of disbelief . Finished Claire , especially , stared hard . Her eyes trembled like she couldn't trust what she was seeing .

That same young man who had shared a boat with her on the way to Silvermoon Abode , who didn't seem to have any inner strength at all , had just flown in and knocked the Laughing Monk back ? Even Sean and the Skyarc - top fighters in Astria - had been easily defeated by the Laughing Monk . How could Leander possibly be this strong ? " He knocked back the Laughing Monk with one palm . Who is this guy ? " Sean's expression shifted . Even with his usual calm , he couldn't hide how shaken he felt .

Earlier , the Laughing Monk had broken his formation with a single kick and seriously hurt the Skyarc with two palms . His inner strength was powerful and overwhelming , strong enough to punch through an armored vehicle , but Leander had just pushed him back . That meant Leander's strength was at least equal - or even greater ? Elena and the others exchanged glances , struggling to believe there had been someone this

strong hiding among them the whole time . Leander finished the wine in his cup , then casually tossed it back onto the table .

It landed perfectly , He looked at the Laughing Monk , half - smiling . " So , you came here to steal something ? Fine . But now , you're trying to take people , too ? Don't you think you're going overboard ? " He hadn't planned on stepping in . Fights over treasure were common in the martial arts world . However , when the Laughing Monk tried to take Claire and Serena too , Leander couldn't just ignore it . Both girls had stood up for him earlier and seemed like decent people , so he wasn't about to just stand by . The Laughing Monk's eyes turned serious , and his smile disappeared .

" Who are you ? " He kept one hand behind his back , still trembling a bit . Leander hadn't injured him , but the hit had left his arm sore and numb . Since becoming famous , the Laughing Monk had never lost a fight . Even the former number two on the Astria Power Index had been beaten easily . But Leander's palm strike had been the strongest he'd ever faced . 2/4 17:36 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 166 The Unknown Challenger Finished Leander didn't answer right away , but he just smiled calmly . " I heard you used to be number one on the Astria Power Index . That got me curious .

I want to see just how strong the former number one really is . " Serena stood behind him , completely stunned . He's actually challenging the Laughing Monk ? Was it really him who saved me just now ? She stared at Leander's back , thinking how crazy it all seemed . As far as she knew , Leander didn't even know martial arts . He had no inner strength . Even if she'd misjudged him , at most , he was just a beginner . Even people

like Ethan and Daphne - some of the best in their generation - weren't good enough to fight the Laughing Monk . So , how could Leander be ?

The Laughing Monk suddenly burst out laughing , his voice echoing through the mountains . Trees shook , and small rocks on the ground trembled . " Young man , I don't know who you are , but what you just said brings back memories . The last time someone talked to me like that was thirty years ago . " He had just reached Martial Sovereign level . He was full of confidence , bold and fearless , and came to challenge me . I thought he had promise and a future ahead of him , so I beat him but also gave him a few pointers .

" After that , he rose quickly , made a name for himself in the martial arts world , and was ranked as one of the Four Extremes . People even started calling him the ' Jade Emperor . ' " Looking at you now reminds me of him . Only , he had better manners than you ." By the end , there was already a cold glint in the Laughing Monk's eyes . Sean and the others looked surprised . None of them had known that the Jade Emperor had once challenged the Laughing Monk in his younger days .

If someone like Grayson - who stood at the top of the martial world - had once been just a rising junior in the Laughing Monk's eyes , that said a lot about how strong the Monk really was . " You're talking about Grayson ? " Leander let out a quiet laugh , his tone casual and a little mocking , " Grayson's not bad , but he's not in my league . A few days ago , on Glidewing Mountain , both he and Tsaric lost to me . " " They lost to you ? " The Laughing Monk froze , clearly surprised . Grayson had lost to him thirty years ago , but had since become one of the top fighters in Astria .

The Laughing Monk hadn't fought him again , yet he had a good idea of Grayson's current strength . 3/4 17.36 Tue , Oct 14 Thare Pt . The linken Challenger 零) Finished Grayson wasn't as strong as him , but he wasn't far behind either . Yet Leander claimed he had beaten him ? The Laughing Monk couldn't help feeling unsure , but Sean , Elena , and the others were already staring hard at Leander , clearly shaken . Claire and Serena covered their mouths in shock , their eyes wide with disbelief . " He beat Grayson and Tsaric on Glidewing Mountain ... Could it be ... ?

" The Laughing Monk no longer looked relaxed . His face turned serious . " Who are you , really ? " Leander grinned , showing his pearly whites . " Jeff Ashcroft from Mornwick .

" Send Gifts 19 60 4/4

Chapter 167 When Legends Collide " Jeff Ashcroft from Mornwick . " 2 Leander's voice was calm , but everyone at Silvermoon Abode heard it - loud and clear . Sean and Claire looked at each other and gave a bitter smile . Finished " He's not even twenty years old , but he's able to push back the Laughing Monk of West Ridge with one strike ? Aside from Jeff , who's now ranked first on the Astria Power Index , who else could it be ? We should've figured it out earlier . " Serena stood frozen , her mind spinning .

She never imagined that the person she'd always looked down on , the one she sometimes made fun of , was actually the undefeated legend admired by martial artists all over the country - Jeff Ashcroft himself . She used to think Leander was rude for ignoring her and Claire , and the way he just lounged around on that little boat seemed careless to her . When the Laughing Monk of West Ridge appeared and took control of

the scene , Leander continued drinking , as if he were an outsider . That made her think he was clueless .

However , she now finally understood - he simply wasn't afraid of anything . It made sense . Jeff was a martial arts prodigy , undefeated so far . On Glidewing Mountain , he had taken down both Grayson and Tsaric . He climbed to the top of the Astria Power Index , with Divine Loom ranking him number one in the country . Of course , he wouldn't be nervous around the Laughing Monk - unlike the rest of them . Claire's eyes lit up . She finally understood why her Lucent Blade reacted so strongly when she first met Leander by the Silvermoon Sect .

It all added up - he was the strongest martial artist in the country . For Claire to react in such a way wasn't strange at all . Then , she remembered how , back on the boat , she had openly told Leander how much she admired and respected him . As she thought about it , she blushed . The Skyarc had already stepped aside . They never thought this gathering of the younger generation at Silvermoon Sect would end up involving both Leander and the Laughing Monk of West Ridge .

1/4 17:36 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 167 When Legends Collide K Finished The Laughing Monk used to be the number one martial artist in the country , while Leander was the current top fighter . Both of them were at the peak of the leaderboard , and neither was someone the others could ever hope to challenge . Jeff Ashcroft ? " The Laughing Monk of West Ridge repeated the name quietly and committed it to memory . He still clearly remembered the strike Leander had landed on him just moments earlier . Leander rolled his neck and smirked slightly .

" You were the former number one , and it just so happens I'm the current one . Since we've crossed paths here , why don't we see who's better ? " There was a sharp look in his eyes due to his excitement . The Laughing Monk was powerful - even stronger than Grayson and Tsaric . If those two were just shy of reaching the transcendence realm , then the Laughing Monk could be considered a pseudo - transcendent . He was the strongest opponent Leander had met so far . It was a fight worth having . Everyone else at Silvermoon Abode looked shocked . Some even felt fired up .

The Laughing Monk of West Ridge had once been the top - ranked fighter in the country . He proved himself with raw power and ruled his time without ever losing . Even fighters like Grayson and Maximilian had to admit they weren't on his level . As for Leander , his rise had been just as crazy . He made his name quickly , taking down Mason first , then Alek , and later defeating both Grayson and Tsaric at the top of Glidewing Mountain . He climbed fast , and Divine Loom called him the most gifted martial artist in the last hundred years , giving him the nickname Iron Sovereign .

Both men earned their reputations with their fists . Every win added to their fame . They were the best of the best . If they really went head - to - head , no one could guess what that fight would look like . The Laughing Monk's face changed slightly . He could sense how eager Leander was to fight . He'd thought getting the Nodal Bronze Man would be easy , but things had clearly taken a turn . Now , the current top - ranked fighter was standing in his way . For Leander to be number one , his skills had to be the real deal .

The way he casually talked about beating Grayson made that clear - he was far stronger than Grayson . Even the Laughing Monk , once undefeated across the country

, had to admit - his chances of beating Leander weren't better than fifty - fifty . 2/4 17:37
Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 167 When Legends Collide 92 Finished You and I have no bad
blood . I only want the Nodal Bronze Man , so there's no need for us to fight . " His voice
was steady . This was probably the first time he had seriously thought about backing
down . " Oh , really ? " Leander raised his hand and pointed at the Nodal Bronze Man .

" You want it ? Fine -defeat me first . " The Laughing Monk's expression darkened .
He'd come for the Nodal Bronze Man because of the secrets it held . If he could figure
them out , he might be able to break past his current limit and reach the transcendence
realm . Or maybe even find a hidden method to extend his life . Either way , it would be
life - changing . Normally , if he ran into someone like Leander , he might walk away .
But now , the key to his breakthrough was right in front of him . There was no way he
was going to let that go . And now Leander was challenging him like this .

The Laughing Monk had always carried himself with pride. He used to be the best in the
country and had never feared anyone , so he wasn't going to start now - not even with
Leander . This fight was going to happen . " Jeff , you're young , but you've already
reached the top of the Astria Power Index . That's impressive . " His voice was calm as
the ground under him rippled with energy . His clothes started fluttering even though
there was no wind , and the air filled with pressure . " You want to settle this ? Fine . I
want to see if today's number one really lives up to the name .

" Leander gave a faint smile and waved his hand . A soft wave of energy pushed Claire
and Serena toward Sean . Turning slightly toward Sean , he instructed , " Sean , get
everyone out of the plaza . " Sean nodded and left with Claire , leading the Silvermoon

Sect disciples away . They all knew - the plaza was about to become a battlefield between two of the strongest fighters alive . Both Leander and the Laughing Monk were way beyond the Martial Sovereign level . If anyone accidentally got pulled into their fight , they'd be done for .

3/4 17.37 Tue Oct 14 wi Paper Th When Legende Bodfide S Finished Just as the crowd cleared and before Leander turned back , the Laughing Monk suddenly moved . In one step , he closed the distance from over thirty feet to just inches from Leander . He threw a punch straight at Leander's chest . This fight was about whether he could take the Nodal Bronze Man . He no longer cared about honor . A sneak attack ? Now , that was fair game . Teleportation technique ? " Leander paused for a second , then raised his hand and swung diagonally . Their arms crashed together with a loud impact .

The force from both sides slammed together , compressing the air and sending shockwaves across the plaza . Their first strike was unbelievably powerful , causing rumbles and signifying the showdown between the former and current number one .

Send Gifts 60

Chapter 168 The Black Demon Devouring Heart Technique . The Laughing Monk of West Ridge vaulted over a hundred feet in a single leap and instantly appeared beside Leander , as if the distance simply vanished beneath his feet . The moment their palms collided , a thunderous boom echoed across the plaza . The sheer force of their clash tore through the ground within dozens of feet , sending debris flying in every direction and reducing the space to ruin . At the point where their arms clashed , a ring of visible energy rippled outward .

Even though Sean and the others were standing far away , they still felt a fierce gust of wind blast against them . Compared to the Laughing Monk's earlier clash with Sean and the others , this strike was on an entirely different level . With just one blow , nearly half of the plaza - spanning tens of yards- was reduced to rubble . Sean , Elena , Silas , and Celina were all elite martial artists listed on the Astria Power Index . Yet , they couldn't help but exchange solemn looks .

Though they had reached the Martial Sovereign Realm , the difference between them and Leander or the Laughing Monk was simply vast . The two stood in a league entirely their own . " Master Elena , the Laughing Monk was over a hundred feet away from Jeff just now . How did he close the distance in a single step ? " Claire's eyes sparkled with astonishment as she asked the question . " That's the Laughing Monk's signature move - the teleportation technique ." Elena explained , " It's said to be a technique passed down through the Harmony Sect .

It's actually a highly advanced movement technique . Once used , it allows the user to cover a large distance in an instant . When mastered thoroughly , the user can cross hundreds of feet in a single step . The founder of the Harmony Sect , Mr. Tobias Zane , was famed for his wind - like speed . He was rumored to be able to travel miles within a second . That's how thoroughly he had mastered the teleportation technique . " Claire and Serena both looked stunned .

Even if the legend of crossing miles within a second was just a myth , it still spoke volumes about how terrifying the teleportation technique truly was . The Laughing Monk was already an immensely powerful martial master . On top of that , he had mastered

such a mysterious movement technique . His combat strength was nearly beyond comprehension . The Laughing Monk's gaze faltered for a moment . That earlier strike had essentially been a surprise attack , yet Leander had blocked it with ease .

1/4 17:37 Tue , Oct 14 Chapte 166 The Black Demon Devring Heart Tec Patagon 52
Finished As their energies collided , the Laughing Monk once again felt the bottomless inner strength within Leander's body - and a chill ran through him . This kid's inner strength is insane ! While the Laughing Monk reeled in shock , Leander suddenly grinned . " A sneak attack ? Hardly a noble move , don't you think ? " n With a drop of his shoulder and a crisp crack from his joints , Leander made another strike .

Immediately , the Laughing Monk felt a torrent of force erupt from Leander's palm - like a volcanic eruption bursting outward . The Laughing Monk's expression shifted slightly as his foot slammed down hard , sending a shockwave through the ground . A ten - yard - long fissure split open , stretching all the way to the edge of the plaza . His inner strength surged violently in the process . Where their palms met , a swirl of blue and green energy intertwined . The entire Silvermoon Abode - several acres wide - trembled violently as if rocked by an earthquake .

As their powers collided , the surrounding disciples of the Silvermoon Sect felt their blood stir and churn . Had it not been for Sean and Elena's protective barrier , many would have collapsed on the spot , coughing up blood . " Hmph Leander smiled faintly at the corner of his lips . The Laughing Monk's inner strength was indeed formidable and stronger than both Grayson and Tsaric . But to him , it simply wasn't enough . A pale blue glow surged along his arm as his strength erupted .

Witnessing this , the Laughing Monk's expression immediately darkened , and he was forced to break contact with Leander's palm Driven back by the force of Leander's ferocious strike , the Laughing Monk staggered several yards , leaving three shallow half - inch footprints in the ground before he finally steadied But just as he caught his balance , a fresh surge of force descended from above - Leander had already launched himself into the air , his fist hurtling down from the sky .

A massive pale blue coergy are spanning several yards slammed downward like a silver spear , slicing the air apart standing below , the Laughing Monk crossed his arms and channeled all his energy into one hand , thrusting it upward Gasps spread among the crowd as a massive palm imprint rose from the ground , sealing the space above the Laughing Monk's head and colliding with the descending fist . 2/4 17:37 Tue , Oct 14 ... Chapter 168 The Black Demon Devouring Heart Technique 52 Finished The Laughing Monk took Leander's punch head - on with a bang .

The ground beneath him collapsed , leaving a half - foot - deep crater . A flush spread across his cheeks , and his arms trembled violently - he was clearly shaken by the sheer pressure of Leander's strike . He had used eighty percent of his inner strength in the earlier strike . But as soon as their energies collided , he felt Leander's fist come crashing down like a flood , a roaring tidal wave meant to obliterate everything in its path . He was certain - such a level of power was beyond anything he had ever known . Taking that punch had pushed him to his absolute limit .

How the hell did this kid train ? Even if he started in the womb , it hasn't even been twenty years ! Struggling beneath the crushing pressure , the Laughing Monk's thoughts

raced , his heart trembling with growing dread . " Laughing Monk , how many more punches can you take from me ? " Leander wore a playful smile as he gathered energy in his palm . With a leap , he soared into the air again , his right fist pulling back in preparation for another strike . This punch carried no inner strength at all - just the raw power of his physical body .

The pressure on the Laughing Monk vanished for an instant . Just as he tried to catch his breath , another crushing force descended . This punch was even faster and heavier than the last . " How could he generate such explosive power with just his physical body ? What kind of monster is this kid ? " A chill ran down the Laughing Monk's spine . He no longer dared to take the strike head - on . With a burst of movement , he rocketed from the crater like a cannonball . Leander's fist landed squarely in the center of the pit .

It was like a giant's punch smashing into the earth , and dust and rocks flew in all directions . The Laughing Monk retreated another ten yards , putting distance between them . His face had turned completely grim . Leander's strength was beyond anything he could have imagined . " Jeff really lived up to his name ... The Laughing Monk is completely overwhelmed by his strikes ." 3/4 17:37 Tue , Oct 14 ... Chapter 168 The Black Demon Devouring Heart Technique Claire and Serena exchanged glances , the awe in their eyes visible .

52 Finished Even the famed Skyare Duo wouldn't have lasted ten moves against the Laughing Monk , yet Leander seemed to handle him with ease , like a cat toying with its prey . Every one of his strikes -whether fist or palm - left the Laughing Monk utterly outmatched . " Back at Glidewing Mountain , Jeff took Tsaric's suicidal strike head - on

using only his body . His physical resilience was already leagues beyond Grayson , who had long mastered the Immortal Diamond Skin technique . And now ... it's clear he's even more terrifying than the rumors said .

" Sean shook his head with a bitter smile . He had been a well - known figure in the Astria martial world for over a decade , yet a junior several decades younger had completely outclassed him . The humiliation was hard to swallow . As for the Skyarc duo , Silas and Celina were both filled with disbelief . They had experienced the strength of the Laughing Monk's palm techniques firsthand , and they knew how terrifying it was . Yet Leander had emerged from a head - on clash with him unharmed . Not only that , but Leander also appeared to hold the upper hand as well .

They could not fathom how powerful Leander's inner strength must have been to achieve that . Leander slowly walked out from the cloud of smoke and dust , looking completely unscathed . " Laughing Monk , your martial arts cultivation is only a notch above Grayson and Tsaric . I honestly don't understand how you ever managed to dominate the Astria martial world back in the day ! " Leander gave a faint shake of his head , a trace of disappointment flashing across his face . Upon hearing that , the Laughing Monk's pupils contracted . A dark , boiling fury surged in his eyes . He didn't respond .

Instead , his fingers curled slightly , and a swirl of thick black energy burst out between his hands . In that instant , a wave of killing intent blanketed the space around him . Sean's expression grew intensely grave , and he exclaimed in shock . " This is ... the Black Demon Devouring Heart ? " Send Gifts 60 4/4

From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir Chapter 169 Do You Understand Now ?

52 Finished " This is ... the Black Demon Devouring Heart ? " Sean said solemnly , his gaze flickering with shock . " The Black Demon Devouring Heart ? " Elena's eyes widened in shock . " Isn't that the Laughing Monk's signature move ? " Sean gave a small nod , staring into the swirling black mist ahead . " Legend has it that the Laughing Monk once challenged the entire Buddhist Sect . He broke through every technique they had .

In the end , Western Shaolin's abbot , Master Lucent , stepped forward and fought him using the Dragonclaw technique . Yet in the end , he was killed by the Laughing Monk using the Black Demon Devouring Heart ! " Claire and Serena's eyes widened in disbelief . This Sect was one of Astria's most revered institutions in the martial world , held in even higher regard than the Silvermoon Sect . It housed a vast collection of advanced martial technique manuals and countless martial arts experts . Master Lucent was among their best .

The Dragonclaw must have possessed formidable power - yet the Laughing Monk had still managed to slay him with just one strike . The horror of this technique spoke for itself . " The Black Demon Devouring Heart is a twisted and brutal technique . It was created a century ago by Lord Nightbane . The Laughing Monk is Lord Nightbane's final disciple , and he has mastered the technique thoroughly . His power now may well rival that of Lord Nightbane himself ! " A trace of worry crept across Sean's face . " I'm not sure Jeff can survive this .

" Dark energy coiled between the Laughing Monk's palms , surging upward behind him to form the phantom of a demon's head - ferocious and grotesque . Looking closely , even his eyes leaked black mist , giving him a truly sinister air . He bared his teeth in a bloodthirsty smile . " Jeff , you're impressive . Among all the martial masters I've faced , none have ever come close to you ! " In terms of inner strength alone , you've already surpassed me . Your power may even rival those who have stepped into the Transcendent Realm ! " But it's a shame . You shouldn't have tried to stop me !

" As long as you haven't crossed into the Transcendent Realm , I am one hundred percent sure I can kill you ! " 1/4 17:37 Tue , Oct 14 ... Chapter 169 Do You Understand Now ? Finished His voice rang with icy confidence , and the black mist roiling around him coalesced into a space entirely under his control . At that moment , the Silvermoon Sect disciples present seemed to hear the distant wails of a demon . " Jeff , I once used the Black Demon Devouring Heart to kill Master Lucent , the abbot of Western Shaolin .

When he was killed , his cultivation had already reached the Pre - Transcendent Realm . That means anyone below the Transcendent Realm cannot stand against me ! " Come on then . Let's see if you can take it ! " With a thunderous roar , he raised his right hand . The thick black mist behind him surged forward and gathered around his hands . In an instant , his entire arm turned pitch black , with a faint image of a skull flickering on its surface . " Let me show you the true power of the Black Demon Devouring Heart !

" He slashed out with his hands in a claw shape at an angle , and in that instant , a surge of black mist erupted from his palm , engulfing the entire plaza in darkness . From within the fog , a massive black hand over thirty feet wide materialized like a demon's

claw . It pierced through space and came crashing down toward Leander . The strike blanketed everything in its path . The area where Leander stood was completely consumed by shadow . Not even a single ray of sunlight could break through . Leander lifted his gaze slightly and threw a punch at the descending black hand .

This punch , once again , came purely from the power of his physical body . It collided head - on with the massive black hand . Leander's expression changed slightly as he was knocked backward - the impact forced him to retreat a full ten meters . The dark energy from the giant hand clung to his fist . However , once he activated his Nirvana Energy , the black mist quickly dissolved . After he had done that , a faint trace of excitement finally appeared on his face .

In terms of cultivation required , the Black Demon Devouring Heart unleashed by the Laughing Monk was already comparable to Tsaric's sacrificial sword strike . And in raw destructive force , it might even surpass it . No wonder the Laughing Monk claimed he could kill anyone beneath the Transcendent Realm . At his cultivation level , wielding a technique like this truly made him unrivaled among any martial masters below the Transcendence Realm . A deep dent formed in the center of the massive black hand - the result of Leander's blow . Yet the black hand hadn't shattered .

Dark mist surged in from all sides , quickly restoring the damaged area . 2/4 17:37 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 100 Do You Understand Now ? 199 Finished " Jeff , it's useless . This is a technique created by my master , Lord Nightbane , through years of painstaking effort . Its power rivals that of techniques in the Transcendent Realm . No matter how hard you try , you can't beat me ! " " That's why I ranked number one on the Astria Power

Index back then . Do you understand now ? " The Laughing Monk laughed wildly from within the darkness .

At this moment , he seemed to have seized complete control of the match . The Black Demon Devouring Heart , once used , was guaranteed to claim a life . He was determined to make Leander the second person to fall under his ultimate move , Though unleashing this technique would consume a portion of his vital energy and leave him . in a weakened state for some time , the chance to kill an unrivaled prodigy like Leander was well worth the price . In this match , he would show the world that he still deserved to stand at the very pinnacle of Astria's martial world .

" Oh no , Jeff can't stop the Black Demon Devouring Heart ! " Sean's face was grim as he spoke in a low voice . Claire bit her lip nervously , while Serena beside her had already clasped her hands in prayer . Leander had stepped in to save them . They simply couldn't bear the thought of watching him . die at the Laughing Monk's hand . Despite the others ' worries , Leander remained calm and indifferent under the looming shadow of that massive black hand . He tilted his head slightly and looked toward the Laughing Monk , a crooked smile on his lips .

" Laughing Monk , do you really think you've already won this match ? " The Laughing Monk sneered , ignoring him completely . " Jeff , death is knocking at your door . Why keep up the bravado ? Let me end it for you ! " He stepped forward , crossed his hands to form a jet - black sigil , then pushed it forward . " I will devour your soul and shred your body . Black Demon Devouring Heart ! " At that moment , the massive black hand

split in two . Then , they closed inward from either side like the petals of a blooming flower , locking Leander in the center with no way out .

A manic gleam flashed through the Laughing Monk's eyes . Back then , not even Lucent had managed to force him to unleash the most powerful form of the Black Demon Devouring Heart . The fact that Leander had done so proved his extraordinary martial talent . 3/4 17:37 Tue , Oct 14 A Chapter 169 Do You Understand Now ? 51 Finished But what a pity - even a talent like that still couldn't defeat him . The one who survived till the end was still him , and it would always be him - the Laughing Monk . " Oh no ... Even Jeff can't defeat the Laughing Monk ?

" As the two pitch - black hands slowly closed in to crush Leander , Sean sighed wistfully . Would there really be no one else who could defeat the Laughing Monk ? Claire and Serena could barely bring themselves to keep watching . They had dreamed of seeing the Invincible Emperor in person . Moments ago , they had been secretly overjoyed that their wish had come true - but now , all of that had turned into despair . The moment the two black hands fully converged , the Silvermoon Abode plaza shattered completely into rubble . At the same time , Leander's figure vanished within the debris .

Dark energy swept in from all directions , and the Laughing Monk's maniacal laughter echoed through the mountains and forests . Everyone in Silvermoon Abode felt a cold chill pierce straight to the heart . Even the Iron Sovereign ... was no match for the Laughing Monk ? Serena stood dazed . On the way here , she had mocked and sneered at Leander , never once showing him a trace of kindness . Now that his true

identity had been revealed , she had planned to apologize and make amends properly - but not even fate seemed willing to give her the chance .

Sean and Elena exchanged a look , both showing grim resolve . With Leander down , they had no choice but to fight with everything they had . Just as they were preparing to attack , a golden light suddenly burst from between the black hands . Then , countless golden rays exploded in all directions , like a miniature sun erupting from within . Upon witnessing the sudden turn of events , everyone froze in shock . Even the Laughing Monk's smug grin stiffened on his face . Send Gifts

From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir Chapter 170 The Nodal Stirred Boom !
51 Finished Streaks of golden brilliance tore apart a pair of black , linked hands as a powerful blast shook the air . The hands suddenly exploded and dispersed into thick waves of black mist . Instead of fading , the radiance only intensified - like sunlight cutting through storm clouds at dawn . Under its pressure , the darkness writhed and retreated inch by inch until it compressed into a dark , glowing sphere that floated ominously over the Laughing Monk of West Ridge. " What ?

" The man stood frozen , his face contorted in shock . His ultimate move - the Black Demon Devouring Heart - had never failed him . Crafted by his master , the infamous Lord Nightbane , it was designed to be unstoppable against anyone not in the Transcendent Realm . Until now , no one had ever withstood it . And yet , it had just been obliterated - like a child's game crushed underfoot . He could not believe it . "

What's going on over there ? " Sean's eyes were fixed on the golden glow as the others stared in shock .

From its center emerged a solitary figure , unruffled and unscathed - it was Leander . "

That was your famous killer move ? Honestly , it didn't live up to the hype . Do you have anything else ? " He brushed off his sleeve . He waggled his finger playfully as he glanced at the Laughing Monk . " Don't tell me ... you've already reached the Transcendent Realm ?! " the Laughing Monk stammered . He felt despair creeping into his chest . Never in his career had he experienced such crushing powerlessness . He had poured everything into his strongest killing move , only to see it casually defused .

Now , with no more aces left to play , he was outmatched , but what terrified him even more was the idea that this young man , who was barely twenty . How can he reach the Transcendent Realm , where most of the Martial Sovereigns dream of ? Is that even possible in the history of the martial world ? " Well ... " Claire and Serena exchanged wide - eyed glances before joy replaced their initial shock . They had assumed Leander had perished under that dark force , but now he stood there ,

1/4 17:37 Tue , Oct 14 51

Chapter 170 The Nodal Stirred completely untouched .

Finished " Honestly , even I'm not sure whether I've truly broken through , " Leander admitted , chuckling softly . " But it looks like you're out of cards . I guess it's my move now . " A mocking gleam flashed in his eyes . That alone sent the Monk into a panic .

Without hesitation , he let out a sharp cry and , in the blink of an eye , activated a teleportation technique , vanishing dozens of feet away . As someone who had ruled an era , he had no trouble reading the situation . Leander had not even taken his ultimate move seriously .

He had broken it as if it were nothing , as fighting any longer would only spell his doom .

The Nodal Bronze Man held secrets , but none of them mattered more than his life . He planned to fly far away with no doubt . " You're fleeing now ? Isn't it a little late for that ?

" Leander's smile widened . He bent his fingers slightly , transforming his palm into a claw and swung it across the air with practiced ease . " Devourer's Ninefold Path , the Soul Shatter Claw ! " As the words left his mouth , righteous energy surged across the sky .

The ground beneath his feet shimmered with golden light . Dots of pure light converged rapidly to form a massive golden claw . It streaked across the air in a golden arc , as fast and blinding as lightning tearing through the clouds . saw the flash would have gone immediately . Far ahead , the Laughing Monk's body stiffened . He froze mid - escape , unable to take another step . Leander dropped his arm and turned away without sparing a glance . He strolled toward the banquet area , filled a goblet with wine , and drank it all in one go . " What just happened ?

" The disciples of the Silvermoon Sect looked around in confusion . Even Sean and Elena were left speechless , unable to comprehend what they had witnessed . The Laughing Monk slowly turned his pale face back toward Leander . " Was that ... a technique from the Transcendent Realm ? " he asked , his voice trembling . " Does it matter ? It depends on the wielder , " Leander simply poured another drink and responded . " Soul Shatter Claw - I made it last year . It tears apart body and spirit . Even someone at the Transcendent Realm would have trouble surviving it .

Consider this death a privilege . " " You ... created such a technique yourself ? " The Laughing Monk murmured , eyes filled with disbelief . Then , a bitter smile stretched across his face . " To develop a supreme martial technique usually takes most people a decade , if not a lifetime . 2/4 17:37 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 170 The Nodal Stirred 51 Finished " And yet you ? You're not even twenty . Just who are you really ? " Before his question could hang too long in the air , a glimmer of golden light sparked at his throat .

A moment later , his body exploded into fragments , vanishing before everyone's eyes . It was the same with the destruction of the black hands earlier . The first generation of the martial master on the Astria had fallen . Sean , Elena , Claire , Serena , and all the disciples of the Silvermoon Sect stood frozen in silence . Not a single sound could be heard across the entire courtyard . In the distance , the Skyarc paused for only a moment before taking to the skies .

They did not dare linger at Silvermoon Abode - not with Leander , the reigning number one on the Astria Power Index , standing there . Leander tilted his head slightly , unconcerned by their retreat . Their names may have been high on the rankings , but to him , they were insignificant . " So ... this is the Iron Sovereign , Jeff Ashcroft ? " Claire and Serena could not stop their hands from trembling . They stood frozen , still reeling from what they had just seen . They had heard stories of Leander's past victories , legends passed down in the Astria martial world like bedtime tales .

But none of them compared to witnessing the man himself in action . Even the Laughing Monk of West Ridge , a master known across the land , had been completely overpowered . No matter how many skills he threw out , they had not even slowed

Leander down . Who else in the realm can stand against such power ? At last , they understood why Divine Loom had crowned him the to - ranked in Astria Power Index and why he had earned a domineering title - Iron Sovereign . Compared to him , the Twin Stars of Highcliffe , the Three Brilliants , and the Four Beauties were nothing more than shallow names .

The so - called Nine Geniuses ? Laughable . Sean and Elena shared a wry glance . That claw attack had overturned everything they thought they knew . Their decades of cultivation seemed like a joke now . 3/1 17:37 Tue , Oct 14 Chapter 170 The Nadal Stirred И D Finished " Sovereign , Silvermoon Sect and I deeply honored and thankful for your help , " Sean said , stepping forward and offering a respectful salute . Elena , Claire , and Serena quickly followed with bows of their own . Around them , the rest of the disciples stood in solemn reverence , deeply shaken .

Leander's duel with the Monk had redefined their understanding of power . From now on , he would be the mountain they aspired to climb . " No worries . You gave me good food and drink . Helping you out was the least I could do . " Leander waved them off with a relaxed smile . it as Just then , something clicked in Elena's mind . She stepped forward and smiled . " Although our sect discovered the Nodal , it doesn't truly belong to us . Since you've aided us , please accept our gift . " Leander chuckled at her offer . " I only came to look out of medical curiosity about the Nodal .

I never intended to claim it . " Having seen what he came for , he turned to leave as his purpose here was complete . Just then , his expression shifted . From the back of the crowd , the long - dormant Nodal began to tremble - violently . All of them were shocked

. How can a lifeless object move on its own ? Leander spun back toward it , his gaze sharpening . From within the Nodal , a strange and powerful energy surged outward . After a short pause , his expression hardened . He clenched his fist , then launched a devastating punch straight toward the Nodal's chest . [Send Gifts 60](#)