

The Immortal's Wine Store

#Chapter 201 - Crazy Yang Zenke - Read The Immortal's Wine Store Chapter 201 - Crazy Yang Zenke Chapter 201 - Crazy Yang Zenke

Yang Zenke and the disciple of the Beiming Family stared at each other with cold gazes. The battle stances of the two young men were different, and to the eyes of an ordinary person, the both of them looked as if they were not willing to fight. However, only the experts knew that the fight between both these exceptional young men had already begun!

They were looking for their counterpart's weaknesses during this staring contest, but none of them were willing to attack first.

This was a battle of wits and will, and the first one who loses composure and patience would be the one who would be defeated.

Yang Zenke's eyes remained calm and cold as he glared at the youth in front of him. He had his fair share of fights against sneaky savage beasts, and he had learned to become patient after their grueling training. Among the group that Jiu Shen trained, he did more than the others were tasked to do, and he was even the most hardworking in their group. Because of that, his cultivation growth was the fastest! However, the most valuable thing that they learned from Jiu Shen's crazy training was their enhanced willpower and ability to withstand pain!

The disciple from the Beiming Family was beginning to become impatient and he was already itching to give Yang Zenke a beating. However, his instincts were telling him to not make any rash moves.

Within their battle platform, there were also a few youths who were eyeing the both of them with unkind gazes. They knew that these two young men were the strongest in their battle platform and they were eager to see them tear each other apart, but the scene in front of their eyes was not to their liking. They could only see Yang Zenke and the disciple of the Beiming Family staring at each other in their battle stances. There was no hint of movement from the both of them and this made the young participants within their battle platform grow impatient.

"Fuck this! Attack them first! Without the two of them, we would have the chance to win in the first round! Go!"

"Attack them! Beat them up!"

More than two dozen youths raised their weapons as they madly charged towards Yang Zenke and the Beiming Family disciple. None of these youths was weak and every one of them was at least a 3rd-rank Crusader, so the power that more than two dozen crazed youths held was more than enough to decimate any other 4th-rank Knight Crusader!

"They are using their advantage in numbers to kick those two out! Cunning bastards!"

"This kind of thing is normal in a battle royale. It might not look fair, but this was an unfair contest to begin with. This battle royale is meant for those weaker participants. They are destined to be kicked out of the contest, unless if they decide to team up to defeat the stronger contenders."

The crowd was dissatisfied with what was happening on Yang Zenke's battle platform, but they could do nothing about it since there was no rule that stated that this was not allowed.

Yang Zenke and his opponent glanced at the group of youths who were charging towards them. Both young men remained calm while facing this scene.

"I'll get back to you in a moment." The Beiming Family disciple muttered coldly as he stared at Yang Zenke. He then pounced towards the youths that surrounded them.

Yang Zenke smirked when he heard his words.

"I will knock you out of this stage!" A voice filled with malice drifted behind Yang Zenke and he immediately crouched to evade a violent punch aimed at his head.

Swoosh.

Yang Zenke clenched his fist and delivered an uppercut that hit the attacker squarely on his defenseless jaw.

Bang!

The man lost consciousness as he plopped on the ground.

Thud.

Yang Zenke didn't remain idle, he punched and kicked the youths who were attacking him, and no one among them was even able to last a single moment after taking his attacks!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Everything happened in just a few breaths and there were already two dozen youths lying unconsciously on the ground. Some of them were still conscious, but none of them dared to move after being stared by Yang Zenke's icy-cold gaze.

After seeing the total decimation of the attackers, those that harbored similar intentions chose to give up from the contest. They were not willing to be beaten up for a non-guaranteed victory. Besides, it was not shameful to concede against these kinds of opponents.

Other than Yang Zenke and the Beiming Family disciple, there were only less than twenty participants left in their battle platform.

"Let's resume our battle!" The disciple of the Beiming Family said as he looked at Yang Zenke. He had seen how Yang Zenke defeated his opponents, and it would be a lie if he said that he wasn't impressed.

Yang Zenke smiled and motioned for his opponent to come at him. He was blatantly taunting his opponent and this made the latter angry.

The young disciple of the Beiming Family dashed towards Yang Zenke and took an abrupt leap after he was only a few meters away from him. He then released a turning back kick at Yang Zenke while he was midair. His attack was swift enough and it was timed well. Anyone else would have been hit by it, but Yang Zenke was already prepared for this kind of attack!

Yang Zenke raised his arms to block the strong kick.

Bang!

Yang Zenke took a step back and he looked at his arms which now had an obvious red imprint. The kick was indeed strong, and anyone else would have been severely injured by it, but this kind of damage was nothing to Yang Zenke who had undergone all kinds of Jiu Shen's torturous training!

"Not bad." Yang Zenke muttered as he motioned for the youth to attack him again. There was a carefree smile hanging on his lips.

The Beiming Family's disciple rained punches and kicks that ripped through the air. Each of his attacks could break bones and muscles, but Yang Zenke didn't even frown even after receiving all of his attacks. The look on his face was similar to that of someone who was out on a holiday, a broad grin could be seen on his face.

Bang!

Yang Zenke took several steps backward after taking a punch from the youth. He then shook his arms which now had multiple red imprints as he stared at the youth. "Now it is my turn." He said.

The youth's eyes narrowed when he heard that. He was now deeply afraid of this crazy young man who had just casually received all of his attacks. However, he didn't want to show his fear, so he put on a cold look. "Bring it on!" He replied.

Yang Zenke swiftly pounced towards the youth while releasing punches that produced small gusts of wind. The air trembled as he unleashed those dreadful punches.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

'Fucking shit! This guy is crazy strong!' The youth could no longer take Yang Zenke's punches, so he immediately unsheathed his sword.

Looking at this, Yang Zenke's eyes remained calm.

Chapter 202 - Remaining 128

The Beiming Family disciple's name is Beiming Lin. He was the top three strongest among the younger generation disciples of the Beiming Family.

'How come this bastard's attacks are getting fiercer?! Shit!' Beiming Lin cursed in his heart as he used his sword to block Yang Zenke's punch.

Bang!

The swift punch clashed with the sword, but the one who was at a disadvantage was Beiming Lin! The guy took several steps backward before he managed to stabilize himself. He then glanced at Yang Zenke with slight fear.

"You are a body enhancer and a cultivator?!" Beiming Lin exclaimed as he stared at Yang Zenke's fist. His fist clashed with Beiming Lin's sword and any normal cultivator would have been injured after that, but Yang Zenke's fist appeared to be uninjured!

Yang Zenke merely smiled in response to this.

"What?! A cultivator and a body enhancer?! And at such a young age?!"

"How in the..."

The crowd erupted into surprised exclamations and heated discussions after hearing Beiming Lin's words.

Body Enhancers focus on strengthening their physical bodies, while cultivators cultivate their true essence. The two had vastly different ways of enhancing their strength and it wasn't even easy to increase one's cultivation and physical strength. So the fact that Yang Zenke was both a body enhancer and a cultivator came as a surprise to everyone.

In fact, it wasn't just Yang Zenke, all the other youths trained by Jiu Shen were also body enhancers. Their torturous training did not just improve their willpower and pain tolerance, it also strengthened their physical body!

Just as Yang Zenke was about to attack, an abrupt shout made him stop in his tracks.

"Stop!"

All the remaining participants glanced at the elder who was standing on top of a flying carpet. He was the one who had shouted earlier.

The elder glanced at the remaining youths and said in a loud voice. "The first round of the competition is over! At this moment, there are only 128 left standing and all of you will proceed to the next round of the contest! All of you will be given an hour to rest, while the organizers will pair you all for your next fights!"

The crowd erupted into cheers when they heard the announcement of the elder. The 128 remaining participants also heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing that.

Yang Zenke glanced at Beiming Lin and smiled lightly at him before he turned to leave the battle platform.

"Wait!" Beiming Lin shouted.

Yang Zenke stopped walking and stared at him in confusion.

"State your name." Beiming Lin said in a commanding manner.

Yang Zenke sneered when he heard the commanding tone of Beiming Lin. The guy wasn't even able to make him unsheathe his sword. In his opinion, Han Sen and the other eight who were with him could easily defeat this guy.

"I only say my name to those who make me unsheathe my sword." Yang Zenke said coldly before leaping out of the battle platform.

Yang Zenke's words sounded arrogant, but none from the crowd said anything. The guy had already shown his strength and the fact that he was also a body enhancer shocked them senseless. A guy like Yang Zenke was destined to become a great character in the future and they didn't want to offend him. Not to mention that he was under the protection of the unfathomable Wine Master Jiu!

Beiming Lin felt angry and embarrassed, but he could not do anything about it. Yang Zenke was many times stronger than him and he was even forced to take out his sword even though Yang Zenke was merely using his fists and kicks.

'Arrogant bastard! Did you really think that you are the strongest?! Even in our Beiming Family, I am only considered the third strongest. There are still two people stronger than me. Aside from that, there are still a few others who are much stronger than me.'

Beiming Lin clenched his fists tightly as he glared at the figure of Yang Zenke.

The first part of the competition was over and only 128 participants remained from the several thousand that joined. Among the 128 remaining participants, most of them are 4th-rank Knight Crusaders. More than twenty of them were 3rd-rank Crusaders and there were also a few at the 5th-rank Spirit realm.

Among the 5th-rank Spirit realm participants was the fourth prince Dante Silveria, the strongest disciple of the Beiming Family Beiming Chu, and a disciple from a declining noble family Zhu Ren. These three young men had the highest cultivation level among the participants and they were also the most likely to get the first place. However, there were also several individuals with great power whose cultivation levels were only at the 4th-rank Knight Crusader, so it was still unknown who would come out as the final winner.

All the youths that Jiu Shen brought with him passed the first round. Although the cultivation level of Han Sen and the others were not as high as Yang Zenke's, their overall strength was significantly stronger than those disciples who were grown inside the safe environment of their clans and sects.

As for Lu Sulan's disciples, all ten of them similarly passed the first round, but they had injuries all over their bodies which was a stark contrast to Yang Zenke's group who appeared to be unharmed.

"Master, are all of them body enhancers?" Lu Sulan asked as she looked at the youths behind Jiu Shen. She was also surprised when she learned that Yang Zenke was a body enhancer.

Standing behind Lu Sulan, her disciples were similarly curious to know this. They didn't think that these cold-looking youths were also body enhancers aside from being cultivators.

Jiu Shen nodded his head calmly in reply. "Indeed. It is not just them, the remaining ones who didn't join the competition are also body enhancers."

His words shocked Lu Sulan and her disciples.

It must be noted that training one's physical body was very difficult without the help of an expert. Pills and resources might be able to increase the growth of a body enhancer,

but without the help of an expert on body enhancement, one's growth would be very slow and painful.

"This... Master, can you-"

"No!" Jiu Shen cut her off without letting her finish her words. He knew what she was about to say.

"I haven't even said anything yet." Lu Sulan pouted as she looked at Jiu Shen.

"Sulan, I know what you're thinking, but it isn't as easy as you think. I will be honest with you, among Yang Zenke's group, some of them almost died after undergoing my intense training. You have seen for yourself how I trained them. Do you think that your disciples can withstand that kind of torturous training?" Jiu Shen asked calmly.

Lu Sulan remained silent after hearing that. She wanted to offer a rebuttal, but she could not find any words to say. In the end, she could only shake her head in regret.

She had seen how intense the training of Yang Zenke's group was, and she was certain that her disciples would not last a day with that kind of training.

"Go! Tend to their wounds. There is only one hour to prepare for the next part of the competition." Jiu Shen patted her shoulder gently as he handed Lu Sulan ten healing pills.

Chapter 203 - Liu Mengdi Reveals His Power

There were one hundred battle platforms in the venue earlier, but now, 92 were taken out by the organizers, so there were only eight battle platforms left.

30:00

29:59

Thirty minutes left before the next part of the competition. All the remaining participants were preparing themselves with utmost seriousness. The 128 participants who passed the first round were all strong individuals and none of them were soft potatoes, so everyone did not dare waste their time.

Suddenly, the elder who was standing on top of the flying carpet announced loudly. "Participants! Prepare for the drawing of lots! The next round is a one on one battle between the remaining contestants. The pairing will go like this: 1 vs 128, 2 vs 127, 3 vs 126, and so on! Now go!"

Everyone's ears perked up upon hearing his words.

The next part of the competition was a one versus one battle, and the pairing was chosen by drawing lots. It was down to their luck on whoever they were paired with. Some of them were already praying to not be paired with the three participants who were at the 5th-rank Spirit realm.

After the elder's announcement, all the participants immediately went to draw lots. Some were nervous, while the others looked confident.

"Brother Yang, what number did you get?" Han Sen asked while peeking at the piece of paper that was in Yang Zenke's hands.

Yang Zenke ignored him as he took a look at the number that he had picked:

7

"7? That means my opponent is 122. Who could it be?" Yang Zenke muttered as he handed the piece of paper to Han Sen.

Han Sen and the others heaved a sigh of relief after knowing that they weren't paired with him.

"Number 7? Good thing no one is paired among us brothers. I got number 13, I wonder who my opponent will be..." Han Sen said.

Yang Zenke glanced at the three strongest contestants. He wanted to see who among them was the strongest. As for the others, he didn't place them in his eyes at all. It wasn't blind confidence, but he really had the strength to defeat those at the same level of cultivation as him.

Thirty minutes later.

"Participant number 1 and participant number 128, proceed to the first battle platform. Participant number 2 and participant number 127, proceed to the second battle platform..."

"Participant number 7 and participant number 122, proceed to the seventh battle platform."

"Good luck, Brother Yang!"

"Good luck, Brother Yang!"

Han Sen and the others said as they looked at Yang Zenke's figure. They also wanted to see who his opponent was.

Yang Zenke stood on the seventh battle platform and eyed his opponent with a calm look. His opponent wasn't someone famous, but he was still an early stage 4th-rank Knight Crusader. Although he could already be considered as one of the best in the younger generation, he was still nothing in front of Yang Zenke.

Yang Zenke didn't even need to draw out his sword to defeat the guy, and he ended the fight in just a few moves. It wasn't even suspenseful.

Yang Zenke didn't show any overwhelming power, but his win was very straightforward, so it still garnered a bit of attention from the crowd.

After his victory, Yang Zenke leaped off the stage with a calm look. He was already expecting the congratulations of his friends, but he suddenly discovered that their attention was not on him. Instead, he saw them looking at the eighth battle platform with shocked gazes.

Yang Zenke was curious when he saw this, so he also shifted his gaze on the eighth battle platform. There he saw a familiar figure. "Isn't this Young Master Liu Mengdi? Wait... His cultivation level! 5th-rank Spirit realm?!"

It was not just Yang Zenke, everyone from the crowd was similarly surprised when they sensed the level of cultivation that Liu Mengdi revealed. Who would have thought that this guy was actually a 5th-rank Spirit realm? The person that they treated as an arrogant silkpants was actually a top expert of the younger generation!

On top of the eighth battle platform, the expression of Liu Mengdi's opponent did not look good. Just a few moments ago, he was still glad and excited that he was paired with the renowned trash young master of the Liu Family. Looking at it now, he could only sigh as he stared at Liu Mengdi who was now wearing a light smile.

"Young Master Liu, you hid yourself well. To think that you are actually a 5th-rank Spirit realm cultivator. I still find it hard to believe, but the proof is already in front of my eyes... I admit defeat." Liu Mengdi's opponent shook his head regretfully as he looked at Liu Mengdi. He was only an early stage 4th-rank Knight Crusader and he was not confident enough that he could defeat someone who was one realm higher than him.

Liu Mengdi remained silent and he just smiled brilliantly at the crowd as he looked at everyone's faces. His gaze lingered longer on the Liu Family's people and those that met his gaze felt scared. They could feel the strong murderous intention behind Liu Mengdi's warm expression.

"Woah! I never knew that Young Master Liu is actually hiding his true strength! He is even on the same level as the fourth prince and the other two who are at the 5th-rank Spirit realm! I wonder why he is hiding his strength all this time..."

"Bro, do you not know about the current circumstances of the Liu Family? Listen closely, Young Master Liu's uncles are planning to take the patriarch position forcibly. Most of the noble families already know this, but I'm still perplexed as to why Young Master Liu revealed his strength. I mean, he could have remained hidden until he has the strength to defeat his uncles. That way, he would be able to grow without getting detected."

"Something must have happened in the Liu Family that made Young Master Liu reveal his strength."

The crowd discussed animatedly after they learned about the true strength of Liu Mengdi. The internal conflict of the Liu Family was also discussed by them after this surprising revelation.

The uncles of Liu Mengdi who were watching this competition frowned.

"This brat is actually a 5th-rank Knight Crusader?! This won't do! We have to eliminate him while he's still young. We've already provoked this father and son pair and we face Liu Mengdi's retaliation if we don't kill him now."

"It's not a good idea to kill him now. Let's wait until the competition is over before we make our moves. This place is protected by the Silveria Imperial Family and it is unwise to offend them."

"You're right. We must make sure that this brat would not see the sun after this competition is over. He is still so young, but his cultivation is already in the 5th-rank Spirit realm. Such a talent would be a very dangerous threat to us if we leave him be."

Liu Mengdi's uncles discussed among themselves. They were itching to kill Liu Mengdi after they saw his true strength. Who would not fear such a talent? They didn't want their plans to be spoiled by his sudden show of strength. They knew that they would not end well if Liu Mengdi was left alive!

Chapter 204 - Emperor's Protection

The second part of the competition continued for more than five hours, but this amount of time was nothing to cultivators. In fact, the crowd was still in a state of excitement after watching the battle between the best of Silver Wing Empire's younger generation. However, the part which everyone was more excited about was the revelation of Liu Mengdi's cultivation level.

Liu Mengdi had also become one of those considered as the most likely to win in this competition. He was even compared to the three participants who had the same level of cultivation as him.

Liu Mengdi who was the man of the day was nowhere to be seen after all the battles were finished. It was as if he had suddenly disappeared.

Many were curious about his sudden disappearance, and everyone had various speculations about why he was gone. Some said that he was hiding, while others said that he was secretly killed. However, no one knows that had truly happened except for one person who was watching Liu Mengdi's every action through his spiritual perception. This person was none other than Jiu Shen.

He had been monitoring Liu Mengdi from the start and he knew where the latter had gone to.

"Everyone! The one versus one battle will be continued tomorrow morning! To the remaining participants, make sure that you won't be late or you will be disqualified immediately!" The elder on top of the flying carpet said in a loud booming voice.

Just as the crowd had started to disperse, Emperor Elyk suddenly stood up from his seat and said with a dignified tone. "Before everyone leaves, I would like to say a few words." He paused as he surveyed the crowd.

The emperor then continued after seeing that everyone was looking at him. "All the remaining participants will be protected by the Silveria Imperial Family. If I ever find out that they are harmed by anyone, I would not sit idly by."

The emperor's voice was calm and cold, and everyone could sense the seriousness in his tone. This was a warning! A warning specifically aimed at the uncles of Liu Mengdi!

The emperor was a wise person and he didn't want the young elites of his Silver Wing Empire to perish before they could even grow. He wanted to protect them since they would be a valuable asset to the empire when their strengths reach a certain point.

The faces of Liu Mengdi's uncles turned gloomy upon hearing that. Although the emperor didn't implicitly speak about anyone, they knew that these words were meant for them. They were angry, but they didn't dare talk back to the emperor.

The emperor's gaze lingered on them for a brief moment and this made Liu Mengdi's three uncles freeze on the spot. That gaze was an obvious warning!

Some people from the crowd sneered at the three of them, while others wore mocking smiles on their faces. Everyone didn't like these three. They just did not show it since they were deeply afraid of the three's revenge.

"Let's go!" The three uncles of Liu Mengdi left the venue. They had already embarrassed themselves enough and they no longer wanted to continue spectating the event. Besides, the emperor had already stated his warning. It would be foolish to kill

Liu Mengdi in front of a large crowd, so they could only choose to wait until the martial arts competition was over.

The crowd finally dispersed after that short interlude.

"Brother Yang, how many among you guys won in the one versus one battle?" Xiao Hua initiated a conversation between her and Yang Zenke. This of course made their friends whistle and smile knowingly.

Yang Zenke spaced out when he saw the beautiful Xiao Hua who was standing in front of him. Just a few months ago, he could not even dream to come in contact with the noble young ladies of the empire, but now, he was already considered as one of the best in the younger generation, and he had already earned the admiration of countless young maidens.

Yang Zenke calmed himself secretly and answered in a slightly milder tone. "Among the ten of us, two are eliminated. One of them was paired with the fourth prince, and the other one was defeated by the Xue Family's Xue Tong."

Yang Zenke was not foolish enough to believe that he had captured the heart of Xiao Hua after revealing his strength. The girl was at the peak stage of the 4th-rank Knight Crusader and he was only at the early stage of the 4th-rank Knight Crusader. He believed that Xiao Hua was merely curious about the results of their group's battles.

Xiao Hua exclaimed when she heard his reply. "Woah! Someone from you guys was actually paired with the fourth prince? How unlucky! That Xue Tong guy is also strong, so the defeat of your brother is not shameful. As for my sisters, only five of us managed to win our battles. Sigh."

Xiao Hua and her junior sisters might have a high level of cultivation, but their battle experience was almost non-existent, so their results were not that great compared to Yang Zenke's group.

"They still have the chance to join the next martial arts competition, so losing is not a problem. They could use their defeats as a motivation to cultivate even harder." Yang Zenke's voice was still slightly cold, but Xiao Hua did not mind this. She thought that they might have been infected by Jiu Shen's cold personality after being trained by him for more than a month.

"Thank you for your words, Brother Yang. Excuse me. I'll go back to my sisters." Xiao Hua smiled at Yang Zenke before she left.

Yang Zenke watched her retreating figure with unblinking eyes. His thoughts were indiscernible.

Smack.

Han Sen smacked Yang Zenke's back and looked at him with a light smile.

Looking at his friend's smile, Yang Zenke had the urge to punch his face, but he could not bear to do it as it might make the others create unnecessary assumptions.

"Brother Yang, you like her, don't you? Hahaha! Come on! I know that look in your eyes. Hahaha!" Han Sen laughed exaggeratedly as he patted Yang Zenke's back.

Yang Zenke aimed a punch at Han Sen's face, but it was easily avoided by the latter.

"Stop spouting nonsense or I'll beat you up really good." Yang Zenke glared at his friend.

Han Sen put on a fake look of fear, but a light smirk can be seen on his lips. "Alright! Alright! Let's not talk about that. Let's talk about serious matters. Are you confident in getting into the top three?"

If this question was heard by anyone else, they would surely be surprised. Their cultivation levels were on the lower end of the spectrum among the remaining participants, but they were actually talking about getting into the top three as if it was just an easy matter to accomplish...

Yang Zenke was silent for a moment before he eventually nodded his head. "I should be able to rank in the top 3, but it's not my goal. I want to get the first place."

Han Sen was surprised, but he suddenly smiled. "Hahaha! That's right! With the teachings of master, it would not be a problem for you to rank in the top 3. As for getting first place... It's hard to say, but I'm rooting for you, Brother Yang! Hahaha!"

Chapter 205 - Would I Help Them?

With the emperor's protection, all the participants who had somehow provoke a lot of enemies felt relieved in their hearts. They also felt grateful to the emperor who had graced them with his protection. It might have been just a few words from Emperor Elyk, but it was equivalent to giving them a layer of defense which was already a significant help to these budding talents.

It was already night time and Jiu Shen was sitting on a chair on top of the roof of their lodging house. He was gazing at the moon with an unreadable expression on his face. He was also carrying a small girl in his arms who had a hair full of short white hair.

Standing behind Jiu Shen was a woman with long purple hair. She was looking at the man with respect and admiration.

"That was truly a good move from Elyk. He earned the gratitude of all the young elites by merely saying a few words and he didn't even have anything to worry about the Liu Family since their strength is divided right now. This move of him also increased his prestige and authority. Now, everyone should be praising him for being such a good emperor." Jiu Shen suddenly said. His voice was calm and indifferent, but there was a tinge of emotion in his tone. It was unknown if it was admiration or something else.

"That human is not bad, but he is growing old. And from what I've seen, all his three eldest sons are just a bunch of good for nothing people! The crown prince is a lecherous bastard, the second prince might be dead and a demon is using his identity to infiltrate the Profound Dragon Continent. As for the third prince, although he is talented in the art of war, he is a very arrogant and conceited person. All three of them are not fit to carry his mantle and the Silver Wing Empire would never have a good day if one of them manage to sit in on the throne. I don't know what that Elyk human is trying to do that he actually allowed those three idiots to fight for the position. Meow." Ice sneered in contempt as she mentioned the three eldest princes. She then puffed her cheeks after she talked. It was obvious that she didn't like the three of them.

Long Meili remained silent and she just smiled after hearing the words of the little girl.

Jiu Shen rubbed the girl's head gently and remained silent for a moment before he said calmly. "Elyk did it intentionally. He allowed those three to fight for the throne, but none of them would become his final successor."

Ice was confused and she blinked her adorably big eyes as she stared at Jiu Shen's face. "Stinky human, what do you mean? Meow." She asked curiously.

Long Meili was not as curious as her, but she still took a step forward to take a clearer look at Jiu Shen's face. She wanted to hear his answer.

Jiu Shen pinched Ice's cheeks which made the latter pout in dissatisfaction, but a wave of warmth enveloped her heart. It was not a romantic kind of feeling, but something similar to that of familial warmth. It has been long since she had last felt this, so it made her a bit teary-eyed. Ice hurriedly looked down to avoid the gazes of Jiu Shen and Long Meili. She did not want anyone to see her cry.

"Elyk merely allowed those three to fight among themselves in order to give time for his successor to grow. As for who his successor is, it is between the fourth prince and the fifth princess. Among his five children, only the two of them have the right temperament to become the next emperor." Jiu Shen said as he stroked Ice's short white hair.

The two girls pondered upon hearing his words.

"So that's how it is! I didn't think that an old man like him is actually half as smart as me! Meow!" Ice's tone sounded smug, but Jiu Shen and Long Meili merely smiled when they heard that.

The three became silent after that short interaction.

Jiu Shen continued to gaze at the moon as he reminisced about his experiences in his past life.

As Jiu Shen was recalling his distant memories, he saw a small group of youths walking outside of their lodging house. Each of the youths had great temperaments, and they were strong for their age.

Jiu Shen knew who these guys were. These young elites were among those who had won in the one versus one battle.

"His Majesty is truly magnanimous and kind. It is our Silver Wing Empire's luck to have such a capable and just leader."

"I'm just a bit worried. Although His Majesty is a strong expert, our Silver Wing Empire has quite a number of enemies from all sides. I even heard from some passing merchants that the Blue Fang Empire is already planning to attack our empire."

"Blue Fang Empire? Although they are not weak, our Silver Wing Empire is many times stronger than them, so you don't have to worry about their attack. Besides, can they even fight against our empire's Silver Wing Army?"

"Hahaha! You are right! Our Silver Wing Army only accepts 3rd-Crusaders, and there are about ten thousand of them on standby. Any normal army would be ripped to shreds by their fierce attack."

Jiu Shen chuckled in his heart when he heard their conversation.

"Silver Wing Army? Could the empire's Silver Wing Army handle the Undying Corpse Sect's undead army? And they even have those elite corpse puppet in their arsenal..." Jiu Shen muttered under his breath.

According to the intel that Ren Shuang gathered. He discovered that the Undying Corpse Sect was secretly nurturing thousands of undead in their hideout. These undeads were not just random undeads either. Each of them was the corpses of deceased experts, so their strength was not weak at all!

From what Ren Shuang had discovered thus far, the overall strength that the Undying Corpse Sect and Xue Family possess is enough to trample the Silver Wing Empire! The Silveria Imperial Family would not be able to fight them equally unless if they get the support of the Liu Family, Beiming Family, and the other noble families. And even if they did offer their assistance, they would still be at a disadvantage.

'If that time comes, would I help them?' Jiu Shen closed his eyes as he pondered deeply in his heart.

Chapter 206 - Contest Resumes

The next day, everyone went towards the venue of the martial arts competition. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation as the crowd waited for the contest to begin.

Suddenly, the overseer of the competition came flying through the air in his flying carpet. He surveyed everyone as he loudly announced. "Good morning, everyone! Today, we will continue the one versus one battle for the remaining 64 participants. I request all the participants to prepare for the next drawing of lots!"

One by one, the contestants came forward. Some of them had uneasy looks, while others had confident expressions.

"Look! Young Master Liu is here!"

"So Young Master Liu only avoided a large crowd to hide. I can't blame him though. His uncles must be planning to assassinate him!"

"They do, but they would never dare do that while contest is still ongoing. His Majesty has already issued his warning and they would be seeking death if they harm Young Master Liu here."

Most of the crowd shifted their gazes to Liu Mengdi. Everyone could see the same carefree smile hanging on his face. It was as if no one was after his life.

Liu Mengdi glanced at the participants. Each of them was strong in their own right and none of them were easy to deal with. However, he was surprised that there were actually a few 3rd-rank Crusaders who had survived until this round. And the most shocking thing was that they were wearing the same set of clothes. That means, all those 3rd-rank Crusaders came from the same sect!

"I think they are the youths who came with Wine Master Jiu. Are they Wine Master Jiu's disciples?" Liu Mengdi suddenly became curious about them.

It must be noted that almost all that remained were 4th-rank Knight Crusaders, so it was truly surprising how some 3rd-rank Crusaders were able to survive until now.

"Their strength should not be ordinary. I think they are even stronger than most of the 4th-rank Knight Crusaders here. Wine Master Jiu, I admire you even more now..." Liu Mengdi then eyed the other contestants and his gaze was glued to the three members of his Liu Family.

He knew who they were. They were the sons of his three uncles!

Looking at them, the eyes of Liu Mengdi became icy-cold and he did not even bother to conceal his killing intent.

The three youths sensed his piercing gaze and they immediately glanced in his direction. When they discovered that it was Liu Mengdi, their eyes flashed with a hint of horror. They had always bullied Liu Mengdi since they were young, but looking at it now, they did not even dare to look straight in his eyes!

After a few more minutes, the drawing of lots was concluded and the first 8 pairs were called to come up on their battle platforms.

Xiao Hua versus Beiming Lin

Han Sen versus Mu Ta

Dante Silveria versus Xue Erlang

...

Xiao Hua's opponent was the same guy that fought with Yang Zenke in the battle royale yesterday. She did not have a good impression of this young man because of his conceited attitude.

"Young Miss, please be lenient with me." Beiming Lin smiled in a gentlemanly manner. He was enchanted by Xiao Hua's beautiful face. He likes her icy temperament and cool bearing.

Hmph!

Xiao Hua did not reply and she merely snorted at him. She was already at the peak stage of the 4th-rank Knight Crusader and her opponent was only at the early stage of the 4th-rank Knight Crusader. She was confident that she could beat him in less than five moves.

Beiming Lin could sense Xiao Hua's contempt and this made him feel slightly embarrassed. Since when was he treated like this by a woman?

Shing!

Xiao Hua unsheathed her sword and she did not even give Beiming Lin the time to gather his composure as she slashed out her sword, producing countless flakes of ice around their battle platform.

Beiming Lin felt freezingly cold and his movements seemed to have become slower. This made him feel deeply afraid. He hastily lifted his sword to block Xiao Hua's strike, but it was easily swatted away by her.

Clang. Clang. Clang.

Beiming Lin's weapon tumbled a few times before it rested twenty meters away from him.

Xiao Hua did not allow her opponent to move and she immediately raised her sword's blade to his neck.

Beiming Lin immediately ceased movements when he sensed the coldness on his neck. He then glanced at the sword that was only a few centimeters away from his skin. The sight of it made him feel dread, so he promptly said.

"I admit defeat!"

Xiao Hua glared at him before she sheathed her sword back to its scabbard.

"You are not even worth mentioning compared to Brother Yang." She said before she leaped out of her battle platform.

Beiming Lin was rooted on his spot when he heard that, but he could only sigh in his heart. He was indeed not confident about beating Yang Zenke and he even feared the latter's crazy fighting style.

"I may not be able to defeat him, but my cousin Beiming Chu can definitely trample him! Hmph!" Beiming Lin said as he resentfully stepped down the battle platform. He was defeated and he was not even able to last for more than three moves.

On another battle platform, the fourth prince Dante Silveria was also able to defeat his opponent in just one move. No one was surprised about this outcome and they merely cheered loudly.

"Look at that guy! He's only a peak stage 3rd-rank Crusader, but he is fighting toe to toe with mid stage 4th-rank Knight Crusader! What a tough person!"

"What's his name again? Is it Han Sen or something? He fights like a wild beast! He does not even care about getting injured! This guy is a madman!"

Yang Zenke smirked as he listened to the crowd's discussion. They were talking about his good friend Han Sen and this made him feel proud.

"Brother Han could have easily defeated this guy, but he is using their battle to stimulate his breakthrough to the next realm. Hehe." Yang Zenke muttered silently, but Xiao Hua who was now right beside him was able to hear his words.

"Brother Yang, you mean Brother Han is trying to break through to the 4th-rank Knight Crusader?!" Xiao Hua exclaimed in shock. She could not help but admire the young

man who was fighting without caring for his injuries. Who would want to achieve a breakthrough in that manner? Perhaps only a madman like him would do it...

Yang Zenke merely smiled at her. His eyes were glued on the figure of his friend and the light in his pupils flashed with excitement.

On top of the battle platform, Han Sen was already riddled with cuts and bruises. From the eyes of others, he was bound to be defeated. However, a few top-ranked experts from the crowd suddenly sensed a shocking revelation.

Han Sen was torturing himself to achieve a breakthrough!

Upon discovering this, they silently praised his determination. Not everyone was willing to harm themselves like that for a breakthrough...

Chapter 207 - Han Sen's Crazy Breakthrough

Han Sen wore a fierce look as he eyed his opponent. The attacks were already hurting him, but he has yet to achieve his breakthrough.

'This won't do! I have to gamble this!' Han Sen said in his heart as he lowered his defensive stance. He decided to go on full offensive while letting go of his defense. It was a very stupid thing to do especially in a fight that involves the use of weapons.

"What the hell is that guy doing?! Had he gone crazy?! It's not just him. All the other guys who came with Wine Master Jiu are a bunch of crazy lunatics. They fight like madmen and they would not even care if they get severely injured."

"Their cultivation level is lower than their counterpart, so they have to do this in order to somehow bridge the gap. I admit that I admire these kids' resilience."

Han Sen waved his sword like a deranged person and the look in his eyes contained a tinge of excitement. Han Sen's crazed expression made his opponent feel a sense of fear despite the fact that he was on the winning end.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Their swords clashed multiple times, and during the first exchange, Han Sen was always at a disadvantage, but as time goes on, Mu Ta's movements were slowing down as fatigue slowly enveloped his entire being.

'This fucking madman! Is he out of his mind?! He is not even blocking my strikes! And despite his severe injuries, his movements seemed to have become faster instead of slowing down! Impossible!' Mu Ta cursed in his heart as he looked at Han Sen's

bloodied figure. He looked like a devil who had walked out of a mountain of corpses! Coupled with his deranged smile and aggressive attacks, he was almost no different than a devil!

"More! More!" Han Sen sprinted towards Mu Ta as he raised his sword. He was full of openings and weak spots, but Mu Ta did not dare attack him. If he would, Mu Ta would also receive a substantial amount of damage!

Clang! Clang!

Bang!

Han Sen was thrown to the ground by a fierce sword attack, but he immediately rose to his feet!

Blood dripped from to the ground beneath him, forming a small puddle of crimson-red liquid.

Han Sen's dantian was already filled with true essence and only one final push was left before he could breakthrough.

By this point, even his opponent had already sensed what he was up to, and this made Mu Ta silently admire Han Sen's tenacity and persistence.

Mu Ta suddenly stopped in his tracks. His sword danced in the air as he waved it around him in slow motion. "Taichi Sword Dance. Blade of the Paragon!" He shouted as his slow sword movements suddenly became ten times faster.

Dozens of fierce sword lights streaked towards Han Sen.

Han Sen's eyes dilated, but he hurriedly struck his sword on the ground while both his hands rested on its hilt. He wanted to face this sword technique head on!

At this moment, even the normally taciturn Yang Zenke was feeling nervous. This was a dangerous moment and Han Sen might receive a fatal damage even if he breaks through. He could not help but take a look at Jiu Shen who was also watching this fight. However, Jiu Shen's expression remained eternally calm as we stared at this scene.

Pu! Pu! Pu! Pu!

Han Sen's body received more than a dozen cuts, but he remained standing on his feet as he fiercely gripped the hilt of his sword.

Ahhh!

Han Sen shouted like a beast and as if resonating with him, the final barrier in his dantian was finally broken! He had achieved a breakthrough and he was now an early stage 4th-rank Knight Crusader!

Han Sen spat a mouthful of blood. His injuries were not light and anyone else would have already collapsed up until this point, but he was still standing erect like a spear!

At this moment, only Han Sen's eyes were spotlessly clean, while the rest of his body was already covered by his blood!

After Han Sen achieved his breakthrough, he suddenly pounced towards the tired Mu Ta. Han Sen spun in midair with his sword, looking like a sharp spinner as he came closer to Mu Ta.

Claaang!!

A fierce clanging sound resounded as the swords of the two young men met. And to everyone's surprise, Mu Ta was thrown away like a ragdoll!

Bang!

The man was instantly put to sleep as he landed outside of the battle platform face-first!

"Han Sen wins!" The overseer announced with a slight surprise in his tone. It was the most epic comeback throughout the whole event!

"What a lad! He actually managed to win at the final clash!"

"He achieved a breakthrough during their last exchange! How resilient his spirit is!"

"Could he still fight his next battle in that state?"

"Of course! Wine Master Jiu is an Alchemy Saint and he could just casually cough up a miraculous healing pill that could help this guy recover from his injuries."

The crowd was definitely stunned by Han Sen's crazy display of tenacity. Everyone was already expecting him to be defeated, but they were proven wrong after he suddenly broke through to the early stage of the 4th-rank Knight Crusader. His opponent was not even able to last a single blow from him after his breakthrough. It was a very shocking fight!

"Give this to him." Jiu Shen suddenly said as he reached out his right hand to Yang Zenke. A small bright-red pill can be seen on his palms.

Yang Zenke nodded his head at him as he picked up the pill. He was very familiar with this pill since Jiu Shen always gave this to them after their daily torturous training. It was

a very effective pill in healing injuries and invigorating their blood. After ingesting it many times, he had also learned of the pill's name from Jiu Shen himself. It was a 9th-rank pill called the Blood Restoring Dan.

Although it was a precious 9th-rank pill, Jiu Shen did not feel a pinch for giving it away like that. He could casually refine dozens of such pill in less than an hour if he had the necessary ingredients, so it was not worth mentioning to him.

Yang Zenke leaped on top of Han Sen's battle platform and handed him the pill.

"Buddy, everyone thought that you have gone crazy. Only our brothers knew that the fighting style you showed was something that we had learned in that world filled with savage beasts. Congratulations on your breakthrough and also for winning the fight!" Yang Zenke patted Han Sen's shoulder as he said that and the latter immediately groaned in a fake manner.

Ow!

Yang Zenke immediately smacked the back of Han Sen's head using his palms. "Quit faking it. Let's go back to master. Your injuries are quite heavy this time."

Han Sen smiled wryly as he replied. "Okay, Brother Yang. You nag more than master."

Yang Zenke raised his right hand, but Han Sen instantly sprinted before the former could even hit him.

Chapter 208 - Xue Tong's Madness

It was the third day of the martial arts contest and the remaining contestants are only 16 individuals. Without suspense, the four 5th-rank Spirit realm participants were among the remaining ones.

Yang Zenke, Xiao Hua, and Han Sen were also among the remaining participants, while the rest of their team had failed to reach the top 16.

The most surprising thing of all, the fifth princess was also among the top 16 and her cultivation level had unimaginably reached the peak-stage of the 4th-rank Knight Crusader! Although it was not much compared to the other remaining participants, her sword techniques and skill were higher than most of them.

The emperor also explained in a jovial tone the reason why Princess Sylvia managed to increase her cultivation level with such an absurd speed. She had actually consumed a 9th-rank spiritual fruit which immediately created a chance for her breakthrough.

Everyone exclaimed at the princess' luck to have actually eaten such a precious spiritual fruit and even some of the patriarchs sighed in jealousy. They could not be blamed though. After all, it was a 9th-rank spiritual fruit. Something at that level was extremely hard to find and could not even be bought using True Crystals.

There was only one battle platform left in the venue and the crowd became noticeably larger than two days ago. Many guests from outside of Beltran City came to spectate the event and they also wanted to see the best fighters of their Silver Wing Empire's younger generation.

Jiu Shen was seated on the same spot together with his people. On his sides were Long Meili and his senior disciple Lu Sulan. Sitting on his lap was the adorable little girl, Ice. The little girl was sucking on a bottle that was filled with milk. Her expression was that of delight as she closed her eyes while enjoying her bottle of milk.

Gulp. Gulp. Gulp.

Ah~

Ice licked her lips after letting out a satisfied sound.

"Stinky human, I like this one. Can I have three of this everyday? Meow." Ice said as she looked at the bottle of milk in her hand with her big round eyes.

Jiu Shen rubbed her head gently and nodded his head at her. "Mn." He replied softly.

Ice giggled happily after getting his approval.

"Everyone! It is the third day of the martial arts contest and all of us will see the top 16 youths of our Silver Wing Empire battle among themselves to prove who among them is worthy to be crowned as the top youth of the generation! The top 8 contestants will also receive a reward depending on their ranks and as to what kind of rewards it will be, I cannot divulge it now. Without further ado, I will now call the first contestants to come up on stage! Princess Sylvia and Young Master Xue Tong, please go to the battle platform!" The overseer announced in a loud voice. His words immediately stirred the excitement of the crowd and when he called the first contestants, everyone clapped their hands exaggeratedly.

Xue Tong was the son of the Xue Family's supreme elder, Xue Yangkun. He was a waste and a bully just a few months ago, but he suddenly became one of the youths of the Silver Wing Empire. As for how he had increased his strength in such a short amount of time, no one had any idea aside from Jiu Shen.

Jiu Shen knew that Xue Tong's strength had increased tremendously after he managed to cultivate the Undying Corpse Sect's Nightmare Corpse Mantra. It was an evil technique that needs more than a hundred human sacrifices in order to achieve a

breakthrough and it was this very technique that helped Xue Tong increase his cultivation level in such a short amount of time.

It was unknown how many lives were lost just to make the once trash Xue Tong into what he is right now.

Xue Tong was wearing a set of purple and black robes with the insignia of their Xue Family on his back. A grim-looking sickle can be seen strapped behind his back. It was scary to look at and some women from the crowd even flinched at the sight of it.

"What kind of weapon is that? It looks too unsightly and insidious! Will he use that to fight with Her Highness?"

"We don't have to worry about that. Her Highness is already at the peak-stage of the 4th-rank Knight Crusader and her strength is on par with Young Master Xue Tong's level. Besides, there are a few imperial guards below the battle platform who would immediately rescue anyone from impending doom."

"You might be right, but this kind of weapon is too much to be used in a contest like this. I wonder if His Majesty would allow Xue Tong to fight Her Highness using it."

Princess Sylvia wore a nervous look when she saw the malicious-looking weapon behind Xue Tong. She might have increased her cultivation level by a lot, but her battle experience was nothing much compared to the other participants, so she was anxious to see such a scary weapon. She could not help but glance at the emperor, but she only received his fierce glare.

"There is no rule that restricted anyone in using any kind of weapon, so this is not against the rules. Proceed with the battle." Emperor Elyk said in a dignified tone.

Xue Tong secretly heaved a sigh of relief upon getting the emperor's approval. He then bowed at Princess Sylvia with a smile on his face. "Your Highness, you don't have to worry about this weapon. It only looks scary, but it's just similar to any ordinary sickle." He chuckled, but his voice sounded eerily calm which made Princess Sylvia feel that something was wrong. However, she could not pinpoint where her nervousness came from.

"Xue Tong, you don't need to speak so much nonsense. Take out that ugly weapon and fight with me!" Princess Sylvia uttered as she put on a brave front. She did not want the others to see her anxiousness, so she could only fake a calm look.

Xue Tong was raging inside his heart. He liked this little demoness since they were young and he had also courted her many times. However, Sylvia was a violent woman and she always beat him up with the help of others. He resented her for rejecting him, but he could not do anything about it back then because there was the behemoth Silveria Imperial Family protecting her.

But things are different now... He had the backing of the Undying Corpse Sect and the much stronger Xue Family! And the thing that excited him the most was the news of Elder Ming's successful breakthrough! He was now an individual that surpassed the realms of mortals! And the time when their Xue Family takes over the throne was drawing closer. In fact, they would immediately act after the martial arts contest!

It was the best opportunity to destroy the Silveria Imperial Family and their loyal subordinates in one go!

'Little bitch, let's see how long you can keep up that arrogant look on your face! I will fuck you in front of your father and brothers, then I will kill them after fucking you!' Xue Tong laughed manically in his heart. His pair of onyx eyes radiated with a vicious glow.

Chapter 209 - Angry Emperor Elyk

The fifth princess wore a solemn look as she slowly pulled out her sword. It was not an ordinary weapon. It was an Earth Weapon and something that was almost on the level of Saint Weapons! From this, it could be seen how much the emperor doted on this daughter of his.

Xue Tong's eyes remained frighteningly cold and he did not even bat an eye despite seeing the high-level sword of Princess Sylvia. Her weapon might be a tad stronger than his sickle, but because of the princess' lack of fighting experience, he could still overpower her. Not to mention that he still had a few things up his sleeves!

The crowd held their breaths as they watched the face-off between these two young elites. Even the emperor who looked calm outwardly was already panicking in his heart. He was worried about his daughter's safety especially because she was facing someone with more experience than her. The emperor could also sense a sinister aura coming from Xue Tong and this made him fall into deep contemplation. 'This kind of sensation is similar to the unique aura of the Undying Corpse Sect... Could it be that... the Xue Family is really related to the Undying Corpse Sect? That means those things discovered by my people were all true...'

When the emperor's train of thoughts reached that point, his eyes suddenly turned cold. He rapidly scanned the area where the Xue Family's people were seated. He saw Elder Kuan, two more elders, and a few disciples in that section. All of them were covered by the same sinister aura that Xue Tong had and this discovery strengthened Emperor Elyk's belief that the Xue Family was indeed colluding with the Undying Corpse Sect.

Emperor Elyk hid the killing intent in his heart, but he still whispered a few things to Defender Duanmu who was just right beside him. "Duanmu, prepare the Embroidered Dragon Guards. Don't let other people discover your movements. I want the Embroidered Dragon Guards prepared before this contest ends."

Defender Duanmu could feel the coldness in the emperor's voice and he was also surprised by his command.

The Embroidered Dragon Guards was a secret elite force that Emperor Elyk had nurtured secretly on his own. They were chosen from the best imperial guards of the Silver Wing Empire and all of them were at least at the 5th-rank Spirit realm! Their captain was also someone with great strength and he is at least as strong as Defender Duanmu! That means this mysterious captain of the Embroidered Dragon Guards is also an 8th-rank Divine realm expert!

Defender Duanmu didn't have an idea as to why the emperor had suddenly summoned his secret force at a time like this, but he still nodded his head solemnly to acknowledge the command. He then secretly left the place when everyone was not looking at them.

After Defender Duanmu left the scene, Emperor Elyk shifted his gaze to the fifth princess and Xue Tong. He was prepared to rescue his daughter if he discovers something unusual.

'Xue Family! Your wings have hardened after gaining the support of the Undying Corpse Sect! Did you really think that our Silveria Imperial Family is an easy opponent?! I have already awakened my father who had sealed himself for more than a hundred years! Since you want to play with us, then don't blame me for being ruthless!' Emperor Elyk clenched his fists tightly as he watched the battle between Xue Tong and his daughter.

Jiu Shen glanced at the emperor's location when he sensed that the latter's emotions were in disarray. He could feel that the emperor was suppressing his killing intent. 'Did you finally discover that the Xue Family and the Undying Corpse Sect are related? Elyk, allow me to see your next course of action.' He muttered in his heart.

Jiu Shen then took back his gaze and closed his eyes for a moment as he thought. 'Is it about to start? How many lives will be lost this time? Should I intervene? How troublesome.'

When Jiu Shen opened his eyes, he glanced at Long Meili and whispered coldly. "After this contest, take the kids back with you to the store and protect everyone. Kill whoever decides to harm our people..."

Long Meili's eyes narrowed into slits upon hearing his command. She then nodded her head lightly as she said. "Yes, master."

Jiu Shen then focused his gaze on the battle platform. His attention was on Xue Tong.

Within the battle platform, Xue Tong and the fifth princess had already exchanged more than dozen moves and neither of them seemed to have received any substantial injuries.

Xue Tong avoided the fifth princess' sword slash with a casual sidestep. He then waved his sickle to Sylvia's neck, but he suddenly shifted his attack after careful consideration.

Slash.

The sickle created a deep wound on the princess' shoulder and this made her groan in pain.

Xue Tong abruptly raised his sickle in a bid to make another attack, but he suddenly sensed an unconcealed killing intent locked on him. He furrowed his eyebrows as he took several steps backward. He then lifted his head and looked in the direction of the emperor.

The killing intent that he sensed earlier came from the emperor! This made Xue Tong slightly fearful, but he hurriedly calmed his heart. He smiled at the emperor and shrugged his shoulders.

"Sylvia, admit defeat." Emperor Elyk suddenly said.

Princess Sylvia stood up while clutching her injured shoulder. She glared at Xue Tong indignantly, but she did not dare oppose her father. She could sense her father's fury, so she immediately said in a sour tone. "I admit defeat."

Xue Tong smiled innocently at her and bowed politely as he said. "Thank you for making me win, Your Highness."

Hmph!

Princess Sylvia snorted at him before she leaped out of the battle platform.

The third prince, the crown prince, and the fourth prince who were all watching this fight glared at Xue Tong angrily. They doted on this little sister so much, and someone actually dared to injure her like that?

"That goddamn bastard! I will peel off his skin!" The third prince, Prince Erevard said with rage.

The crown prince remained silent, but the look in his eyes was as if he was about to spurt fire.

Bang!

The fourth prince who was among the remaining 16 contestants slammed his hand on the armrest of his chair, reducing it into a pile of broken wood fragments. "That bastard Xue Tong!"

Xue Tong could sense the raging looks aimed at him, but he merely walked towards the area of the Xue Family in a relaxed manner. There wasn't even an ounce of fear in his expression. 'Hahaha! This is just the start fools!'

"Good job, Young Master!" Elder Kuan laughed loudly as he patted Xue Tong's shoulder.

Chapter 210 - Zhu Ren's Spearmanship

Seven more battles followed after the fight between the fifth princess and Xue Tong. The crowd watched the battles without blinking their eyes, afraid that they would miss anything.

After a few hours, the fights concluded.

The final eight participants were Prince Dante, Liu Mengdi, Beiming Chu, Zhu Ren, Xue Tong, Yang Zenke, Han Sen, and Xiao Hua.

Everyone looked at these eight contestants with great anticipation and they were surprised to see two early stage 4th-rank Knight Crusaders among the final eight and both of them even came from the same group!

The eight participants were given an hour to prepare themselves while the 9th place and 10th place were being fought over by the other eight who had lost earlier.

The 9th place was taken by the fifth princess without difficulty, while the tenth place was taken by another disciple of the Beiming Family.

After an hour, the overseer announced in a loud voice. "I will now announce the matchups for the next round of the competition: Yang Zenke versus Han Sen, Dante Silveria versus Zhu Ren, Xue Tong versus Xiao Hua, and Beiming Chu versus Liu Mengdi."

Yang Zenke and Han Sen glanced at each other when they heard the announcement and both young men wore expressions of surprise.

Han Sen in particular looked as if he had stepped on cow poop. He smiled wryly at Yang Zenke as he shook his head. "Brother Yang, although our cultivation level is the same, I know that I would never be your opponent."

Yang Zenke wanted to say something, but in the end, he could only close his mouth. He felt slightly regretful that he had to fight with his friend in this round. Both of them had a high chance of getting into the top 4, but it was impossible now that they were paired.

"Yang Zenke and Han Sen, please come up on stage for the first battle." The overseer called both young fighters to proceed to the battle arena.

"What a pity! The both of them are great young fighters and they might have been able to get into the final four despite their weaker cultivation. Sigh."

"That Xue Tong also got lucky that he is not paired with any of the 5th-rank Spirit realm fighters. Too bad."

"The fight between the fourth prince and Zhu Ren should be very good. I'm excited to see who between them would emerge as the winner."

"Don't forget about Beiming Chu and Liu Mengdi's fight. I wonder who among the two of them would come out as the winner..."

Some people from the crowd shook their heads in pity upon hearing that Yang Zenke and Han Sen were paired. They knew that the two young men came from the same group, and it was truly regretful to have them fight.

"There is no need to fight. I admit defeat." Han Sen said while shaking his head at the overseer.

The overseer was not shocked by his words and he seemed to have expected it.

"For the first match-up, Yang Zenke wins!" The overseer announced.

The crowd sighed at this announcement, but they could do nothing about it if both fighters did not want to fight each other.

"Prince Dante and Zhu Ren, please proceed to the battle platform."

Zhu Ren was a young man who looked like a scholar. He seemed weak at first glance and he did not have the aura of a fighter. However, the fourth prince did not dare take his opponent lightly.

This Zhu Ren might look like a gentle youth, but once he takes out his spear, his aura would drastically change!

The two young men glanced at each other.

Zhu Ren bowed his head politely at the fourth prince as he greeted. "Greetings, Your Highness."

Prince Dante smiled at him as he took out his sword.

"Fight!"

Prince Dante swiftly dashed towards his opponent. His movements were quick and nimble and he was even faster than the average 5th-rank Spirit realm expert!

Seeing this, Zhu Ren was not flustered. He pulled his spear and waved it around him with a calm look. His gentle aura slowly turned dreadful as the spinning of his spear became faster.

Clang!

Clang!

Clang!

Sword and spear clashed dozens of times, producing loud clanging sounds every time the two weapons collided.

The fourth prince was much faster than Zhu Ren, but the latter's skill in wielding his spear was nothing to scoff about. Zhu Ren might be a little slower than the fourth prince, but his skillful display of spearmanship made up for his slower speed.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Everyone held their breaths as they watched the fight between these two young experts.

The spearmanship of Zhu Ren looked elegant and he seemed to be dancing on the battle platform with his fancy spins and spear thrust. On the other hand, the fourth prince displayed a series of swift sword strokes and slashes that produced threatening sword winds that ripped through the air. Anyone who would be hit by these sword winds would surely be heavily injured, but Zhu Ren managed to evade and block them with a bit of effort.

The fourth prince could not help but glance at his opponent with surprise. He had to admit that even he was mesmerized by the spearmanship that Zhu Ren displayed. It was so beautiful that it looked as if he was performing a spear dance.

'It looks like I have to use the sword technique that Wine Master Jiu had taught us back then, but that sword technique takes too much of my true essence, so if I fail to hit him, I might be in a very tough spot.' Prince Dante hesitated for a brief moment, but he decided to gamble everything on that sword technique.

The fourth prince suddenly leaped in the air and he looked like a soaring eagle with his arms spread wide.

After reaching a height of fifteen meters above ground, the fourth prince held the hilt of his sword with both hands as he lifted it. "Eagle's Descent, Overturning Sword Slash!"

A sword wind that was about five meters long streaked towards Zhu Ren fiercely.

Zhu Ren's eyes widened at the sight of this and his calm eyes displayed a hint of fear. He had no choice but to use his strongest move to block this attack.

He rapidly spun as he aimed his spear on the incoming sword wind. He then released his spear and it shot through the air like a bolt of lightning!

Bang!

A violent explosion rang out after the two attacks collided and a shadow was thrown out of the battle platform.

Zhu Ren somersaulted in midair in order to land gracefully on the ground. He was already outside of the battle platform, so he was already defeated.

Zhu Ren stared at the fourth prince and bowed at him politely. The latter smiled at Zhu Ren and said. "You're the best spearman I've fought in the younger generation. It was a good battle, Brother Zhu."

"Prince Dante wins!" The overseer announced.

The battle between the two of them lasted for a couple of minutes and it was by far the most spectacular fight in this competition.

"What a great battle! To think that there is actually a youth as strong as Zhu Ren in our Silver Wing Empire! What a lad!"

"That guy's spearmanship is insanely good! Just who is the master of this young man?"