

I Have A Sword

#Chapter 11: I Will Kill Them and Let You Handle the Aftermath - Read I Have A Sword

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After parting ways with Fei Banqing, Ye Guan returned to the Ye Clan. The Ye Clan's issue was resolved, so Ye Guan could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

He had to bid farewell to Ye Xiao before going to Guanxuan Academy.

Ye Guan and Ye Xiao sat on the garden steps. There were two bottles of wine in front of them.

Ye Xiao muttered, "Are you leaving tomorrow?"

Ye Guan nodded.

Ye Xiao smiled and said, "I see, that's great."

Ye Guan revealed a look of hesitation, but he still decided to ask, "Clan Leader, have you ever thought about declaring Sister Nan as the heir?"

Ye Nan was Ye Xiao's daughter, and she became a student at the Guanxuan Academy a year ago. They were not related by blood, but Ye Guan's relationship with Ye Nan was great. One could even say that they were closer than most families.

Ye Xiao nodded slightly. "Of course, I thought about doing it."

Ye Guan was confused. "Then, why did you declare me the heir?"

Ye Xiao smiled softly. "If you were just an ordinary individual, I would have never left the Ye Clan in your hands. After all, my decision will affect our clan members, and I couldn't place the clan land in the hands of an ordinary individual. However, you're extremely talented with a great character.."

Ye Xiao's smile deepened as he added. "I simply made the decision that would benefit the Ye Clan in the long run."

Ye Guan said hesitantly, “But I’m just an adopted son of the Ye Clan...”

Ye Xiao stared at Ye Guan and replied, “In my heart, you’re one of us.”

Ye Guan fell silent.

Ye Xiao continued. “Little lad, you have a bright future ahead of you. Right now, the Ye Clan is probably just a burden to you, but I—”

Ye Guan interrupted. “The Ye Clan has never been a burden to me. The Ye Clan is my home.”

Ye Xiao had to look at Ye Guan. Ye Guan didn’t look away from Ye Xiao’s gaze as he declared, “Clan Leader, believe me—the Ye Clan will become the strongest clan in the world one day.”

Ye Xiao’s grinned and replied, “I believe you.”

With that, Ye Guan took out a storage ring and handed it over to Ye Xiao.

“What is this?” Ye Xiao asked, confused.

Ye Guan calmly replied, “It’s a storage ring. There are quite a few gold spiritual crystals there, and they’re for Brother Ye Qing. He’s talented, but cultivation requires resources, which requires money. The spiritual crystals in there will help him.”

Ye Xiao went silent, but he eventually nodded and accepted the storage ring. Afterward, he took the wine bottle and downed the entire thing.

Ye Guan also lifted his own wine bottle and drank it in one go.

The night passed just like that, and Ye Guan left the Ye Clan upon daybreak. He chose to leave quietly because he had already bid goodbye to everyone last night.

Ye Xiao walked out of the Ye Manor, and he smiled as he stared at Ye Guan’s departing figure before eventually turning around and leaving.

Ye Qing also watched as Ye Guan left before turning around and walking toward the Ye Clan’s hall. Ye Xiao was in the hall, and he stared at Ye Qing standing in front of him.

“You’re leaving as well?” asked Ye Xiao.

Ye Qing nodded and replied, “Yes.”

Ye Xiao went silent. Eventually, he took out a storage ring and handed it over to Ye Qing.

“Last night, Little Guan asked me to give this to you,” he said.

Ye Qing hesitated before accepting the storage ring. “Thank you, Clan Leader.”

Ye Xiao nodded and muttered, “The Ye Clan will forever be your home.”

Ye Qing bowed deeply and acknowledged. “The Ye Clan will forever be my home, Clan Leader.”

With that, he turned around and left.

Ye Xiao stared longingly at Ye Qing’s departing back. He was slightly reluctant to allow Ye Qing to leave, but he also felt comfortable with the idea. After all, Ye Guan and Ye Qing had their own lives to live.

Ye Xiao couldn’t let the tiny Ye Clan hold them back.

Ye Qing exited the Ye Clan and looked down at the storage ring in his hand without saying anything. He smiled and continued walking into the distance.

As he walked, Ye Qing asked, “Tutor, where are we going?”

The voice of an elderly man echoed in Ye Qing’s head. “We’re going to the Zhongtu Divine Continent. I can still remember the existence of three Law imprints there.”

Ye Qing nodded in response. “Okay.”

With that, he turned and disappeared into the crowd.

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Ye Guan saw Nalan Jia and Fei Banqing at the city gate. Nalan Jia smiled upon seeing Ye Guan.

Ye Guan walked over to Fei Banqing and bowed. “Tutor Fei.”

Fei Banqing nodded. “Let’s go.”

With that, she soared into the skies with Ye Guan and Nalan Jia in tow and made them stand on a cloud. She flipped open her palm, and a huge ship appeared all of a sudden; the ship looked to be over thirty meters in length.

Fei Banqing brought the two over to the cloud ship. Ye Guan looked down and saw that the entire Ancient Desolate City had become an extremely small dot.

All of a sudden, Fei Banqing said, "Little Guan, you have to keep hiding your identity as a swordsman."

Ye Guan stared at Fei Banqing.

Fei Banqing muttered and explained, "An imperial-rank demonic beast appeared, and you suddenly have a sword dao inheritance. It won't be that hard to connect the dots once your cover is blown. By then, things will become troublesome."

Ye Guan nodded in agreement. "I understand. I'll try my best to remain low-key in the academy while making sure that I won't fall behind."

Fei Banqing stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, "I'm not worried about you causing trouble; I'm worried that people might approach you to cause trouble."

Ye Guan calmly replied, "I'm a reasonable individual."

"What if they're unreasonable?" asked Fei Banqing.

Ye Guan paused. He thought about it for a moment before saying, "Then, I'll kill them and let you handle the aftermath."

Fei Banqing wordlessly stared at him.

Nalan Jia smiled and shook her head. My fiance is indeed a great talent!

"It seems that you are under the idea that I have no enemies," said Fei Banqing before explaining, "Let me warn you in advance. The Guanxuan Academy rules take precedence over anything in Guanxuan Academy. Those daring enough to violate the rules will receive severe punishment from the Law Enforcement Court. Naturally, even the Academy Master is no exception from the rules."

Ye Guan nodded and said, "I'll memorize the rules of Guanxuan Academy before doing anything else upon arriving at the academy."

Fei Banqing seemed unconvinced as she gazed at Ye Guan. Eventually, she shook her head. Honestly, she was worried. This guy looks calm and composed, but he's extremely vicious once he's forced to take action.

Fei Banqing's intuition was telling her that Ye Guan would be the impetus that would change the students of Guanxuan Academy. Fei Banqing's head started to ache at the thought.

Meanwhile, Nalan Jia asked, "Tutor, will the Nan Clan and Zheng Clan really leave us alone?"

Fei Banqing shook her head and replied, "Of course not! Why would they let you go when they lost two of their top talents? To make matters worse, they didn't manage to reap even an ounce of profit."

Nalan Jia's dark brows knitted. "Will they scheme behind the scenes?"

"The Zheng Clan shouldn't be that much of an issue. The members of their younger generation haven't been performing well, and they're no longer as powerful as they were years ago. However, the Nan Clan..." Fei Banqing trailed off before saying, "There's a very talented young man from the Nan Clan, and he's a student at the academy as well. His name is Nan Xuan, and he's Tutor Xiao's direct disciple."

Nalan Jia went silent. Nan Xuan!

Guanxuan Academy had three main tutors, Fei Banqing, Xiao Ge, and Song Ci.

Song Ci had almost taken Ye Guan in as a disciple. However, a disciple was different from a direct disciple. A tutor could have many disciples, but they could only have one direct disciple. Nalan Jia was Fei Banqing's direct disciple.

Fei Banqing looked at Ye Guan and shook her head. It seems that Guanxuan Academy will become rowdy from now on!

Ye Guan blurted out. "Tutor Fei, I won't cause trouble, but I'm not afraid of it."

Fei Banqing smiled gently. "Correct. Your mindset is right. Smack those who dare to take advantage of you! Just remember that if a member of the younger generation manages to beat you up, I will not avenge you. Don't worry, if someone dares to bully you because you're weaker than them, I will definitely stand up for you."

Ye Guan nodded and muttered, "Okay..."

Fei Banqing swept her gaze across the two of them and said, "I'll let you two have some alone time together."

With that, she turned around and left.

Ye Guan stared at the seemingly endless stretch of clouds and muttered, "It's a bigger stage..."

He couldn't wait to arrive at the Guanxuan Academy. The academy was the strongest organization throughout Nanzhou, so there were definitely many talented people at the academy.

Nalan Jia glanced at Ye Guan and smiled before asking, "Why do I feel like something's going to happen because of you?"

"It can't be helped. Something's definitely going to happen because my fiancée is just too beautiful!"

The corners of Nalan Jia's mouth twitched as she asked, "There are many beautiful ladies in the academy, you know?"

Ye Guan smiled and replied, "What's that got to do with me? Those who'll like every beautiful lady they see are no different from beasts."

"I've read from an ancient book that men are inherently lustful. Is it true?"

Ye Guan blinked at Nalan Jia's question. "Can I not answer that?"

Nalan Jia looked at Ye Guan and laughed. "Sure."

Ye Guan boisterously laughed.

Nalan Jia turned to look at the seemingly endless stretch of clouds. She gently tucked a few strands of her hair behind her ears before asking gently, "Will we really end up together?"

Ye Guan was silent for a while before asking, "Do you hate being with me?"

Nalan Jia shook her head. Ye Guan smiled and replied, "I don't hate being with you, either."

Nalan Jia chuckled and exclaimed, "Let's leave it up to fate, then!"

A gust of frigid wind blew at them. Ye Guan immediately took off his robe and wrapped it around Nalan Jia's shoulders. Nalan Jia didn't say anything as she stared at the clouds.

Ye Guan looked at the clouds as well and asked, "Little Jia, do you want to do something?"

Nalan Jia gave Ye Guan a sidelong glance. Ye Guan extended his right hand over to her. Nalan Jia stared deeply at him before gently placing her hand on top of his hand.

Ye Guan laughed and exclaimed, "Come out!"

Wooosh!

The Path Sword emerged and hovered by his feet. Ye Guan gently guided Nalan Jia to stand on the sword before standing on the sword himself. Without any warning, the Path Sword flew and left behind a ray of light in its wake. They flew on the Path Sword as it pieced the clouds and soared through the skies!

Who didn't want to fly on a sword?

Fei Banqing wordlessly stared at the two of them. Sword Travel!

Fei Banqing finally realized that she had underestimated her new disciple.

Sword Travel required not just a sword inheritance but an extremely powerful sword as well. Even the Guanxuan Academy of Nanzhou had no sword that could allow a cultivator to take flight on them.

A young man from the remote Ancient Desolate City actually has a sword dao inheritance that contains instructions on how to perform Sword Travel?

Fei Banqing's mind became filled with many burning questions, but she shook her head moments later and turned around. She didn't want to look at them anymore!

...

After a long while, Ye Guan returned to the cloud ship with Nalan Jia. Nalan Jia got so overwhelmed by the feeling of weightlessness that she felt as if she had turned into a feather.

Ye Guan smiled and asked, "Did you like it?"

Nalan Jia smiled sweetly at Ye Guan and replied, "Yes, I liked it!"

Ye Guan looked up and stared at the galaxy up above.

"It's a shame that I'm still not strong enough to escape the atmosphere and enter the galaxy. Fortunately, I think it's only a matter of time until I become strong enough to soar into the galaxy. When the time comes, I'll bring you with me to see the beautiful stars out there!" said Ye Guan.

Nalan Jia looked at Ye Guan and asked, "It's a promise?"

Ye Guan replied, "Of course!"

They stared at each other and smiled.

Night finally arrived, and the sky was filled with stars. The cloud ship was surrounded by a silver barrier.

Ye Guan sat cross-legged at the bow of the ship and closed his eyes. He was about to start cultivating, but he suddenly recalled something and decided to ask Little Pagoda, "Master Pagoda, are you familiar with Guanxuan Academy?"

Little Pagoda replied, "Of course!"

Ye Guan's interest was piqued, "Then, are you familiar with the first Academy Master of Guanxuan Academy? Are you familiar with the Sword Master?"

It took Little Pagoda quite a while to reply, "Of course..."

Ye Guan stared at the night sky and muttered, "The Sword Master is apparently unrivaled and capable of suppressing everything under the heavens. My goal is to become as strong as the Sword Master, and I—"

"Stop!" Little Pagoda interrupted, "Why don't you choose someone else as your role model and goal?"

Ye Guan frowned in confusion and asked, "Why?"

Little Pagoda's voice turned serious as it replied, "Just choose someone else as your role model and goal. Do that, and I'll give you something good in return."

Ye Guan was rendered speechless.

Chapter 12: Justifiable Self-Defense

Choose someone else? Ye Guan was confused. "Why?"

Little Pagoda responded, "Choose someone else, and I'll teach you a powerful sword technique."

Ye Guan immediately replied, "Okay!"

A ray of light shot into his glabella the moment he agreed.

Buzz!

A stream of information flooded Ye Guan's mind.

Absolute Strike. One sword to determine life and death—you'll live if I want you to live; you'll die if I want you to die.

Damn! Ye Guan's blood boiled. His voice trembled as he asked, "Master Pagoda, how many levels does this sword technique have?"

Little Pagoda replied, "It has no levels."

Ye Guan frowned. He seemed confused as he asked, "No levels?"

Little Pagoda replied, "Yes. It's a sword technique that heavily depends on the swordsman's ability. The swordsman must think that he's unparalleled, and he has to be sufficiently strong to determine life and death in a single strike."

Ye Guan nodded slightly and exclaimed, "I can feel it! I think the creator of this sword technique was an extremely powerful individual. Am I right, Master Pagoda?"

Little Pagoda replied, "The creator of that sword technique is the owner of the Path Sword."

Ye Guan stiffened before asking, "What about that plain-skirt woman?"

"You should call her... sister," Little Pagoda muttered.

Ye Guan frowned, seemingly confused.

Little Pagoda explained, "Right now, only your plain-skirt sister knows that sword technique aside from you. The creator of Absolute Strike has become a cripple after something went wrong during his cultivation. Now, it is all up to you."

Ye Guan readily agreed. "I will not disappoint you and the plain-skirt sister."

With that, he recalled the details of the sword technique with glee.

It's a sword technique! It is a lot more valuable than regular martial skills!

Needless to say, Ye Guan treasured the sword technique.

Time passed, and daybreak soon arrived.

Nalan Jia walked out of the cabins. She was wearing a light green dress, and it was probably because the weather was a bit colder than usual that she was wearing a thin, light jade-colored chiffon shawl. Her figure was stunning as usual, especially her slender waist and long legs.

Nalan Jia truly possessed an enviable figure.

Nalan Jia was holding a tray of snacks in her hands. She walked over to Ye Guan and smiled before asking, "Did you spend the entire night cultivating?"

Ye Guan nodded while standing up. "Yes."

Nalan Jia nodded as well and said, "Try these snacks."

Ye Guan didn't stand on ceremony and picked up a small biscuit to eat. While Ye Guan was munching on the snacks, Nalan Jia spoke, "Tutor said that we're approaching the Guanxuan Academy."

A smile blossomed on Ye Guan's lips as he exclaimed, "Great! I really can't wait to get there..."

It wasn't strange that Ye Guan was excited to arrive at the Guanxuan Academy. After all, the academy was like a holy land for cultivators.

All of a sudden, the cloud ship slowed down dramatically. Fei Banqing walked out of the cabins and grinned. "We're here!"

Ye Guan looked up and saw a seemingly endless stretch of mountains, but what truly caught his attention were the floating mountain peaks. There were numerous majestic palaces and pavilions above the mountain peaks.

A colossal sword was floating in the middle and between these mountain peaks.

The word colossal seemed to be an understatement because the sword's length was at least tens of kilometers, and it looked like it was acting as the proxy between heaven and earth, which made it look all the more intimidating.

Ye Guan's awe for Guanxuan Academy was multiplied, and he suddenly felt inferior.

Fei Banqing walked next to Ye Guan and smiled. "Is it that shocking?"

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "Yes!"

Fei Banqing chuckled. "This is nothing. I heard that the Main Academy at Guanxuan Universe is even grander than this."

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at Fei Banqing and asked, "Tutor Fei, have you been to the Main Academy?"

Fei Banqing shook her head and replied, "I've never been there. Only those who are extremely talented can qualify to enroll at the Guanxuan Universe's Main Academy. No one from Nanzhou, Beizhou, or Zhongzhou has qualified in the past thousands of years."

Ye Guan went silent to speak to Little Pagoda, "Master Pagoda, are you familiar with the Guanxuan Universe's Main Academy?"

Little Pagoda replied, "Of course!"

Ye Guan asked, "Have you been there?"

Little Pagoda responded, "Of course, I've been there."

Ye Guan sounded sincere as he said, "Master Pagoda, I really envy you."

Little Pagoda was rendered speechless.

The cloud ship finally stopped. Ye Guan looked into the distance and saw ten red-crowned cranes flying from the mountains. The cranes were huge, and one could see a flicker of lightning whenever they flapped their wings.

Ye Guan asked, "What are those?"

Fei Banqing glanced at Ye Guan and replied, "They're called Lightning Cranes, and the academy takes care of them. I think the weakest crane is at the Spiritual rank."

Ye Guan exclaimed, "Geez, that's impressive!"

Fei Banqing smiled. "There's more where that came from, so you should take your time and find them for yourself."

With that, Fei Banqing brought the two of them to one of the mountain peaks. The mountain peaks had only a few palaces, and it was quite desolate compared to the other mountain peaks.

"This is Mount Banqing, and it belongs to me. I don't have any other students aside from the two of you," explained Fei Banqing. She pointed at a palace on the right and said, "Lad, you can stay in that palace. There are some helpful books in that palace. Anyway, go ahead and take a look for yourself. Pay special attention to the book on the rules of Guanxuan Academy. Stay here and familiarize yourself with the rules before doing anything else, and you'll thank me later."

Ye Guan nodded and agreed. "Okay..."

Fei Banqing turned to look at Nalan Jia and said, "Come with me. I'll help you cultivate."

Nalan Jia threw one last look at Ye Guan and said, "See you later."

Ye Guan smiled. "Yeah, see you later."

Fei Banqing grabbed Nalan Jia, and the two of them flew somewhere.

Ye Guan turned around and examined the palace. It was several times bigger than the Ye Manor.

"Master Pagoda, have I been a frog in the well all this while?"

“Yes,” replied Little Pagoda.

Ye Guan chuckled. He entered the palace and found that every room had fully stocked bookshelves. Ye Guan walked to one of the bookshelves and retrieved an old book.

Two hours later, Ye Guan’s understanding of the Guanxuan Academy and the entire world greatly increased. Apparently, he was currently in the Lower Realm, and the Lower Realm had three main continents—Nanzhou, Beizhou, and Zhongzhou.

Every continent had its own Guanxuan Academy branch.

The realm above the Lower Realm was the Upper Realm. The old book didn’t contain that much information about the Upper Realm. It only stated that the decennial martial contest would be held in the Upper Realm.

It was worth mentioning that the Lower Realm had a very powerful and mysterious organization—the Immortal Treasures Pavilion

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion and Guanxuan Academy had a collaborative relationship. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion was the only organization with enough power to match the Guanxuan Academies of the Lower Realm.

The two organizations had a great relationship with each other, and there was even a rumor about how the first Academy Master of the Guanxuan Academy had a special relationship with the founder of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

After reading the old book, Ye Guan decided to read the rules of the Guanxuan Academy. Fei Banqing was right, the rules took precedence over anything else in the Guanxuan Academy.

Aside from memorizing the rules of the Guanxuan Academy, Ye Guan was also practicing the Absolute Strike Sword Technique under Little Pagoda’s guidance. He was holding a book on the Guanxuan Academy rules in one hand while holding the Path Sword in the other hand.

Ye Guan cultivated until he was disturbed by loud noises the next morning. He frowned and walked out of his palace.

Ye Guan saw a group of people in front of Nalan Jia’s palace, and there were quite a few young men and young women in the group.

The door to Nalan Jia’s palace was filled with thousands of bright roses. The flowers were neatly arranged to form a heart, and a young man was standing in the middle of the heart while holding a bouquet of roses.

The young man shouted in the direction of Nalan Jia's palace, "Lady Nalan! I know you have many suitors, but please give me a chance to court you!"

"Give Mu Bai a chance! Give Mu Bai a chance! Give Mu Bai a chance!" chanted the crowd of students.

Ye Guan frowned slightly at the sight. "Did they really come here to learn?"

Ye Guan shook his head. He didn't want to kick up a fuss, but they were an annoying sight to behold!

One should study in an academy rather than get into relationships.

Ye Guan walked out. There was no way that he would ignore the matter when someone was confessing to his fiancée right in front of him.

The students were still chanting, but Nalan Jia's palace remained silent. The young man holding a bouquet of flowers muttered, "Lady Nalan—"

The young man was interrupted by Ye Guan, who suddenly appeared in front of him.

The students froze as well. Who is he?

Mu Bai stared at Ye Guan and asked, "Who are you?"

Ye Guan responded, "Ye Guan."

Mu Bai's eyes narrowed as he said, "I know you—you're Lady Nalan's fiancée."

The students were stunned upon hearing Mu Bai's words.

Fiance?! Their eyes landed on Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled and exclaimed, "Correct, you got it right!"

"To think that you would actually follow her here..." Mu Bai trailed off. However, he eventually smiled before saying, "Anyway, I'm trying to court Lady Nalan. You have no objections, right? Of course, I don't really care even if you object."

"Pffft! Hahaha!" The students laughed rather boisterously.

However, Ye Guan remained calm as he said, "You should be more polite. I'm a physique cultivator, and I have been cultivating my physique for seventeen years. All-Truth Realm cultivators are not capable of harming me."

"Oh, really? Pffft!" Mu Bai laughed. "You're a physique cultivator? Hahaha!"

Ye Guan pointed at his chest and said, "Don't believe me? Punch me in the chest and find out!"

Mu Bai stared deeply at Ye Guan before replying, "You told me to do it, so don't mind if I do!"

Mu Bai immediately punched Ye Guan's chest.

Bam!

Ye Guan flew away and crashed to the ground. He gripped his chest with his right hand and spat a mouthful of blood.

The students were stupefied, and Mu Bai was surprised as well.

Are you kidding me? Didn't you say that you're a physique cultivator?! Why did you fly away? I only used thirty percent of my strength!

While Mu Bai was stewing in his own astonishment, Ye Guan suddenly shot to his feet and moved at lightning speed to slap Mu Bai across the face before the latter could even react.

Pak!

Mu Bai's eyes widened, and he spat blood. Unfortunately for Mu Bai, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet. Ye Guan leaped into the air and stepped on Mu Bai's back before he could recover.

Pak!

Mu Bai's face crashed into the limestone ground. The students were terrified by the sudden turn of events. Fortunately, it seemed that Ye Guan wasn't planning on targeting them as he turned around to leave.

Mu Bai looked up, and his face was drenched in his own blood. He glared at Ye Guan and growled. "How dare you trick me, you bastard! I'll make you wish you were dead! You—"

Mu Bai couldn't finish his sentence because Ye Guan had turned around and kicked him in the throat.

Crack!

There was a grotesque noise as the sheer force behind Ye Guan's kick ripped Mu Bai's head off of his shoulders, sending it flying into the air. Blood spurted like a fountain from the headless stump of Mu Bai's corpse, staining the limestone ground.

The students were horrified.

They couldn't have imagined, even in their wildest dreams, that someone would actually murder someone else in Guanxuan Academy! After all, murder was against the rules and was a serious crime in the academy.

All of a sudden, dozens of incredibly powerful auras bore down on Ye Guan as powerful cultivators descended in front of Ye Guan.

The expressions of the students changed upon seeing the cultivators.

Discipline Committee! The students of Guanxuan Academy were afraid of the Discipline Committee, so it wasn't strange that the group of students here was terrified upon seeing them.

Elder Qiu was standing at the helm of the Discipline Committee in front of Ye Guan, and Elder Qiu was also known by his moniker—Asura!

Elder Qiu glanced at the corpse and glared at Ye Guan.

"How dare you commit murder in the academy!" he shouted.

Ye Guan pointed at the blood at the corners of his lips and said. "It was a justifiable self-defense!"

Everyone was rendered speechless. Elder Qiu stared deeply at Ye Guan. "Justifiable self-defense?"

Ye Guan nodded and explained, "He punched me, damaging my internal organs, so I had no choice but to defend myself."

Elder Qiu's eyes narrowed. "Are you trying to argue with me?"

Ye Guan remained calm as he said, "I was just defending myself."

"How preposterous!" Elder Qiu was furious, and he reached out to slap Ye Guan.

However, Ye Guan was faster. The moment Elder Qiu raised his hand, Ye Guan moved and sent a knee toward Elder Qiu's face.

Elder Qiu's expression changed, realizing that he had underestimated Ye Guan. However, it was too late, and he could only block the attack.

Bam!

There was a crisp noise, and Elder Qiu staggered backward. However, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet.

He dashed toward Elder Qiu and lifted his right leg to perform a roundhouse kick.

Elder Qiu was startled, and he immediately raised his right hand to block the attack

Boom!

Elder Qiu was sent tumbling away. Ye Guan was about to make another move, but a furious shout interrupted him.

“Stop! what are you doing?!”

Everyone turned to where the voice had come from and saw Fei Banqing walking out from the doors of the main palace.

Fei Banqing! The expressions of the students changed dramatically, and they thought the same as they inwardly exclaimed. The female dictator has returned?!

Fei Banqing walked over to Ye Guan.

She glanced at Mu Bai's corpse and looked at Ye Guan. “Didn't we have an agreement that you'll stay low-key? You murdered someone on your first day in the academy, and you even hit a Discipline Committee Elder. Is this your definition of low-key?”

Ye Guan lowered his head. He wiped the blood on the corners of his lips and pointed at himself. He sounded aggrieved as he shouted, “Look! I got hit, too! I'm even bleeding profusely...”

“Aaargh!” Fei Banqing cried out. She lost it and started stomping her feet.

Everyone was rendered speechless by the unbelievable sight in front of them.

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Note: Asura referring to evil spirit/demons

Chapter 13: Throwing One Punch To Deter The Bullies

Fei Banqing truly broke down. When she was still young, she considered herself unrivaled at causing trouble, but the brat in front of her made her young self seem like the kindest person out there.

Ye Guan was better at causing trouble than her.

“Tutor Fei!” Elder Qiu stood up and shouted angrily, “He’s your disciple?!”

Fei Banqing looked at him and replied indifferently, “Yes.”

Hearing that, Elder Qiu exploded in fury. He pointed at Ye Guan and bellowed, “He just murdered someone and even attacked an elder of the Discipline Committee! How do you think we should punish him?”

Fei Banqing made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan and asked, “Was it self-defense?”

Ye Guan nodded as if he were a chicken pecking rice and said, “Yes, it was justified self-defense. He hit me first, and everyone saw that!”

With that, Fei Banqing turned to look at a female student and asked fiercely, “Did Mu Bai hit him first?”

The female student hesitated for a while before she eventually nodded. “Yes! But...”

Fei Banqing didn’t bother to hear the female student out as she turned to look at Elder Qiu and said, “Elder Qiu, you heard it. Mu Bai started it; Ye Guan was only defending himself!”

Elder Qiu glared at her and exclaimed, “You’re just trying to protect him!”

Fei Banqing’s brows furrowed as she said, “Who said I’m trying to protect him? Are you deaf? Mu Bai started it, and my disciple was only defending himself! It’s justifiable self-defense!”

Elder Qiu’s face turned ashen. “Let’s say that it was self-defense, but he still went too far. He shouldn’t have continued on engaging Mu Bai when the latter stopped attacking.”

Hearing that, Fei Banqing made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan momentarily hesitated before saying, “He threatened that he would kill me, so I killed him first. It was a necessity!”

Fei Banqing frowned and asked, “A necessity defense? Is that in the rulebook?”

Ye Gun replied, “No, I made it up!”

Fei Banqing stared at him in astonishment.

“A necessity, my ass!” Elder Qiu roared, “Bastard, do you really think that I’ve never read the Guanxuan Academy Rules? The rulebook has no necessity defense. What you’ve done is murder!”

However, Ye Guan remained calm as he replied, "It was self-defense."

Elder Qiu realized that Ye Guan was trying to avoid taking responsibility by taking advantage of the technicalities, and the realization made Elder Qiu even more furious as he spat, "Where do you think we are, you bastard?!"

Fei Banqing approached Ye Guan and muttered, "Go easy on the taunting..."

All of a sudden, an old cultivator descended and landed on the peak.

Elder Qiu rushed to greet the old cultivator. "Vice President!"

The cultivator was none other than the Vice President of the Discipline Committee, Lu Chen.

Fei Banqing's face fell. She knew that it would be difficult to sweep the matter under the rug now that Lu Chen was here. After all, Lu Chen wouldn't get fooled so easily.

Ye Guan noticed Fei Banqing's look of dismay, and he turned to look at Lu Chen.

Lu Chen walked over and glanced at Mu Bai's corpse.

He chuckled and looked at Fei Banqing. "Tutor Fei..."

However, Ye Guan suddenly walked over to Lu Chen before Fei Banqing could say anything.

Ye Guan bowed slightly and said, "Senior, can I talk to you for a moment?"

Lu Chen looked at Ye Guan and replied, "What is it?"

Ye Guan gestured to the side. Lu Chen's brows furrowed slightly, but he still followed Ye Guan.

Fei Banqing frowned. What is that brat trying to do?

Elder Qiu was puzzled as well.

Ye Guan and Lu Chen's backs were facing everyone. Ye Guan shoved a storage ring into Lu Chen's hand at an angle that was out of everyone's view.

A bribe? Lu Chen froze. He frowned, and his eyes flashed with coldness. He was about to erupt in anger, but he froze once more upon realizing that the storage ring contained a thousand gold spiritual crystals.

Lu Chen was bewildered. The gold spiritual crystals in the storage ring were pure-grade gold spiritual crystals, and they were much better than the gold spiritual crystals that the Guanxuan Academy was paying him for his salary.

Ye Guan said, "Senior, I was really just defending myself. He punched me first, and his punch was so strong that I felt like I was in mortal danger, so..."

Lu Chen put away the storage ring.

"I understand, I understand!" he exclaimed with a chuckle.

Ye Guan went silent.

Rules would always be in favor of those with power, but those with money could bend the rules to their favor. In other words, if one had neither money nor power, then the rules wouldn't be beneficial to them at all; the rules would only restrict them.

Lu Chen turned around and walked back to where everyone else was waiting. He declared, "He has just told me about what happened. This young man had indeed acted in self-defense, and Mu Bai was simply asking to be killed!"

Elder Qiu was visibly shaken as he muttered, "Vice President..."

Lu Chen glared coldly at Elder Qiu. "How many times have I told you? You must investigate the cases thoroughly before coming to a conclusion. Old Qiu, you're too reckless, and I advise you to change that mindset. Anyway, you're dismissed!"

With that, Lu Chen turned around to leave, and the members from the Discipline Committee followed closely behind him.

Elder Qiu stood rooted in astonishment.

Fei Banqing stared deeply at Ye Guan before walking up to him and saying, "Let's get out of here."

With that, they turned around and started walking over to the main palace. The students and Elder Qiu were still stewing in their own shock at the indescribable turn of events.

A barely perceptible glint flashed in Elder Qiu's eyes as he stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan looked back and stared at Elder Qiu as well.

...

"You bribed him?!" exclaimed Fei Banqing. They were already in the main palace, so the people outside couldn't hear them.

Ye Guan wordlessly nodded.

“How much?” Fei Banqing asked.

Ye Guan replied, “A thousand gold spiritual crystals!”

Fei Banqing’s eyes narrowed. “You’re really rich.”

Ye Guan didn’t say anything.

Moments later, Fei Banqing continued. “He deserved to die!”

However, Ye Guan shook his head and said, “He deserves to die because he was a weakling, but what if I had been the weakling? What do you think would have happened to me? I was trying to talk to him properly, but he didn’t take me seriously at all. His taunting got even harsher.”

“I wasn’t really planning on killing him, but he told me that he would make me wish that I was dead, so I reckoned that I had to kill him today. Otherwise, he would definitely think of ways to kill me tomorrow or in the near future. Our enmity could no longer be resolved, so I decided to just get rid of him today rather than later,” added Ye Guan.

Fei Banqing stared deeply at Ye Guan, and she couldn’t help but find the young man to be a bit frightening. It is kind of scary how much thought he had thought ahead before making a move!

Fei Banqing’s expression was complex as she asked, “Do you have any idea just how many people are pursuing Little Jia? Are you going to kill them all?”

“If I hadn’t killed him, I’m sure that the students of the academy would have been convinced that I was a pushover,” said Ye Guan. He sounded relatively calm as he added, “People will think that you’re a pushover if you insist on talking to them in a reasonable manner, and you’ll definitely get bullied into a corner the moment they find out that you’re weak. Unfortunately, it’s human nature for people to be afraid of the strong and bully the weak. What I did was just a punch to deter the bullies...”

Fei Banqing’s gaze remained focused on Ye Guan as she asked, “What if they remain undeterred? What if they keep on pursuing Little Jia?”

Ye Guan asked back, “Don’t you think it’s disrespectful to someone who is already engaged? Shouldn’t such actions be condemned? What kind of a man would be fine to see someone else confessing to his wife? I said I’ll do my best to be low-key, but I didn’t say that I’ll put up with everything.”

Fei Banqing went silent.

Ye Guan continued. "I'll kill those who are daring enough to confess to her!"

Fei Banqing was astonished.

"You're dangerous..." she muttered.

Ye Guan remained unperturbed as he asked, "Tutor, do you think that what happened today was my fault?"

Fei Banqing shook her head and explained, "I didn't say that it was your fault, but your method is too extreme. You're inflexible and hot-headed; do you understand what I'm trying to say here?"

Ye Guan went silent for a few moments before asking, "Then, Tutor Fei, can you tell me what I can do to those daring enough to confess to Little Jia right in front of me?"

Fei Banqing could only sigh and leave upon hearing that question.

Ye Guan was silent as he stood in the large hall of the main palace by himself.

Fei Banqing left and soared into the skies, eventually arriving at a sea of clouds.

Lu Chen was right in front of her, and he opened his palm, sending a storage ring floating over to her. Obviously, the storage ring had come from Ye Guan, and it contained a thousand gold spiritual crystals.

Lu Chen explained, "I cherish talents, and I'll let this matter slide for your sake!"

Fei Banqing nodded slightly and said, "Thank you."

However, it seemed that Lu Chen wasn't done just yet as he said, "He has a great personality and talent, so he shouldn't use petty tricks like bribery. It's your responsibility to guide him properly so that he won't go down the wrong path."

Fei Banqing sounded serious as she replied, "He's from a remote place with a dog-eat-dog culture, so his mindset and methods are a bit... extreme. Regardless, I'll do my best to guide him so that he will always keep walking on the right path."

Lu Chen nodded slightly. "Just be careful about overcorrecting him. A man should still be tough and bloodthirsty when the situation calls for it. Otherwise, his talent will go to waste. Mu Bai had indeed crossed, so he deserved to die. However, the people behind him will definitely not let the matter slide so easily—keep that in mind."

Fei Banqing remained calm despite Lu Chen's warning. Her expression didn't even change as she replied, "If they touch even a strand of Little Guan's hair, I'll massacre them!"

Lu Chen chuckled hollowly and shook his head before saying, "The two of you aren't blood-related, but his temper is exactly the same as yours when you were still young."

With that, Lu Chen turned around and disappeared into the horizon.

Fei Banqing looked down at the storage ring and shook her head before turning around to leave as well.

...

Ye Guan was sitting silently as he sat in the large hall of his palace.

"Master Pagoda, Was I wrong?" asked Ye Guan.

Little Pagoda replied, "What do you think?"

Ye Guan closed his eyes. "I stand by what I said. I won't offend anyone, but if anyone dares to offend me, I'll pay them back a hundredfold!"

"Just follow what your heart says!" said Little Pagoda.

My heart? Ye Guan exclaimed, "Master Pagoda! I want to become stronger!"

Little Pagoda was confused. "Why?"

Ye Guan exclaimed, "I have to be even stronger if I want to protect myself and avoid being humiliated by anyone else!"

Little Pagoda went silent.

Ye Guan also went silent and finally started cultivating.

Meanwhile, a mysterious voice echoed in the pagoda. "What an anxious brat..."

Little Pagoda's voice sounded gentle as it said, "He was abandoned to his own devices, so it's not strange that he's anxious."

The mysterious voice replied, "His father received the same treatment back then, but to think that he would let his son experience the same predicament, even though he knows that it's a harrowing experience..."

"Sigh, he even rejected his Sister Destiny and Master's help just to get rid of his inner demons, but..."

Chapter 14: Raised Hard

Ye Guan quietly held the Path Sword.

He had been practicing the Absolute Strike all this time.

The Absolute Strike requires one to be strong enough with an unparalleled mindset! One must be arrogant enough to look down on his enemies. The question is—how am I supposed to acquire an unparalleled mindset?

Ye Guan didn't know the answer. The only thing he knew was that his target had to die the moment his sword struck true. The sword was a weapon made to kill, so it had to take lives.

Aside from cultivation, Ye Guan also took some time to understand the Guanxuan Academy, and he found out that there were three students regarded as top geniuses by the academy. The first one was Fei Banqing's direct disciple, Nalan Jia; Tutor Xiao Ge's direct disciple, Nan Xuan; and Tutor Song Ci's direct disciple, Sun Xiong.

They were the top students of the academy, and the other two were at the Divine Path Realm aside from Nalan Jia. It was also worth noting that the position of Chief Student Representative of Guanxuan Academy's Nanzhou branch was empty.

The Chief Student Representative was above every other student. They were more powerful than the other students, and they would have many privileges under their sleeves.

The Chief Student Representative could also mobilize a division of Guanxuan Academy's army.

Ye Guan was in deep contemplation as he sat cross-legged. Someone created a commotion by confessing to Nalan Jia the moment he arrived at the academy. Was that really a coincidence?

Ye Guan didn't think so—someone was definitely targeting him. Who?

Ye Guan could only think of one faction—the Nan Clan. After all, they were still holding a grudge against him. In other words, the mastermind had to be Nan Xuan because he was from the Nan Clan.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed slightly, and he muttered, "So Mu Bai was just moving under the orders of someone else. The mastermind was trying to test me, so he could come up with a plan to deal with me. Nan Xuan..."

A cold glint flashed in Ye Guan's eyes. It wasn't good to judge others without definitive proof, but it was better to be cautious.

Ye Guan asked, "Master Pagoda, do you have any cultivation methods? I want to make a breakthrough to the Divine Path Realm!"

Ye Guan wasn't short of resources, but he lacked cultivation methods[1] If he wanted to make a breakthrough into a higher realm, then he needed a cultivation method that would allow him to reach greater heights.

Little Pagoda replied, "I know a few, but they aren't suitable for you—no, actually, they're not suitable to be cultivated here!"

Ye Guan frowned slightly and asked, "Why?"

Little Pagoda explained, "They're too powerful. The spiritual energy of this realm cannot accommodate the existence of even one of them!"

Ye Guan's expression stiffened.

However, Little Pagoda reassured him, "Just focus on becoming even stronger in the meantime. Once you've arrived at the Upper Realm, I might teach you by then!"

Ye Guan went silent, but he quickly recovered and said, "I guess I have no other choice but to look for a cultivation method by myself!"

Little Pagoda agreed. "Mhmm!"

With that, Ye Guan turned around and left.

He had to find an excellent cultivation method, or he would have no choice but to use one of the basic Earth-rank cultivation methods that he had gotten from Si Qing.

Ye Guan wanted a Sky-rank cultivation method because he would be able to gather more profound energy with a high-ranked cultivation method, which would naturally increase his cultivation speed.

Aside from that, Ye Guan had to seek out Ye Nan. He was afraid that his enemy was despicable enough to target Ye Nan just to deal with him.

Meanwhile, a mysterious voice echoed in the pagoda. The mysterious voice sounded doubtful as it said, "Is the Universe Beholdment really not suitable for him?"

Little Pagoda answered, "If he learns that now, it will bring a lot of trouble to him now. Furthermore, the spiritual energy here cannot put up with it. He will not be able to cultivate the first rank of that skill!"

“He’ll attract a calamity if he were to cultivate that. The spiritual energy of this realm is also not capable of withstanding that, and he’s also not strong enough to cultivate even the first level of Universe Beholdment!”

“When are you going to tell him that he has a family inheritance?”

Little Pagoda replied, “There’s no rush!”

...

A white-robed young man was sitting on the main seat of a palace on a certain mountain peak. The powerful aura he was emitting gave his identity away. He was none other than one of the top three geniuses of the academy—Nan Xuan.

An old man approached the young man. The old man was none other than Elder Qiu of the Discipline Committee.

Nan Xuan’s eyes opened, and he smiled as he said, “Elder Qiu!”

Elder Qiu went straight to the point. “He’s an All-Truth Realm cultivator, but he’s much stronger than typical cultivators in the same realm as him. He’s also a crafty individual. He lured Mu Bai into making the first move, so he could plead self-defense afterward.”

Elder Qiu’s expression was ugly by the time he was done. The events that had transpired at Mount Banqing truly made him feel humiliated.

“An Imperial-rank demonic beast was seen at the Nanshan Mountain Range,” said Nan Xuan.

Elder Qiu frowned. He had no idea why Nan Xuan mentioned something unrelated to their current topic, so he decided to ask, “I’ve heard of it, but why does it matter? Is it related to him somehow?”

Nan Xuan nodded and said, “My sister, Nan Qingyue, went to the secret realm together with Si Qing, Zheng Lin, Nalan Jia, and Ye Guan, but my sister and the young lord of the Zheng Clan ended up dying. Only Si Qing, Nalan Jia, and Ye Guan survived!

“The Si Clan apparently obtained a spiritual vein from that expedition, and it was a pure-grade spiritual vein to boot!”

A pure-grade spiritual vein! Elder Qiu’s expression wavered slightly.

Nan Xuan continued. “Our scouts have also told me that in addition to spiritual veins, there had to have been an earth vein in the secret realm as well!”

An earth vein! Elder Qiu’s face lit up. “Are you saying that the earth vein—”

Nan Xuan interrupted. "Aside from the earth vein, there must have been other treasures like pure-grade purple spiritual crystals and gold spiritual crystals, and there had to have been grander treasures in that secret realm as well."

"Unfortunately, he's under Tutor Fei's protection, so we cannot touch him," said Elder Qiu in a deep voice.

Nan Xuan smiled and asked, "I've heard that Sun Xiong has always been interested in Lady Nalan. Is it true?"

"Are you going to instigate Sun Xiong into making a move so that they'll destroy each other?" asked Elder Qiu with narrowed eyes.

Nan Xuan shook his head and explained, "We don't have to do any of that, but a wildfire starts from a kindling, and we will be the kindling that'll give birth to the fire that Sun Xiong will cause himself."

"What do we have to do?" asked Elder Qiu.

Nan Xuan's smile deepened. "It's very easy. We just have to spread a rumor about how Ye Guan and Lady Nalan are staying on the same mountain peak."

Elder Qiu frowned. "That's all?"

Nan Xuan burst out into laughter and explained, "It seems that Elder Qiu still doesn't understand. A man won't turn a blind eye when faced with questionable news. We just have to spread a rumor about how they're staying on the same mountain peak, and the rumor will eventually get twisted until it becomes something along the lines of—Lady Nalan and Ye Guan are living under the same roof! What do you think? Can Sun Xiong take that news?"

Elder Qiu snickered and exclaimed, "Rumors can indeed kill!"

Nan Xuan nodded in agreement and said, "Make sure not to use any of our men when spreading that rumor."

Elder Qiu nodded. "Understood!"

With that, Elder Qiu turned around and left.

Now left alone, Nan Xuan closed his eyes once again and muttered, "Sister... don't worry. Not only will I make him pay with his life, but I will also sacrifice the entire Ye Clan to appease your soul."

...

Ye Guan went out to find Fei Banqing.

Fei Banqing looked at him and asked, "You want a Sky-rank cultivation method?"

Ye Guan nodded, but Fei Banqing shook her head. "I can't help you."

Ye Guan asked, seemingly confused. "Why not?"

Fei Banqing calmly replied, "Truth be told, the academy only has three Sky-rank cultivation methods, and they're in the Inner Pavilion. Unfortunately, only certain people can access the Inner Pavilion."

Ye Guan stared at Fei Banqing with clear hesitation in his expression, but he eventually decided to ask, "May I know what cultivation method you're cultivating, Tutor?"

Tutor Fei remained calm as she said, "Don't try and play tricks on me. Yes, I'm cultivating a Sky-rank cultivation method, but we are not allowed to pass our cultivation method onto our disciples. If a student requires cultivation manuals, then they have to buy them with Academy Points."

Ye Guan frowned and asked, "Academy Points?"

Fei Banqing nodded and explained, "There are two ways to obtain Academy Points. The first way is to complete missions for the academy. Those missions include tasks like arresting the criminals of the academy, etc. The second way is to achieve something great in the name of the academy. Unfortunately, these two ways aren't that great, and I reckon that you'll need a minimum of ten years to obtain a decent amount of Academy Points through either of those two."

Ten years! Ye Guan immediately shook his head and said, "There has to be another way..."

"Yes, there is..." Fei Banqing gazed deeply at Ye Guan and said, "Stealing!"

Ye Guan was stupefied.

After a moment of silence, he asked, "How strong is the Manager of the Inner Pavillion?"

Fei Banqing smacked Ye Guan's head and glared.

"Are you really going to resort to stealing?" she asked.

"Hehe." Ye Guan revealed a cheeky smile.

However, Fei Banqing snapped upon seeing that. “Don’t even try to mess around. Not even the Academy Chief can save you if you try to steal from the Inner Pavilion, not to mention me.”

Ye Guan was disheartened. Do I really have to settle for an Earth-rank cultivation method?

Fei Banqing saw his desolate look, so she said, “I guess I’ll have to bring you to that place. Let’s go, follow me!”

Fei Banqing led Ye Guan away, and it didn’t take long for them to arrive at an ancient city called Xuan City. Xuan City was located at the base of the mountain where the Guanxuan Academy was located, so it was a lively place.

Ye Guan observed the people on the streets and asked curiously, “Tutor, where are we going?”

Fei Banqing answered, “We’re going to the Immortal Treasures Pavillion.”

Ye Guan pointed out. “The biggest merchant organization in Nanzhou?”

Fei Banqing nodded.

However, they arrived at their destination before Ye Guan could continue asking questions. The moment they reached the doors of Immortal Treasures Pavillion, a gray-robed old man walked out to greet them. He smiled and asked, “Tutor Fei, what brings you here today?”

Fei Banqing answered, “I would like to buy a Sky-rank cultivation manual!”

The gray-robed old man was slightly surprised, but he quickly ushered the two of them inside the pavilion and said, “Let’s head in and talk.”

Ye Guan also looked at Fei Banqing in surprise. He didn’t expect that Tutor Fei would bring him here for a cultivation manual.

The group soon arrived at a private room, and the gray-robed old man looked at Fei Banqing before saying, “Tutor Fei, a Sky-rank cultivation manual will cost at least fifty thousand gold spiritual crystals! That is the best price I can offer you!”

Fifty thousand?! Ye Guan’s expression fell. He didn’t even have ten thousand gold spiritual crystals, but a Sky-rank cultivation manual here was actually fifty thousand gold spiritual crystals? This was Ye Guan’s first time feeling incredibly poor.

However, Fei Banqing presented a storage ring to the gray-robed old man.

“Bring it here,” she said.

The gray-robed old man hurriedly put away the storage ring and said, “Give me a moment.”

With that, he turned around and left.

Ye Guan stared at Fei Banqing and said hesitantly, “Tutor, I—”

However, Fei Banqing interrupted him. “It’s nothing!”

Ye Guan was unconvinced. “Really?”

Fei Banqing explained, “I’m a tutor at the Guanxuan Academy, so I can just embezzle some funds to earn that money back.”

Ye Guan was at a loss for words.

Meanwhile, the gray-robed old man finally returned, and he handed over a black scroll to Fei Banqing.

Fei Banqing simply glanced at the black scroll before giving it to Ye Guan.

“Let’s go!” she said.

Ye Guan hesitated, but he still stood up and left with her.

All of a sudden, he turned around sharply. A portrait of a woman caught his attention.

The short-haired woman was wearing a short-sleeved robe and a cotton skirt. There was a small pouch hanging from her waist. The portrait seemed to have drawn Ye Guan in as he walked forward and touched it gently.

The gray-robed old man and Fei Banqing were staring at him.

Ye Guan turned around and asked, “Senior, who is she?”

The gray-robed old man smiled. “She’s the founder of the Immortal Treasures Pavillion!”

“What’s her name?” asked Ye Guan.

The gray-robed old man promptly replied, “Qin Guan!”

Qin Guan! Ye Guan was in a daze as he stared at the portrait.

Meanwhile, Little Pagoda's voice echoed throughout the tiny pagoda. "It's a good thing that I still haven't given him the pouch..."

The mysterious voice asked, "When are you going to do that?"

Little Pagoda replied, "I wanted to give it to him at first, but I remembered his father... Anyway, let's wait a bit more! There's nothing wrong with letting him go through some hardships first! The old master even said—boys need to be raised hard!"

The mysterious voice was rendered speechless.

1. To clarify, cultivation manuals are the scrolls themselves, while the contents are the cultivation method 📖

Chapter 15: Tutor, Don't Use Force

The gray-robed old man and Fei Banqing were staring at Ye Guan in confusion.

Fei Banqing walked over to Ye Guan and pulled on his sleeve.

"What's wrong?" she asked.

Ye Guan composed himself and muttered, "It's nothing. I don't know, but I just felt like I've seen her before."

The idea that he had seen the founder of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion was ridiculous, and even Ye Guan knew that as he shook his head and smiled before saying, "Let's go."

With that, he turned around and walked out.

Fei Banqing made a sidelong glance at the portrait of a woman before walking out.

...

While they were on their way back to Guanxuan Academy, Ye Guan looked down at the Sky-rank cultivation manual in his hands and muttered, "Tutor..."

Fei Banqing said calmly, "I told you it's nothing. It wasn't that expensive."

However, Ye Guan was still worried. He hesitated, but he still flipped over his palm. A black box appeared on his palm, and he handed over the black box to Fei Banqing.

Fei Banqing opened the box and saw a Sky-rank Demonic Beast Internal Pill.

Fei Banqing looked up at Ye Guan and asked, "What is this? Do you not want to be indebted to me?"

Ye Guan hurriedly said, "It just doesn't feel good..."

Fei Banqing shook her head and explained, "You're my disciple, so it is perfectly normal for me to provide you with cultivation manuals. And didn't you say that you'll represent the academy and become the champion of the decennial martial contest so that you won't owe me anything?"

Ye Guan wanted to say something, but Fei Banqing vanished before he could do so.

Ye Guan felt helpless, and he could only return to the academy.

Soon, Ye Guan arrived at the academy, and he was about to start cultivating when a young man stood in front of him. The young man was wearing a tight black robe, and he looked tall and sturdy. His bulging muscles made him look strong and fierce.

The young man looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you Lady Nalan's fiance?"

Ye Guan nodded and asked, "And you are?"

The young man stared deeply at Ye Guan before saying, "My name is Sun Xiong!"

Sun Xiong! Isn't he one of the top three talents of the academy?

Ye Guan asked, "What's the matter?"

Sun Xiong smiled at him and said, "Let's battle it out on the Life or Death Stage!"

A battle on the Life or Death Stage! A barely perceptible glint flashed across Ye Guan's eyes as he calmly responded, "Fine."

Sun Xiong laughed and said, "At least you have the guts! Let's go!"

With that, he turned around and soared into the sky. Ye Guan kicked off of the ground and chased after Sun Xiong.

What was the reason behind the sudden invitation? Ye Guan didn't have to ask.

Why?

It was simply because he didn't need to ask. Since Sun Xiong wanted to fight him, they would fight.

Soon, they reached a particular mountain peak with a huge stage made out of limestone. The stage was massive, measuring a few thousand meters in width and height. The stage was surrounded by incredibly tall stone pillars, and there was an abyss next to it.

The stage was none other than the Life or Death Stage.

In Guanxuan Academy, students with irreconcilable grudges could choose to end everything by duking it out on the Life or Death Stage. Upon getting onto the stage, their lives would be up to fate.

The news about Ye Guan and Sun Xiong's agreement to duke it out on the Life or Death Stage spread like wildfire throughout the entire academy. Soon, thousands of people arrived to spectate the upcoming battle.

Fei Banqing wordlessly stared at Ye Guan while standing on a high platform. She didn't dissuade Ye Guan.

Why would she dissuade him? Ye Guan's principle was similar to Fei Banqing's principle. They would not go out of their way to provoke people, but they would certainly fight back if people went out of their way to provoke them.

On the contrary, if Ye Guan didn't dare to accept the challenge, Fei Banqing would have looked down on him.

All of a sudden, Lu Chen appeared next to Fei Banqing.

Lu Chen looked at Ye Guan and said, "There's a mastermind behind all this."

Fei Banqing remained calm as she replied, "I know."

Lu Chen stared deeply at Fei Banqing.

Fei Banqing added, "I know, and I don't care. The youngsters can fight for as many times as they like..."

Lu Chen nodded slightly.

Guanxuan Academy wasn't a sacred academy. It actually encouraged fighting between students. The academy believed that if fights weren't encouraged and allowed, the students of the academy would simply become bookworms.

By then, the Guanxuan Academy would be screwed.

It also had to be mentioned that the past Academy Masters had all emerged victorious from every fight that they had to go through while they were still students of the academy.

Meanwhile, an old man suddenly appeared next to Lu Chen and Fei Banqing. The old man was none other than Song Ci, and he was staring at Ye Guan with a complicated expression.

Ye Guan would have become Song Ci's disciple if the latter simply hadn't given up on the former.

Unfortunately, Song Ci thought that Ye Guan no longer had any hope for a comeback, so he gave up on him and gave his disciple spot to Li Chuan of the Li Clan.

Song Ci truly didn't expect that the young man would still make it to Guanxuan Academy.

On the Life or Death Stage, Sun Xiong gazed at Ye Guan and said, "Let's begin."

Ye Guan nodded slightly before dashing toward Sun Xiong at breakneck speed.

Sun Xiong's eyes narrowed. He opened his palm, and a flame manifested over it. He clenched his fist, and the flame enveloped his fist before he charged at Ye Guan and sent a punch flying toward the latter.

A head-on collision! Ye Guan's eyes narrowed. Their fists were about to meet, but Ye Guan made a last-minute decision to turn his fist into a palm. His palm avoided Sun Xiong's fist and made its way over to Sun Xiong's neck.

However, Sun Xiong's fist struck Ye Guan's chest as well.

Crack!

Bam!

Sun Xiong and Ye Guan flew backward at the same time.

Lu Chen's face was solemn as he asked, "You actually taught him such a risky maneuver?"

Fei Banqing shook her head, and she gazed at Ye Guan with a complicated gaze.

That brat is risking his life!

Blood was flowing out of Ye Guan's mouth, but he wasn't done just yet. He endured the pain and charged at Sun Xiong like a panther that was about to devour its prey.

Sun Xiong's eyes widened. He used his right hand to cover his throat as blood flowed out of his eyes, nose, mouth, and ears. He didn't expect Ye Guan to do such a risky move from the get-go.

Sun Xiong's attacks were explosive and powerful, but he wasn't as fast as Ye Guan. He reckoned that Ye Guan's speed was the reason the latter's palm reached him first.

His throat ended up being injured, but before Sun Xiong could even compose himself, his eyes flashed in a sinister light. Ye Guan was already running toward him, so how could he not return the gesture in kind?

Sun Xiong ignored the intense pain and charged at Ye Guan. He threw another punch, but a scorching flame enveloped his forearm as well rather than just his hand.

Ye Guan saw the incoming punch, and he knew that there was no way that he could take that punch like what he had done to Sun Xiong's first punch. Ye Guan decided to change directions and rolled on the ground toward Sun Xiong's right flank.

He immediately widened the distance between him and Sun Xiong.

Boom!

Sun Xiong's fist struck nothing but the air, causing a huge explosion as the air itself caught fire. However, Sun Xiong's expression changed upon realizing that Ye Guan had rolled over to his right flank.

Sun Xiong wanted to send another punch, but Ye Guan swept Sun Xiong's foot.

Sun Xiong lost his balance as Ye Guan pulled him down while Ye Guan himself used Sun Xiong's sturdy physique to pull himself up before stomping on Sun Xiong's chest.

Crash!

Sun Xiong crashed to the ground, and Ye Guan's stomp forced a mouthful of blood to emerge from Sun Xiong's mouth.

However, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet. He appeared behind Sun Xiong and held him in a chokehold.

"Ye Guan!" Song Ci shouted from above a high platform.

Fei Banqing gazed indifferently at Song Ci, while Lu Chen wordlessly stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan looked up at Song Ci.

The killing intent in Ye Guan's eyes made Song Ci hesitate. Still, he decided to speak to save the life of his one and only direct disciple.

"Can you spare him?" asked Song Ci.

Ye Guan calmly replied, "Sure!"

With that, he released Sun Xiong and casually stood up, astonishing everyone.

Song Ci was astonished as well. He didn't expect that Ye Guan would let Sun Xiong go just like that.

Ye Guan stood up and wiped the blood from the corners of his lips before walking over to one of the stone pillars. He stared at the white-robed young man on one of the stone pillars. The white-robed young man was none other than Nan Xuan.

Under everyone's gaze, Ye Guan stared deeply at Nan Xuan.

"I know you're the mastermind behind all this. Since you want me to die, I'm giving you the chance to kill me. Come down and fight me on this Life or Death Stage. Let's end everything between us," said Ye Guan.

The spectators were shocked as they looked at Nan Xuan.

Fei Banqing wordlessly stared at Nan Xuan as well.

Nan Xuan was also taken aback. His gaze turned deep as he looked at Ye Guan, but he eventually smiled and said, "Brother Ye, I have no idea what you're—"

"Get your ass down here!" Ye Guan bellowed, "Quit the bullshit! I'll end you today, so come down here and get ready to die!"

Nan Xuan's expression turned ugly. He didn't expect that Ye Guan would make things difficult for him in front of everyone. He was aware that Ye Guan had been suspecting him, but he also knew that Ye Guan had no evidence against him.

However, he didn't expect that Ye Guan would challenge him without even bothering to gather any evidence against him.

Song Ci stared coldly at Nan Xuan. He wasn't a fool, so he knew that someone had been manipulating his disciple. He wasn't aware of the mastermind's identity, but Ye Guan had revealed the mastermind just now.

Nan Xuan's smile deepened as he said, "Brother Ye, I think there's a misunderstanding—"

Ye Guan interrupted. "Are you a coward?"

The gazes of the students turned strange as they stared at Nan Xuan.

Nan Xuan's eyes turned cold. He knew that he had to accept the challenge if he wanted to maintain his reputation.

However, an old man appeared next to him before he could even accept the challenge. The old man was none other than Xiao Ge—one of the top three tutors at Guanxuan Academy.

Xiao Ge examined Ye Guan and said, "A death match isn't an issue, but you're clearly injured, and we're not going to take advantage of that. You should recover first. A month should be enough. Next month, the two of you can fight to the death on the Life or Death Stage."

With that, Tutor Xiao took Nan Xuan with him and disappeared.

Ye Guan's expression turned solemn, but he eventually sighed and walked away.

Meanwhile, Sun Xiong finally woke up.

He sounded hoarse as he asked, "Why did you spare me?"

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at Ye Xiong before pointing at the abyss on Sun Xiong's right. "There's an abyss next to you. If you find it shameful to live on, then jump into the abyss."

Sun Xiong wordlessly gazed at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan calmly added, "Is defeat really that scary? I don't think so. You should think about why you lost to me rather than brooding over the feelings of shame. A man must know when to advance and retreat. Are you even a man if you can't take a defeat?"

Ye Guan turned around and started walking away while saying, "You have to remember that you owe me your life. Don't just brute force your way through everything; use your brain as well! You shouldn't let others manipulate you into doing their bidding."

Sun Xiong remained silent. He finally realized that he had been manipulated into taking action.

The students watched as Ye Guan walked away, and their expressions were complicated. However, most of them clearly didn't expect that Nalan Jia's fiancée would actually be so strong and handsome.

The gazes of quite a few female students turned strange while they were staring at Ye Guan's departing figure.

Fei Banqing's lips curled up as she gazed at Ye Guan.

Lu Chen smiled and exclaimed, "What an interesting brat!"

Fei Banqing nodded slightly. "I also didn't expect him to spare Sun Xiong."

Lu Chen nodded and said, "Yeah. Anyway, I think Sun Xiong is a bit stu—hmm... simple-minded. Nan Xuan is too scheming, while Little Jia is too easygoing. I think none of them will become the Chief Student Representative!"

Fei Banqing turned to look at Lu Chen and asked, "What about that one? Can my disciple compare to him?"

Lu Chen went silent. Actually, Guanxuan Academy didn't just have three top talents, but four. There was a mysterious student that the Academy Master was teaching personally.

"He's a courageous and smart young man. His personality is decent as well, but if I were to compare him to that one..." Lu Chen trailed off.

Fei Banqing smiled and asked, "Do you really think that you've seen all there is to him?"

Lu Chen froze upon hearing that.

"Anyway, I'm off! I have to go and borrow money from the Academy Master, or I'll starve at this rate!" exclaimed Fei Banqing before turning around to leave.

She left a speechless Lu Chen in her wake.

...

Ye Guan returned to his palace and stumbled upon Fei Banqing.

Fei Banqing said, "Lie down."

Ye Guan froze, and he stood rooted on the spot.

Fei Banqing pushed him to the floor and tore his clothes open before he could even recover. Ye Guan immediately covered his crotch, and he seemed aggrieved as he muttered, "Tutor... don't use force..."

Fei Banqing didn't know what to say.