

## Another World 1171

### Chapter 1171: Invincible Enemy

A day passed by in a blink of an eye. Zhao Hai's group now had four people in it. Such group couldn't be looked down on. Because of this, nobody dared to annoy them. Moreover, there were no beasts around, allowing Zhao Hai and the others to spend the time in peace.

This peace went on even during the night. As if knowing that this place was forbidden, no beasts dared to walk into the area. Zhao Hai and the others had a good rest that night. On the morning of the next day, the group ate their breakfast while waiting for the time to run out.

After eating their breakfast, Zhao Hai and the others didn't immediately leave. Instead they sat down and drank fruit juice until noon. When time was up, Zhao Hai sighed and then turned to Xiong Li and said, "Brother Xiong Li, it's time. We should head back. It's my luck to meet you here. Unfortunately, after we leave, we would become opponents once again."

Xiong Li laughed and said, "Brother Zhao Hai, it's true that we would fight once we leave this place. But as long as we qualify for the Six Realm Beginner Competition, we would be considered allies. My Wu Family and your Ashley Family doesn't have any enmity. We'll be able to walk together in the future."

When he heard Xiong Li, Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Right, just like you said. Once we go to the Six Realm Beginner Competition, then we'll be friends."

Tao Li and the other person looked at Zhao Hai and Xiong Li with envy. They were being tactful and didn't speak. They were clearly aware that they couldn't interrupt Zhao Hai and Xiong Li's conversation. After all, they didn't have any qualifications to discuss friendship with the two.

Who were Zhao Hai and Xiong Li? One was a gifted talent while the other was a famous existence in the Machine Field. Although Xiong Li had ascended quite some time ago, he was still someone that was above their current position.

After he heard Zhao Hai, Xiong Li nodded and said, "Then it's time to leave." Zhao Hai nodded and then stored the tables and chairs before leading everyone out of Yellow sand Planet.

It was more difficult to leave a planet than entering it. But fortunately, the participants were strong enough to easily fly out of the planet's atmosphere.

They also discovered people going out of the atmosphere from time to time. Zhao Hai greeted a few of these people before flying towards his assigned ship.

Zhao Hai entered the ship through the decompression chamber. Upon entering, Zhao Hai felt the pressure slowly become normal. Then he exited the decompression chamber and went towards the main room.

Upon entering the main room, a Mage met him and said, "Leave your transmitter here. Then you can go."

Zhao Hai nodded. Then he took his transmitter out and gave it to the Mage. Upon receiving Zhao Hai's transmitter, the Mage nodded and said, "Your transmitter is in perfect condition. You pass this round. You can go take a rest or explore the ship." Zhao Hai nodded before he left.

When Zhao Hai returned to the room he stayed in before, he discovered that his three other roommates had yet to come back. Since it might take them some time to return, he entered the Space to take a bath. Then after he freshened up, he went out and then ate some lunch in the ship's dining room. After eating, he returned to his room to take a rest.

When evening came, a person entered the room. This person's body was very wounded. He was quite dirty as well, it was clear that he didn't have a good time.

When the person saw Zhao Hai, he gave a slight nod before entering the bathroom to wash himself. The man didn't eat and immediately went to sleep. It was clear that he hasn't slept in the past three days.

The night passed by, Zhao Hai's two other roommates still haven't returned. Zhao Hai knew that those two wouldn't return. Although Zhao Hai didn't have any relationship with them, he still couldn't help but grieve for their loss.

Another day passed and the two still haven't come back. Moreover, the fleet had made the decision to wait one more day. If nobody else came back, then they would no longer wait.

Even if he didn't know whether Zhao Hai had suffered a life and death situation, Zhao Hai's roommate still began to chat with him. Although he didn't say much, Zhao Hai's room was no longer as boring as before.

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It's been three days since Zhao Hai returned to the ship. This was also the last day for the participants to return. If the participants couldn't return, then they would lose their opportunity to join the next round.

While Zhao Hai was chatting with his roommate, the ship's alarm suddenly began blaring up.

Zhao Hai and his roommate stared, then their expressions changed. They knew that this was the ship's warning alarm for an enemy approach. The ship immediately took action, crew and staff scampered towards their own posts.

However, this was a Machine Field Planet fleet, who would dare attack a Machine Field Planet fleet? Space pirates? While he thought of this, Zhao Hai heard an announcement, "All participants pay attention, all participants pay attention. We ask everyone to stay in their rooms and don't leave without instruction. I repeat, don't leave without instruction. Thanks for cooperating." Then no other announcement was heard.

At this time, Zhao Hai learned from Laura and the others that the fleet wasn't being attacked. Instead, they were being alert because they came upon a certain group. And this group was no other than people from the Cultivation Realm.

When he heard that it was a group from the Cultivation Realm, Zhao Hai couldn't help but get curious. He wishes to enter the Space to take a look. But since his roommate was still with him, he couldn't just disappear.

But on the other side, Laura and the others were very excited to see people from the Cultivation Realm. They told Zhao Hai that the group seems to be from a big power in the Cultivation Realm and were performing a smelting trial in Yellowsand Planet. The group were riding on a huge ship. But compared to the Machine Field's spaceships, the Cultivation Realm's ship looked like a huge ancient boat. Moreover, this ship wasn't big. Comparing the size of the two ships was like comparing a watermelon to a soybean.

However, this tiny ship actually caused the Machine Field's fleet to be anxious. They sounded out warnings to everyone. On the other hand, the boat didn't seem to care about the huge ships. They swaggered through the fleet and then entered Yellowsand Planet.

When the ship finally entered Yellowsand Planet, the warnings from the fleet died down. Then the fleet immediately took off and left the area.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but let out a long breath. He can see from this point how overbearing those from the Cultivation Realm were. They didn't even spare a glance towards the Machine Field's fleet.

Hearing Zhao Hai sigh, the roommate thought that he was relieved that everything went back to normal. Therefore, he didn't feel anything strange about it. He looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Zhao Hai, who do you think attacked the fleet? Nobody in the Machine Field would dare come and attack the Machine Field Planet's fleet. I reckon they're space pirates."

Although he knew that the alarms were due to the Cultivators, Zhao Hai couldn't just say it. So he shook his head and said, "I don't think that it's the space pirates. Otherwise they wouldn't be able to stay in the Machine Field anymore. This is Yellowsand Planet. Although it is part of the Machine Field's territory, there are people from other realms that come here. It's possible that it's those people from the other realms. Otherwise the fleet wouldn't be so nervous."

As soon as he heard Zhao Hai, the roommate thought that what he said was reasonable, so he nodded and said, "That's true. After all, our Machine Field is the weakest among the six realms. It's no wonder why the fleet got nervous."

Zhao Hai nodded and didn't speak about the topic anymore. However, the roommate opened his mouth and said, "I ran into those people just a few days after I ascended. Whenever they see someone from the Machine Field, they would always point their noses up high. At that time, I really wished that I could punch them in the face."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Did you manage to fight them?" The roommate shook his head and said, "I didn't. However, I've seen a sword cultivator from the Cultivation Realm fight. With just his own strength, he was able to fend off an entire pirate fleet of 30 ships. Every time he waved his sword down, a ship would be cut in half. It was too scary!" After he said this, the roommate couldn't help but recall the horror of that time.

Upon hearing this, Zhao Hai knit his brows and asked, “The people from the Cultivation Realm are that strong? And how come they’re in the Machine Field’s territory?”

The roommate shook his head and said, “From what I heard, they were here because some pirates snatched something from their sect. That sect issued a mission and that person was the one who took it. He interrogated the pirates and found out that they didn’t intend to get that item. They only thought that they were attacking a small merchant fleet. They didn’t know that there was a special relic inside. It seems like that relic was an important item between the Machine Field and that sect. Therefore, they sent someone to find it.”

Zhao Hai nodded, then he let out a long breath and said, “If I have the opportunity, then I’ll try going to the Cultivation Realm to take a look. I reckon they have much more splendid things compared to the Machine Field.”

The roommate smiled and said, “There have been a lot of people with the same idea. However, there were plenty of them who weren’t able to return. Nobody knows whether they died or became a member of a sect. As for those who managed to come back, they actually kept silent about their journey to the Cultivation Realm. It seems like something happened to them that they can’t say.”

Zhao Hai nodded, “No matter what, we’re people from the World of Cultivation. Sooner or later we would have the urge to travel to other realms. At the very least, I would like to understand the other realms more. If I’m able to explore the Cultivation Realm, I would want to find out how strong they really are.”

As soon as he heard Zhao Hai, the roommate couldn’t help but smile bitterly. However, he didn’t try to stop Zhao Hai.

#### Chapter 1172: Becoming Friends With The Wu Family

In the next couple of days, Zhao Hai stayed in his room and rarely went out. To be honest, Zhao Hai’s greatest harvest weren’t the things he gained from Yellowsand Planet, but instead his meeting with the cultivators.

These Cultivators were so arrogant in front of the Machine Field's fleet. This caused complex feelings inside Zhao Hai's heart. He was able to take a glimpse of the Cultivation Realm's rules. Actually, it can be said that there were no rules in the Cultivation Realm. Whoever had the biggest fist gets the last word.

If there were any rules in the Cultivation Realm, then it would be the law of the jungle. The weak were prey to the strong. Everything depended on strength.

The Cultivators just had a small boat, but they were still able to plunge the Machine Field's fleet into a state of alarm. One could see the strength of the Cultivation Realm from this point.

This also made Zhao Hai more eager to get stronger. Unfortunately, his situation was different from the others. His strength was closely related to the Space. It was almost impossible for him to have the same path of progression as the others.

If others were to know that Zhao Hai wasn't satisfied with his speed of cultivation, then they would certainly be furious. It was good that Zhao Hai wouldn't reveal this thought to the others.

Ten days quickly flew past. Zhao Hai spent most of the ten days inside his room, but he was also chatting with Xiong Li using their computers. Naturally, their relationship was getting better.

On the other hand, when Zhao Hai's roommate saw Zhao Hai casually chatting with Xiong Li, he couldn't help but feel envious. One must know that Xiong Li was one of the ten great experts. He was an idol to many people.

The fleet arrived at Machine Field Planet after ten days of travel. When Zhao Hai got down from his ship, he immediately saw Cadjo, Desbarres, Luke, and Margaret. They were standing beside a car waiting for Zhao Hai and the others.

And just as Zhao Hai took a step forward, Margaret immediately dashed towards him. She hugged Zhao Hai and didn't say anything else. On the other hand, Zhao Hai just chuckled.

Zhao Hai let go of Margaret after some time. They haven't seen each other for ten days. Even if Margaret was inside the Space, she still wasn't able to meet Zhao Hai.

After Zhao Hai let go of Margaret, Cadjo approached him. Cadjo inspected Zhao Hai before he nodded and said, "Good, very good. I heard that only 2 out of ten participants in this round managed to pass. And aside from the two participants that you saved, nobody else from the family was able to survive. It seems like the family would have to rely on you from this point on."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "General Manager, rest assured. I'll certainly bring in achievements."

Cadjo nodded. At this time, the other two participants from the Ashley family arrived. They gave Cadjo a salute before Cadjo led them towards the car. After doing this, Cadjo turned to Zhao Hai and said, "I heard that you got to know Xiong Li?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I did meet him in Yellowsand Planet. Then we chatted the whole time. But we didn't try to spar since it might give others an advantage."

Cadjo nodded and said, "That's good. Xiong Li is from the Wu Family. We didn't have any relationship with them before. But a couple of days ago someone from the Wu Family came to visit me. He was very polite. This is all because of you. This is a great contribution for the family."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It's nothing. I just thought that it wouldn't be good for me if I fight Xiong Li. I even let Sun Fei go since the situation isn't appropriate. I'll wait until the official battles. I'll waste his cultivation in front of everyone."

Cadjo patted Zhao Hai's shoulder before they boarded the car. Since there were only a few participants left, the entire group rode on one car. Zhao Hai and Margaret were in the middle seats while Tao Li and the person from the Ghost Symbol Camp were on the back.

After boarding, Cadjo turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "I heard that Zhu Chen has offended a lot of people. Did you run into him?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I didn't. But I heard from Xiong Li that he has been terrorizing level 3's. But he's trained by the Divine Earth Palace, his backing should be strong. Is there a problem?"

Cadjo coldly snorted and said, "Problem? Yes, but not for us. Although Churches are very powerful, the influence of other families aren't something to be trifled with. Zhu Chen's wanton slaughter attracted

the ire of these families. At this point, no matter which power Zhu Chen faces in this competition, all of them would go all out.”

Zhao Hai nodded, he also thought that Zhu Chen had been excessive. They were only competing for slots, they weren't personal enemies. There was no need for slaughter. It seems like Zhu Chen was one of those bloodthirsty people.

Before long, the car arrived at the Ashley Family's office. Cadjo brought everyone to the dining hall and treated everyone to a delicious meal. When the group arrived at the hall, everything was already prepared. After everyone had sat down, Cadjo lifted his wine glass and said, “This glass is dedicated to the three who survived the elimination round.” Then he downed the liquor in the cup. Naturally, Zhao Hai and the others followed after.

After drinking from his cup, Cadjo poured himself another glass before turning towards Tao Li and the person from the Ghost Symbol Camp, “Tao Li, Xue Zhong, the family has decided to withdraw your participation in the qualifiers. It's too dangerous. The casualties in Yellowsand Planet caused a heavy atmosphere in the competition. If you enter the arena, you might not be able to survive. You're also talents from the family and we don't want to lose you as well. The Patriarch said that even if you were saved by Zhao Hai, this proves that you have luck on your side. You won't be treated badly when you return. What do you think? If you still want to participate in the competition, then the family wouldn't stop you.”

Tao Li and Xue Zhong looked at each other, then they nodded. Tao Li stood up and bowed to Cadjo and said, “General Manager, please convey our gratitude to the Patriarch. Actually, when the two of us got out of Yellowsand Planet, we already thought of withdrawing from the competition. However, we're afraid that the family wouldn't allow us to, so we didn't say anything. General Manager just told us what we wanted to hear. To be honest, back when we first arrived at Machine Field Planet, we thought that we might have some chance. But after this elimination round, we realized that continuing would just be courting death. We really thank the family for this.” Then the two bowed towards Cadjo and Desbarres.

Cadjo waved his hand and said, “It's good that you can still think clearly. Although you can get more rewards if you participate, it's not worth it for the risk. Alright, sit back down and continue drinking.” Then the two sat down.

Cadjo turned to Zhao Hai and said, “Little Hai, since they won't be participating anymore, we only have you left. You're the hope of the family.”



Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "General Manager, rest assured. The first place is already mine."

When they heard this, everyone laughed. Nobody thought that Zhao Hai was bragging. After all, Zhao Hai's strength was the real deal. Even Xiong Li recognized his strength. This caused the Ashley Family's confidence in him to increase.

After everyone drank another cup of wine, Tao Li and Xue Zhong lifted their glass and turned to Zhao Hai. Then they said, "Sir, if it weren't for your help, then we might not have been able to get out of Yellowsand Planet. Please accept this toast of our heartfelt gratitude."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, then he raised his glass and said, "We're from the same family, so it's natural that we need to help each other. Before going to Yellowsand Planet, I initially wanted all of us to be in a team. But unfortunately, the committee didn't allow us to do so. Meeting you two could be considered fate. There's no need to be polite to me in the future. Let's drink." Then the three downed the liquor in their glass.

Desbarres looked at Zhao Hai's performance and smiled. He didn't say a word. He was quite satisfied with Zhao Hai's actions. It can be said that Zhao Hai was doing a huge favor for the Ashley Family's External Halls. Saving Tao Li and Xue Zhong was a huge favor to the Upright Symbol Camp and the Ghost Symbol Camp.

Thunder was also satisfied that Zhao Hai managed to save two talents. He was happy that Zhao Hai was being considerate towards the family. Although he didn't follow this time, he was still talking with Cadjo and Desbarres. And there were no lack of boasting about Zhao Hai in these conversations. Thunder was also praising Desbarres. He thought that if Desbarres didn't snatch Zhao Hai soon, then Zhao Hai might have already been taken in by the other families. Thunder was happy with Desbarres's initiative to recruit Zhao Hai.

The group happily ate their meal. Although seven people died in the elimination round, this was something that Cadjo and the others already expected. Therefore, they weren't very sad. Conversely, they were ecstatic that Zhao Hai had become friends with Xiong Li.

Naturally, becoming friends with Xiong Li wasn't significant. However, drawing a relationship with the Wu Family through Xiong Li was something extraordinary. The Wu Family's position in the Warrior Association wasn't low. Their strength and influence was also formidable. They weren't any less compared to the Ashley Family. In the past, since one of them was a Warrior Family while the other was a Mage family, it was hard for them to establish a connection with each other. It can be said that the

two were completely strangers to one another. And now, because of Zhao Hai's actions, a bridge had appeared that could connect the two families together.

After the meal, Zhao Hai returned to his room. Of course, Margaret also came in with him. Then the two immediately entered the Space. Zhao Hai was quite anxious because he wants to take a look at the Cultivators currently in Yellowsand Planet. He wanted to see what kind of trial they would do. And maybe he could gain some information just in case he met someone from the Cultivation Realm later on.

#### Chapter 1173: Sword Pavillion Concentrating Astral Qi

As soon as Zhao Hai and Margaret entered the Space, Laura and the others immediately greeted them. Laura looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, we're ready."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, I want to see what makes these people so arrogant." After he said that, Zhao Hai and the others sat down in the living room.

Once everyone had sat down, Laura immediately opened the monitor. Displayed on the screen was a boat. This wooden boat wasn't small nor big. It didn't have an oar. And on its side was an insignia. The insignia showed an unsheathed sword pointed towards an expansive sky.

Then Laura said, "We checked online, this is the insignia from the Sword Pavilion. It is a medium-sized sect in the Cultivator Realm. The people in this sect lived by the sword for their entire life. Once someone joins the sect, an elder would make a sword that went along with that person's characteristics. This sword would be made from the best materials. However, this sword would practically be a blank. Then the person would place the sword in their dantian to be slowly nurtured. In turn, the person would become the sword and the sword would become the person. It was a state of unity between man and sword."

Laura took a deep breath before she continued, "But because of their unique way of doing things, the sect was stuck in being a medium-sized sect. However, this didn't mean that their status in the Cultivation Realm was low. It was said that their offensive strength is second to none in the Cultivation Realm."

Zhao Hai nodded. The sword was the lord of killing. So it wasn't a wonder for a person who studied the sword their entire life to have strong offensive abilities.

Laura added, "When they reach core formation, they could use other magic treasures. But before core formation, they can't use anything else than their swords. Reaching core formation would transform their sword into a sword pill. The sword is the pill and the pill is the sword."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Good. It seems like the Sword Pavillion isn't simple. Their cultivation method is pretty rare."

Laura agreed, "And the strength of the Sword Pavillion could only get stronger as time passes. Although everyone in the Cultivation Realm lived long lives, they were still mortal unless they reach the realm of Immortality. Unless they encountered some accident, members of the Sword Pavillion who were at the end of their lifespans would go to the sect's ancestral grounds and spend the rest of their lifetime there. Once they die, they would leave their swords behind, along with a trace of their spiritual force. These life source swords would then exist in the ancestral grounds. Actually, every time the Sword Pavillion accepts a student, they would take them to the ancestral grounds first to pay respects to the swords of their ancestors. It might even be possible for these swords to choose a new master."

Laura drank some water and continued, "These swords have traces of their original owner's spiritual force, allowing a sliver of the original owner's consciousness to exist inside. However, this consciousness couldn't function like a normal human. But even so, this spiritual force could still choose a person that has the liking of the original owner. And since these swords had been nurtured for a long time, their strength was greater than newly made swords. This would increase the chosen person's strength very quickly. It was precisely because of this accumulation that the Sword Pavillion gets stronger and stronger as each generation passed. Even top sects in the Cultivation Realm couldn't easily provoke them."

Zhao Hai nodded, but his eyes were stuck on the monitor as the Sword Pavillion's people entered Yellowsand Planet. Upon entering the planet, the small boat suddenly changed course and headed straight towards something. When he saw the trajectory of the small boat, Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare as he said, "They're heading towards Astral Wind Canyon?"

The reason Zhao Hai gawked was because Astral Wind Canyon was quite a famous place in Yellowsand Planet. Yellowsand Planet's year comprises 12 months. Ten of these months would have extreme winds blowing through it. As for the remaining two months, there would be rain. This rain is filled with astral qi. If one was exposed to this rain for a long time, then their bodies would wither until they die.

This event happens everywhere in Yellowsand Planet except one place, Astral Wind Canyon. In other places, once the rainy season began, the winds would stop. But in Astral Wind Canyon, the winds would continue all year round.

At the same time, the winds in Astral Wind Canyon were much stronger than the ones outside. Because of these strong winds, only a few people dared to go there. Before long, Astral Wind Canyon became one of the forbidden lands in Yellowsand Planet.

Sword Pavillion's destination was very easy to guess. After all, they were travelling in a straight line towards Astral Wind Canyon.

Laura nodded and said, "Right, they seem to be heading towards Astral Wind Canyon." Then Laura controlled the monitor to show the small boat just right outside the canyon.

However, this small boat didn't just stop at the mouth of the canyon. Instead, it went directly to the middle. The terrain of Astral Wind Canyon was very special. All around were gray and yellow rocks. These rocks stood upright looking like stone pillars, they looked quite ugly.

However, nobody dared to underestimate these rocks. These rocks stood for tens of millions of years amidst the harsh astral winds of the canyon. Its degree of hardness couldn't even be compared to iron and steel. Even the Cultivation Realm's artifacts would find it hard to contend against these rocks in terms of hardness.

The canyon looked like a river. However, it didn't go straight. Instead it wound down through some sort of pattern. And instead of being obstructed by these curves, astral winds coming through the canyon were actually strengthened.

But when Zhao Hai looked at the canyon more carefully. He found out that although it looked terrifying, the middle of the canyon actually had the weakest astral winds. Moreover, due to their placement, winds coming through this section weren't amplified by the canyon's curves.

However, one should know that even if the winds were weak, they were still astral winds. It was still more dangerous than ordinary winds. And these winds were the most ideal for concentrating astral qi as well as refining weapons.

It can be said that in the entire Yellowsand Planet, no other place was better in concentrating astral qi than this section of Astral Wind Canyon.

Zhao Hai found out about these points using the silver needles. Since these needles were made by the Space, where a yellowsand environment existed, they weren't affected by the astral winds. But after looking at the Sword Pavillion, it seems like they knew about this place. Their visit this time was probably to let their disciple concentrate some astral qi for themselves.

When Laura saw Zhao Hai frown, she quickly knew what he was thinking. Although Zhao Hai hadn't been inside the Space these days, he still knew about things inside. This was because Laura and the others could just talk to him wherever he was. Even if Zhao Hai couldn't see anything, he could still hear things.

Laura turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, the Sword Pavillion, it seems like they're here to condense astral qi. We don't know how they knew about this place, but if the Sword Pavillion knew about it, then others might also be aware of it. It seems like we need to rethink our estimation of the Cultivation Realm's strength."

Zhao Hai nodded. Astral Qi's biggest benefit is increasing one's offensive strength. If the Cultivation Realm knew about this spot in Yellowsand Planet, then they could send people en masse to condense astral qi. This would provide a huge increase of collective strength for the Cultivation Realm.

With this thought in mind, Zhao Hai said, "It shouldn't be that huge a problem. Astral Qi doesn't only exist in the form it has in Yellowsand Planet. After all, the wind is just a form the astral qi used in order to flow. The essence of astral qi doesn't change itself. Condensing it shouldn't be that easy."

Laura nodded, then she said, "Right. But even if that is the case, in the last few days, we were able to find out that people from the Cultivation Realm have a higher chance of condensing these special energies inside their bodies compared to other people. Brother Hai, we cannot take this issue lightly."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Rest assured. Now that the Space has its own yellowsand environment, we now have control over how intense astral winds could be. With this ability, we should have no problem condensing astral qi of our own. Right, how about we have some undead try concentrating astral qi. This way, we could see if they could get stronger."

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Laura and the others's eyes turned bright. Then Cai'er immediately answered, "Young Master, I'll get on it." Zhao Hai nodded, then Cai'er's body disappeared as she left.

Zhao Hai was still looking at the cultivators from the Sword Pavillion. These people were really here to condense astral qi. But when Zhao Hai saw the group heading out of the small boat, he couldn't help but stare. There were a lot more people than he expected!

Although the Space was formidable, since the small boat was a magical artifact, the silver needles couldn't go inside. Therefore, Zhao Hai was unaware of the boat's internal situation.

So when Zhao Hai saw more than a hundred people going out of the small boat, he was stunned. But after some thought, he concluded that the small boat had a spatial expansion ability. Only through this method could a small vessel like this hold that much people.

Before long, the group got out of the small boat. Then under the leadership of five people, they flew over towards a spot in the canyon to condense astral qi. As for the five elders leading them, they positioned themselves in five directions to protect everyone from unexpected events.

Everything was calm when the Sword Pavillion's people began absorbing astral qi. But it didn't take long before they started sweating and their faces turned red and then paled. Nevertheless, everyone clenched their teeth and persevered. But soon enough, someone started spurting out blood and then start falling down.

When this happened, one of the five protectors swept down and went to that person's side. Then he fed the person a medicinal pill. He broke the pill in his hand before shoving it inside the patient's mouth.

Naturally, this pill wasn't any ordinary pill. After consuming it, the injured person began to slowly look better. However, the person was still dazed from the experience. The protector who fed him the pill quickly sent the disciple to the small boat before returning to his post.

After that first incident, more and more people began spurting out blood. They were also fed a medicinal pill before being sent to the small boat to rest.

Seeing this happen, Zhao Hai couldn't help but frown as he said, "It looks like the Cultivation Realm has found out a way to treat the backlash caused by astral winds. However, those who failed still looked very terrible. They would need some time before they could fully recover. This allows us to have a faint idea of the Cultivation Realm's talents."

Laura and the others nodded. Of the hundred people that tried to absorb astral qi, 70 people were already eliminated. However, the five protectors seemed to be unfazed by it. They kept looking after those who were left. As if everything was within their expectations.

As more and more people failed, five people were left in the end. These five were sweating hard and their faces were terrifyingly red.

However, these five people endured. As for the five protectors, their expressions began turning bright at the sight of these remaining disciples. They were experienced people, and they were already aware that it was highly probable for these five remaining disciples to succeed.

Sure enough, after five hours of waiting, the five disciples stopped absorbing astral qi. By this point, their own spiritual qi has astral qi merged with it.

Although these five people were in extreme pain and were very weak, all of them were ecstatic. The same was true for the five protectors. They immediately took the five and then led them to the small boat. Then they quickly operated the boat to leave the planet. From the beginning up to the end, the group didn't fight any beast in Yellowsand Planet. Moreover, their time spent here was very short, only a few couple of hours.

When he saw the cultivators leave, Zhao Hai frowned for a moment before he chuckled and said, "It seems like astral qi isn't easily absorbed. Those five might have succeeded, but they still haven't fully digested the astral qi. This shouldn't be able to dramatically increase their strength. Hmmm. It seems like I have overestimated them."

Laura shook her head and said, "Brother Hai, you still need to be careful. You shouldn't just look at them at their current state. Since they were able to absorb astral qi, then it would be easier for them to absorb more in the future. After absorbing astral qi a few times more, their offensive strength would be much more powerful. As for those who failed, they could no longer absorb astral qi. We've checked this information with Margaret. The Ashley Family's files have information about this. Therefore, it shouldn't be false."

When Zhao Hai turned to Margaret, she nodded and said, "It's true. The first time condensing astral qi is a dividing line. Once you succeed, then condensing more astral qi in the future would be easier. But if you failed the first time, it would no longer be possible for you to absorb astral qi. Even if you can bear the pain, as long as astral qi enters your body, you will immediately be injured. This isn't something that can be avoided."

#### Chapter 1174: Practice

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "No matter what, we know that the Cultivation Realm is much stronger than the Machine Field. It's quite clear seeing how the fleet reacted to the small boat. They couldn't do anything else other than turn around and flee. We need to increase our strength if we want to win."

Laura nodded and then she said, "There's still a few days before the start of the next round of the qualifiers. What does Brother Hai want to do?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I'll be closing up. Margaret, when you leave, please tell the General Manager that I'll be closing up. Tell him that I'll need some food and drinks delivered to my room and that I'll have you take care of me. This way, nobody should disturb us. Then you can head to back here as I try to condense astral qi in the yellowsand background."

Laura and the others weren't surprised to hear Zhao Hai trying to absorb astral qi. They also weren't worried about him. Now that the Space has its own yellowsand background, Zhao Hai wouldn't be in any danger at all. Therefore, none of them stopped Zhao Hai from doing so.

When Margaret heard Zhao Hai, she immediately nodded and said, "Alright, I'll take care of it." Then her body flashed as she left the Space. Then she promptly reported that Zhao Hai was going to do closed door cultivation.

Zhao Hai didn't leave. Instead he turned to Laura and said, "I'll be heading to the yellowsand background to practice. If I hadn't come out when the round is about to start, have Cai'er call me."

Laura and the others nodded. Then Zhao Hai's body flashed as he reappeared inside the yellowsand background. Upon appearing, Zhao Hai once again felt the winds of Yellowsand Planet. Since the background took after the planet, it wasn't strange that the two places were quite similar.



Zhao Hai didn't pay attention to the surroundings. To be honest, there wasn't much to see in the yellowsand background. Zhao Hai sat down on the ground and controlled his breathing. Once he reached a comfortable state, Zhao Hai stood up and began performing the body tempering fist.

But this time, as Zhao Hai was using the fist techniques, he also tried using the astral qi concentrating art. This wasn't an easy task. One must know that the Stellar Transformation Body Tempering Technique was a special technique for body tempering. The main function of this method was attracting the power of the stars into the user's body.

However, the power of the stars was quite powerful. It can be said that it was much more powerful than astral qi. The energy between the two was just different. In such a case, using the technique in order to attract astral qi instead would be very difficult.

But just like the Stellar Transformation Body Tempering Technique, the most important and most difficult step for condensing astral qi was introducing it into the body. It was essential for the user to be sober during this process since they need to quite the astral qi using their spiritual force. Otherwise, the astral qi would rampage. Astral qi wasn't a docile type of energy. If one loses control over it, then their body would certainly be damaged.

Zhao Hai was much more uncomfortable when concentrating astral qi. This was because the body tempering technique was already a painful process. Adding astral qi to the mix made the process much more painful than before.

However, since Zhao Hai had already underwent body tempering before, his capacity for pain has been increased. But even if this was the case, Zhao Hai was still sweating buckets. His entire body hurt so much.

Fortunately, the body tempering technique didn't let Zhao Hai suffer for long. In less than an hour, he was able to do one circulation of the technique. When this was completed, a bit of astral qi had been completely integrated into Zhao Hai's body.

Once Zhao Hai discovered that the astral qi had been integrated into the body tempering technique, he began to do his second cycle. But this time, Zhao Hai didn't plan to absorb any astral qi. This was because he saw that even if the astral qi had entered his body, it had yet to be fully absorbed. Therefore, Zhao Hai needed to refine it more to make the astral qi his own.

So in his second go, Zhao Hai didn't use the astral qi concentrating art. He still used the separation between body and mind, which he used when practicing the stellar body tempering technique. This way, he could feel less pain. Zhao Hai knew that he just absorbed astral qi into his body and he needed to digest it. This way he would truly refine the astral qi.

If people from the Cultivation Realm knew about Zhao Hai's plan, they would definitely be surprised. This was because Zhao Hai's method wasn't the same as theirs. Their method was combining astral qi to their spiritual qi. This way, whenever they attack, its offensive strength would be more powerful.

However, what Zhao Hai was doing wasn't like the ordinary method. Not only did Zhao Hai absorb astral qi to combine with his spiritual qi, he was also using astral qi to temper his body.

If the Cultivation Realm heard about this, they would certainly think that Zhao Hai was crazy. Astral qi combining with spiritual qi was already very painful. The pain from using astral qi to temper one's body should hurt a lot more.

And Zhao Hai did it the first time. But to be honest, the process hurt so much. It almost reached the limit that Zhao Hai could bear. Because of this, Zhao Hai didn't let more astral qi enter his body. Instead, he decided to digest it first.

After separating his consciousness from his body, Zhao Hai began using his body to perform the fist techniques. But as he continued to perform the techniques, Zhao Hai couldn't help but feel puzzled. This was because he discovered that his body seems to be faster at performing the body tempering technique.

But even if this was the case, Zhao Hai knew that he couldn't stop. If he suddenly stopped in the middle of the routine, all of the previous results would be wasted. Therefore, he continued. And while he was doing so, he discovered that as he refined his astral qi, his spiritual force was getting consumed more and more.

When the routine ended, Zhao Hai let out a long breath. Then he had his spiritual force inspect his body. This was his most strenuous body tempering routine yet. After the routine, Zhao Hai felt that his spiritual force had been exhausted. This caused Zhao Hai to feel strange. One must know that Zhao Hai's spiritual force was fully capable of supporting three routines of the body tempering technique.

And as Zhao Hai continued inspecting his body, he couldn't help but stare. This was because the current situation wasn't something that he expected.

When he absorbed astral qi into his body before, he could feel that there were traces of astral qi that hadn't been fully combined with his spiritual qi and body. But actually, these traces were very faint. If Zhao Hai didn't use his spiritual force to feel them, he couldn't feel their presence.

Zhao Hai knew that even if he was able to digest astral qi into his spiritual qi and body, then he still wouldn't be able to feel a thing. But now, when he scanned his body, he discovered that this wasn't the case at all. His spiritual qi was improved, his spiritual force had become tougher as well. Most importantly, Zhao Hai could feel that the amount of astral qi in his body was far more than he imagined. It was more than what he calculated before.

Zhao Hai paused for a moment before thinking about why this was the case. Then in the end he thought of an answer. It might be related to the Stellar Body Tempering Technique.

The body tempering technique was beyond formidable. And after separating his consciousness and body, the Stellar Body Tempering Technique would draw in stellar energy in order to temper the body. And in the process of drawing the power of the stars, it also reinforces the user's spiritual force. So as Zhao Hai uses the tempering technique, both of his body and spiritual force were enhanced.

This was the reason why Zhao Hai felt that there was more astral qi inside his body than he expected. Moreover, it was completely unified with his body and spiritual qi. It can be said that concentrating astral qi had been more than a success.

But what made Zhao Hai even more surprised was the fact that some astral qi had integrated into his spiritual force. Zhao Hai discovered that his spiritual force now had some elements of astral qi, even if it was a very small amount. Zhao Hai just didn't know what this development would entail.

However, Zhao Hai changed his mind in the end. This astral qi wasn't astral qi that existed outside, it was astral qi produced by the Space. It was impossible for the Space to harm the host. Instead of being harmless, this union would instead be beneficial.

Zhao Hai inspected his spiritual force and discovered that it was tougher than before. If it was a silk thread before he underwent the body tempering technique, then it became like a steel wire after the tempering technique, it was now an alloy steel wire after being merged with astral qi.

When he discovered this, Zhao Hai was elated. But even if he was happy, he didn't immediately go back to practice. This was because his spiritual force had dried up. Even if a depletion of spiritual force wasn't harmful to his body, one shouldn't forget that the Stellar Body Tempering Technique and the Concentrating Astral Qi Art needed to be carefully controlled. Otherwise, it would be easy for him to go crazy.

Although these things had been curated by the Space and were deemed non-harmful to Zhao Hai, this didn't mean that the Space could protect him if he practiced wrong. After all, Zhao Hai's spiritual qi was inside his body, only he could affect it.

Zhao Hai went out of the yellowsand background and then went to the hot spring to take a bath. Then after he was refreshed and relaxed, he returned to the villa. At this time, Margaret had already come back. Meanwhile, Laura and the others were looking into news regarding the Machine Field. This was because the elimination round had a lot of casualties. The machine field was currently in a depressive atmosphere.

These deaths were talents that were nurtured by small influences. Resources and time were poured into them. But then, they just died in Yellowsand Planet. This caused these small powers to get angry and start to question the fairness of the elimination round.

## Chapter 1175: The Perverse Yin Yang Sec

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When the elimination round started, Zhao Hai thought that it was very unfair. There were only a few who spoke up about this at that time, so Zhao Hai's concern was not very effective.

But now, the situation was different. In order to gain benefits for their family, small powers cultivated talents using their resources. But in the elimination round, almost all of them lost every talent they invested time and resources in. Because of this, these small powers were very unsatisfied with the result. They thought that this was the huge powers trying to suppress their growth.

It wasn't only these small powers were unsatisfied, medium powers didn't like the results as well. In fact, the Ashley Family was one of them.

Although they had Zhao Hai, the Ashley Family still couldn't accept the results. They lost 7 people in the elimination round. And if it weren't for Zhao Hai, then they might have lost even more. Because of this, every one of these groups lodged complaints towards the qualifier committee. They wanted to form an investigation team to see who proposed the survival elimination round. They wanted to know why it was proposed and for what purpose it was approved.

This matter escalated to the point where the three major powers could no longer control it. Although it can be said that the Machine Field was mostly controlled by the three major powers, one shouldn't forget that these powers were formed by a collective of groups. And these collective comprised of large and small powers. Majority of which were the medium and small-scale powers. Normally, these medium and small powers operated independently. Some of them even had grudges against one another. Because of this, the three major powers were able to trump against these powers.

But this time, these small powers were all agitated. They managed to form an alliance to pressure the three major powers.

With this situation in hand, the three major powers couldn't do anything else other than to relent to their request. The small and medium powers formed an investigation team to look into this matter. The Ashley Family also joined this investigation team.

Naturally, Zhao Hai didn't have anything to do with this matter. After all, he was closing up. Zhao Hai practiced his stellar body tempering technique and would also absorb some astral qi from time to time.

Not only was Zhao Hai absorbing astral qi for himself, Liquid Silver was also improving itself. Zhao Hai didn't have to worry about controlling Liquid Silver since the Space can already handle it. After all, Liquid Silver was something that was made by the Space.

While Zhao Hai was practicing, another huge matter exploded in the Machine Field. Up until now, the investigation team formed by the small and medium powers had little progress. But suddenly, a person emerged, he was the person who proposed the elimination round.

The investigation team initially wanted to find him, but this person disappeared. Even after looking for a long time, he was still nowhere to be found. This time, he appeared on his own initiative. The reason for his emergence was to ask for protection from the investigation team.

Right, he wanted protection because he was being chased down. According to him, some people wanted to get rid of him since he was a potential witness. His proposal for the elimination round was under the command of some people. He said that these people were from the Divine Earth Palace and the Fire Temple. Besides these two churches, there were also several famous Warrior Clans. It can be said that these groups were large influences in the Machine Field.

The information he brought to light caused huge ripples throughout the Machine Field. They didn't expect an evil manipulator behind the scenes.

The small and medium powers immediately formed an alliance. And then they collectively went against these several huge powers.

The exposure of this matter severely damaged the reputation of these huge powers. After all, the small influences respected these huge powers. Although it was mainly because of their strength, they were also looked up to because they could offer protection. They could represent the small powers and fight for benefits on their behalf.

But this exposure caused the small powers to see these huge powers in a new light. In a word, these huge powers were playing dirty!

Correct, now, in the eyes of these small powers, the great powers were actually playing dirty! These small powers clearly knew that they couldn't take the lion's share of benefits away from these huge powers. It was already certain that these huge powers would get most of the benefits. But these small powers were also aware that they couldn't get everything or else they would have problems digesting it. Therefore, they allowed these huge powers to get the most things. But these huge powers actually withheld everything from them. This was unacceptable for the small powers.

The huge influences didn't expect that the strength of the alliance would actually be so tremendous. All of a sudden, the huge forces found out that their products could no longer be sold, causing their factories to stop production. Their incomes dropped sharply. At the same time, their fleets and Mechs no longer had freedom they once enjoyed. This was because they discovered that their enemy was a hundred times stronger than themselves!

Whether it is quality or quantity of mechs and battleships, the alliance of small forces far surpassed those of the big powers. Before long, the Machine Field's ecosystem changed.

Nobody thought this matter to evolve into the big thing it was now. There were many significant events in history that was caused by the littlest of things. And it was clear that this was one of those events.

Because of the event that happened in the Machine Field, the Six Realm Beginner Competition had to be postponed. In the beginning, it was postponed for ten days, then it became a month, and then it was postponed even more. At this point, there was no definite match date for the competition. It can be seen from these points that the three major powers had completely lost control of the Machine Field.

The smell of gunpowder in the Machine Field got stronger and stronger. It seems like even the smallest of sparks would ignite the entire realm. It wasn't only the huge influences that sensed this, the small and medium powers could also feel it. If any one of them makes a move, then the others would make sure to not elevate the situation.

And because everyone had the same thought about this, the Machine Field was able to keep its peace. However, the huge influences decided to make a concession. They began sending representatives to the small and medium powers in order to perform a joint investigation.

With more people working on this matter, a result was found before long. Upon seeing this result, every single power in the Machine Field, including the three major powers, were shocked. What they found out that this event wasn't accidental. Behind this event was an evil power in the Cultivation Realm.

The core of this matter included famous families in the Fire Temple, among them was the Zhang Family that was hostile towards Zhao Hai. The same was true for the Divine Earth Palace as well as the Warrior Families. As it turns out, these people were controlled by a fairly known sect in the Cultivation Realm, the Yin Yang Sect!

The Yin Yang Sect was quite famous in the Cultivation Realm. This wasn't because they were well-respected by the Cultivators. Instead, it was because they belong to the evil faction. At the same time, they also have some forces in the Devil Realm. What they liked to do was to sabotage other forces. Their cultivation method was very strange, they practiced the Dao of Ruthlessness!

Ruthlessness was the core of the Dao of Ruthlessness, there was nothing else that needed to be said about it. The ruthlessness of this dao wasn't the same as ordinary ruthlessness. The people in the Yin Yang Sect believed that if one wanted to be ruthless, then they must feel emotions first, and then they would use this emotion to cultivate their ruthlessness.

There were quite a number of people in the Cultivation Realm that cultivated the Dao of Ruthlessness, most of them were from the evil faction. In order to cultivate this dao, they would select a child with a good aptitude and then accept them to their sect. When these children had grown up, a person from the sect would take them back to their families and then kill them in front of their eyes. This would break the child's emotions.

Seeing their family being killed, these children would have their emotions riled up. This was the optimum condition to cultivate the Dao of Ruthlessness.

But even among the ones who cultivated the Dao of Ruthlessness, the Yin Yang Sect was a special case. Although they practiced the same dao, the way they cultivate it was different from the other sects.

When they select their disciples, the Yin Yang Sect did the same thing as the other sects. They would find children with good aptitude and then train them. However, what happened next was different. Other sects would take the children back to their homes and then kill the child's parents in front of the child. On the other hand, the Yin Yang Sect would have the child kill their family personally!

If these children couldn't do it, then the sect would take action. However, they wouldn't kill the child. Instead, they would torture the family members up until the point where death was their only release. Then they would have the child kill their family members.

Because of this conduct, the disciples of the Yin Yang Sect grew abnormally, allowing them to be the best candidates for the Dao of Ruthlessness. It was because of this that the people from the Yin Yang sect enjoyed upturning other groups and sects. And this time, the Yin Yang Sect had their eyes on the Machine Field.

After investigating the suspected groups, the investigation team found out that there were saboteurs from the Yin Yang sect among them. Moreover, these saboteurs were in important positions in these families. For the Zhang Family, it was the most beloved wife of the Zhang Family's Patriarch. This meant that Zhang Mingyue was the son of the Zhang Family and the Yin Yang Sect!



The Machine Field was in an uproar immediately after finding out of this situation. Although these people from the Yin Yang Sect were strong, it was still difficult for them to escape upon being besieged by mechs and battleships. At the same time, all those who had any relations to these saboteurs were executed. And the families that were involved in the matter were being heavily punished!

#### Chapter 1176: Seeded Participants

As the clouds in the Machine Field settled down, the people from the Machine Field were finally able to see something they never expected. A lot of families including the Zhang Family disappeared like smoke. Even the Fire Temple and the Divine Earth Palace needed to reorganize themselves after the event.

Although there were a lot of things left to do in the Machine Field, the time needed to accomplish them wasn't that much. It took two months for all sides to settled down. And all these days Zhao Hai didn't appear. Not only Zhao Hai, the other ten great experts were nowhere in sight. After all, they didn't have any place to participate in this matter.

However, two of the ten experts were implicated in this wave that crashed down in the Machine Field. One of them was Meteor Zhu Chen. Zhu Chen was from the Divine Earth Palace. And in the recent elimination round, he was seen slaughtering people, incurring the discontent of many powers. As it turns out, this was another plot by the Yin Yang Sect. Zhu Chen became the Yin Yang Sect's blade. At the same time, he was also a victim of their plot.

Another expert that was implicated was Fire Saint Sun Fei. He was a candidate trained by the Zhang Family. His situation was the same as Zhu Chen, he was being used as a blade.

However, unlike their patrons, the two were treated differently by the Machine Field. Even if the Machine Field exterminated the Zhang Family's core members, Sun Fei was from the External Hall. The Machine Field already treated these ascenders differently, therefore, the two weren't treated as harshly as the family they belonged to.

This wasn't out of Zhao Hai's expectation. After all, from the perspective of the Machine Field's forces, Sun Fei and Zhu Chen were useful tools, like sharp knives. Would you punish a knife that was used to commit sin? Of course not. The knife was just a tool. The person who used it was the guilty party.

This was the case with Sun Fei and Zhu Chen. The two killed a lot of people, yes, but they had the strength to make the other powers think about recruiting them.

As long as those two join any power, that power would instantly get a place among the 100 participants of the Six Realm Beginner Competition. In this case, nobody would want to pass up on them.

However, an issue came up when there were a lot of people who wanted to get the two of them. In the end, nobody was able to properly recruit them. This matter became the center of the Machine Field's attention. Even the Ashley Family participated in this competition.

Although Sun Fei has killed a lot of the Ashley Family's participants, these participants were from the External Hall. If the family could trade a few talents for a true talent, then they would do so without hesitation.

Zhao Hai knew about these matters, but he didn't do anything about it. This was because he was still closing up. But his practice session was about to end. At fixed times, he would go to the yellowsand background and then practice his body tempering technique. He already stopped absorbing astral qi, this was because his astral qi had already reached a saturated state.

At this point, his body, spiritual qi, and even spiritual force had astral qi in them. Because of this, even if Zhao Hai deliberately absorbed astral qi, there would be no place in his body to place it, making his efforts useless. Therefore, Zhao Hai would just go to the yellowsand background in order to digest the astral qi he had accumulated.

Zhao Hai also tried to see the strength of astral qi. During that time, Zhao Hai was given a scare. Whether it be his magic formations or his sword qi, its offensive power had been increased by about five to ten times. Things would get even more insane if Liquid Silver was added to the mix.

Zhao Hai didn't expect astral qi to be this strong when he started. Moreover, he discovered that, besides the first time, his digestion of astral qi was getting faster and faster. This caused Zhao Hai to be puzzled.

However, Zhao Hai changed his mind when he understood what was happening. The first time he absorbed astral qi, he needed to maintain sober in order to guide astral qi using his spiritual force. At the same time, he also needed to perform the stellar body tempering technique. This amount of pain was something that no other man could endure. Because of this process, Zhao Hai was able to make his

body much more suitable for astral qi. Although Zhao Hai separated his consciousness and body on his next session to escape the pain, the amount of astral qi he managed to absorb at that time was a lot.

And after Zhao Hai separated his consciousness and body, things became different. He could still practice, but this time he didn't torture himself with the pain. With this situation, it would naturally speed up Zhao Hai's absorption and digestion of astral qi.

Zhao Hai estimated that his current offensive strength wouldn't be any worse than Cultivators of his level. If he used all of his strength, then he might even compete against Nascent Soul experts.

Naturally, this was just Zhao Hai's own estimate. He had yet to fight a Cultivator, so a lot of factors were still unknown.

As for the matters of the Machine Field, Zhao Hai didn't care much about it. He doesn't have the strength to affect the big picture, so he could only observe from the Space's monitor.

The disturbance in the Machine Field didn't last very long. The Patriarchs of the families in the Machine Field weren't stupid. They clearly knew that if the realm were to turn chaotic, the Cultivation Realm may use the opportunity to make a move.

Besides their fear of being attacked by the Cultivation Realm, the reason these heads of the powers decided to solve the matter quickly was because of the Six Realm Beginner Competition.

If they didn't deal with this matter soon, then they would only be harming their benefits in the competition.

Although the Machine Field hasn't been getting good results in the Six Realm Beginner competition, there were still rewards for participating. And the competition this time was much more important, given how much talent the Machine Field has been able to produce. Therefore, nobody in the Machine Field would want to miss the opportunity to join the competition.

Since there had been a reshuffle and even elimination of some great families, this meant that the smaller powers would be getting a bigger slice of the pie.

Sun Fei and Zhu Chen's assignment had already been determined. Zhu Chen was still under the Divine Earth Palace while Sun Fei was taken in by the Fire Temple. The two became direct members of the churches and weren't under any family.

Zhao Hai agreed to the arrangement made by the Machine Field's higher ups. Due to the recent scuffle, the Divine Earth Palace and the Fire Temple had been heavily damaged. It was proper for Zhu Chen and Sun Fei to gain benefits for them. This would allow the two churches to restore their strength.

This decision was most likely influenced by the Mage Church Alliance. The three major forces of the Machine Field, Church Alliance, Mech Army, and the Warrior Association needed to be balanced. This way the realm would maintain its peace.

The Fire Temple and the Divine Earth Palace had lost so much. And since these two were important pillars of the Church Alliance, they needed to regain their strength or else they would weaken the Alliance. Because of this, the Machine Field's high-level figures went on with their decision.

However, another matter occurred that surprised Zhao Hai. The small influenced began to discover the power they had when they united. They saw that they now had enough influence to talk with the major powers.

There were thousands of small forces in this alliance. They also elected leaders to fight for them. They had the intention of being equal to the three major powers.

But since this alliance was still on its starting stages, they didn't have much to work on. Moreover, the three major powers couldn't just leave them be. Therefore, even if these small forces were happy with their current state, they still couldn't get whatever they wanted.

As things went on, the date for the Six Realm Beginner Competition was finally set. And because of this, the Machine Field's qualifiers needed to change. What differs the Machine Field from the other realms this time was the existence of seeded players. All of these seeded players were geniuses with a level no lower than level 4.

There were a total of 20 seeded players, ten of them were from the ten great experts. Nobody objected to this decision. As for the next ten, the committee as well as the top ten experts nominated participants. And ranked on the 11th spot was Zhao Hai!

The first person to nominate Zhao Hai to be a seeded player was Xiong Li, and the second was Sun Fei. Although it can be said that Sun Fei's reputation had taken a huge dive recently, he was still quite a famous individual in the Machine Field. Additionally, he was a strong competitor. Therefore, there were a lot of people who favored his nomination. His proposal for Zhao Hai to be a seeded participant was a huge surprise to everyone. Everyone knew that he had been enemies with Zhao Hai. Moreover, they heard that he and Zhao Hai had clashed back in Yellow sand Planet. Although the two hadn't fought, their meeting was still bad. Sun Fei nominating Zhao Hai was quite unexpected.

Of course, Xiong Li's nomination for Zhao Hai also gave people some surprise. But after some time, people found out that Xiong Li and Zhao Hai were friends. Xiong Li's nomination for Zhao Hai wasn't strange, he just wanted to help a friend.

In the beginning, only a few people heard about this information. However, as time passed, people found out about it. This caused a huge pressure for the qualifier committee. After all, the committee hasn't handled the qualifiers that well. Although the members of the committee had long since been changed, the trust to the organization remained negative.

But at this time, Xiong Li defended his stance. He stated that his friendship with Zhao Hai in Yellow sand Planet had nothing to do with his nomination. Moreover, Xiong Li openly admitted that even he might not be able to win against Zhao Hai.

Xiong Li's admittance caused the Machine Field to pause. There were very few people who saw Zhao Hai make a move. Zhao Hai's ascend and his rise to power was something that surprised many people. And now, Xiong Li admitted that he wasn't sure of winning against Zhao Hai. This caused more interest towards Zhao Hai.

But when these people tried to look into Zhao Hai, they discovered that Zhao Hai acted very low-key. He had already ascended for quite a few months already, but he spent most of his time closing up. There were very few people who saw him coming out, so there were so few records of his appearance. This caused even more interest to gather towards him.

Very soon, Zhao Hai's place as the 11th seated candidate was settled. Xiong Li and Sun Fei's recommendation as well as the committee's investigation determined that Zhao Hai was qualified to be seeded.

Naturally, Zhao Hai's wasn't clueless about these matters. He stayed inside the Space all this time as he watched the changes happening in the Machine Field. At the same time, he was settling matters inside the Space.

Karen's laboratory has been churning out significant results. Since they learned magic theory, their study towards magic formations went on the right track. It can be said that their experiments weren't as simple as before. At this point, those kinds of research no longer interested them. What they liked to do now was to research new magic formations.

Zhao Hai didn't say anything regarding Karen's current actions. He decided to just let them be and perhaps they might bring him a pleasant surprise.

The other races in the Space were also doing very well. Even if they didn't have much changes, this didn't mean that they were slow in their development. After all, they hadn't been inside the Space for long. Undergoing a huge change in a short time was almost impossible.

On the other hand, Margaret became even busier than Zhao Hai. In the past, Margaret just had a general understanding of the Space. But as she knew more and more about it, she became awed by the mystery of its existence. Margaret now preferred to stay inside the Space instead of going outside.

As for Zhao Hai's closed door cultivation, the Ashley Family did their best so that nobody would disturb him. No matter what happens outside, the Ashley Family guaranteed that Zhao Hai was not to be disturbed. To be honest, Zhao Hai appreciated their efforts.

The Ashley Family did this also because Zhao Hai was their hope to gain benefits. Therefore, no matter what Zhao Hai wants to do, the Ashley Family would give him their full support.

Moreover, the Ashley Family truly hoped that Zhao Hai would close up all this time, This was because the current Machine Field was too chaotic. It wouldn't be good for Zhao Hai to participate in it.

After the seeded participants were selected, the date for the competition was decided, and the groupings were prepared, the only thing that everyone needed to do was wait for the next round to start!

## Chapter 1177: Heading Out

Zhao Hai finally went out of the Space. Although Margaret liked to stay inside the Space, she had to come out with Zhao Hai since the next round of the qualifiers was about to begin.

But since Zhao Hai was a seeded participant, he doesn't need to participate in the beginning stages. At this point, there were 20 thousand people left who were qualified for the next round. Although some of them had withdrawn, there were still more than 10 thousand people left who would participate.

About more than 10 thousand people competing for 100 spots. One could imagine how fierce the competition would be. But things were much easier for seeded participants like Zhao Hai. They wouldn't need to participate in the beginning rounds.

Nobody objected to this system of having seeded participants. This was because these seeded participants were the powerful experts the Machine Field had. They already had some reputation in the Machine Field, so everyone knew that they were strong. Also, this was the smart thing to do. And even if one was a seeded player, they would still face the more powerful participants in the final rounds.

The reason for seeded positions was the fear of two powerful experts meeting in battle prematurely. If there were no seeded participants, then all remaining participants would be in the pool for selection. It might be possible for Xiong Li to meet Streep in the first round. This means that one would be eliminated while a lucky level 3 would defeat their opponent and progress to the next round. Naturally, those who weren't strong wouldn't be able to reach the top 100. However, if either Xiong Li or Streep were eliminated and couldn't join the Six Realm Beginner Competition, it would be a huge loss for the Machine Field.

Because of this consideration, the Machine Field chose 20 people to be seeded. They also want to see how this would go. If it had great results, then they would select seeded participants for every qualifiers from now on.

Upon hearing that Zhao Hai had come out, Cadjo took Desbarres and Luke to Zhao Hai's room. While Zhao Hai was closing up, only Luke was in the building since Cadjo and Desbarres returned to the family. They were Elders of the family. Moreover, due to the restless state of the Machine Field in the past few days, they were needed to help settle things.

The Ashley Family wasn't implicated by the situation in the Machine Field. On the contrary, they benefited a lot since they participated in the investigations. Because of the Ashley Family's position, they were able to lead teams and gain benefits for the family.

The Ashley Family's time had truly come. They no longer needed to deal with the Zhang Family. And now that the Zhang Family has been eliminated, the Ashley Family were able to absorb some of the members of their camps and they were even able to get several factories. These gains were certainly good for the family.

Then there was Zhao Hai being nominated for a seeded position. This caused the family to be ecstatic. It can be said that the Ashley Family was in a festive mood. So upon hearing that Zhao Hai had come out, Cadjo immediately took Desbarres and Luke to visit him.

Seeing that the three had come to see him, Zhao Hai immediately asked them to sit down. Margaret offered some them some tea before sitting beside Zhao Hai.

Cadjo looked at Margaret and Zhao Hai's intimate appearance and didn't give a comment. For three months, Margaret had been inside Zhao Hai's room while Zhao Hai was closing up. By this point, their relationship had gone public. Moreover, Thunder didn't object to the two of them. It was as if he already gave a nonverbal agreement to their relationship.

Cadjo looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, did you benefit a lot from your cultivation?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "My harvest isn't small. The reason I closed up is because I had been contaminated by astral qi back when I was in Yellowsand Planet. I only noticed it after coming back. Therefore, I closed up so that I can refine it. Fortunately, I was able to succeed."

As soon as Zhao Hai said this, Cadjo and the other stared for a moment before their expressions changed. Cadjo quickly said, "Little Hai, you're able to refine astral qi? You're kidding right?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I won't joke about this. Don't forget, I'm both a Mage and a Warrior. If I wasn't, then it would be impossible for me to refine astral qi. But since I'm a Mage and a Warrior, I had the chance to successfully refine it."



When he heard this, Cadjo laughed out loud and said, "Good, that's fantastic. Fortune is really looking down on the Ashley Family. Little Hai, how is your offensive strength now? I heard that as long as one concentrates astral qi, their offensive strength would be outstanding."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Right, as long as it is absorbed by my body, the offensive strength of my attacks are enhanced. My formations are now much more powerful than before, even if I use the same amount of spiritual qi."

Cadjo's smile turned brighter, then he said, "That's good. It seems like the seat of this qualifier's champion is already reserved for you. Perhaps you might even get a good place in the Six Realm Beginner Competition. Our Ashley family will then be praised by the entire World of Cultivation."

Desbarres nodded, he was also smiling as he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, you'll have to work hard this time. Make the Cultivation Realm know that our Machine Field couldn't be bullied."

A lot of things happened in the Machine Field in the past few days. But in the end, all of the blame fell into the Yin Yang Sect. The Machine Field and the Cultivation Realm had always minded their separation. Although there were some scuffles from time to time, these were small conflicts. But this time, the Yin Yang Sect caused a huge chaos to descend into the Machine Field. Even if they didn't know the stance of the other sects in the Cultivation Realm, the Machine Field still decided to be on guard.

Although it can be said that the Machine Field really wanted to retaliate against the Yin Yang Sect, the individual strength of the Machine Field is just too low. If the Machine Field sent battleships to the Cultivation Realm in order to deal with the Yin Yang Sect, the Cultivation Realm's sects would certainly stop them.

Because of this, Desbarres and the others could only suppress the anger in their hearts. They were born and raised in the Machine Field. Because of this, they had a very strong sense of belonging towards the realm. The Machine Field had always been held down by the Cultivation Realm. Whenever Cultivators looked at the people from the Machine Field, all of them would raise their noses up high. There was no way for Desbarres and the others to agree to this.

Therefore, the Six Realm Beginner Competition has given them the opportunity to vent their anger. If Zhao Hai didn't make any breakthrough, then Desbarres might not be this confident. But after Zhao Hai was able to concentrate astral qi, Desbarres was even more certain of Zhao Hai's success.

Most of Zhao Hai's understanding of the Machine Field had come from the computer. But in the end, a computer was just an inanimate object, there were a lot of things that weren't true in it. Because of this, Zhao Hai didn't know what impact someone who absorbed astral qi to the people in the Machine Field.

The Machine Field didn't have any way to absorb astral qi. This has restricted the individual ability of the soldiers in the Machine Field. To be honest, the magical spells of the Machine Field weren't any weaker than any other attacks in the Cultivation Realm. Once someone was able to layer 1 thousand formations, they would have the same strength as a Core Formation Expert.

However, the Machine Field didn't have any technique to absorb astral qi and evil qi. Because of this, they didn't have any way to increase their offensive abilities.

Naturally, after many years, it was impossible for the Machine Field to have no way to absorb astral qi and evil qi. However, there were extremely few people who were able to do it. This has a lot to do with the current system of the Machine Field.

The Machine Field's practice gave priority to the battle qi and magic. However, both battle qi and magic weren't suitable for absorbing astral qi into the body.

Battle Qi specialized in refining the body from outside in. And when the blood was activated, it would produce energy, which was battle qi. Magic specialized in spiritual force. Instead of working on the body, it specializes in the mind. This made it hard to prepare the body for the introduction of astral qi.

And since battle qi specializes in the body, battle qi became tightly knit with the Warrior's body. There were similar methods in the Cultivator Realm, but this method made it very hard to attract astral qi to one's body. This method was just like Zhao Hai's stellar body tempering technique. To be honest, if Zhao Hai couldn't separate his body and consciousness, it would be impossible for astral qi to be digested into his body.

Practicing stellar body tempering technique was in itself very painful. Zhao Hai's body had been adapted to the pain, allowing it to take in astral qi. If it were any other Warrior in the Machine Field, then they would not be able to endure the pain.

There was no need to talk about Mages. Mages specialize in spiritual force. Spiritual force was linked with the brain. Therefore, Mages needed to be careful whenever they cultivate their spiritual force, or

else they would succumb to insanity. If their brains were to be heavily damaged, they would definitely turn into complete idiots in vegetative states.

It was for this reason that Mages wouldn't dare combine astral qi with their spiritual force.

The reason why Zhao Hai was able to combine astral qi with his spiritual force was because of his ability to separate his consciousness and body. Actually, this method was truly ingenious.

It separates one's mind to their body, turning them into spectators of themselves. So even if the mind was attacked, the body would stay in perfect condition. Additionally, with how strong Zhao Hai's body was, nothing would be able to hurt him.

At the same time, since the astral qi that Zhao Hai absorbed came from the Space, it was impossible for Zhao Hai to be harmed. Because of this, Zhao Hai was able to succeed in absorbing astral qi!

#### Chapter 1178: Let's Go Drink

Zhao Hai was calmly sitting on the arena's stand. In the middle of the stadium was a huge platform. Its length and width exceeded 200 meters. It was made out of something that looked like bluestone. But actually, this bluestone was called bluesteel. It was a mineral that was very hard and heavy.

Ordinarily, this stadium was used for sports events. Although a lot of people cultivate magic and battle qi here, there were still some people who devoted their lives into sports. However, these sports weren't ordinary sports. The sport was either formations or some wrestling matches. In addition to Mage and Warrior-related sports, there were also some competition about Mechs. These Mech competitions were quite popular in the Machine Field.

And since Mech matches happen here, the stadium needed to be very big. And this time, the realm qualifiers would be held here.

As for seeded participants like Zhao Hai and the others, since they wouldn't fight in the first rounds, they had been given seats by the committee. These seats would be reserved for them so that they could watch from the sidelines and then understand the strength of their opponents.

Zhao Hai sat on his chair with Xiong Li next to him. Xiong Li looked for Zhao Hai several times these past few days. But every time he went to the Ashley Family's building, Zhao Hai was in closed-door cultivation. This was the first time the two had met since Zhao Hai went out of the Space.

Seeing that Zhao Hai was staring at the platform, Xiong Li opened his mouth and said, "Brother, there's nothing else to watch here. I can beat all of these people with one hand."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "That's true. Hahaha. Brother, let's head out and get a drink."

When he heard that Zhao Hai was asking him to drink, Xiong Li's eyes shone as he said, "Good, good. Let's have a drink. Right, wait for me here, I'll introduce you to someone." Zhao Hai nodded. Then Xiong Li left. Before long, Xiong Li came back alongside another person. Upon seeing the person Xiong Li brought along, Zhao Hai couldn't help but gawk. He knew this person.

It was one of the ten great experts, Fire Dragon Sword Dongfang Yu! The person famous for his fire dragon sword as well as his fire dragon technique. It was said that every time this person went out for a mission, the result was complete destruction of the surrounding area. It was even rumoured that the money he gained from the mission wasn't enough to compensate for the damage he did.

Upon seeing Dongfang Yu, Zhao Hai immediately gave his salute and said, "So it's brother Dongfang. This one is Zhao Hai."

Dongfang Yu was a slim person. He wore Warrior clothing that was longer than average. His face was also quite dark, perhaps because of his long exposure to fire.

Dongfang Yu also returned Zhao Hai's gesture as he laughed and said, "Hahaha, I've been hearing good things about Brother Zhao Hai from Brother Xiong Li. Brother Xiong Li rarely praised others. It seems like you're also someone with real skill." His voice was loud and clear. His straightforward manner of talking makes other people look favorably towards him.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Brother Xiong Li is overly praising me. Let's go and have a drink." Then Zhao Hai led their group out of the stadium. Naturally, Zhao Hai's group of three weren't able to leave the area without being spotted. The other people looked at the three with gazes filled with envy, jealousy, and disdain. As for those participants who weren't seeded, they couldn't help but look at the three in envy.

At this time, a voice was suddenly heard, "Mister Zhao Hai, please wait." Zhao Hai turned his head and saw that it was unexpectedly Fire Saint Sun Fei. The two didn't have any friendly relationship. They also were no longer hostile to each other. The Ashley Family didn't seek revenge since Sun Fei now belonged to the Fire Temple. The Fire Temple was also depending on Sun Fei to help them regain their strength. If the Ashley Family decided to retaliate against Sun Fei, then the Fire Temple would interfere. And it wasn't a good time to have a conflict in the Machine Field.

Therefore, Cadjo told Zhao Hai that if he met Sun Fei, then he should spare his life unless it was under extreme circumstances. Not only Sun Fei, he was also told to spare the other 20 seeded participants. If he killed ordinary talents, then their families might let the matter go. But if a seeded participant dies, then it would be equivalent to breaking the benefits of their family. And naturally, the affected family would retaliate. However, if Zhao Hai was provoked, then he would certainly be impolite.

Zhao Hai didn't care much about this matter. Moreover, Sun Fei didn't have a grudge against him, only the Ashley Family. In essence, this matter doesn't have anything to do with him.

Therefore, upon seeing Sun Fei, Zhao Hai said, "So it's brother Sun. Does Brother need anything from me?"

Sun Fei bowed towards Zhao Hai and said, "Mister Zhao Hai, I have offended you back in Yellowsand Planet. Please excuse me."

Upon hearing Sun Fei, Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh as he said, "Brother Sun is too polite. At that time, you and I are under the command of our families. After all, we're from the External Halls. What authority do we have to disobey orders? Brother Sun doesn't need to apologize, it's nothing."

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Sun Fei gave Zhao Hai a bow. Meanwhile, Xiong Li and Dongfang Yu sighed deep inside. This was because Zhao Hai just said what was inside their hearts. They were outsiders to this realm and they could only obey the commands of their patron. They were treated like weapons by their families, weapons that can be discarded at any time.

After Sun Fei gave a bow, he stood up. Then he looked at the three and said, "If you don't have anything to do, then how about having this little brother treat you to a few drinks?"

Upon hearing Sun Fei, Xiong Li couldn't help but laugh as he said, "Kid, Brother Zhao Hai just beat you. Since this is the case, then you might as well come with us to share a few drinks. Let's go."

Upon hearing Xiong Li, everyone laughed before they walked out of the stadium. Seeing the four men, those who saw them couldn't help but stare.

People already knew about Zhao Hai and Xiong Li's friendship. As for Zhao Hai and Sun Fei, they two didn't have any form of friendship. When Sun Fei nominated Zhao Hai to be a seeded participant, Zhao Hai was still closing up at that time. It can be said that the two didn't have any friendship up until now.

And now, they were together to have a drink? This was the question on everyone's mind.

Zhao Hai and the others proceeded to leave the stadium's area. Outside, a car was waiting for Zhao Hai. This was a car that Cadjo had given Zhao Hai to use.

Once they got into the car, Zhao Hai turned to Xiong Li and said, "Brother Xiong, do you know of any place that has very good wine in the area? I have been closed up for a long time, I need something good to drink."

Xiong Li laughed and said, "Since you asked me, then let's go to Delin's Barbecue. You need to taste their barbecue and liquor."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, then let's go with Brother Xiong's suggestion. Take us to Delin's Barbecue." Zhao Hai didn't tell the instruction to the car. Instead, this car actually had a driver. It was an assistant that was assigned to Zhao Hai in order to cater to his needs.

The driver nodded and then drove the car towards Delin's Barbecue. Dongfang Yu looked at the driver before he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "It seems like Brother Zhao is the most comfortable out of all of us. Not only do you have a car, you even have an assistant. I'm truly envious."

Dongfang Yu wasn't wrong at all. One must know that most families would only treat their core members like this. Members from the External Hall wouldn't be treated like this. Unless you lead a battalion, is a Camp Lord, an Elder of the Family, or a functioning core member, you won't get the same treatment as Zao Hai.

Upon hearing Dongfang Yu, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I'm just borrowing this in the meantime. Right, is this the place?" Zhao Hai looked at the building outside the car. The small building was made entirely out of wood. It looked much like a cabin in the forest, but much larger at four stories high.

Xiong Li nodded and said, "Right, we're here. Their barbecue is roasted on top of high grade charcoal. It's flavor is completely out of this world. It's very delicious."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, let's go have a taste." Then the group got out of the car and then entered the building. Upon entering, they were immediately welcomed by someone. Much to Zhao Hai's surprise, they weren't served by a robot. Instead, it was a real person who met them. This made Zhao Hai even more curious about the owner of the establishment.

It was clear that this wasn't Xiong Li's first time in this place, so when he saw the waiter, he immediately said, "Prepare a private room for us." The man nodded before leading the group further into the building.

The first and second floor of the building were public areas. The private rooms were placed on the third floor. These private rooms weren't large. And since there were only four people in Zhao Hai's group, they were settled inside a smaller private room.

After entering their room and then ordering their food and liquor, Xiong Li turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Zhao, I heard that you've just ascended recently. Also, I heard that you've snagged a lady from the Ashley Family. And that you might become a core member of the family in the future. Are all of these true?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It's true, I'm currently in a relationship with the Ashley Family's Miss Margaret. She's Patriarch Thunder's daughter. But since her relationship with her father wasn't good, she doesn't rely on the family for her income. Therefore, she became an instructor at the Ascender Academy. She used to be my instructor, but now she's my girlfriend."

Xiong Li sighed and said, "You really move fast. Hahaha. But you are also talented. Who would expect you to reach level 4 in such a short time."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "It's nothing. I just have an innate talent for magic formations. Moreover, I already have strong spiritual force when I ascended. This is the reason why I improved so fast."

After Zhao Hai said that, a disturbance was suddenly heard outside. Zhao Hai and the others couldn't help but stare. One must know that they were in Machine Field Planet. Who had courage big enough to cause a huge disturbance here?

#### Chapter 1179: Rampant Machine Field Army Soldiers

Xiong Li also stared, then he frowned and said, "What's happening? Someone actually dared cause trouble? I heard that Delin's Barbecue is backed by the Fire Temple. Sun Fei, aren't you from the Fire Temple? Do you know anything about this?"

Sun Fei shook his head and said, "I don't know. I haven't been in the Fire Temple for long. But Brother Xiong is correct. The major churches have businesses in the Machine Field Planet."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "It's very likely that Delin's Barbecue has a powerful backer. The area it covered isn't small. Moreover, it has four stories fully made out of wood. It's impossible to do this if they didn't have any backers. Let's head out and see what's happening. If the Fire Temple is in trouble, we'll try our best to help."

Xiong Li and the others didn't object and just nodded. Then they all stood up and walked out. Just as they exited their room, they heard sounds coming from the second floor. As the group went downstairs, they saw people in military uniforms. These people didn't have any imposing aura around them. However, they all stood straight and it seems like they knew some fighting techniques.

When Zhao Hai saw these people, he couldn't help but raise his brow. Then he said, "Aren't they Mech soldiers? Why are they causing trouble?"

Xiong Li and the others also looked over. When they saw the Mech soldiers, they couldn't help but gawk. No ordinary person in Machine Field Planet would dare offend those from the Machine Field Army. The status of these soldiers were higher than Mages and Warriors.



Zhao Hai listened in on the conversation. After some time, he finally understood. These mech soldiers were here for a meal. But while they were ordering their food, one of them tried to hit on the waitress. Unfortunately, this waitress was the irritable type. As the soldier continued to flirt with her, the waitress gave him a slap. This caused the soldier to hit the waitress, causing the current disturbance.

Upon understanding the situation, Zhao Hai's expression sank, then he coldly snorted. Zhao Hai's snort wasn't loud, but it was heard clearly throughout the floor. It was like a thunderclap on everyone's ears.

Even Xiong Li and the others were shaken by Zhao Hai's little snort. They couldn't help but faintly smile. They didn't expect Zhao Hai to be this strong.

Naturally, these mech soldiers were also shaken. When they got their bearings back, all of them turned to Zhao Hai. Their leader was a burly man with short hair and was also wearing a military uniform. He looked quite strong. However, there was a slap mark on his face, which ruined his image.

This mech soldier looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Kid, what are you snorting at? Do you have indigestion? Why don't you mind your own business?"

Zhao Hai looked at the mech soldier, then he smiled and said, "I was just eating upstairs and then I heard some wild dogs barking. It disturbed my appetite so I came down to see what is going on. Now I know that it's not just dogs barking, but one of them actually tried to seamlessly extend their paws to someone else. Only wild dogs would dare bully a woman. It seems like the quality of the Machine Field Army soldiers are getting lower and lower."

After Zhao Hai said that, Xiong Li and the others laughed out loud. The Mech soldier's face turned red. But just before he was about to say something, a person behind him whispered something in his ear. The mech soldier's face changed and he shifted the way he looked at Zhao Hai.

Upon seeing the soldier's change in expression, Zhao Hai coldly smiled and said, "What? You know us? Why don't you report us and see if your brothers will retaliate. If they would, then that's fine. We can just report this matter and say that the law and order of this planet isn't very good. There's no guarantee for us to participate in the competition and we'll just quit. You can find our replacements and I wish that they can get good results."

The more these mech soldiers heard Zhao Hai, the more sweaty their backs became. They were mech soldiers who had higher status than ordinary Mages and Warriors, but who were Zhao Hai and the others? They were Machine Field's highly-valued seeded participants. They would represent the Machine Field and compete against the other participants from the other realms. There were only 20 people in this seeded list. It can be said that Zhao Hai's group of four weren't people anyone could offend right now. If Zhao Hai and the others really did what Zhao Hai said, then these mech soldiers would be dead.

While he was thinking about this, the mech soldier wiped sweat off his face. Then he calmed down as he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "So it is Mister Zhao Hai, Mister Xiong Li, Mister Dongfang Yu, and Mister Sun Fei. I'm a soldier from the 9th squad of the 4th company, 3rd battalion, 36th regiment, 2nd Division, 5th Corps of the ascender army, Wan He. It's a pleasure to meet you gentlemen."

The man gave Zhao Hai a greeting but he also expressed his identity. This caused Zhao Hai to raise an eyebrow. Then he said, "So you're from the Machine Field Army. No wonder you're so rampant. So you people came here to humiliate us now that the Church Alliance has been weakened? Do you know who opened this shop? This is the Fire Temple's establishment."

These mech soldiers were truly unaware of the owner of this shop. After all, they were just ordinary mech soldiers, they didn't have any significant background. So after hearing Zhao Hai, they knew that they were wrong. The leader looked embarrassed, then he quickly said, "Please excuse our actions. We really don't know who this shop's owner is. We are willing to compensate for any damages we caused."

Zhao Hai looked at their expressions and knew that they were truly clueless. If they knew that this was Fire Temple's establishment, then they wouldn't have any courage to cause any trouble.

Zhao Hai waved his hand and said, "Since you're not aware, I'll let this matter go. I'll leave it to you to settle things with the restaurant's manager."

The soldier quickly replied, "Of course. Please excuse us for disturbing your meal." Then Zhao Hai nodded before he left along with Xiong Li and the others.

Once the group had returned to their room, Xiong Li smiled and said, "Brother Zhao, you're good. Those mech soldiers are usually very prideful. But this time, they had to retreat. They looked like small puppies. Hahahaha. It's satisfying!"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "They aren't afraid of me, they're just afraid of our current reputation. We're seeded participants of the Machine Field. In the eyes of the higher-ups, one of us is more important than one hundred ordinary mech soldiers. They're too scared to offend us. Hahaha."

However, Sun Fei frowned and said, "Brother Zhao, we'll have to thank you for your efforts. But I'm afraid that now that you have offended them, you'll have more trouble in the future. After all, mech soldiers have great status in the Machine Field."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "It's true that he's a mech soldier. However, he is just an ordinary mech soldier. Meanwhile, I'm an important member of the Ashley Family. He cannot do anything to me."

Dongfang Yu said, "There's no need to be afraid of those mech soldiers. But Brother Zhao, you have truly slapped their faces today. If they head back and talk to their brothers, I'm afraid those from the Machine Field Army would cause you some trouble. This time, 15 of the 20 seeded participants are from the Warrior Association and the Church Alliance while 5 of them are from the Machine Field Army. Moreover, those five aren't weak. I'm afraid they will try to make trouble for you."

Zhao Hai seemed to not care, he just smiled and said, "I'll just hope that they won't bother me. After all, all of us are from the same realm. But if they did come looking for trouble, then I'll have to teach them a lesson."

When Zhao Hai said this, he let out some of his killing intent. This caused Dongfang Yu and Sun Fei to stare. Then they felt the hair on their backs rise up. They had killed people before, moreover, their slaughters were quite frequent. Therefore, they were sensitive to killing auras. Because of this, they were able to feel Zhao Hai's killing intent. The thickness of Zhao Hai's killing aura was something that they had never seen before.

Actually, Sun Fei and Dongfang Yu still had some doubts about Zhao Hai's strength. When Zhao Hai met people, he was very casual and didn't have any imposing aura at all. If he wasn't wearing mage robes, then people wouldn't even think that he was a Mage. Additionally, Zhao Hai spent most of his time closing up. In their opinion, Zhao Hai was an ascetic Mage who didn't have rich combat experience.

But after Zhao Hai's short release of killing intent, Sun Fei and Dongfang Yu began to think that not only were they wrong about Zhao Hai's lack of experience, they were also made aware that Zhao Hai had killed more people than they expected. Being able to hide his aura to an untraceable level was a very fearful ability to have.

On the other hand, Xiong Li wasn't surprised. Xiong Li had much more experience in combat compared to Sun Fei and Dongfang Yu. He knew very well how dangerous of a person Zhao Hai was.

Just as Zhao Hai said that, the group suddenly heard someone call him out from outside, "Zhao Hai, come out here!"

Zhao Hai stared, then he looked at Xiong Li and the others as he smiled faintly and said, "Interesting, let's head out and take a look." After he said that, Zhao Hai stood up and left their private room for the second time.

After going down the stairs, Zhao Hai discovered a person on the first floor. His stature was tall and big, making him look strong. However, this person was actually wearing mage robes. He looked 40 years old with his beard and ferocious face. This was the person who was shouting out his name.

Zhao Hai looked at the man and said, "This one is Zhao Hai. Are you the one looking for me?"

The huge Mage looked at Zhao Hai and said, "You're Zhao Hai? Kind, you're quite arrogant, aren't you? Do you even put our Machine Field Army in your eyes?"

Zhao Hai looked at the Mage and said, "The Machine Field Army hasn't done anything worthy of my notice yet. And who are you? You didn't even introduce yourself. You don't have the qualifications to call me out."

As soon as the Mage heard this, his killing aura couldn't help but flare up, then he coldly snorted and said, "Kid, listen carefully. I'm Captain Tao Ke of the Machine Field Army's External Hall's Spear Camp. Now tell me whether I have the qualifications to call you out."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "So it is Captain Tao. So does being a captain give you the qualifications to call me out? Am I someone from the Machine Field Army? Am I your subordinate? If not, then you don't have the rights to call my name out loud."

Tao Ke paled from anger upon hearing Zhao Hai. He thought that bringing up his status would make Zhao Hai afraid. He didn't expect Zhao Hai to actually retort.

Zhao Hao looked at Tao Ke's expression and said, "Captain Tao, you're asking me if I placed the Machine Field Army in my eyes? Let me ask you this. Your people ate at this restaurant and then bullied the waitress. Your Machine Field Army is truly magnificent. I didn't expect you to act like space pirates. Why would you want to bully a waitress? Now ask me again why I don't place the Machine Field Army in my eyes. Also, Captain Tao, I don't know if your brothers told you about the background of this restaurant. I really respect your loyalty to each other, but you're just used as a tool. This isn't something that a mere captain like you could shoulder."

Tao Ke looked at Zhao Hai and then coldly snorted and said, "So what? Isn't this place just a business of the Fire Temple? What's so great about that? Are you saying that my Machine Field Army should be afraid of the Fire Temple?"

Zhao Hai seem to stare when he heard Tao Ke. Seeing Zhao Hai's reaction, Tao Ke laughed and said, "What? You think the Fire Temple is anything in the eyes of the Machine Field Army? Let me tell you, Zhao Hai, we aren't afraid of the Fire Temple. Even if someone from the Fire Temple is here, I still wouldn't be afraid of them!"

"Really?" A calm voice was heard. Zhao Hai looked at the source of the sound and saw people wearing red robes walk in from outside. The one who just talked was an old Mage. He looked close to 100-years old, and his hair was fully grey. However, one could see that the old man's eyes were still as sharp as the eyes of an eagle.

The old Mage arrived in front of Tao Ke. He looked at the Machine Field Army Captain, then he sneered and said, "Little External Hall Captain, what gave you the courage to be so arrogant in my Fire Temple's territory? Do your words represent the Machine Field Army? Are you the commander-in-chief? And since you aren't afraid of the Fire Temple, then does that mean that the Fire Temple should be afraid of you?"

Tao Ke stayed in place as he stared at the old Mage. Sweat began trickling down his cheek. This was because he recognized who this old Mage was. This person was a Bishop of the Fire Temple, famously known as Blazing Condor Ma Fenglei. This Bishop wasn't exactly known as an amicable gentleman. All those who offended him ended up dead. Moreover, he wasn't afraid of anyone. It was even rumored that he cursed the Machine Field Army's Commander-in-Chief right to his face. He caused headaches to anyone he encountered. A person like this wasn't someone a small Captain could offend.

Tao Ke immediately felt his throat dry up. Cold sweat began building up on his back. He didn't expect that such a trivial matter in a small Fire Temple shop would cause this grandfather to appear. Tao Ke couldn't help but think about his dark days ahead!

#### Chapter 1180: Aren't You Just Looking For A Woman?

After speaking to Tao Ke, Ma Fenglei turned to Zhao Hai and said, "You're Zhao Hai? Good, very good. Let this old Ma express his gratitude."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Bishop Ma is too polite. Sun Fei and I are friends. And since Sun Fei is from the Fire Temple, it's natural that I would help him. I hope that Bishop Ma wouldn't think that I'm budging into your matters."

When he heard Zhao Hai, Ma Fenglei laughed and said, "Kid, you're quite interesting. Why would I think that? There are some people in the Machine Field who think that the Magic Church Alliance had become weak. They're like dogs and cats that can't wait to urinate on our territories. What a joke. Even ants from the Machine Field Army dared to spit on our faces. Hahaha. And he doesn't even represent the army. Even if those old commanders come here, they would still need my approval to do anything."

Zhao Hai didn't say anything as he just smiled. But on the other hand, Tao Ke turned pale white. If other people have said this, then he might not care. However, it was Ma Fenglei, often called Crazy Ma by a lot of people. There was nothing that he wouldn't dare to do.

Seeing that Zhao Hai didn't respond, Ma Fenglei turned his eyes back to Tao Ke. He sneered and said, "What? You want to test my patience? Captain Tao Ke, right? I'll start with you." Then he waved his hand, causing Tao Ke to be held down by one of the Fire Temple's men. Tao Ke was pinned to the ground, but he didn't do anything to resist.

After taking Tao Ke down, Ma Fenglei said, "Find those people who came here earlier. Then send word to the Machine Field Army about what happened. Have them deal with their own men. If they can't do it, then this Ma Fenglei will discipline them myself!" After Ma Fenglei said this, one of his men immediately complied and left to do the task.

Seeing that the situation has been handled, Ma Fenglei turned to Zhao Hai as he smiled and said, "Zhao Hai, you did well. However, this matter will bring you quite the trouble. How do you plan to deal with it?"

Zhao Hai nonchalantly smiled and said, "How to deal with it? I'll do the same as Bishop Ma. In the competition, I'll make sure to erase any person from the Machine Field Army unlucky enough to face me." Zhao Hai was smiling the entire time he said this line. He didn't have any hint of killing aura on him at all. His tone was natural and peaceful, it was as though he was talking with some folks while eating some steamed buns.

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Ma Fenglei's pupils shrunk for a moment, then he laughed and said, "Good, good. Hahaha. So Zhao Hai, why don't you join my Fire Temple? If you do, I'll make you a Camp Lord."

Upon hearing Ma Fenglei, Xiong Li and the others couldn't help but suck in cold air. There were no ascender Camp Lords in the entire Machine Field. Ma Fenglei's appreciation for Zhao Hai actually made him invite Zhao Hai to be a Camp Lord. This was a very important matter.

Zhao Hai looked at Ma Fenglei, then he smiled faintly and said, "Bishop Ma must be joking. You should be aware of my relationship with Margaret. How could I join the Fire Temple?"

Ma Fenglei looked at Zhao Hai and said, "I see no reason why not. Aren't you just looking for a woman? As long as you join the Fire Temple, you can have all the women you want."

Zhao Hai stared at Ma Fenglei, then he laughed and said, "Bishop Ma, you think this Zhao Hai is lacking women? Aren't you looking down on me too much?"

Hearing Zhao Hai's response, Xiong Li and the others couldn't help but get nervous. Ma Fenglei's temperament was very infamous in the Machine Field. Zhao Hai was probably the first person to talk to Ma Fenglei like this in the past several years.

However, their worries were blown away when Ma Fenglei suddenly burst out laughing as he said, "Good, good. I haven't misjudged you." Then he turned his hand before throwing something towards Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai caught the object and saw that it was a small badge.

Zhao Hai looked at Ma Fenglei in confusion. Ma Fenglei smiled faintly and said, "It's a Guest Badge of the Fire Temple. We have a lot of guest experts in the Temple. Since you don't want to join us, take that instead."

Upon hearing Ma Fenglei, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Alright, then I'll be impolite and take this. This Zhao Hai thanks Bishop Ma." Ma Fenglei laughed once more before he waved his hand and left the restaurant.

When Ma Fenglei left, Zhao Hai turned to look at Xiong Li and the others and said, "We haven't eaten yet but people have already been disturbing us. But it seems like nobody will disturb us now. Let's eat! We're not leaving this place until we're drunk."

Xiong Li looked at Zhao Hai and then he suddenly laughed and said, "Brother Zhao, I really admire your courage. Did you know that nobody talks to Ma Fenglei like that? Even Machine Field natives wouldn't dare, much less ascenders."

Zhao Hai just smiled and didn't say anything. He believed that Ma Fenglei wouldn't move against him. Moreover, the Fire Temple was currently at its weakest point. If Ma Fenglei decided to attack Zhao Hai, then he's not worthy of the position of Bishop.

The reason why Ma Fenglei dared to publicly berate the Machine Field Army was because he didn't only have the Fire Temple at his back, the Church Alliance would also support him.

Because of the recent event, the Divine Earth Palace and the Fire Temple were heavily damaged. It can be said that their vitality had suffered an injury. These two churches were very important pillars of the Church Alliance. Damage to these two would also damage the alliance. Because of this, the Alliance has to be united at this time. Whether it be the Warrior Association or the Machine Field Army, the Alliance would certainly counter-attack if either of these two dared to move against them.

Therefore, Ma Fenglei dared to offend the Machine Field Army at this time. However, Ma Fenglei wouldn't offend Zhao Hai. This was because Zhao Hai held a very special status in the Ashley Family. Ma Fenglei also received information that the Ashley Family had withdrawn all of their participants save for Zhao Hai. In this case, if Ma Fenglei dared to touch Zhao Hai, then the Ashley Family would certainly retaliate heavily.



Actually, even if the Fire Temple was damaged, it was still not afraid of the Ashley Family. However, the Ashley Family was an important pillar of the Dark Church. If they fought with the Ashley Family, the Dark Church would certainly insert themselves. This was something that the Fire Temple would never want to happen.

Due to these considerations, Zhao Hai determined that Ma Fenglei wouldn't do anything to him. Moreover, from what Zhao Hai can see, Ma Fenglei wasn't the sort of person to do that.

The group returned to their private room. When they got settled in, the staff immediately brought in meat and wine. Moreover, it can be seen that the items they brought in were the best quality goods. It was obvious that they were very thankful for what Zhao Hai and the others did.

After the staff left the room, Dongfang Yu looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Zhao, are you really planning to erase the Machine Field Army's people in the qualifiers?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I am, but I'll have to look more into the matter. After all, I don't just represent myself, I'm also carrying the Ashley Family's name. I don't want to cause trouble for the family. If the Machine Field Army is really concerned about their pride, then I'll have no choice but to be impolite."

Dongfang Yu looked at Zhao Hai then he laughed and said, "Good, good. Hahaha. If they really hold on to their pride, then make sure to inform me. If I meet anyone from the Machine Field Army, I'll also destroy them."

Xiong Li laughed and said, "Why are you two making plans on your own? Count me in!"

"Me too!", Sun Fei said as he lifted his wine glass. Everyone laughed before they clinked their glasses and downed their wine in one go.

The group ate meat and drank wine until they could no longer consume anything. When they wanted to get the check, the restaurant staff told them that their meal was free of charge.

Zhao Hai wasn't too polite and expressed his thanks before leaving the restaurant. Just as Zhao Hai got outside, his driver greeted him and said, "Mister Zhao Hai, the General Manager want me to tell you that he has something to talk to you about."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he turned his head to Xiong Li and the others and said, "Brother Xiong, Brother Dongfang, Brother Sun, I'll have to leave first. Let's share more drinks in the future whenever we're free."

Xiong Li and the others held their fists to salute Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai returned the gesture before he got into the car. Looking at Zhao Hai's car quickly speeding out of sight, Xiong Li sighed and said, "Brother Zhao is truly not an average person. I can't compare to him."

Dongfang Yu smiled bitterly and said, "Not just you. Even those old foxes wouldn't compare to Zhao Hai. It's ridiculous to think that I expected him to be someone who only knows how to cultivate. He certainly wasn't an ordinary person back in the lower realms."

Sun Fei nodded, "Brother Hai is strong. However, he wouldn't kill people easily. But if you become his enemy, then your future won't be bright. It's fortunate that I was able to meet you outside the stadium. If I didn't apologize, then I might suffer in the future."

When Xiong Li and Dongfang Yu heard Sun Fei, they couldn't help but laugh. They knew that what Sun Fei said was right. If he didn't meet them, then he would certainly suffer under Zhao Hai. After all, they were in a hostile relationship before.

But what the three didn't know was that they were beginning to subconsciously think that they were no match against Zhao Hai. It was only a matter of time before they would truly be defeated.

The three exchanged a few more words before bidding each other farewell. They needed to find a place to digest their experiences today. They also needed to tell their groups about what just transpired so that they could make the right preparations. After all, this incident involved a lot of big groups. And they believed that this incident was the exact reason why the Ashley Family called Zhao Hai back.