

## **Battlefield 221**

Chapter 221: Evil Ghost

The Azure Wood Light fell upon the White Elephant

The wound healed quickly

The White Elephant stood up, took the Longxiang Seven-leaf Pill handed over by Dongfang Yue, sighed, and then turned to leave.

No match for him, gracefully admitting defeat

He could accept the loss

"Black Crow, congratulations on passing the Genius Battle Examiner assessment."

Dongfang Yue looked at Qin Tian with appreciation in his eyes. No wonder he was recommended by Yun hai, effortlessly defeating the White Elephant, who ranks among the top in strength among C-level examiners, while being one tier lower in level, as a Tier Five Silver Level Spiritualist. His talent and strength definitely make him a standout among the younger generation.

"Thank you, Mr. Dongfang."

Qin Tian bowed slightly.

"Black Crow, this is the Examiner's Code of Conduct, you must memorize the rules outlined here."

Dongfang Yue handed Qin Tian a document. Qin Tian glanced at it, noting all the crucial points for an examiner to remember.

For instance, examiners must not collude to intentionally lose; if discovered, their qualifications will be immediately revoked and they will be heavily penalized.

Examiners are not allowed to form alliances

Examiners must not use the items they are guarding

...

There weren't many rules, only 10 in total, and Qin Tian committed them to memory with just a glance.

Dongfang Yue: "In three days, there will be an examiner training, lasting about half a day. You'll need to attend wearing a mask then."

"Understood."

Qin Tian nodded.

"Alright, you two may leave now."

"Okay."

Qin Tian and Dongfang Mingyu slightly bowed and turned to walk towards the door.

As he watched Qin Tian's back, a thoughtful look flashed in Dongfang Yue's eyes.

In his view, Qin Tian was likely of the Golden Bloodline, however, he didn't display any obvious Bloodline Ability during the battle, triumphing instead with an exceptionally strong physique and that overwhelmingly powerful Sword Intent over the White Elephant.

So, he still couldn't figure out which bloodline family Qin Tian might belong to.

Qin

Which Golden Clan families have the Qin surname?

Squeak~~

The dojo gates opened, and just as Qin Tian and Dongfang Mingyu were about to step out, they ran into two people head-on.

"Yo, Dongfang Mingyu, why are you here too? Shouldn't you be dealing with those smelly Beastmen in the Chaotic Star Zone?"

On the left, a man in splendid attire with narrow eyes spoke, his tone obviously sardonic.

"Dongfang Kun, what does my whereabouts have to do with you?"

Always gentle, Dongfang Mingyu rebutted unceremoniously this time, frowning slightly.

At these words, Dongfang Kun's face turned cold, "Dare you speak to me like this, being of a side branch bloodline."

Dongfang Mingyu retorted coldly:

"Being of direct lineage is your only bragging right in this life, wasn't it? You suffered a devastating defeat in the family competition and aren't favored by the family now. If I were you, I wouldn't have the face to return to the Azure Wood Star now."

"Dongfang Mingyu!!!"

Dongfang Mingyu's words hit Dongfang Kun right where it hurt, making him glare fiercely, his fists crunching with anger.

He looked at him calmly. This is Azure Wood Star, if Dongfang Kun dared act here, he'd have to spend a full year in the family confinement chamber.

Dongfang Kun knew the seriousness of the matter, biting his teeth, he snorted coldly, turning his gaze onto Qin Tian wearing the Black Crow mask.

"Dongfang Mingyu, is this the examiner you recommended, merely a C-level, the best you side branches can find is such mediocrity."

Dongfang Kun sneered.

Upon hearing this, Dongfang Mingyu frowned, though he didn't mind Dongfang Kun's offensive words, it pained him to see Qin Tian depreciated because of his conflict with Dongfang Kun.

At this moment, Dongfang Mingyu felt a nudge on his arm from Qin Tian.

From the corner of his eye, he noticed Qin Tian's lowered hand gently wave, understanding Qin Tian's meaning.

It doesn't matter

No need to get upset with them.

Dongfang Mingyu relaxed his brow, then glanced at the man beside Dongfang Kun, a towering figure over two meters, with rugged features, and a cold indifferent look, not changing even during their verbal confrontation.

But from Dongfang Kun's tone, this man was definitely no ordinary person.

His skills could at least reach B-level examiner.

To reach A-level, it would depend on Grandmaster Yue's assessment.

A-level examiners do not draw opponents, those examining them are Dongfang Yue himself.

"Black Crow, let's go."

In front of Dongfang Kun, Dongfang Mingyu chose to not reveal Qin Tian's real name, shot a cold glance at Dongfang Kun, and walked away shoulder to shoulder with Qin Tian.

Their departure made Dongfang Kun felt like he won a victory, a smile curling on his lips.

"Brother Luo, let's go in."

"Hmm."

Entering the dojo, Dongfang Kun brought the man to Dongfang Yue, speaking with a hint of respect:

"Grandmaster Yue, this brother here wishes to participate in the A-level examiner selection for the Genius Battle. Here is the recommendation letter from the Elder Council, please take a look."

Dongfang Kun handed the letter to Dongfang Yue, who, upon opening it, revealed a flicker of surprise in his eyes.

The A-level examiners' selection already ended, similar to previous terms, with only 3 A-level examiners chosen.

Yet, the Elder Council still recommended the man in front of him for the A-level selection.

It seemed Dongfang Kun's branch had undoubtedly made an agreement with some force again, utilizing their influence within the Elder Council to forcibly add someone.

"Alright, go up to the ring."

On the ring, Dongfang Yue stood calmly, twenty meters apart from the man, hands clasped behind, and said indifferently:

"Start."

As soon as the words fell, the man's body burst with a fierce, brutal aura, like the rebirth of a primordial fierce beast, scaring the spectating Dongfang Kun back several steps, his face turning pale.

Tier Six.

Dongfang Yue nodded slightly, such strength indeed qualified as an A-level examiner.

Boom!

The man charged towards Dongfang Yue, his speed akin to an illusion.

Dongfang Yue's expression remained calm, with a thought, dozens of thick black thorns wildly grew from the metal floor.

Minutes later

Broken black thorns filled the ring, and the man lay on the ground, with limbs and neck tightly bound by the black thorns, unable to move.

Seeing this, Dongfang Kun wasn't surprised.

Brother Luo was indeed a Tier Six powerhouse, but his opponent was the Tier Seven direct line Holy Blood, Dongfang Yue.

If Dongfang Yue got serious, Brother Luo wouldn't last even a single round.

"Grandmaster Yue, did he pass the assessment?" Dongfang Kun asked quietly.

"Consider it passed."

Dongfang Yue gestured, and the black thorns wrapped around the man quickly retracted, allowing the bloodstained man to stand up silently, his head hanging.

Dongfang Yue struck a palm from afar, azure light falling upon the man, healing the wounds from the thorns within two breaths.

"Choose a mask."

Dongfang Yue brought out two masks, the A-level examiner attire contained only five sets: God, Demon, Buddha, Demon, Ghost.

Among them, the God, Demon, and Demon sets had already been chosen, only Buddha and Ghost remained.

The attire had to be tailor-made according to each's figure, so he only had masks here.

The man glanced, reaching to take one of the masks.

Upon wearing the mask, a ferocious momentum surged forth.

Like an—

Evil ghost descending upon the world

Chapter 222: Chaotic Star Zone, Guardian Artifact

"Qin Tian, I'm really sorry about earlier."

Walking along the road, Dongfang Mingyu said apologetically.

"It's alright, I didn't take it to heart."

Qin Tian smiled slightly.

Dongfang Kun, Dongfang Mingyu

Within the great family of Qingmu Dongfang, there are undoubtedly various intricate relationships, and conflicts are normal.

Moreover, from their conversation, it could be inferred that this also involved the rivalry between the direct and side branches.

Seeing Qin Tian's calm expression, Dongfang Mingyu showed a smile and didn't dwell on the matter, choosing instead to change the topic.

"Qin Tian, that slash you made just now was really impressive. Such domineering sword intent; so far, I've only seen it from you alone."

Sword intent and sword intent are often closely related to a person's personality.

Qin Tian, who appeared calm and steady, surprisingly possessed such an overbearing and aggressive sword intent, making Dongfang Mingyu unable to help but feel that appearances can be deceiving.

Furthermore, in a situation where he was one level behind, Qin Tian managed to defeat a Tier Five White Elephant using martial techniques and sword intent. He finally understood why his grandfather held Qin Tian in such high regard.

Qin Tian chuckled; condensing sword intent is a very challenging task, requiring a swordsman to have an extraordinary understanding of the sword. Only through long-term training and battles, reaching a certain stage, can sword intent be condensed.

Those who can condense sword intent or sword intent are without exception geniuses in their fields, where both talent and effort are indispensable.

He himself was also a genius, but just an exceedingly fortunate one.

"Mingyu, I heard earlier that you usually live in the Chaotic Star Zone?" Qin Tian asked curiously.

The term Chaotic Star Zone is a special name outsiders have for that region.

More accurately, it is called the Marshall Star Zone.

This star zone has a special geographical location, situated at the junction of the Azure Wood Star Realm and the Amaterasu Star Realm. Due to historical issues, the ownership of the Chaotic Star Zone has always been unclear.

Both star realms wanted to incorporate this zone into their territory, but it proved too difficult, so they simply treated the Chaotic Star Zone as a buffer zone between the two realms, allowing some illicit activities to survive here with tacit consent.

In the Chaotic Star Zone, you can even see humans, Spirit Race, and Beastmen doing business amicably, but you can also witness some brutal and bloody acts violating the Empire's iron laws.

There, danger and opportunity coexist, making it a paradise for adventurers and a hell for the weak.

"That's right."

Dongfang Mingyu nodded, "Currently, I work in a family business, stationed in the Chaotic Star Zone to handle some business matters. Qin Tian, are you interested in the Chaotic Star Zone? If you want to go, feel free to contact me anytime."

"Hmm, I'll go if the opportunity arises in the future."

Qin Tian smiled, for him, the more chaotic a place is, the more opportunities there are.

The Chaotic Star Zone has Beastmen, Spirit Race, and various peculiar races. In his view, they are walking talent light spheres, highly alluring.

"By the way, Mingyu, what kind of business does your company do?" Qin Tian asked.

Dongfang Mingyu: "Our company mainly engages in the trade of herbal medicine and elixirs. Additionally, I'm responsible for running an auction house."

Herbal medicine, elixirs

Qin Tian's eyes lit up, a gleam of joy flashing through them.

.....

Three days later

Qin Tian donned a mask and arrived at the examiner training venue by flying device.

This was a closed venue where all examiners took their seats according to the nameplates on the seats.

Qin Tian sat on the left side of the third row. In the same row as him, as well as the few rows behind, sat examiners all wearing beast masks.

White Tiger, Flame Fox, Blue Bird, Golden Monkey...

Qin Tian learned through Dongfang Mingyu that the examiners were divided into three levels: A, B, and C. He belonged to the C-level examiners, while those sitting in the first two rows were A-level and B-level examiners.

In the first row, there were only four people, dressed in various exotic outfits, with their faces covered by masks. Behind each, the words God, Demon, Demon, Ghost were inscribed.

The pure white and golden Divine Armor, the blood-red demonic robe, the dark green vine-patterned Demon's Soft Armor, the dark and eerie Evil Ghost Nether Cloak.

Each outfit matches its theme while also emanating an intimidating power.

The second row consisted of B-level examiners, dressed in Aries forged from red gold, with constellations' star maps and mythical imagery embossed on their armor. The helmet horns of Aries burned like flames, and the giant bull's eyes on Taurus's breastplate were inlaid with blood amber... every detail flowed with mysterious runes.

Golden masks carved with classical deities' features, paired with towering streamlined helmets, adorned with symbolizing feathers or gemstones of the constellations, shimmered with a myriad of colors under the light.

Compared to the first two rows, the examiners merely wearing beast masks seemed like country bumpkins attending a masquerade ball, chaotic and shabby.

As personnel arrived, Dongfang Yue stepped onto the stage of the venue

He reread each clause of the examiner's guidelines, emphasizing some key notices.

Subsequently, staff members arrived and distributed a guardian artifact to everyone according to the predetermined list.

There were many types of guardian artifacts

Swords, spears, swords, halberds, necklaces, earrings, and various types of spiritual artifacts

Enhancing Spiritual Energy, Physique, Spiritual Power, and healing elixirs

Punches, kicks, magic, blades, and swords of various Silver Level martial techniques

In the upcoming competition, examiners need to protect their respective artifacts.

If a candidate eliminates an examiner, the artifact becomes the candidate's.

Interestingly, there's a rule.

During the competition, as long as a candidate eliminates an examiner and obtains an artifact, the candidate can handle them freely, whether it's consuming elixirs, cultivating martial techniques, or using spiritual artifact equipment.

But examiners can't handle these artifacts privately. However, if the examiner survives until the end without being eliminated before the ring battles, they will own the artifacts obtained from eliminating candidates.

This prompts both examiners and candidates to try their best to eliminate each other and strive to survive to the end, greatly enhancing the conflict and highlights of the event.

Additionally, if candidates and examiners are dissatisfied with the acquired artifacts, they can exchange them for items of equal value after the competition.

Upon hearing this rule, Qin Tian immediately turned his attention to those examiners holding the secret manual jade slips.

Li Qi and Feng Mochuan were just lacking Silver Level techniques and martial techniques. Now, hasn't the chance presented itself?!

As long as the candidates eliminate these people, and he then eliminates the candidates, the techniques and martial techniques would be smoothly acquired.

Qin Tian glanced at the elixir in his hand. Coincidentally, he had used this elixir before.

Azure Wood Life Pill

A top-grade healing divine medicine

At that time, he was under the Curse of the Evil God, and it was the Azure Wood Life Pill that saved half his life.

Unexpectedly, this time, the guardian artifact given to him, a C-level examiner, was also the Azure Wood Life Pill.

The Dongfang clan is truly wealthy and powerful~

Qin Tian raised his eyes, looking around, a hot glow appearing in his eyes, as if a hunter had spotted its prey.

Chapter 223: Genius Tournament Begins

"Hello, dear audience, welcome to today's Azure Wood Star Realm Talent Battle, I'm your host, Zhao Wenmo."

On the luxurious stage, the handsome host, dressed in a suit, smiled gently.

"I'm your host, Jin Xiaojia."

Another sweet-looking female host said with a smile.

On the largest streaming platform in the Azure Wood Star Realm, the screen was flooded with bullet comments like a tsunami.

"It's starting, it's starting! I've been waiting forever."

"That brother is so handsome, worthy of being a host famous for his looks."

"Wow, this stage is so white, and the microphone is so long."

The long-awaited Azure Wood Star Realm Talent Battle finally officially kicked off today.

The two hosts, both with outstanding looks, quickly brought the atmosphere of the scene to life, and then, video introductions of star contestants began playing on the big screen behind them.

"My name is Fu Ning, I come from Taichu Star, and I am a Tier Five Six star Spiritualist..."

A handsome young man appeared on the big screen, the silver light illuminating the sharp contours of his profile, as his Profound Iron Heavy Sword carried with it the sound of dragons tearing through the air.

At the moment the blade touched the river's surface, the entire river seemed to be ripped apart by an invisible giant hand, as deep blue water light exploded into countless ice crystals, revealing the jagged blue stones at the riverbed, the backflowing waves condensing in mid-air into a silver curtain, reflecting the golden Sword Qi erupting around the young man, as if chaos at the beginning of heaven and earth was being split anew.

"Fu Ning!"

"Fu Ning!"

People from Taichu Star began spamming the screen for their genius, and Fu Ning's handsomeness and elegance immediately captured the hearts of many young girls.

In the ratings by professional agencies, Fu Ning was the first to be rated as a Five Star Genius and was not just a Tier Five Six star Spiritualist, but also the new generation successor of the Golden Level family, the Fu Family, of the Celestial Profound Sword Body.

Then, the second star contestant's video appeared.

It was a tall and burly man with shoulders broad as mountains, not particularly handsome but exuding rugged masculinity. In the video, he introduced himself with a deep voice.

"Hello everyone, I'm Yue Shenghe, from Houtu Star, a Tier Five Five star Spiritualist..."

Facing a hill tens of meters high, the earth-yellow dragon patterns wrapped around Yue Shenghe's right arm suddenly awoke with the flow of Spiritual Energy. As his right fist filled with dark golden light, the ground under his feet groaned under the weight, and he punched towards the hill.

In an instant, the wind of the punch, accompanied by the sound of rocks shattering, ripped through the air, as sand and dust for kilometers around frantically gathered like living entities, exploding into a thunderous roar louder than a storm when fist met hill.

The surface rocks and soil of the hill boiled like magma, the dark golden Fist Seal deeply embedding itself into the mountain with visible speed, spiderweb-like cracks spread along the Fist Seal, as if an ancient seal was being split open by a giant ax. The next second, the entire hill exploded, countless rocks wrapped in earth-yellow air waves shot skyward.

"Yue Shenghe!"

"Yue Shenghe!"

The new contestant overwhelmed the screen, with the audience from Houtu Star waving flags and cheering for their genius.

Yue Shenghe, inheritor of the Golden Level bloodline, known as the Panlong Battle Body.

Soon after, the third star contestant took the stage.

"Hello everyone, I am Wu Ziyang, from Mars, a Tier Five Five star Spirit Mage."

The scarlet fire-lotus gown embroidered with golden edges whirled around the girl as she spun, the embroidered red lotus patterns on the hem bursting into dazzling light.

She lightly tapped the ruby at the tip of her magic staff with her fingertip, and in an instant, the sky was torn open by a blood-red breach, and the clear sky turned into a burning furnace.

Rolling red clouds like boiling magma poured down with sharp explosions, countless fireballs dragged blazing tails across the sky, twisting the air into a red vortex wherever they passed.

The girl looked up and smiled in the center of the firestorm, the gilded hairpin in her hair flickering sparks, making the cinnabar at the corner of her eyes even more gorgeous, as if an elf born from the lava, painting a picture of destruction and splendor with flames as her brush in the space between heaven and earth.

"Wu Ziyang!"

"Wu Ziyang!!!"

Fans of the pretty girl were exceptionally numerous, with bullet comments like a tsunami rivaling the opening ceremony.

Wu Ziyang, inheritor of the Golden Level Xinghuo Clan.

Subsequently, videos of ten star contestants appeared on the big screen, all of whom without exception were Tier Five Four Stars and above, Golden Level bloodline Spiritualists.

When the videos finished playing, these ten most popular star contestants ascended the stage, immediately causing another wave of bullet comment frenzy.

One after another, contestants took the stage as the host announced their names, and supporters from their hometowns would immediately spam the screen with comments.

A hundred talents all ascended the stage, and then, the host finally revealed the venue for this Talent Battle's trial.

"The trial venue this time is at——Yingmu Star, Shuiyue New City!"

Boom!

Upon the venue's announcement, both on-site and on the bullet screen, there was a heated reaction.

"Yingmu Star! The construction of Yingmu Star is finally complete!"

"Haha, the Dongfang Clan is amazing, transforming a satellite unsuitable for human habitation into a livable environment."

"I can't afford a house on Azure Wood Star, but I might be able to make a run for Yingmu Star."

Yingmu Star is one of the ten satellites orbiting in the space orbit of Azure Wood Star, previously serving as a temporary docking site for the Space Fleet, mainly used for near-earth observation and also for protective tasks.

But due to its harsh environment and thin atmosphere, this satellite itself was not suitable for human habitation.

In recent decades, however, the Empire has made significant advances in planetary atmosphere technology, and the Dongfang Clan, utilizing various Spirit Plants, has carried out an overall environmental transformation of Yingmu Star, finally completing this big project this year.

Evidently, the Dongfang Clan plans to use the hype from the Talent Battle to promote Yingmu Star and attract investment in the initial construction of this planet.

Yingmu Star, Shuiyue New City

The hundred talents were also surprised about the trial location; the previous trial locations were within Azure Wood Star, but now, it's been relocated to a near-earth satellite, suggesting that a spaceship will probably come to pick them up and transport them to Yingmu Star.

As expected, the host said:

"Next, the War Eagle One, developed by the Deville Spaceship Company, will carry our talents to Yingmu Star. Look, the spaceship is already here."

At this moment, the bullet screen was immediately filled with complaints.

"Damn, I knew there would be an advertisement."

"Resist Deville Company!"

"Trash company, don't ride their spaceship."

A shadow cast down, as a spaceship resembling a falcon broke through the clouds, slowly descending in mid-air.

Swish!

Then a beam of strong white light fell onto the stage, enveloping all the talents.

Soon after, the talents vanished from the audience's sight.

The big screen displayed the interior view of the spaceship.

The hundred talents were directly transferred inside the spaceship.

"This is... spatial guidance technology!"

"Wow, even a small spaceship is equipped with this technology."

"I love it, I want to customize one now."

The bullet screen swiftly turned, filled with praises for the War Eagle One.

The spaceship broke through the atmosphere carrying the talents, accelerating in space, and within fifteen minutes it arrived at Shuiyue New City on Yingmu Star.

In the next hour, the talents needed to go to different locations according to the instructions, which is also to prevent the competition among contestants from happening too early.

An hour later, following a voice echoing in the city sky.

The Azure Wood Star Realm Talent Battle officially begins.

## Chapter 224: The First Battle

"It's finally about to begin!"

Liu Yu walked along the streets of Shuiyue New City. Looking around, the buildings stood in rows, and various beautiful plants decorated the environment, full of vitality.

"The environment on Yingmu Star isn't bad. Why don't I buy a house here in the future?"

"No, with my current commercial value, it's enough to buy a house on Azure Wood Star."

He came from Moon Embrace Star. Ever since the Genius competition's top 100 list was announced, and his name was among them, all major businesses and brands on Moon Embrace Star approached him, offering him lucrative endorsement contracts.

From the moment he made the list, he became the hottest young talent on the planet, a supergenius in the hearts of the people, carrying the hopes of everyone on the planet, determined to bring glory to Moon Embrace Star.

Countless spotlights shone on him. The planet's governor, chief, and other big figures met with him, making him feel exuberant and prideful.

The only thing that discontented him was that the professional institutions rated him as a Three Star Genius.

Although it wasn't the lowest One Star, he felt that Three Stars was definitely an underestimate of his abilities.

Sure, I'm not a Five Star Genius

But am I not at least a Four Star?

Stupid institutions, watch me slap your face!

Liu Yu continued down the street, with numerous miniature cameras pointed at him from various corners and above, projecting the scene onto livestream split-screens.

Once the battle of geniuses officially commenced, the stream would be divided into a hundred channels, allowing netizens to freely switch between different geniuses' livestreams.

At that moment, over 40% of Moon Embrace Star's population flooded into Liu Yu's livestream room.

Barrage comments kept popping up

"Liu Yu, go for it, you are the pride of our Moon Embrace Star!"

"Liu Yu is my neighbor's kid. I held him when he was young."

"Defeat the other geniuses, bring honor to our Moon Embrace Star!"

Liu Yu was also aware that at this moment, over a billion of his fellow countrymen were watching his stream. He paid extra attention to his appearance, maintaining a stern look, holding his longsword, exuding the aura of a top-tier genius.

Just then, a shadow appeared at the end of the street. A person in black attire wearing a Black Crow mask glanced at Liu Yu and then turned to leave.

"Finally, a chance to encounter an examiner."

Liu Yu muttered to himself, a confident smile appearing on his face.

Familiar with the competition's rules, he immediately recognized that the earlier figure was a C-level examiner, ranked middling among all examiners.

With his skills, he was more than capable of taking on a C-level examiner alone.

In doing so, he could not only showcase his strength to the planet's people but also seize the examiner's guardian artifact.

Spiritual Artifact, Elixirs, Secret Manuals

No matter which one, he would happily accept.

"Don't leave!"

Azure wings sprouted behind Liu Yu, wind roaring as he flew up quickly, chasing after the shadow.

...

On Moon Embrace Star, the official livestream invited two local Tier Six experts to join the channel and analyze the situation.

"Dear audience, many of you may not be familiar with the competition's rules. Let me quickly explain. "

"This genius competition has 180 examiners, alongside an unknown number of spirit plants and spirit beasts to test participants, but let's not focus on those. The examiners are divided into three levels: A, B, and C. Among them, A-level is the highest, with only four such examiners. There are 12 B-level examiners, dressed in Zodiac costumes, and the rest are all C-level examiners, usually wearing beast masks."

"As for the examiner that appeared earlier, wearing the Black Crow mask, he was a C-level examiner."

"In my opinion, with Liu Yu's strength of Tier Five, Two Stars, and Silver Level lineage, he has a great chance of defeating the opponent. Let's wait and see!"

Barrage comments showed a flood of support for Liu Yu.

"Young Master Yu, charge, take down that Black Crow!"

"Tiny Black Crow, easy to crush, Liu Yu, charge!"

"Take down the Black Crow, and I'll buy the brand of underwear you endorse!"

"Young Master Yu, use the Black Crow as a sacrifice for your sword and start with a stunning victory!!!"

...

Liu Yu flew over the street, spotting Black Crow at the corner with a single glance.

"Meeting me is your misfortune, your career as an examiner ends here!"

A cold glint flashed in Liu Yu's eyes. The azure wings behind him thundered, hurtling down with a thunderous force, the azure light entwining his sword's spine formed a roaring Wind Dragon shadow.

As he spun and swung his sword, a radius of a hundred meters distorted, tearing up plants from the roots to twine with roaring winds, forming an azure wind drill with a diameter of ten meters, slicing the air with piercing screeches.

"Azure Wind Sword—Wind Dragon Drill!"

With a thunderous shout, the drill, accompanied by dragon roars, smashed into the ground.

The terrifying wind pressure shattered the street's blue bricks into dust, wind blades carrying debris poured down like a storm, buildings along the street crumbled, beams breaking with a roar, mingling with the howling winds in an apocalyptic symphony.

Amidst the rising dust, cracks like a spider's web spread across a hundred meters of ground, remnants of azure sword qi slicing through the void, turning shattered walls into countless fragments.

"What an impressive move!"

"Young Master Yu is invincible!"

"That Black Crow won't be left in pieces, this is brutal, too brutal!"

At this moment, one of the Tier Six commentators spoke up:

"Dear audience, the selection of examiners is also very strict. I think Liu Yu has the ability to eliminate the opponent but it's challenging to do so with just one move."

"Let's calm down and keep watching."

As the dust settled, Liu Yu stood in the middle of the crater, yet no one was around him. Black Crow's figure was nowhere to be seen.

Missed

Liu Yu was startled. He hadn't expected Black Crow's speed to be so quick as to dodge the wind sword technique renowned for its speed.

Just then, there was a commotion behind him. Turning swiftly, Liu Yu saw Black Crow standing nearly a hundred meters away, calmly watching him.

"Didn't expect Black Crow to have some skills, pretty quick to run."

"No matter, that was just a test. The real dominance begins now."

"Go for it, Young Master Yu, defeat this Black Crow."

The people of Moon Embrace Star still had great faith in Liu Yu. That was just a minor move; Black Crow narrowly escaped. Next, if Liu Yu got serious, a small C-level examiner was surely no match for Moon Embrace Star's top genius.

Liu Yu looked at Black Crow, azure winds curling around his sword blade. In a clash of experts, one strike could reveal the opponent's level.

Black Crow's agile dodge earlier clearly indicated he was a speed-agile Spirit Martial Artist, with a combat style similar to Liu Yu's. To defeat such an opponent, one must be faster and more ruthless.

With this thought, Liu Yu said no more, stepped on azure winds, and charged toward Black Crow like a streak of azure lightning.

Beneath the Black Crow mask, Qin Tian's lips curled slightly, as dark energy, deep and mysterious, gathered on his fists.

"Perfect, I'll use you to refine my new fist technique."

Chapter 225: Instant Kill with a Single Slash

The roar thundered through the skies, as dense black vapor swirled around Qin Tian like turbulent waves.

Facing Liu Yu, who was shrouded in azure light and diving downward, Qin Tian's step forward cracked the ground, and the instant his fists struck out, the void seemed to be torn by a giant hand, with dark purple lines decorating the shattered space like a spider web.

Dark Prison Demon-Suppressing Fist—Dark Prison Heaven Prison!

The black spiritual energy condensed into substance, transforming into a gigantic cage engraved with ancient demon patterns, the ghostly green toxic mist dripping from the iron bars corroded the air, enveloping Liu Yu instantly.

Dense fist seals poured down like a torrential rain, carrying the oppressive force to suppress ten thousand demons, blasting towards the cage.

At this moment, the azure light around Liu Yu surged, and the dragon-like sword hum tore through the shackles. An azure dragon formed from countless strands of sword qi burst out, its dragon head high, tearing the air as it went.

Qin Tian's pupils shrank suddenly, as the black mist around him erupted, swallowing all his sounds, and he instantly teleported like a ghost behind Liu Yu.

Dark Prison Demon-Suppressing Fist—Demon Shadow Shattering Void!

His fist, wrapped with world-destroying power, struck out violently, and where the fist wind passed, even light twisted into strange vortices.

In the nick of time, the Azure Wind Wings behind Liu Yu transformed into a Jade Shield adorned with flowing runes, as Azure Wind Sword Qi burst from within him like a dazzling star river.

Countless strands of sword qi clashed with Qin Tian's heavy fist, and the energy shockwaves swept a hundred-meter radius into a flat expanse of ruins, while azure and black light fiercely battled in midair, sparking like meteor showers scorching the earth with a dense pattern of burn marks.

Selected as a three star genius from among countless prodigies, Liu Yu was naturally not so easily defeated.

He was a silver-level bloodline Spirit Martial Artist, his lineage called the Thundering Battle Body.

Qin Tian retreated dozens of meters, with tiny cuts torn open on his fists by the sword qi, but within half a breath, they recovered fully.

A clear dragon roar echoed through the sky, as the azure sword qi dragon spiraled around, changing direction, and descended towards Qin Tian with annihilating momentum.

Wherever it passed, the air was completely driven away, and the buildings and trees on the ground were crushed to dust under the invisible pressure.

Qin Tian's black hair flew, and the black mist around him surged like substance. He stepped forward, his right fist suddenly swelling three times larger, as dark purple spiritual energy madly gathered along the arm's veins, creating ripples that distorted space at his fist's edge.

Dark Prison Demon-Suppressing Fist—Demon Suppressing Celestial Punishment!

In an instant, the world changed colors, as a trace of black appeared in the clouds, and a giant fist condensed from the void, with ancient demon-suppressing runes flowing with a ghostly glow on the fist's surface, seemed to carry the supreme will to suppress evil demons since eternity, striking out with earth-opening momentum.

At the moment when the two forces collided, time and space seemed to freeze.

The bristles of the Azure Dragon wrapped around the black fist seal, with its claws frantically tearing at the runes; while the Demon Suppressing Fist Seal, like Mount Tai collapsing, attempted to crush the Azure Dragon.

The energy shockwaves swept like hurricanes, instantly gouging hundred-meter-deep ravines across several kilometers of land, as flying soil and stones were ground into powder in midair by the energy.

Blazing azure light intertwined with deep black light, while their burst of light was even more dazzling than the sun, blinding to the eyes.

The deafening roar lasted for nearly half a minute.

Finally, the body of the Azure Dragon crumbled inch by inch, dissolving into scattered azure light; the black fist seal also shattered with a boom, turning into countless black beams that vanished into the void.

The battlefield center only left a mess, silently narrating the brutality of this duel.

At this moment, the bullet comments on the stream rose like a tsunami.

"Wow, this Black Crow is quite strong!"

"Far more impressive than I expected, and if a C-level examiner is this formidable, then an A-level examiner would be absolutely incredible."

"Don't worry, Young Master Yu's trump card must still be unrevealed."

"Liu Yu, come on, defeat Black Crow!"

Liu Yu took a deep breath, adjusted his breathing, and looked at the opposite side calmly. The opponent's strength somewhat surprised him.

This set of fist techniques is very strong; it should be a silver-level martial technique, and judging from the fist intent attributes, it likely comes from a general of the Demon Suppression Abyss.

It's just, Black Crow hasn't mastered this fist technique completely; the spiritual energy isn't condensed enough, otherwise, it really could've posed him significant trouble.

"The battle should end."

A glint of cold light flickered in Liu Yu's eyes.

"Tsk, as expected, lacking in talent for fist techniques, this Dark Prison Demon-Suppressing Fist is indeed difficult to train to a minor achievement."

Qin Tian quietly lamented, the Celestial Punishment Nine Strikes, this silver-level swordsmanship, he mastered in a day, grasped the essence in a week, and reached great success in a month.

However, in the cultivation of the Dark Prison Demon-Suppressing Fist, he did put in a lot of effort daily, but the progress was relatively slow.

The actual combat performance was indeed not satisfactory.

"Forget it, I won't play with you anymore, it's time to end this."

Qin Tian drew the Black Frost Blade from his waist, with the blade tip pointing diagonally, marking a hunting mark on the opponent.

His aura significantly condensed, speed increased by 70%, attack power increased by 50%, and when the prey is isolated, every attack will cause 120% critical damage.

Whoosh—

Cyan currents coiled around Liu Yu like spirit snakes, emitting sharp hissing in rapid rotation.

In an instant, thousands of air currents condensed into an azure dragon phantom over ten feet long, with its dragon bristles dancing wildly in the wind, its dragon's eyes flickering with a captivating azure light.

The longsword in Liu Yu's hand flared with cold light, and the ground beneath him cracked with a boom, as he charged towards Qin Tian with the azure dragon phantom at lightning speed.

"Storm Sword—Azure Dragon Devour!"

The voice was clear and resounded through the sky.

"Bring it on!"

Qin Tian roared, purple electricity flashing fiercely in his eyes, as the lightning surrounding him crackled explosively.

In an instant, the aura around him surged, his battle sword wrapped in purple lightning, the domineering sword intent spreading like substance.

Before the words were finished, Qin Tian's figure had turned into a purple flash, rushing towards the azure dragon phantom.

In a flash, azure gales howled, purple lightning raged.

In the breath-held gaze of billions of viewers, a blue and a purple figure collided with a thunderous boom.

The collision of two terrifying forces erupted with a world-shaking roar, twisting and shocking the space.

At this critical moment, time seemed to be paused.

The two figures passed by each other

Black Crow took a few slow steps forward, with a "click," placing the battle sword back into the scabbard.

Liu Yu stood motionless as if under an immobilization spell.

Then suddenly, with a "screech," his clothes in front were torn by an invisible force, revealing a deep, gruesome wound down to the bone.

Blood gushed out like a breached dike's flood, as Liu Yu turned his head with difficulty, eyes filled with unwillingness, finally, his body collapsed powerlessly onto the cold ground like a kite with a broken string.

"Moon Embrace Star, Liu Yu eliminated."

"Sirius, Mo Wuya eliminated."

"Mark Star, Andre eliminated."

Within just a minute, the city broadcast continuously announced the elimination of three contestants.

At this moment, on the Moon Embrace Star's live channel, the bullet comments were completely clean and silent.

Nobody expected, Liu Yu, on whom tens of billions placed high hopes, to become the first eliminated genius.

Chapter 226: The Willow Tree on Huxin Island

A green light shone on Liu Yu's body.

Every examiner and contestant would wear a piece of Qingmu jade before entering Shuiyue New City. When they are seriously injured, the Qingmu jade will automatically activate and heal their wounds. However, this also means that the examiner and contestant are eliminated.

Liu Yu stood up, his heart filled with unwillingness and regret. He never expected that this Black Crow before him would be so powerful. That overwhelmingly strong slash still made him shiver all over just thinking about it.

If he had known, he definitely would have avoided this person.

But if even a C-level examiner is this terrifying, can they really challenge the B-level and A-level ones?

Watching Black Crow disappear at the end of the street, Liu Yu stood silently for a long time. He knew that, being the first eliminated contestant, his name is now nailed to this year's pillar of shame, becoming the biggest joke of Azure Wood Star Realm, when he should have brought glory to Moon Embrace Star.

Thinking of this, he felt all strength leaving his body, almost unable to hold his longsword.

"All eliminated contestants, please proceed immediately to the rest area."

The city's broadcast sounded again. Liu Yu sighed, bowed deeply to the empty street, and left dejectedly.

At this moment, Liu Yu's live broadcast room was in an uproar.

"Trash, I believed in you for nothing, and you were the first one to get eliminated!"

"Damn, you've really embarrassed Moon Embrace Star, I won't buy anything you endorse from now on!"

"You call yourself a three star genius? I think even One Star gives you too much credit. You should have just hidden in a corner instead of actively confronting others, truly lacking any self-awareness."

"No matter what, Liu Yu made it into the top hundred geniuses, letting the name of Moon Embrace Star be known to the outside world. He just had bad luck choosing the wrong opponent, is that reason enough for you to disparage him so?"

"Exactly, Young Master Yu, I still support you. You will always be the pride of Moon Embrace Star."

On Moon Embrace Star, various merchants and brands rapidly contacted Liu Yu's agent. Now Liu Yu's failure has clearly affected the brand image, and they decided to immediately terminate the contracts.

Some brands even demanded that Liu Yu bear the high compensation stipulated in the betting agreement.

The once flower-wreathed and honor-clad genius had thus fallen.

And this is the pressure of the genius battle.

If you win, you would naturally become a media darling, favored by capital, with countless wealth and glory raining down upon you like a storm.

But if you lose, and lose miserably, all the glory will immediately leave you, your name will be nailed to the pillar of shame, and you won't be able to recover for a long time.

.....

"There are really a lot of cameras here~"

Spiritual power extended outward, and one by one, the camera devices were clearly presented in Qin Tian's mind.

Cameras were installed at every corner of the street, seemingly inconspicuous flies, ants, dragonflies, and even the birds flying overhead, all disguised as surveillance devices.

Even the buildings on both sides of the street were filled with cameras.

The entire city virtually had no blind spots in monitoring.

Feeling somewhat uneasy under surveillance, Qin Tian was relieved knowing that the live broadcasts were from the contestants' perspectives. As long as he didn't enter the contestants' live broadcast channels, no one would know what he was doing.

Smell, hearing, and heat source detection radiated out.

Most of the city was within his sensing range, as streams of information were integrated into his brain, quickly forming a real-time dynamic hotspot map.

"Have contestants already formed an alliance so quickly?"

Qin Tian looked towards the southeast. There, three humanoid heat sources emitted warmth, along with a plant-shaped heat source point. It seemed that aside from the examiners, that was a fixed monster.

Like the examiners, spirit plant monsters also guarded artifacts.

"Let's go over and see, let me join the chaos."

Qin Tian's lips curled into a faint smile as he walked into the initial shadow of the street. Light distortion occurred, and his figure vanished instantly.

.....

In the southeast corner of the city, there was a forest park, with a Huxin Island in the center of the park.

A hundred-meter tall giant plant of a verdant willow shape stood towering, its twisted trunk covered with scale-like patterns resembling ancient trees of a thousand years, thousands of willow branches transformed into dark green long whips, wildly dancing in the air, creating a whirlpool of death, attacking the three figures around it.

Mo Qingyu, a young man in white, had a face cold as frost, with the Profound Iron Blade emitting a biting cold light. Each slash cut through the air with flowing radiance, slicing the lashing willows into a sky full of emerald snow. His steps followed a mysterious pattern, his figure ghost-like as he wove through the shadowy whips, directing his sword where sawdust flew.

Andrew, the man with red hair, had his hair standing on end, Steel Claws gleaming with cold light under the moon, emitting beast-like low growls. His scarlet pupils danced with combat fervor as he agilely flipped and dodged, Steel Claws slashing the willow branches like scythes, with dark green sap splattering on the ground, instantly corroding into wisps of white smoke.

From afar, the red Magic Robe fluttered, and the Female Mage Nangong Yue waved her Magic Staff. The ruby at the staff's tip burst forth dazzling red light, with countless fireballs dragging orange-red tails roaring out, exploding on the giant willow.

The Flame Shield around her was swallowing and spitting fiery tongues, reducing the occasional breakthrough willow branches to ashes. The strong smell of scorching mixed with the scent of magic energy, permeating the air.

The three heroes battled the willow tree, cooperating quite tacitly.

In fact, the three of them did not know each other, just simultaneously discovering the monster on Huxin Island, deciding to form a temporary alliance to first defeat the willow tree. After acquiring the guardian artifact, they would duel each other.

At this moment, the live broadcast rooms of the three were extremely lively.

Audiences from each planet cheered for their geniuses, while some barged into other genius's live broadcast room, engaging in heated debates with netizens.

"What is Andrew doing, just playing soy sauce, most of the pressure was on our big brother."

"You can't rely on a woman; a Fire Mage causes less damage to the willow tree than half of what our big brother did. Are you sending up fireworks?"

"Don't you have eyes? If it weren't for our Xiao Yue using the Fire Ring Technique to protect Mo Qingyu, he would have been tied up by the willow tree like a meat dumpling. Well, Andrew really is playing soy sauce; it makes no difference whether he's there or not."

"Hell no, without Andrew's strong body blocking in front, would Nangong Yue even have the chance to cast spells? Shameless Dongfang people!"

"Western Barbarian, get out of Azure Wood Star Realm!"

The originally cheering live broadcast rooms quickly turned into battlefields of multi-sided cursing matches. Three major stars, with billions of netizens crazily aligning, the dense barrage almost flooded the entire live stream.

Of course, there were also many netizens who genuinely supported the contestants, shutting off the barrage to focus on watching the contestants' performances.

Just when everyone focused on the three contestants fighting the willow tree, no one noticed that the stirred lake surface suddenly had a slight anomalous ripple, as if something had dived in.

Chapter 227: Green Crystal Stone

Pff~

Qin Tian dove into the lake. At first glance, he saw the towering willow tree, hundreds of meters tall, with its roots deeply embedded in the lakebed.

Surrounding the roots was a circle of Green Crystal Stones, and besides that, there was also a treasure chest.

"That should be the willow tree's guardian artifact."

Qin Tian's lips curved into a smile; while the geniuses outside were locked in battle with the willow tree, he was stealthily stealing treasure. The thrill was simply irresistible.

Buzz~~

At that moment, the Soul-Devouring Demon Vine on his wrist suddenly became excited, rising at the top to point at the circle of Green Crystal Stones.

"Jie La, do you want those Green Crystal Stones?"

Qin Tian was taken aback. The willow tree's root was intertwined with the Green Crystal Stones. If he were to take them, it would surely alert the willow tree. Not that he feared the tree, but it would indeed be troublesome.

Moreover, he had already noticed the presence of cameras on the lakebed; if he wanted to take the Green Crystal Stones, his Invisibility Ability would inevitably be exposed.

Swish swish~~

The vine's tip swayed up and down, mimicking a human's nodding motion.

"Alright, since you want them, I'll get them for you."

Qin Tian stared at the circle of Green Crystal Stones beneath the tree roots. In reality, combat wasn't the only way to take the stones; other methods might be worth a try as well.

The Light Distortion dissipated as Qin Tian intentionally released a faint aura, quickly diving downwards.

In an instant, the willow tree sensed his presence, and the underwater section fell into a frenzy. Dozens of thick roots, like squid tentacles, surged towards him.

Meanwhile, the camera on the lakebed clearly captured his figure.

The director was quick on their feet, immediately splitting the live broadcast screen. The left showed the scene of geniuses battling the willow tree on the shore, while the right depicted the sudden turn of events underwater.

The split screen's appearance instantly stirred up the live broadcast room.

"Holy shit, there's a thief!!!"

"Shameless thief, when did he sneak in."

"Stop fighting, stop fighting, catch the thief now!"

"This guy is incredible, sneaking into the lake right under the eyes of three geniuses."

"But I bet he didn't expect the underwater willow tree isn't easy to mess with; he's in deep trouble now!"

Dozens of roots rushed towards Qin Tian. Under the water, their swinging speed wasn't fast, yet they blocked all escape routes.

Just as the audience prepared to fire mocking comments, the next scene left them dumbfounded.

Black Crow Examiner slowly raised his right hand.

The next moment, all roots instantly halted before him, as if the world had stopped.

Whoosh

A root slowly approached, gently touching Black Crow Examiner's right hand, and then wiggled happily like a pet being petted by its owner.

"WTF??? What did I just see?"

"No, bro, what kind of ability is this? Is someone from the Dongfang Clan guest starring?"

"A rig! This is definitely a rig!!!"

The comments exploded; all the viewers were surprised and extremely furious.

On the shore, the three geniuses were locked in a life-and-death struggle with the willow tree, while underwater, the examiner and the willow tree were all lovey-dovey.

Supporters of the geniuses couldn't accept it and began bombarding the comments, complaining to the officials.

"Indeed, the power of the Sovereign of the Verdant Wilds is useful."

Under the mask, Qin Tian slightly lifted the corners of his mouth. He wasn't worried about exposing his Plant Affinity ability. If anyone questioned him in the future, he'd claim it was a new ability acquired after receiving the Tree God's blessing.

As long as there was traceable evidence, an ability should be used when necessary.

Qin Tian grabbed the tree roots, being pulled swiftly to the lakebed. At this moment, Jie La suddenly grew, the vine developing suction cup-like patterns, coiling around half of the willow roots, absorbing over seventy percent of the Green Crystal Stones, voraciously absorbing the energy within.

Buzz~~

The roots waded, the willow expressing its dissatisfaction.

Qin Tian hurriedly held onto the willow tree's roots, then the power of the Sovereign of the Verdant Wilds flowed into it like a stream.

Boom!!!

A dark current whirlpool emerged underwater, and the willow tree, like it was on a stimulant, burst out with astounding energy on the shore.

.....

Swish~~

A few willow branches lashed from the side. Mo Qingyu had already grasped the attack patterns of the willow branches. Compared to the versatile changes of a Spiritualist's Martial Techniques, this Spirit Plant fought purely on instinct. After a while, its attacks were hardly threatening.

However, the willow's Defense Power and Life Force were unbelievably strong. The trio had given their all, employing every means available, but still couldn't topple the willow.

Now, they had to slowly wear down its health, much like battling a boss-level wild monster in a game.

Mo Qingyu raised his hand to swing his sword at the willow branches, and at the same time, tapped the ground with his feet, like a bird trying to weave through the branches.

Yet, the branches that should have been easily severed were, at this moment, harder than high-grade alloy. The blade only left a white mark on them.

This change caught Mo Qingyu off guard, and his Body Technique hesitated slightly, allowing the willow branches to seize the opportunity and lash at his front and back like whips.

The violent force shattered the protective Spiritual Energy.

Mo Qingyu spun in the air like a top struck by a whip, circling several times before crashing heavily in the distance.

What!!

This scene shocked Andrew and Nangong Yue.

To know, in terms of strength, Mo Qingyu was the strongest among the three.

Mo Qingyu was a Four Star genius, whereas both of them were Three Stars.

Yet, the situation changed; the Mo Qingyu, who was becoming increasingly adept, was now overturned by the willow tree in two lashes.

What on earth happened?

Clap clap~~

The branches grew wildly, like hair flying in chaos, whipping towards the three.

Andrew and Nangong Yue dared not be careless, withdrawing their attacks and focusing their attention on defense.

On the other hand, despite being knocked by two lashes, Mo Qingyu, being a Four Star genius, managed to stabilize his surging Qi and Blood, though his chest and back hurt fiercely, the injuries weren't considered severe.

He maintained utmost vigilance and unleashed the Celestial Profound Sword Intent. This time, the branches couldn't withstand the sword's power and broke piece by piece.

However, the branches' self-healing ability was equally terrifying, regrowing rapidly to rain down on the trio again.

At this, the comments practically exploded like an explosion.

"What's happening, why does this willow tree seem like it's on drugs."

"Damn! That Black Crow is definitely from the Dongfang Clan, with the Qingmu Bloodline ability identical."

"Rig! Rig! I protest, I must report!!!"

"Stop fighting guys, hurry to the lake bottom and check it out!"

Mo Qingyu and the other two were unaware of the underwater anomaly. They simply felt that this willow tree was way too unusual, why did it suddenly become so fierce.

Then, Andrew suddenly spoke:

"I feel like it's on its last legs. This is a resistance before death. Hang in there a bit longer, victory is near."

"Okay!"

Mo Qingyu and Nangong Yue responded in unison.

Seeing this, the comments exploded even more.

"Not on its last legs, it's on drugs."

"Three big fools, their home is being robbed!"

"Haha, I'm dying laughing, today's ghost video has a material."

The battle on the shore continued

Under the water, Jie La absorbed all the energy from the Green Crystal Stones, coiling back into a bracelet, Purple Leaf shaking to convey a burst of elation to Qin Tian.

Qin Tian smiled, then slowly swam towards the treasure chest and opened it.

Chapter 228: Spirit Forged Soft Gold, Black Frost Enhancement

After the box opened, a pale golden material appeared before Qin Tian, resembling metal, yet in the ripple of water, it trembled slightly like a piece of jelly.

"What is this?"

Qin Tian gently touched the surface of the material, and instantly, a divine thought hidden within it entered his mind.

"Spirit Forged Soft Gold."

Qin Tian's mouth opened slightly, releasing a few bubbles.

Spirit Forged Soft Gold is a very special spiritual metal. It can seamlessly blend into a weapon, enhancing the weapon's hardness and Spiritual Energy conductivity, and it can also amplify Spiritual Energy, elevating the power of Spiritual Martial Techniques to a new level.

Good stuff!!

Qin Tian's eyes lit up. His Black Frost Blade was exchanged for with Military Points. This Battle Sword was not weak and could support battles up to Tier Six.

However, this is only the ideal state.

Black Frost is a Battle Sword forged from various alloys, sharp enough but lacking in spirituality, making it somewhat too ordinary compared to those Spiritual Artifacts.

But it's different after infusing with Spirit Forged Soft Gold.

Not only does it significantly enhance hardness and sharpness, but it also boosts Spiritual Energy destructive power.

For a Battle Sword, these two points are sufficient.

The special functions that other Spiritual Artifacts have can be completely compensated by his Talent.

The use of Spirit Forged Soft Gold is quite simple; just attach it to the weapon.

Qin Tian's wrist flicked slightly, and as the Black Frost was unsheathed, it brought forth a piercing cold brilliance.

He pressed the Spirit Forged Soft Gold to the blade, and the metallic blob with an amber sheen suddenly vibrated violently, climbing up the blade like a living creature.

As the viscous golden liquid flowed over, the blade emitted a bee-like clear hum, and the frost-colored knife patterns abruptly lit up with a ghostly blue cold light, intertwining with the golden liquid, as if ice and fire were dancing together on the blade.

When the last wisp of soft gold seeped into the hilt, flowing gold patterns suddenly emerged on the surface of Black Frost.

Those lines seemed to be infused with life, sometimes winding like spiritual snakes dancing, sometimes condensing into mysterious runes, complementing the frost-colored knife patterns, weaving out a mysterious rhythm on the blade.

The chill emitted by the blade became more bone-piercing, and in the air around the blade, tiny ice crystals formed, refracting the dazzling brilliance of gold and blue, as if the knife was no longer a cold weapon but a dormant fierce beast, ready to devour at any moment.

The events happening at the bottom of the lake were clearly broadcasted to the live room via camera.

The three major planets, billions of citizens were almost fainting with rage from this shameless Black Crow.

"Shameless thief! Put it down now!"

"Report him, I must report him!"

"Who knows Black Crow's true identity, even a tiny clue will do, I can definitely track him down."

"Yes, uncover him, everyone go and uncover him!"

At this moment, some netizens wandering through different live rooms noticed the angry barrage and after understanding the situation, they ridiculed with a hint of schadenfreude.

"Haha, three geniuses spun around by a C-level examiner, I'm laughing to death."

"Good job examiner, I support you."

"Who says the Talent Competition is only a stage for geniuses; examiners can also shine brilliantly, Black Crow, you're awesome!"

Qin Tian still did not know that he had already become the target billions of netizens wanted to expose, but even if he knew, he wouldn't care.

The Dongfang Clan strictly keeps examiner identities confidential, and they will not leak it.

Besides, he himself is a member of the Seventh Bureau. Even Eastern Cloud Sea cannot track his detailed files, let alone these netizens.

A few minutes later, the Spirit Forged Soft Gold was fully integrated into Black Frost.

Qin Tian infused a wisp of weak Spiritual Energy into the Battle Sword, and in an instant, a sharp blade glow appeared atop the blade.

Wow, the effect is superb!

Qin Tian was delighted, Jie La had a big meal, he succeeded in enhancing his weapon too, now the Black Frost Blade has undergone a kind of rebirth, in gaming terms, it's enhancement +10.

Among the weapons of Tier Six masters, it counts as high-end gear.

The Dongfang Clan, generous!

Having taken all the benefits, it's time to retreat.

Facing the camera, Qin Tian waved his hand, and then in front of tens of billions of pairs of eyes, his surrounding light distorted, and in the blink of an eye, he vanished.

"What the...! Invisibility!!!"

"Isn't this the ability every man dreams of having, Master, teach me!"

"No wonder he could enter the lake bottom unnoticed, turns out he has invisibility ability, this is too cunning."

"Which family's bloodline also has invisibility ability, can I join by marriage? I think my future sons will thank me."

"Who can defend against invisibility! Report him, he must be reported!"

The barrage once again exploded, and the heat of the three major live streams surged all the way, directly squeezing into the top ten of the top one hundred live streams.

And this also attracted many bewildered netizens to join, after they learned the story from the barrage, they immediately got excited, bombarding information in every live room.

"Quickly go to these three live rooms for entertainment, three geniuses got played silly by the examiner."

"That examiner can turn invisible, go quickly to watch, or you won't see it later."

"The house has been robbed, and those three idiots are still fighting some wild monsters."

"Hilarious, this year's Talent Competition is too interesting."

The Talent Competition is the hottest topic today, and the scenes happening in the live room soon made the hot search.

"Three Star Genius? No, Fallen Genius!"

"Golden Bloodline Great Reveal."

"Fu Ning, one-sword defeat!"

"A-level Examiner, terrifying!"

"Black Crow, a man's dream."

Amid the hot search terms, something odd seemed to mix in.

...

"Grandmaster Ke, take a look at this video."

In the Elder Council, a young man holding a smart device walked over briskly, a hint of peculiarity in his tone.

"Xiaowen, what video is worth a special trip?"

Dongfang Ke clicked the video, after watching for a while, his eyes suddenly turned serious.

"Is this Plant Affinity, or some kind of Mind Control Ability, no, he can also enhance Deathwillows, it does resemble our Qingmu Bloodline a bit, he might be a disciple of the Liu Family."

"Invisibility? That's not rare, some assassin families also master similar abilities, but now I'm confused, which family is he actually from?"

"Grandmaster Ke, I checked, this Black Crow Examiner's original name is Qin Tian, he was recommended by Eastern Cloud Sea, he himself is a Colonel Officer from the Seventh Bureau, but the detailed information is not available."

"Eastern Cloud Sea, I remember that lad, he was quite a restless fellow back then, but now he's at the age of being a grandfather, even a great-grandfather, and he's become much more settled."

Dongfang Ke smiled faintly and said, "People from the Seventh Bureau, no problem then, Xiaowen, I understand your implication, no need to overthink, as long as he doesn't break the rules, let him play freely."

"The more chaotic the game, the more interesting it becomes."

"Got it!"

Chapter 229: All Things Essence Enhancing Pill

Puff~

Qin Tian emerged from the water without alerting anyone.

Looking at the three people intensely fighting near the willow tree, Qin Tian's lips curled into a slight smile as he quietly departed.

Walking down the street, Qin Tian released his Qi and Blood fluctuation, drying his drenched clothes.

Having used the ability of Invisibility in front of the public, he no longer hid it, maintaining his invisible state regularly to avoid being captured by any cameras.

The ability to be invisible sounds impressive, but in the eyes of experts, it's not much of a threat.

Because many things might deceive the eyes but not Spiritual Perception.

Experts have a powerful Spiritual Sense, and when foreign objects approach, they anticipate and lock in their location with Spiritual Power.

He managed to steal successfully under the noses of the three great geniuses, thanks to more than just Invisibility. The concealment of aura by Night Demon King and the Top Hunter was also essential.

Therefore, he wasn't worried about severe consequences from being exposed while invisible.

Bloodline abilities are bizarre and varied.

Invisibility, indeed, was nothing rare.

As inspiration spread, his sense of smell, hearing, and heat detection quickly locked onto targets, helping Qin Tian map out a biological hotspot chart.

Compared to just now, the number of contestants had noticeably decreased.

The city's broadcast constantly announced participant eliminations at intervals.

"The competition sure is intense~"

Qin Tian couldn't help but marvel that in just over half an hour, nearly twenty of the hundred top geniuses were eliminated, reducing participants by almost one-fifth.

Most eliminated were weak, likely One Star and Two Star geniuses, but some were genuinely unfortunate, encountering Five Star geniuses or A-level and B-level examiners, leading to their regretful exit.

"I need to speed things up."

Qin Tian looked to the side. Both examiners and participants could immediately use protective artifacts upon acquisition, just like himself, integrating Spirit Forged Soft Gold into the Black Frost Blade.

Spiritual Artifacts and Secret Manuals are preferable as they aren't consumable; acquisition timing doesn't matter much.

But Elixirs were different.

Each one taken by others decreased the total.

By later days, even if he eliminated someone, he'd only get an empty bottle.

Not far from him, intense battle waves resonated.

Like a shark sensing blood, Qin Tian quietly approached.

.....

Clang clang clang~~

The sound of metal clashing continued.

A man wielding a Fine Sword was fiercely battling an examiner donning a Brown Bear mask.

The man's eyes were narrow, skin pale, exuding a sinister aura, like a viper lurking in dark corners. His swordsmanship matched his appearance, insidious and deadly, each move targeting vital points.

The Brown Bear Examiner's Weapon was a pair of Iron Armor Gloves with a blazing red Spiritual Energy coating, resembling Meteor Fire Fists, striking down towards the man viciously.

"Your movements are too slow."

Shan Xiao smirked disdainfully. As a Four Star Genius, his targets were always B-level and A-level examiners. This C-level 'small fry' examiner posed no threat to him, not even requiring his bloodline ability.

With a light tap of his toe on the ground, Shan Xiao closed in like a phantom, his sword wrapped in eerie blue Spiritual Energy tracing an uncanny arc.

"Spirit Snake Stab!"

With a low shout, the Fine Sword shot forward like a snake striking, heading straight for the throat of the Brown Bear Examiner.

The Brown Bear Examiner quickly retreated, the red Spiritual Energy on the gloves surged, swinging a scorching fist shadow to force back Shan Xiao.

Yet Shan Xiao didn't dodge, the sword tip pierced the shadow's weak spot precisely, moving forward with the impact, carving a bloody line on the Brown Bear Examiner's left arm.

The Brown Bear Examiner grunted, punching the ground, the surface explosively shattering. Red Spiritual Energy transformed into a flame giant bear leaping skywards towards Shan Xiao.

"Bear Roar Shaking Heaven!"

The Brown Bear Examiner roared.

Disdain flickered in Shan Xiao's eyes, his body whirled, his sword danced into a swirl of blue light.

Spirit Snake Dance!

Numerous sword shadows sliced through, shredding the flame giant bear instantly.

Seizing the opportunity, Shan Xiao advanced, the Fine Sword darting like lightning, piercing three blood holes into the Brown Bear Examiner's chest and abdomen.

Stumbling backward, the Brown Bear Examiner spewed blood but persisted, mustering the last strand of Spiritual Energy, the fire on his gloves suddenly turning ghostly black.

"Nether Bear's Fall!"

Accompanied by a hoarse roar, the aura around the Brown Bear Examiner surged, black flames carrying a destructive aura surged forward, cracking the ground as they passed.

Shan Xiao's pupils contracted slightly; this desperate strike was not to be underestimated.

He swiftly infused Spiritual Energy throughout his body, and the sword blade glowed with a bright blue light, forming a shield of Spirit Snake phantoms in front of him.

The black flames collided fiercely with the Spirit Snake Shield, erupting in a deafening boom, and the intense shockwave scattered the surrounding dust into the air.

Shan Xiao gritted his teeth and endured, not expecting that this final struggle of the C-level examiner would indeed bring him considerable pressure.

The Spirit Snake phantoms disintegrated continuously within the flames, and the impact numbed his tiger's mouth, yet his gaze remained cold as ice.

After a brief stalemate, Shan Xiao suddenly stomped down, using the force to leap into the air, his fine sword pointing directly at the Brown Bear Examiner below.

"Spirit Snake Breaking Sky!"

He compressed all his Spiritual Energy at the sword's tip, forming a sharp energy cone.

The Brown Bear Examiner tried to evade, but due to previous injuries, his movements were sluggish, and he could only barely lift his arm to block. The energy cone pierced fiercely through his arm, and with its remaining force, tore open a deep wound on his shoulder, exposing the bone.

The Brown Bear Examiner grunted, collapsing to the ground, unable to resist any further.

Shan Xiao stood with his sword sheathed, a mocking smile curving at his lips, his eyes filled with disdain for his opponent.

"A weak C-level examiner like you should stay as far away as possible when you see me, instead of overestimating yourself by challenging me."

Shan Xiao looked at the glowing green healing light on the Brown Bear and spoke with disdain.

Hearing this, the Brown Bear clenched his fists in anger, wishing to go all out against Shan Xiao, even if it would cost him his life.

At this moment, Shan Xiao's livestream exploded with comments, though they were highly polarized.

"Wow, Shan Xiao is so handsome and domineering."

"A four-star genius should have this kind of confidence and pride."

"So disrespectful, geniuses should also have the bearing of geniuses."

"Exactly, what a petty man!"

Shan Xiao was still unaware of the huge controversy his actions stirred. He glanced at the tightly clenched fists of the Brown Bear and sneered:

"Why are you still so defiant? If we go again, you'll only lose more miserably. Hand over the guardian artifact; treasures are meant for geniuses, and you are merely temporary keepers."

Hearing this, the Brown Bear was so furious he almost ground his teeth to dust.

But in the end, he restrained that irrational impulse, taking out a jade bottle from his bosom and tossing it to Shan Xiao.

Shan Xiao caught the jade bottle, and his Spiritual Power touched the patterns on the bottle.

Immediately, a Divine Thought carrying information entered his mind.

"All Things Essence Enhancing Pill, a total of nine pills, boosts Spiritual Energy, not bad, not bad; with this bottle of elixir, I can breakthrough to Tier Five Four Stars."

A slight curve appeared at the corner of Shan Xiao's mouth, and just then, he suddenly noticed a look of surprise in the eyes of the Brown Bear Examiner across from him.

The Brown Bear's eyes weren't looking at him but rather at something behind him.

Bzzzz~~

Suddenly, a faint sound of electric current erupted behind him, like a venomous snake flicking its tongue, sending chills down the spine.

Shan Xiao's pupils contracted sharply, and his hair stood on end. Almost instinctively, he activated his Spiritual Energy, and a ghostly blue protective shield instantly enveloped his entire body. At the moment he turned around—

A blinding purple light filled his entire vision!

The violent Thunder Serpent tore through the air, emitting a teeth-jarring crackling sound, crashing into his chest with destructive force.

His protective Spiritual Energy was pierced through as easily as paper; amidst the dazzling electric light, he could clearly see his own flesh being charred black and carbonized under the high temperature.

"Boom——!"

The tremendous impact sent him flying. Before he even landed, multiple cold blade lights pursued him like a relentless curse. The sound of blades tearing through the Spirit Shield was as crisp and deadly as ripping silk.

"Slit——"

The sound of clothing being torn repeatedly echoed. Cold blades sliced through skin and flesh, exposing ghastly white bones.

Immediately, the residual electrical energy exploded at the wounds, sizzling as it scorched the torn flesh. Blood erupted like a fountain from more than ten wounds, tracing a tragic arc in the air.

When Shan Xiao heavily hit the ground, he was already a bloodied figure.

Dense blood pooled beneath him, with each weak breath expelling more bloody froth.

His vision began to blur, yet he could still see those black combat boots advancing step by step, along with that Black Crow mask.

"Four-star genius, doesn't seem so impressive~"

The indifferent voice at his ear ignited his rage, and unable to hold back, he spat a mouthful of blood, his vision going dark as he fell into unconsciousness.

Chapter 230: Breakthrough, Tier 4 Star 4

A green light flashed on Shan Xiao's body, and his injuries quickly recovered, but his consciousness was not yet clear.

Qin Tian pried open Shan Xiao's hand, took the jade bottle, and his Spiritual Power touched the pattern.

"The All Things Essence Enhancing Pill, an elixir that enhances Spiritual Energy and Essence Qi, good stuff."

Qin Tian's eyes lit up, and he casually stuffed the jade bottle into his bosom, then turned his head to look at the Brown Bear Examiner.

"Thanks, friend."

The Brown Bear said breezily, earlier Black Crow's words, "Four star genius, not that impressive~" directly made Shan Xiao so angry he fainted and spat blood.

When he saw this scene, the frustration and anger in his heart instantly vanished, and he even felt a kind of joy like drinking a big glass of ice-cold beer on a summer day.

Aren't you the one who looked down on C-level examiners?

In the end, you weren't defeated directly by a C-level examiner, fainted and were eliminated.

Qin Tian nodded. At this moment, he saw Shan Xiao's eyelids twitch slightly, showing signs of waking up. He did not stay any longer and disappeared from the camera in a flash.

Shan Xiao slowly opened his eyes, and the scenes that had just occurred rushed into his mind like a tide. Seeing the Qingmu jade on his waist losing its luster, his face turned livid with rage, and his features twisted.

"Don't let me find out who you are, I won't let you get away!!!"

He clenched his fists, and his teeth gnashed audibly, his voice squeezed out through his teeth.

As the heir of the Spirit Snake Bloodline from the Silver Family, he not only outshone all geniuses on the planet, standing out in the preliminary selection, but also defeated one strong opponent after another in the contest, finally being selected for the genius battle contestant list and evaluated as a Four Star Genius by a professional organization.

His parents, family, and even all the people on the planet had high hopes for him.

Except for those few Golden Bloodline geniuses that were hard to reach, he believed himself to be the outstanding one among Four Star Geniuses, with a great chance to participate in the final ten-person ring battles and make a name for the Spirit Snake Bloodline in the Star Realm.

But who would have thought that he would be eliminated miserably on the first day, and the person who eliminated him was actually a C-level examiner he had always looked down on.

The crucial point is, if he had lost in a head-on fight, he would have accepted it.

But Black Crow took advantage of his unpreparedness and ambushed him from behind. Losing in such a way made him feel a million times unwilling to accept.

At this moment, a flood of bullet screen comments appeared.

"Damn, that person is such an idiot. What kind of hero ambushes people from behind?"

"Exactly, if he's capable, he should face Shan Xiao head-on. He's definitely not Shan Xiao's match."

"A bunch of idiots, so what if it's an ambush? Aside from the final ring battle, everyone can use any means to eliminate their competition. Moreover, being ambushed and eliminated only shows that Shan Xiao's vigilance and reflexes are too poor."

"Exactly, being eliminated and still threatening others is the typical behavior of someone who can't afford to lose."

"Haha, wasn't he being arrogant just now, saying that the C-level examiners were beneath him, and now he himself got eliminated by a C-level examiner, he stopped showing off, huh!"

"Well done, I just dislike Shan Xiao's attitude. Look at the Golden Level Geniuses, none of them behave as arrogantly as him."

"Damn, I didn't know Black Crow was so strong, I thought he was just a petty thief without strength."

"What's going on, does anyone know this Black Crow?"

"This Black Crow just tricked three geniuses, and those three are still battling wild monsters, oblivious that Black Crow already stole the items guarded by the monsters. If interested, you can check out livestream room 027."

"I also know Black Crow, the genius from our Moon Embrace Star was eliminated by him and was actually the first among all the geniuses to be eliminated."

"Wow, seeing it like this, Black Crow is really strong. He shouldn't be a C-level examiner, he could easily make it to B-level."

"This examiner is interesting, we should keep an eye on him."

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"Blue Moon Star, Shan Xiao eliminated!"

When the broadcast announced his name, Shan Xiao felt utterly humiliated, his hand holding the sword trembled.

And at this moment, seeing this scene, the Brown Bear Examiner added fuel to the fire with a cold sneer:

"Four Star Genius, but you were eliminated together with me."

"You're courting death!!!"

Shan Xiao's pitch-black pupils turned into vertical snake eyes, a chill emanated from his body, filling the air with coldness and killing intent.

"What, still want to fight me?"

The Brown Bear Examiner was unfazed, his fists ignited with flames, and said:

"I'll be with you all the way, just see if you can bear the consequences."

Upon hearing this, Shan Xiao's gaze turned cold. According to the rules of the genius battle, anyone who engages in a fight after being eliminated will face severe punishment from the event organizers.

Who the organizers are goes without saying.

No matter how arrogant Shan Xiao is, he knows he absolutely can't offend the Dongfang Clan or let anger consume his rationality in front of billions of eyes.

Gritting his teeth, Shan Xiao turned and left.

The Brown Bear watched Shan Xiao's departing figure, let out a cold laugh, and walked in the opposite direction.

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"Blue Moon Star, Shan Xiao eliminated!"

When the broadcast sounded, a young man raised his head in surprise, his long hair covered his eyebrows, and his eyes were either intentionally or unintentionally squinted, as if he hadn't fully woken up.

Coincidentally, this person also had some interaction with Qin Tian.

They had once met in a small restaurant on Alpha 1 Star, with another person accompanying the young man at the time.

Later, when Qin Tian left the restaurant, he overheard the two talking and learned of the young man's identity.

The Zhuge Family, heir to the Celestial Secret Bloodline — Zhuge Yu.

"Shan Xiao is actually eliminated, what a pity, he was originally on my list."

With a compass in hand, Zhuge Yu murmured, "Now I need to pick someone else, who should I choose?"

.....

In an empty room, Qin Tian took out an All Things Essence Enhancing Pill from the jade bottle.

The elixir was perfectly round, about the size of a longan, and emitted a seven-colored glow on its surface, exuding a mysterious and profound rhythm.

As soon as the elixir appeared, a refreshing fragrance filled the air, clearing the mind upon inhalation, causing the spiritual energy within to stir slightly.

Qin Tian took a deep breath and swallowed the elixir without hesitation.

The All Things Essence Enhancing Pill melted instantly upon entering his mouth, transforming into a warm yet immense flow of medicinal power that surged directly to his Dantian.

In an instant, he felt as though every inch of his body was being washed over by a warm current, every meridian trembled slightly under the nourishment of this power.

The spiritual energy vortex within his Dantian began to spin rapidly, and the previously calm spiritual energy roared like a tide stirred by a hurricane. Where the medicinal power passed, the spiritual energy constantly condensed and strengthened, causing an immobile bottleneck to begin loosening.

Qin Tian closed his eyes, concentrating fully, guiding this power through his meridians, completing the full cycle each time, firming up the spiritual energy a bit more.

After several dozen cycles,

a faint "crack" sounded within him, as if some shackle was being broken.

The spiritual energy vortex within his Dantian suddenly expanded, the spinning speed increased once more, and the quality and quantity of the spiritual energy were elevated to a whole new level.

He opened his eyes, a flash of brilliance flickering in his eyes, and the aura surrounding him became much stronger and more solid than before.

Tier Four Four Stars, achieved!