

Cultivating 151

Chapter 151: Fame Shakes the World, The Battle of Sword and Blade (Two-in-One)_3

This is quite normal.

Some people will compete for fame and profit, but there are others who disdain it. The Great Yan released this Celestial Being List to better govern, naturally, it is impossible to reveal all of their foundations, showing a portion to serve as a deterrent is enough.

However, Ning Qi felt that even considering those hidden ones, there are very few in the world who can compare to the top three on the Celestial Being List.

After everyone looked at the Celestial Being List, they were all amazed.

He Yan smiled and said:

"Our talents probably have no hope of entering the Celestial Being List, but Master will definitely make it in the future. When Jiu and Shi grow up, they will certainly make it as well. By then, our True Martial Sect will have four unparalleled experts on the Celestial Being List, enough to astonish the world!"

Everyone was filled with anticipation.

Taoist Longshan chuckled and knocked on He Yan with a ruler:

"Do not belittle yourselves. The talents of you brothers are not inferior, and no one can predict the future. If you gain serendipitous opportunities, there might be a chance to soar to the heavens, so how can you determine the future now?"

He Yan mocked himself for not being able to enter the Celestial Being List, but Taoist Longshan, as his master, naturally encouraged him.

All the disciples respectfully saluted, saying earnestly:

"Disciple will remember!"

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The update of the Celestial Being List stirred up a storm throughout the Great Yan, as it is a grand occasion held once every three years.

Countless people awaited eagerly, even starting betting scenarios to gamble on the ranking changes of the strong experts long before it was revealed.

The top-ranked experts naturally attracted enough attention.

But there was also someone who attracted much attention.

That person was True Man Tianjian.

This is the only one in this edition to replace a strong figure from the previous one and earn a spot on the list.

Many people had already started betting on him, and his level of attention was not lower than that of the top twenty experts.

Additionally.

His status was somewhat special.

Because True Man Tianjian is a swordsman.

The sword and blade rivalry in the Great Yan has always been fierce, whether swordsmen or blademen, each wants to stand unrivaled. From the bottom to the top, comparisons are inevitable, from the number of swordsmen and blademen in various places, famous swordsmanship and blade techniques, to the Sword Dao and Blade Path experts of the Primordial Core Realm and Celestial Human Realm, all are considered.

And the Celestial Being List is the focus of both swordsmen and blademen.

In some sense, True Man Tianjian's placement on the list broke the stalemate.

The entire world's states were abuzz with heated discussions.

Swordsmen were jubilant and extremely excited.

"True Man Tianjian is on the list, now at thirty-six on the Celestial Being List, we swordsmen occupy ten spots, while you blademen have only eight spots, far inferior!"

"Swordsman supremacy, at least before the next update of the Celestial Being List, this is the fact!"

Smiles were written all over their faces, with a sense of elation and satisfaction.

However, blademen were not willing to concede either.

"Swordsmen supremacy? Would you dare let Blade Demon elder hear this? Blade Demon elder holds the third place on the Celestial Being List, enough to overlook everything."

This is the blademen's belief, Blade Demon's presence gives them unparalleled confidence in speaking.

"Sun Chasing Sword King is ranked fifth, not necessarily inferior to Blade Demon, it's just they haven't crossed swords yet. Moreover, even if Blade Demon elder is slightly stronger, it doesn't change the fact that our numbers on the Celestial Being List surpass yours by two, and the overall rankings are higher."

At these words.

The blademen were left speechless and felt a bit vexed; it's a fact that cannot be refuted.

But immediately someone spoke up to bolster themselves:

"Hmph! True Man Tianjian is indeed strong, but the Celestial Being List isn't infallible; he may not necessarily be stronger than Thunder Shock Blade Venerate. Don't forget, if you can defeat a strong figure on the Celestial Being List, you can replace them, just as Blade Demon elder did back then!"

The swordsmen were instantly angered:

"Such sophistry, why don't you let Thunder Shock Blade Venerate challenge True Man Tianjian? You only believe it when you see the coffin!"

For a time.

The commotion between swordsmen and blademen grew larger.

All over various states and regions, debates and disputes could be heard, and in some places, it even escalated into physical altercations.

True Man Tianjian is actually just the trigger.

The root cause is still the long-standing sword and blade rivalry.

Everyone hopes their own weapon is unmatched in the world. Although smart people know that strength lies within oneself and has nothing to do with the weapon, sometimes the general trend is irrational and a bit vain.

Even strong individuals are inevitably swept along.

Adding some bystanders who enjoy fueling conflict without fear, the strife grows increasingly intense, soaring higher each day.

Some people actually approached Thunder Shock Blade Venerate.

...

The Southern Border Saintess was reading the newly released Great Yan Celestial Being List with great interest, a hint of amazement in her eyes:

"This Great Yan indeed has an abundance of strong individuals. If all the Martial sects in the world were united with Great Yan, I'm afraid Great Yan would have already pacified the universe and unified the world, then we might only be able to bow our heads completely or retreat deep into the Hundred Thousand Mountains."

Snake Granny, who had always been proud, nodded in agreement at this moment.

If she were to be placed on this Celestial Being List, she probably wouldn't rank very high.

"This might be our opportunity. With the release of the Celestial Being List, the world's attention is focused on this. We can now completely erase some of the traces we've been holding back, regroup our forces, and although we may not need to continue cultivating the Blood King Gu in Qing State, we should at least leave some observers there." Snake Granny's voice was somewhat hoarse.

The Southern Border Saintess nodded slowly:

"I have the same idea. After being dormant for so long, it's about time to take action. Recently, the Demon Sect has been severely retracted, and we've only discovered some of their insignificant outposts, but this enmity will be repaid sooner or later."

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"That's right, if we don't establish our authority, there's no way to carry out the following actions."
Snake Granny hesitated again, "But are you sure about targeting the Demon Sect exclusively?"

The Southern Border Saintess stood up, looking at the scenery outside the window with a light laugh; her veil fluttered, revealing a corner of her unparalleled icy beauty:

"Of course not, Granny, have you noticed that True Man Tianjian made it onto the list?"

"Naturally, I saw it. Recently ranked thirty-sixth, but it also signifies having the strength to accomplish this task. Is the Saintess planning to verify this? As long as we see True Man Tianjian in action, this old lady can determine if he truly has hidden power essence."

Snake Granny was also very cautious. Although True Man Tianjian has currently only displayed the power of a swordsman, no one knows if he is hiding something. What if he is actually a 'Poison Sword True Man'?"

The main reason is that True Man Tianjian had previously crossed paths with that Demon Sect strong person known for wielding poisonous powers, which somehow makes her uneasy.

Just a look, no one's power essence can escape her two treasure snakes.

The Saintess chuckled lightly:

"We don't need to make a move; naturally, someone will do it for us."

Snake Granny was puzzled.

The Saintess continued:

"The longstanding struggle between blade and sword in Great Yan, True Man Tianjian's appearance on the list this time is a catalyst. Thunder Shock Blade Venerate, who was pushed aside by True Man

Tianjian, is naturally unwilling to accept this. With numerous blademen petitioning, having a legitimate reason to act, they will assuredly challenge True Man Tianjian."

"When the time comes, we only need to be present, and naturally, we can discern the true and false of True Man Tianjian. If it's confirmed that he has nothing to do with it, we won't need to waste time on the True Martial Sect. Instead, prepare a gift for the Demon Sect."

Cold light flickered in her eyes, and her black skirt fluttered with a hint of murderous intent.

As the Southern Border Saintess, having suffered such a loss at the hands of the Demon Sect, naturally, she wouldn't let it go. This trip to Qing State comes with a task; leaving in disgrace without doing anything isn't an option.

"Then what shall we...?"

"Fan the flames and watch the show," she chuckled softly, like silver bells.

...

The sword and blade rivalry across the world intensified more and more, with no one knowing where the wind originated, but suddenly it grew fierce.

Initially, it was just some unknown juniors squabbling.

Gradually, some moderately renowned experts joined in, followed by even some long-famous masters stepping up; some sensed things weren't right, but they were swept along.

In the Martial Realm, one often can't act solely for themselves; sometimes one must consider their sect and clan. Weak momentum makes one prone to being bullied, repeatedly allowing others to dominate.

Slowly.

More and more blademen petitioned Thunder Shock Blade Venerate to step up and challenge True Man Tianjian, to justify the blademen's name.

No one knows when it started.

The trend changed, as if True Man Tianjian and Thunder Shock Blade Venerate now represented the ultimate battle of blade and sword rivalry, and many realized that it was becoming uncontrollable, but it couldn't be stopped.

Yet Thunder Shock Blade Venerate had yet to respond, seemingly wavering.

On True Martial Mountain.

Of course, the news reached them too.

True Martial disciples were indignant.

Regardless of whether they use blade or sword, they are first and foremost True Martial disciples. Outsiders wanting to challenge their foundation naturally enrages them.

But all firmly believe if Thunder Shock Blade Venerate dares to come, True Man Tianjian can effortlessly suppress him.

They have witnessed the power of the Celestial Sword, holding inexplicable admiration for True Man Tianjian, with many even feeling the Celestial Being List underestimated True Man Tianjian by ranking him only thirty-sixth.

Taoist Longshan smiled bitterly, feeling he had celebrated too soon before.

Having a renowned name is good, but provoking unwarranted challenges is not.

Originally, it wouldn't have been so; it was just a regular replacement in the Celestial Being List.

However, coinciding with the blade and sword rivalry, it had been inadvertently swept into an invisible whirlpool.

Taoist Longshan stepped into the Seeking Tao Institute late at night.

Ning Qi was cultivating, Gang Qi rolling like thunder, the slight commotion making Taoist Longshan rather anxious; Ning Qi slowly opened his eyes, already aware of his master's intention.

"Jiu, what if Thunder Shock Blade Venerate really challenges you?" Taoist Longshan hesitated and then continued, "Should we say True Man Tianjian has already left the mountain, traveling the world?"

It's not that he worries his disciple can't handle it, but that it would attract much attention. If someone discovers True Man Tianjian's real identity, it would be a loss; it might invite even greater trouble.

Rather than that, losing some face would be better, rather than risking a bigger loss.

Ning Qi felt somewhat helpless, fearing trouble from being on the list; unexpectedly, trouble indeed came. Yet, he couldn't control it; fortunately, he had the foresight to create the Formless Gang Body.

"Master, that's unwise."

He stood up, smiling and shaking his head, walking alongside Taoist Longshan.

"This matter can't be avoided. The sword and blade rivalry needs a vent, and if True Man Tianjian isn't at True Martial Mountain, True Martial Mountain will have no peace, inviting numerous prying eyes in the future, constant challenges. Since trouble has come, block it when it comes, conceal it when necessary."

"If Thunder Shock Blade Venerate really does come, then not only must you win, but do so decisively, else there'll be endless trouble in the future."

Taoist Longshan worriedly said:

"But... with no few Celestial Being Strong Persons coming to watch the fight, won't it expose your identity?"

Ning Qi smiled and said:

"Master, rest assured, I have confidence."

Ning Qi's voice was calm.

He merely disliked trouble, not feared it. Since trouble has come, resolve it; yet he still hoped Thunder Shock Blade Venerate wasn't so shallow, challenging over some fame alone.

Taoist Longshan's anxiety greatly eased, showing a gratifying expression.

He wanted to pat Ning Qi's head but found that Ning Qi's height had already reached his shoulder.

Unbeknownst to him, his young disciple had truly become the pillar of the True Martial Sect.

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After the night talk with Ning Qi, Taoist Longshan no longer harbored his previous worries. He understood Ning Qi's personality very well; since Ning Qi said he had it under control, he must have a plan to deal with it.

Taoist Longshan's mindset gradually became calm.

He even somewhat anticipated how his young disciple would respond if the Thunder Blade Sovereign truly arrived.

This naturally also affected the other True Martial disciples.

The others, seeing Taoist Longshan so composed, thought he must have received approval from True Man Tianjian, which secretly excited them even more.

However, with Luo Wentian's restraint, the True Martial disciples did not go around boasting.

Luo Wentian was well aware.

At such a critical moment, it was better to remain low-key and humble, or they might become targets of others' envy.

He had originally planned to select some outstanding disciples to travel to the True Profound Sect in the coming days, but this matter forced a delay.

Time slowly passed by.

The atmosphere in the Martial Realm grew more intense day by day.

Countless eyes were eagerly awaiting, with many people having already arrived from nearby to Qing State or even to True Martial City.

A significant portion believed that the Thunder Blade Sovereign coming to challenge was only a matter of time due to the overwhelming trend, so they came early to secure a place.

In such an atmosphere, the True Martial disciples also became somewhat nervous.

But unexpectedly.

The first to set foot on True Martial Mountain was not the Thunder Blade Sovereign.

Instead, it was an unexpected guest.

"Greetings, Town North King." Taoist Longshan, accompanied by many disciples, paid respects.

He gazed at the dignified middle-aged man and the boy opposite, stirring various guesses in his mind, wondering why the Town North King suddenly brought his young son here. Recently, with the update of the Celestial Being List, the Town North King became a focal point, leaping from ninth to seventh on the list.

His credible achievements amazed everyone, making the Northern Barbarians hang their heads.

By right, the Town North King should have little interaction with True Martial Mountain. Their only meeting was during the last Demon Sect Celestial Being's attack on True Martial Mountain.

The Town North King chuckled:

"True Man, no need for formalities."

His demeanor was very amiable.

Beside him, Li Ling respectfully saluted Taoist Longshan:

"Li Ling pays respect to the True Man. I have come to visit the True Man, and I apologize for any intrusion."

Seeing this scene, the Town North King shook his head with a smile.

His young son was always respectful and polite to others but was very mischievous with him.

Taoist Longshan smiled as he welcomed the two inside.

Before he could speak, the Town North King was quick to state his purpose:

"I have come this time merely to allow Ling'Er to admire the grandeur of True Man Tianjian, nothing more."

He spoke frankly, though very authoritative; he was actually quite easygoing, lacking the sense of being aloof and remote.

Taoist Longshan suddenly understood.

He had also speculated before.

Now it was confirmed.

He knew what the Town North King referred to: the matter of the Thunder Blade Sovereign and True Man Tianjian was abuzz everywhere, and it seemed the Town North King was convinced the Thunder Blade Sovereign would surely come, so he brought his son.

However, thinking about it, it likely was Li Ling pleadingly asking. Otherwise, with the Town North King's strength, he wouldn't be so interested in a battle between the two tail-end people on the Celestial Being List and travel such a long way to Qing State to watch.

If it were a showdown between Blade Demon and Sun Chasing Sword King, that would make more sense.

To this one request, Taoist Longshan naturally would not refuse. Although the Town North King acted to save his son before, he indirectly also saved True Martial Mountain. He was clear about gratitude and grudges and was grateful to the Town North King.

"Town North King, you're too polite, you both are welcome to stay at True Martial Mountain, though this matter isn't concluded yet, and I also don't know whether Senior Tianjian is on the mountain."

Taoist Longshan just smiled bitterly.

Even though he was grateful for Town North King's help, he couldn't casually reveal everything about himself.

The Town North King waved his hand, laughing lightly:

"No matter, if the Thunder Blade Sovereign does not come, treat it as a leisure trip; Ling'Er quite likes your True Martial Mountain."

There was a certain resolution in his eyes.

He had witnessed True Man Tianjian in action before, and just by perceiving his Sword Intent, he knew that True Man Tianjian probably wasn't the type to enjoy wandering; most likely, he was still in secluded cultivation on True Martial Mountain. However, what surprised him was that despite his keen perception, he couldn't sense any presence of True Man Tianjian.

The Town North King looked at Li Ling's visibly joyful face and couldn't help but feel helpless.

Since he brought Li Ling back home last time.

He had invited another swordsman ranked twenty-first on the Celestial Being List, Luofu Sword Venerate, originally intended to be Li Ling's master.

Although in principle, this Luofu Sword Venerate was stronger than True Man Tianjian, his Sword Dao didn't appeal at all to Li Ling, who even privately said it wasn't handsome enough. Since witnessing the magnificent sword of that day, Li Ling seemed enchanted, interested only in True Man Tianjian's Sword Dao.

Out of options, the Town North King could only send Luofu Sword Venerate away.

This time, the Celestial Being List was updated, and he moved up two ranks, yet even that failed to stir Li Ling; instead, seeing True Man Tianjian's ranking made him extremely excited. Knowing the escalating sword and blade dispute, Li Ling pleaded the Town North King to bring him to True Martial Mountain to watch.

Fortunately, the Northern Barbarians had been quiet recently, so the Town North King agreed, leading to this trip to True Martial Mountain.

At this moment.

Li Ling's face was full of certainty:

"I believe True Man Tianjian will definitely defeat that so-called Thunder Blade Sovereign!"

All the True Martial disciples grinned, their fondness for Li Ling greatly increased. They saw that this young guy was a devoted follower of True Man Tianjian.

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At the same time, he secretly marveled at how the Town North King truly doted on this young son.

The Town North King shook his head and laughed, casually chatting with Taoist Longshan.

Li Ling then sat next to Ning Qi. In the entire True Martial Mountain, he was most familiar with Ning Qi. During his last visit, he enjoyed talking with Ning Qi, but now Ning Qi had Zhuang Chen by his side.

"This is my tenth junior brother, Zhuang Chen," Ning Qi introduced.

Li Ling initially only smiled out of politeness.

But very soon.

He began to chat quietly with Zhuang Chen. Both had the same passion for the Sword Dao. After just a few words, they realized they were kindred spirits, feeling a sense of meeting too late in life, leaving even Ning Qi aside.

Ning Qi merely shook his head and smiled.

However, he didn't mind. Ever since the Town North King and Li Ling ascended the mountain, he had been observing the Town North King.

His strength now had improved vastly compared to the first time he met the Town North King.

At that time, he needed to rely on the power of the Fake Pill to suppress Elder Wang.

But now, he could do so effortlessly.

In his perception, the Town North King's aura was restrained and profound, exceedingly powerful, indeed the most formidable he had ever encountered.

"However... not as unbeatable as I previously imagined. After consuming a few more Blood Jade Pills, my Jade Liquid Sea should advance further, likely enough to contend with him," Ning Qi speculated in his mind.

He retracted his gaze and listened to the crowd's chatter.

The Town North King was not arrogant; he even took the initiative to share some secret matters about the Northern Barbarians, giving everyone a broadened perspective.

Taoist Longshan did not reject the Town North King's visit.

In a way, it was a goodwill, and if they could establish a connection with the Town North King, it could stabilize the True Martial Sect further.

The Town North King and Li Ling settled on True Martial Mountain.

After the first day of ascending the mountain, the Town North King rarely appeared, while Li Ling, following Zhuang Chen, caused a ruckus on True Martial Mountain. Li Ling also befriended Yuan Tiancheng, causing chaos on the mountain with the White Ape, making Li Ling like True Martial Mountain more and more. He felt this was much more comfortable than in the Royal Mansion.

In the Town North Royal Mansion, though he held a revered status, he had few peers to play with. The Town North King spent most of his time guarding the Northern Barbarians and had no time to accompany him.

But on True Martial Mountain, the little plump Zhuang Chen sometimes acted mischievously, not regarding him as the Crown Prince of the Town North King at all, and the White Ape would occasionally prank him, leaving him flustered and covered in dust.

Ning Qi watched silently.

He had initially worried that the Town North King might secretly seek out True Man Tianjian, but after realizing that the Town North King was just staying in his guest room, he felt relieved and even felt better about the Town North King.

Ning Qi continued his calm cultivation, unbothered by the matter concerning Thunder Shock Blade Venerate.

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Time passed slowly.

The conflict between swords and blades in the world finally reached a critical point.

Many people sensed that the situation was on the verge of spiraling out of control, with increasing calls for Thunder Shock Blade Venerate to make a move. Finally, one day, someone saw a senior in the Blade Path visiting Thunder Shock Manor.

The next day.

A challenge letter was sent out.

Half a month later.

Inviting True Man Tianjian to a duel at True Martial Mountain.

Respectfully submitted, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate.

In an instant,

The atmosphere in the Martial Realm was unprecedentedly intense.

Blademen and swordsmen alike were in a frenzy. Although they had been waiting for this moment, when the actual challenge from Thunder Shock Blade Venerate arrived at True Martial Mountain, it was hard not to feel excited.

Countless people eagerly awaited, many had already started placing bets.

True Martial City once again became a place of turbulent activity.

A duel between Celestial Being List powerhouses was extremely rare, not to mention it symbolized the conflict between swords and blades. Whichever side won, the other would at least have to live humbly for the next few years, unable to speak with vigor.

At this moment, there were rumors:

"The blademen are not displaying martial virtue. Someone gave Thunder Shock Blade Venerate an unparalleled treasure blade, which is unfair."

Swordsmen were discontented.

Blademen retorted:

"If you're not convinced, you should find a Divine Sword for True Man Tianjian as well. We certainly won't say anything. In martial contests, swords and blades are also part of one's strength."

The swordsmen were instantly speechless.

They could only hope that a senior swordsman would be potent enough.

And in fact.

Someone did ascend True Martial Mountain, and it was Li Ling's old acquaintance, Luofu Sword Venerate.

Looking at Luofu Sword Venerate in the distance, whose gaze bore a hint of condescension, Li Ling quietly complained to Ning Qi:

"I don't like him. I feel he talks too pretentiously, always with this demeanor that his swordsmanship will be unrivaled one day."

The Town North King had once invited Luofu Sword Venerate to the Royal Mansion to mentor Li Ling, but Li Ling wasn't interested.

Ning Qi chuckled softly.

Previously, he had read the introduction on the Celestial Being List, Luofu Sword Venerate was indeed considered young, not even two hundred and fifty years old, which, considering the eight-hundred-year lifespan in the Celestial Human Realm, was like a rising sun, with high Sword Dao cultivation and potential.

Luofu Sword Venerate, with his hands behind his back, looked at Taoist Longshan:

"True Man Longshan, please invite True Man Tianjian out."

His words carried a slight sense of entitlement.

Taoist Longshan replied composedly:

"I must ask for your understanding, Senior Tianjian prefers seclusion. If he doesn't wish to show himself, I can't force him."

Luofu Sword Venerate frowned and said:

"Does he plan not to show when Thunder Shock Blade Venerate comes challenging either?"

Taoist Longshan only smiled:

"Senior Tianjian naturally has his own considerations."

Luofu Sword Venerate looked deeply at Taoist Longshan, paused for several breaths, then said softly:

"You should know, someone gave Thunder Shock Blade Venerate a blade, a very strong one. With it in his hands, True Man Tianjian might not be his match. I came here to lend him a sword."

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He extended a finger, and the sword behind him instantly floated in mid-air, emitting a clear ringing sound. The blade shone with autumn light, clearly a fine sword.

"This sword is called Luofu and can rival that Heavenly Thunder blade. If the Heavenly Sword master comes out to see, agrees to my condition, this sword can be temporarily loaned to him."

Taoist Longshan remained silent.

The Luofu Sword Venerate's intentions seemed good, but the manner was somewhat uncomfortable, carrying an implicit condescension. Perhaps because he was ranked twenty-first, he felt he could easily defeat the Heavenly Sword master. This sword lending offer might be because, as fellow swordsmen, he didn't wish to see a swordsman lose to a bladesman.

Taoist Longshan hesitated a bit.

At this moment, Ning Qi's voice echoed in his ear, his expression restored to calmness as he bowed:

"Thank you for the kind offer, Luofu Sword Venerate, but unfortunately, I cannot make Senior Tianjian come out to meet."

The Luofu Sword Venerate's gaze focused:

"If the Heavenly Sword master loses because of this, then he will be condemned by all swordsmen."

Taoist Longshan's brows furrowed:

"Luofu Sword Venerate, you exaggerate. Regardless of win or loss, it has nothing to do with the swordsmen or bladesmen of the world."

The Luofu Sword Venerate was about to speak when Li Ling couldn't help but step forward, performing a salute and then said with some indignation:

"Why must you insist like this, Senior Luofu? The Heavenly Sword master doesn't need your sword, so why force the loan?"

Luofu Sword Venerate was taken aback upon seeing Li Ling:

"Young Prince?"

His expression turned slightly unpleasant, recalling some undesirable memories. Previously, the Town North King had promised him a sword Dao secret treasure to teach Li Ling swordsmanship. Initially, he was full of confidence, yet Li Ling dismissed it unexpectedly.

A figure approached:

"Luofu, let it be. It's just one challenge, victory or defeat need not be taken so seriously."

The Town North King had arrived without noticing.

Luofu Sword Venerate was further astonished, unable to comprehend the relationship between True Martial Mountain and the Heavenly Sword master.

He remained silent for a while. After greeting the Town North King, he descended the mountain.

Yet a voice echoed through the breeze:

"Let's hope the Heavenly Sword master truly has confidence, or else today's display may earn worldwide ridicule."

Everyone from True Martial exhibited anger.

Ning Qi remained composed.

Having a sword or not made little difference to him.

...

Time approached gradually.

The day of Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's challenge drew nearer.

A rumor surfaced within the Martial Realm, claiming Luofu Sword Venerate, ranked twenty-first on the Celestial Being List, went to True Martial Mountain to loan his sword to the Heavenly Sword master but was refused.

This left many puzzled about how to assess the Heavenly Sword master.

It was unclear whether it was due to excessive solitude or overconfidence.

However, one thing was clear to everyone.

If defeated because of this, the Heavenly Sword master's reputation wouldn't fare well afterward.

In True Martial City, Luofu Sword Venerate held his sword with a cold smile.

Powerful figures gathered in True Martial City. The true disciples of True Martial Sect strived to maintain order among the True Martial members, unlike the previous Celestial Being Grand Ceremony by Taoist Longshan, which mostly drew experts below the Celestial Human Realm.

This time, experts from the Celestial Human Realm appeared numerous.

They felt immense pressure.

Fortunately.

Such a time didn't last long.

Half a month vanished in an instant.

All gazes converged.

At an inn.

The Southern Border Saintess wore a black veil, her demeanor slightly ethereal, while the Snake Granny beside her with two strange snakes on her neck, which were nowhere to be seen, appeared like an ordinary old lady.

"Granny, do you think the Heavenly Sword master will appear?" The Southern Border Saintess sipped her tea, her gaze a bit distant.

Snake Granny chuckled:

"If he doesn't appear, True Martial Sect's fate today may not turn out well, neither swordsmen nor bladesmen will spare them."

"It's nearly time, let's go watch."

Southern Border Saintess gently stepped forward, and martial artists around instinctively showed signs of reverence, not knowing why, a feeling of awe emerged from within, instinctively wanting to be further from this lady. The two gradually moved away, heading outside the city.

Around True Martial Mountain, expectant eyes filled the surroundings.

The atmosphere was fervent.

Especially among the swordsmen and bladesmen, the arriving experts were numerous, including several from the Celestial Being List, and even more who were not listed came mostly for observation and learning.

The crowd predominantly consisted of martial artists below the Celestial Human Realm.

Time passed slowly.

The crowd's gaze grew increasingly anxious.

Then.

A purple light burst through the sky, carrying a trace of raging momentum.

Someone's spirit trembled:

"Thunder Shock Blade Venerate has arrived!"

Fiery gazes followed, witnessing the purple light halt before True Martial Mountain, revealing its true form.

It was an elder with a purple robe, burly and powerful, eyes sharp and fierce, carrying a treasure blade on his back, surging with mysterious force, inducing chills in some hearts even before being unsheathed.

"Thunder Shock Blade Venerate, formerly ranked thirty-six on the Celestial Being List, once battled the Flood Dragon Monarch at Hundred Rivers Lake without defeat, overcoming numerous experts close to the Celestial Being List level. His blade Dao cultivation is astonishingly profound, combined with the Path of Thunderous it's unmatched in ferocity."

"Rumor has it he recently received a Heavenly Thunder Blade gifted by a senior, highly compatible with his path. Perhaps he can truly battle to reclaim his Celestial Being List position!"

Quiet discussions exposed the details of Thunder Shock Blade Venerate.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate sensed his surroundings, clearly detecting several presences neither weaker nor stronger than his.

He felt somewhat helpless inside.

Originally, he didn't intend to act, but the allure of the Heavenly Thunder blade was too great, ultimately failing to resist.

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However.

He also has confidence in himself.

The reason he was pushed down on the Celestial Being List is merely due to True Man Tianjian's successive victories, but he has rarely made a move in recent years, his strength has advanced further long ago, and now with the help of the Heavenly Thunder Blade, he believes defeating True Man Tianjian is not a problem.

It's just that doing so will offend a master from the Celestial Being List, but it doesn't matter, after this battle, his fame will also rise significantly, gaining goodwill from many Blade Path experts.

Overall, the benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

Thinking this way.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate stepped forward.

He stood in the void before True Martial Mountain, his voice as domineering as thunder, shaking the clouds:

"True Man Tianjian, come out for a battle!"

On True Martial Mountain.

Aside from the disciples maintaining order in True Martial City, the rest were gathered at the mountain gate, Ning Qi included, though he did not stand with Li Ling, being confident in his Formless Gang Body, he tried avoiding drawing the attention of Town North King.

At this moment.

Everyone looked towards the Thunder Shock Blade Venerate in the sky, his powerful aura was fully displayed, though not deliberately targeting True Martial disciples, still imposing a sense of pressure on the crowd.

Taoist Longshan's gaze was calm.

With the Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's words, everyone's hearts tightened.

Involuntarily, their gaze turned towards the back mountain.

Li Ling stretched his neck, quietly asking Town North King beside him:

"Dad, do you think Senior Tianjian won't come out?"

Town North King's gaze showed a strange color:

"He will make a move."

His surprise grew stronger, though he hadn't deliberately searched these days, as a top seventh Celestial Being List expert his perception was there, he hadn't noticed any movements, yet at this moment, a faint power appeared in the back mountain.

He realized, this True Man Tianjian is indeed not simple.

"Ling'Er, you have a good vision."

Li Ling uttered a puzzled 'ah', was about to speak but suddenly widened his eyes, joy flooded his face.

A peerless sharpness suddenly rose from the back mountain, transformed in a blink into an unmatched Celestial Sword, drawing exclamations, all strong forces' gazes focused on it, deepening seriousness, they felt a powerful Sword Intent emanating from the Celestial Sword.

"Granny, how is it?" Southern Border Saintess's eyes slightly moved.

Snake Granny shook her head:

"I only sense the pure Sword Intent for now, not the previous toxic power, need to wait for True Man Tianjian's true form to show."

Afterward, her gaze turned peculiar:

"Is True Man Tianjian attempting to emulate the previous two battles, defeat Thunder Shock Blade Venerate with one Celestial Sword stroke? Isn't this underestimating this Blade Path expert."

Many looked odd, considering True Man Tianjian somewhat presumptuous.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's long hair fluttered, staring at the Celestial Sword across the sky, laughed in rage:

"Underestimate me? Fine, let me see if you, True Man Tianjian, are worthy of your reputation!"

The long blade behind him lightly trembled, not unsheathed, yet a ferocious Blade Intent spread out.

Purple lightning seemed to flash around Thunder Shock Blade Venerate, he pointed his finger, a hundred-zhang Thunderous Blade Qi instantly condensed, its violent momentum causing some blademen to tremble, the Thunderous Blade unrivaled, striking towards the Celestial Sword.

Amidst the crowd's scrutiny, the Thunderous Blade collided with the Celestial Sword, shaking heaven and earth.

Boom!

Wave after wave spread around, Sword Qi and Blade Qi formed storms, howling in the sky, the clash between two unparalleled Celestial Human Realm experts was quite considerable.

Luofu Sword Venerate eyed sharply:

"Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's strength is stronger than expected, but this True Man Tianjian is not simple either."

Their first exchange made him somewhat impressed.

Though the displayed strength still fell short of his own, both undeniably held solid positions on the Celestial Being List, he realized Thunder Shock Blade Venerate had made progress over the years, just hadn't shown it.

Cyan Bull Blade Master was also uncertain, sensing these two's strength was not weaker than his own.

Originally intending to go to True Martial Mountain, but hindered by his blademan status, temporarily gave up, watched from below the mountain, Taoist Longshan being his longtime friend, yet he had some Blade Path friends.

Countless martial artists held their breath.

Just this brief initial exchange made everyone aware, this could be a dragon-tiger struggle, evenly matched they were, what followed would be a visual feast.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's eyes were sharp like blades, gaze icy.

If True Man Tianjian doesn't appear soon, he might employ some means to force him out, right now it felt as if fighting air, somewhat insulting.

True Martial Mountain.

Ning Qi silently shook his head.

Originally intended to see if the Formless Gang Body could handle Thunder Shock Blade Venerate without appearing, but now it seemed Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's strength exceeded previous assessment somewhat.

To triumph, one must win decisively, avoid future troubles frequently presenting.

He had made up his mind internally.

In an instant.

Under everyone's gaze, in the back mountain of True Martial Mountain, a figure soared into the sky.

True Man Tianjian, first revealed before all.

Chapter 157: True Martial Sword Stele, Fueling with the Wisdom of All Beings (Combined into One)

Watching a figure soar into the sky from the back of the mountain, Taoist Longshan couldn't help but be surprised. He instinctively looked towards the crowd and, upon seeing Ning Qi standing quietly there, he breathed a sigh of relief.

Yet, a wave of astonishment surged in his heart.

Who is this 'True Man Tianjian'?

Originally, he thought his young disciple would use disguise to appear, but now it seems it was not the case.

The sky.

Various gazes converged on that old figure.

Even the Town North King was no exception.

Everyone was curious about this True Man Tianjian, who had never shown his face, and even the Celestial Being List's evaluation suggested that True Man Tianjian possibly hid greater strength.

At this moment.

True Man Tianjian finally appeared.

Draped in a black Taoist Robe on an aged body, somewhat stooped, with white hair, seemingly not much vitality left, but what impressed people the most were those eyes.

Merciless, indifferent, yet full of sharpness.

This fit most people's imagination of True Man Tianjian, making many dare not look directly.

Originally, the never-before-seen True Man Tianjian was full of mystery, and even appearing now, that sense of mystery did not diminish at all, as if no one could perceive the true existence of True Man Tianjian through those eyes devoid of any emotion.

Luofu Sword Venerate squinted slightly, he unexpectedly felt a slight sense of oppression from this revealed True Man Tianjian, which was a sign that even his Sword Intent as a fellow swordsman was being suppressed, leaving him incredulous.

After all, he was ranked twenty-first on the Celestial Being List, while True Man Tianjian was merely thirty-six, how could it be so?

He was confused and uncertain in his heart, his eyes tightly locked onto the aged figure.

The Town North King was shocked.

He inexplicably felt a certain unreality about the True Man Tianjian before him, as if he did not belong to this world, yet upon closer inspection, he clearly stood there, astonishing him, making him feel more and more that this True Man Tianjian was extraordinary, perhaps not necessarily in battle prowess, but in Sword Intent and understanding of heaven and earth, he feared, surpassed him.

He glanced at the delightedly whispering Li Ling beside him, and a thought inexplicably arose in his mind, perhaps entrusting his young son to such a strong figure as a mentor might not be a bad thing, just that True Man Tianjian seemed too cold, like devoid of feelings, not necessarily able to teach a good disciple.

After observing for this period, he instead felt that Taoist Longshan was a good mentor, though not of particularly high cultivation, he could teach disciples well, each a talent, capable of becoming a powerful figure in the future.

The crowd was full of exclamations and whispers.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate felt even more so.

His face was somewhat unsightly, even unable to look directly into those eyes.

Before, he had been clamoring for a battle with True Man Tianjian, but when True Man Tianjian really appeared, he instead somewhat regretted it.

At this moment.

He knew that everyone in the world had greatly underestimated the strength of True Man Tianjian, that Sword Intent fused into the void, seemingly omnipresent, causing a chill throughout his body.

Some strong swordsmen among the crowd were all excited, having felt a glimpse of that Sword Intent, it was like a pilgrimage.

True Man Tianjian stood with hands behind his back, indifferent and silent.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate in purple robes, under great pressure, the Heavenly Thunder Blade he carried roared out of its sheath, like thunder descending to the world, or like a Thunder Dragon ascending to the sky, attracting gazes, this was a Peerless Treasure Blade capable of moving most blademan in the world, not only domineering and unparalleled but also containing magical powers, enough to amplify Thunderous Power and the Blade Path.

This was also the fundamental reason why Thunder Shock Blade Venerate came to challenge.

At this moment.

'Thunder Dragon' in hand, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's momentum surged, wild hair dancing, thunder seemed to bloom around him, he shouted to the sky:

"Come fight!"

He used this way to boost himself, making everyone feel excited, all blademan fixedly watched, eyes wide.

Terrifying Blade Intent soared into the sky, mixed with the power of thunder, incredibly violent, holding the Heavenly Thunder Blade, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate suddenly found courage, feeling his strength greatly enhanced, even with confidence to battle around the thirtieth-ranked strong ones.

The slight gloom brought by True Man Tianjian's appearance was dispersed by thunder.

"Come fight!"

His momentum surged again, purple rays soared throughout the world.

Heavenly Phenomenon trembled, even above the clouds there were rumbling sounds, vaguely real Heavenly Thunder responded, making everyone's heart jump, no wonder Thunder Shock Blade Venerate lived up to his name.

In True Martial City, a cold and beautiful woman in white whispered softly:

"The Heavenly Thunder Blade and Thunder Shock Blade Venerate are too well-matched, he's scarily strong now, Bai Shan, your mentor's Senior Tianjian might need to give his all."

Beside her, Jiang Baishan felt a bit nervous, but still believed in True Man Tianjian:

"No one ever knows where Senior Tianjian's limits lie."

He turned to look at the woman in white, with a hint of affection in his eyes, and said softly:

"Ruhua, after this matter, why not come up the mountain to meet my mentor and others?"

Upon hearing this, Lin Ruhua blushed, feeling some anticipation, some joy, but also some hesitation, finally saying:

"Let's wait until later, now might not be the best time."

Jiang Baishan nodded somewhat disappointed yet respected her thoughts, he turned his gaze to the sky, where Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's Blade Intent had reached the peak.

During this time.

True Man Tianjian had made no moves, allowing Thunder Shock Blade Venerate to display his prowess, just silently watching.

Ning Qi appeared calm.

This formed Formless Gang Body of his condensed a full eighty percent of Gang Qi, unless Thunder Shock Blade Venerate had the strength of top twenty or even stronger on the Celestial Being List, the outcome would not change, crushing him at his strongest moment was an even greater deterrent.

Chapter 158: True Martial Sword Stele, Using the Wisdom of Sentient Beings as Fuel (Merged into 1)_2

Thunder rumbled, and Thunder Shock Blade Venerate shouted loudly:

"Let's fight!"

With three roars, his momentum became increasingly terrifying, even Town North King nodded approvingly.

Yet, True Man Tianjian continued to watch coldly and ruthlessly.

In an instant.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate finally moved, feeling slighted by True Man Tianjian, he held in a breath of fury, determined to make him pay.

Grasping the Heavenly Thunder Blade with both hands, he slashed downwards, unleashing a terrifying blade intent mixed with endless lightning. A blade Qi thunder dragon appeared in everyone's eyes, and wherever the thunder dragon passed, everything was annihilated, causing the mountains surrounding True Martial Mountain to tremble.

Ning Qi nodded slowly.

"Indeed, some skill."

"If separated by thousands of feet in the rear mountain, it would truly be difficult to suppress him easily, after all, the power of the sword Qi would be greatly diminished."

He revealed the Formless Gang Body, to tell everyone not to bother him in the future.

The Thunder Dragon Blade Qi roared through the air, while True Man Tianjian's Taoist robe billowed without wind.

At such a close distance, Ning Qi had the ability to resonate and control everything.

In a moment.

The Innate Sword Body activated, the unparalleled secret technique realized from Zhuang Chen's interior Innate Sword Bone shone brightly. True Man Tianjian stood with hands behind his back, the sword intent containing unparalleled sharpness fully revealed itself, streams of invisible sword Qi surrounded True Man Tianjian, like countless divine swords, empowered by the sword intent enough to cut through the void.

In the eyes of everyone's astonishment, the domineering thunder dragon disintegrated like thin paper.

It was as if it collided with an invisible forest of swords, instantly turning into scattered blade Qi that spread in all directions.

The strong warriors quietly exclaimed.

It felt somewhat incredible.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's strongest strike was thus annihilated?

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's pupils contracted sharply, barely able to believe his eyes. Only he knew how powerful that blade was, it was nearly his ultimate strike he had prepared to make True Man Tianjian pay for his contempt, yet it was destroyed so easily.

For a moment, he felt a chill, hard to imagine how strong True Man Tianjian was.

But this fright lasted less than a breath.

He froze completely.

An extremely terrifying sword intent had locked onto him.

The always indifferent True Man Tianjian finally uttered his first word.

"Slash."

As the word fell, he slightly pointed.

An unparalleled celestial sword, emanating incredible sharpness, condensed and emerged, its awe-inspiring sword intent erupted without restraint.

"Pure sword intent, pure sword Qi, without any impurities!" Snake Granny's voice revealed solemnity.

At this moment, she was completely sure that the one who annihilated the stronghold was definitely not True Man Tianjian, but her heart was still unsettled, she felt that if she faced this sword, she probably couldn't resist.

The Saintess of Southern Border didn't speak, her eyes trembled slightly.

Under everyone's gaze.

The celestial sword stretched across the sky, then split into three, and three into nine. That unparalleled sword intent not only showed no signs of weakening, but grew even stronger, as nine celestial swords stretched across the sky. This scene was one that some would remember for life.

Taoist Longshan and several True Disciples were somewhat dumbfounded, feeling this scene was familiar.

Ning Qi smirked inwardly.

This was his realization from True Martial inheritance, applied to the Heavenly Sword Technique, allowing for various transformations.

The initial True Martial inheritance consisted of the True Martial Nine Stances, later combining nine into three, formed the Heaven-shaking, Earth-shaking, and Sea-covering three Stacking Strength Techniques with True Gang Techniques, reaching the Celestial Human Realm, which became the Three Elements Secret Record. Thus, combining nine into three, three into one, supplemented by a secret technique, it created the scenario where the Nine Great Celestial Beings could battle a Martial Saint as recorded back then.

Today, Ning Qi reversed and applied it to the Heavenly Sword Technique, resulting in a miraculous effect.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate was already trembling.

The nine celestial swords had completely locked him down, their sharpness suffocating him. If not inappropriate for the occasion, he would have already fled in panic, but at this moment, if he fled without fighting, his centuries' worth of reputation would be completely ruined.

The celestial sword pressed down.

He gritted his teeth and shouted angrily, wildly swinging the Heavenly Thunder Blade in his hands. Streaks of thunder dragon soared skyward, trying to devour the celestial sword.

Under extreme pressure, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate unexpectedly had another breakthrough. He was like a madman, continuously swinging his blade, resonating the power of Heaven and Earth to the utmost, breaking the limit that hadn't been surpassed for decades.

Dragons danced wildly, celestial sword stretched across the sky, the spectacle stunned everyone.

But it was useless.

The sharpness of the celestial sword overshadowed everything.

One after another, thunder dragons were annihilated, and only four words flashed in everyone's mind: overwhelming destruction.

Indeed, it was overwhelming destruction, with no resistance whatsoever.

Everyone was shocked, watching thunder Shock Blade Venerate being engulfed by the celestial swords, countless blademan were speechless, they had come with high hopes, but now one by one were utterly despondent, with a very few fixated, hoping for a miracle.

But the disgraced figure falling from the sky dashed their last hope.

At this moment, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate looked disheveled, his face pale, his aura withered to the utmost. Supporting himself on the Heavenly Thunder Blade, he stood trembling, his left arm severed cleanly and obliterated into powder by the sword Qi.

The world was silent.

Everyone knew.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate was defeated, and thoroughly.

Many revered gazes turned to the Taoist robe figure above the sky, quickly lowering their heads, not daring to look directly.

The blademan were dejected, but no one blamed Thunder Shock Blade Venerate. Everyone could see, it wasn't that Thunder Shock Blade Venerate was too weak, but that True Man Tianjian was too strong, terrifyingly strong!

The swordsmen rejoiced, faces filled with jubilant smiles.

Chapter 159: True Martial Sword Stele: Using the Wisdom of All Beings as Fuel (Two-in-One)_3

Luofu Sword Venerate's face was somewhat unsightly:

"Who on earth ranked this Celestial Being List? Are you telling me this is the strength of the thirty-sixth on the Celestial Being List?!"

He felt that if Thunder Shock Blade Venerate was replaced with himself, he might also lose. The sword intent just now made his heart pound with fear. This True Man Tianjian seemed like a madman who was purely obsessed with the sword, with an incomprehensibly pure sword intent.

He recalled his actions a few days ago on True Martial Mountain, his mouth twitched, feeling inexplicably like a clown, and a trace of regret rose in his heart.

Such thoughts were not uncommon among people like Luofu Sword Venerate, especially those Celestial Human Realm experts, all of whom felt the same.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate felt the weakness in his body, especially his empty left arm, and his heart was extremely bitter, but he harbored no hatred, instead, he felt grateful.

He took a deep breath and said bitterly:

"Thunder Lei thanks Taoist Brother for showing mercy."

That sword just now.

Could have easily killed him, but in the end, it only cut off one of his arms and then dispersed, he naturally understood that the other party didn't want to strike a fatal blow.

Ning Qi's face was calm.

In front of everyone, it was indeed inappropriate to kill, after all, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate, in some sense, came representing all the blademan in the world, if he was killed, some people might take the opportunity to make trouble. Ning Qi feared very few, but among the blademan, there was a Blade

Demon with a cunning manner, the third rank on the Celestial Being List, which made Ning Qi a bit apprehensive, so he chose to show restraint.

Of course.

If Thunder Shock Blade Venerate were unwise, he wouldn't mind finding time to resolve it later.

At present, it seems that this Blade Venerate still had some sense of clarity.

Taoist Brother Tianjian's gaze remained as indifferent as ever.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate trembled slightly, the bitterness in the corner of his mouth growing stronger.

He looked reluctantly at the Heavenly Thunder Blade in his hand, he had challenged because of this unparalleled treasure blade, but now, before it even warmed in his hand, he had to give it to someone else.

He had come voluntarily to challenge, and now that he had been defeated and spared, he naturally couldn't avoid offering some compensation.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate made up his mind, his voice echoing across the sky:

"I came to challenge, but my skills were inferior. I offer this blade to thank Taoist Brother for sparing me!"

Everyone was astonished.

Just saw the Heavenly Thunder Blade in Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's hand rise into the air, in the blink of an eye it hovered before Taoist Brother Tianjian, slightly humming, with thunder hidden on the blade as if it were emanating a submissive intent.

A glimmer of surprise flashed in Ning Qi's eyes.

When Thunder Shock Blade Venerate made his move just now, Ning Qi had observed carefully, this Heavenly Thunder Blade was indeed a peerless treasure blade, with special material seemingly able to channel thunderous power, if studied carefully, it would surely yield fruitful results, just like the previous Cyan Profound Treasure Armor.

He did not stand on ceremony.

If he didn't demand some price, wouldn't that mean any Tom, Dick, or Harry could challenge him in the future?

With a thought, Taoist Brother Tianjian waved his sleeve, with sword intent brushing over the Heavenly Thunder Blade, letting it rest by his side.

Seeing the treasure blade in someone else's hands, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate felt even more conflicted, like handing his wife to another with his own hands, but since Taoist Brother Tianjian accepted the Heavenly Thunder Blade, he secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Yet looking at Taoist Brother Tianjian's eyes devoid of any emotion, he couldn't help but feel a chill, thinking for a moment before speaking again:

"Taoist Brother Tianjian, upon returning to the manor, I will have someone send my Thunder Shock Secret Record as an apology."

Everyone looked complicated in expression.

Knowing that Thunder Shock Blade Venerate was evidently frightened into submission, wanting to calm the storm and extinguish Taoist Brother Tianjian's anger with this gesture, for in that battle just now, perhaps only Thunder Shock Blade Venerate himself could truly perceive the terror of those nine Celestial Swords.

It was normal to compensate with treasures after being defeated in an active challenge.

However, it was rare for someone like Thunder Shock Blade Venerate to not only give a blade but also martial arts.

This also indirectly demonstrated the immense strength of Taoist Brother Tianjian.

Taoist Brother Tianjian nodded slowly for the first time, some even seemed to see that always indifferent expression soften a bit, greatly easing Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's tense heart. Otherwise, if he couldn't quell the anger of Taoist Brother Tianjian, and ended up being cut down later with a single sword, who would listen to his grievances?

From start to finish, besides the word 'cut', Taoist Brother Tianjian hadn't uttered another word.

After nodding, Taoist Brother Tianjian moved suddenly.

The Heavenly Thunder Blade beside him burst into dazzling light, seemingly even more terrifying than when in Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's hands, everyone's expression tensed, and Thunder Shock Blade Venerate felt a bit panicked, could it be that Taoist Brother Tianjian was still unsatisfied after taking the Heavenly Thunder Blade?

But quickly.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Only to see Taoist Brother Tianjian using the blade as a sword, the Heavenly Thunder Blade emitted unmatched sword intent, diving downward like a mighty sword river of thunder sweeping over thousands of feet, in everyone's eyes, the Heavenly Thunder Blade struck upon a huge boulder dozens of feet before the True Martial Mountain gate, swirling with draconic elegance, the sky filled with purple glow obscuring all view.

When the purple glow faded, the Heavenly Thunder Blade rose up, landing alongside Taoist Brother Tianjian on the True Martial rear mountain, without any further ripple.

Everyone looked towards where the boulder had been.

They couldn't help but feel invigorated.

The dozens of feet of boulder had vanished, replaced by a sword stele standing where it once was!

On it were only two simple words.

True Martial.

Each stroke simple, yet filled with potent sword intent.

Someone couldn't help but focus their gaze and in a moment of unpreparedness, felt like their spirit was cleaved by a heavenly sword, struck into chaos, their mind a blank slate. If there was no malice, it was merely skin turning pale and heart trembling in shock, but if there was, their eyes were stabbed by the sword intent, bleeding endlessly!

Chapter 160: True Martial Sword Stele, Using the Wisdom of All Beings as Fuel (Two-in-One)_4

All the swordsmen were dumbfounded, the Sword Intent within the Sword Monument made them look up in reverence.

"The True Martial Sword Monument? What a Heavenly Sword True Man!"

The Town North King couldn't help but speak in praise.

There was admiration in his eyes; he was one of the few who could fully sense the complete Sword Intent of the True Martial Sword Monument. He had a premonition that this monument would become famous across the world, becoming a holy site for all swordsmen to pay homage.

As long as one harbors no malice, they can comprehend the Sword Dao from this monument. What grand gesture is this, to offer such favor to the world's swordsmen? He was completely unafraid of others learning his Sword Dao.

The Town North King sighed inwardly:

"It's a pity that this Heavenly Sword True Man seems to have little time left. Otherwise, with such unparalleled Sword Intent, it would be highly likely for him to climb to the top three of the Celestial Being List in the future."

He speculated that the Heavenly Sword True Man was probably one obsessed with the sword, perhaps someone who had an enlightenment late in life. Across the world, his Sword Intent was almost unmatched, though his cultivation realm was somewhat lacking.

Snake Granny looked at the Sword Monument, and confidently shook her head to the Southern Border Saintess:

"Such ultimate Sword Intent can only be wielded by those who are extremely devoted to the sword. Poisonous power? It would only contaminate their path. From today's observation, though the Heavenly Sword True Man has the strength to easily kill the Fat and Skinny Elders, he obviously was not the one who did it."

The Southern Border Saintess also nodded.

She glanced deeply at the True Martial Sword Monument. Although interested in a closer look, with so many people around, her presence would draw unnecessary attention.

"Being able to witness such a grand battle is already worthwhile. From now on, just focus on the Demon Sect."

She was quick-witted, already understanding why the Heavenly Sword True Man erected this Sword Monument.

Reflecting on past events, she realized that the Heavenly Sword True Man must be someone who greatly dislikes trouble. Forced to act today, he stunned the world with a single move, causing the Thunder Shock Blade Venerate to bow in submission, ensuring that those with discernment would not challenge him freely from now on.

But not everyone may be tactful; erecting this True Martial Sword Monument tells others that by seeing this Sword Intent, they should know to retreat.

The crowd also understood the intention of the Heavenly Sword True Man.

They marveled.

The sound of discussions echoed all around.

The swordsmen's gazes were incredibly fervent, looking at the True Martial Sword Monument with eagerness. The unparalleled Sword Intent within it moved them; witnessing the might of the Heavenly Sword in person today, even comprehending a tiny fraction would be immensely beneficial.

However, since this True Martial Sword Monument was erected by the Heavenly Sword True Man, whether they could comprehend it was uncertain. Eager eyes turned toward the members of the True Martial Sect.

Ning Qi chuckled to himself.

Erecting this True Martial Sword Monument was not a spur-of-the-moment decision but something he had long considered.

Avoiding trouble by deterring other challengers is just one aspect, perhaps even the least important part.

More importantly, Ning Qi wanted to add another layer of protection for the True Martial Sect.

This monument combined Ning Qi's research in Qimen Techniques. The Sword Intent within, if triggered, could unleash the might of the Heavenly Sword Technique several times, which might have wondrous effects. There might also be times when Ning Qi is not on True Martial Mountain.

Furthermore,

Ning Qi had no intention for this True Martial Sword Monument to be exclusive to the True Martial Sect. Disciples could of course have priority to comprehend it, but some seats would also be open to outsiders.

Thus, he confidently believed that before long, the site of the True Martial Sword Monument would become a Swordmen's Holy Land, attracting many powerful swordsmen, even those at the Celestial Human Realm.

Consider this: if these powerful swordsmen comprehend the Sword Intent, owing a favor to the Heavenly Sword True Man, how could they stand idly by if the True Martial Sect faces crisis? In this way, the safety of the True Martial Sect would be greatly enhanced without formality.

With the current situation growing more chaotic, Ning Qi felt the need to add another layer of insurance for the True Martial Sect.

If there were such a swordsman moat, then whether it be the Demon Sect or the Southern Border Alliance, they'd have to think twice before making a move against the True Martial Sect.

Finally, the most important reason of all.

Is Ning Qi's own idea.

He wanted to conduct an experiment.

Erecting the True Martial Sword Monument and even revealing his Sword Intent was Ning Qi's attempt. With his comprehension, to make all ways his own, he needed to harness the wisdom of all beings, Sword Dao being just one of many paths Ning Qi mastered.

Now, attracting many swordsmen with the monument was to make the world's Sword Dao his own.

Others would naturally reveal their Sword Intent when comprehending the True Martial Sword Monument, interacting with it, equating to exposing their paths before Ning Qi's eyes. It's about imparting Sword Intent to beings and receiving their feedback in return.

Why isn't Ning Qi afraid of others learning his Sword Intent?

The reason is simple: by the time others have learned it, his Sword Intent would have assimilated countless nutrients and evolved to an unknown degree.

In terms of comprehension, who could surpass Ning Qi?

If this experiment succeeds and yields significant results, he would resolutely proceed on the path of making all ways his own, using the wisdom of all beings as fuel to aid him in seeking the Great Dao.

Ning Qi felt slightly stirred.

Without showing any emotion, he transmitted a few words to Taoist Longshan.

Taoist Longshan was initially unsure how to handle the True Martial Sword Monument, noticing the fervent gazes of the many swordsmen. Now, with Ning Qi's instruction, he felt reassured.

Facing the eyes of the crowd.

Taoist Longshan laughed loudly:

"Today, under the grace of Senior Tianjian, the True Martial Sword Monument is erected here. Thank you for not abandoning it. Any fellow interested in the monument may view it, but remember to act

within your limits and avoid self-harm. Soon, our True Martial Sect will announce the regulations; please be patient."

Such a Sword Enlightenment Holy Land.

Must be well-managed, lest it devolves into chaos, resulting in more harm than good.

Upon hearing Taoist Longshan's promise, all the swordsmen were excited.

Cheers erupted; the swordsmen all bowed in the direction where the Heavenly Sword True Man vanished:

"We thank Senior Tianjian!"

The other martial artists were envious.

The blademen were reddened, each like a defeated rooster, but given their inferior skills, what could they do? They could only watch as the swordsmen gained yet another Sword Enlightenment Holy Land.

After today's great battle, for at least the next few years, the blademen wouldn't have the courage to compete with the swordsmen.

Luofu Sword Venerate's lip twitched. Looking at the True Martial Sword Monument, he felt tempted to comprehend it and verify it against his own Sword Dao, but having had a recent conflict with the True Martial Sect, if he now shamelessly went over, wouldn't he be utterly disgraced?

In the case of borrowing the sword previously, had the Heavenly Sword True Man lost, the pressure would have been on him. But who would have thought the Heavenly Sword True Man easily subdued the Thunder Shock Blade Venerate.

He could already foresee how the Martial Realm would judge him in the future.

Luofu Sword Venerate flicked his sleeves and left.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate had a wry smile; he arrived under the spotlight but now had become a marginal figure.

He no longer had the face to remain there, looking complexly towards the rear of True Martial Mountain before quietly leaving.

Some Blade Path powerhouses felt utterly embarrassed and quietly departed.

As one after another, these formidable figures disappeared from True Martial City.

This battle between blade and sword finally came to a close.

In a moment.

The names of the Heavenly Sword True Man and the True Martial Sword Monument spread across the world.