

## Cultivating 161

Chapter 161: Worldwide Discussion, Demon Sect Undercurrents (Two-in-One)

States of Great Yan.

All have fervent discussions.

Especially with the swordsmen's facilitation, the details of this battle are magnified infinitely, spread across the land by storytellers, even towns are aware of this battle.

"Thunder Shock Blade Venerate summoned heavenly thunder with one blade, transforming into a world-shaking Thunder Dragon, as if to devour all beings. Yet, True Man Tianjian, calm and composed, merely pointed lightly, and in an instant, forty-nine Celestial Swords soared through the sky!"

In the inn.

Countless people surround the storyteller, exclaiming in awe, urging him to continue quickly.

"Celestial Sword slashed Thunder Dragon, such a scene was astonishing, the earth shattered..."

Descriptions like these are countless.

The news spread from True Martial City across Qing State, then expanded to other states. Although that day had countless spectators, within the Great Yan Dynasty, it was like a drop in the ocean.

As tales spread, changes are inevitable.

Those who witnessed the battle firsthand only smiled knowingly upon hearing, but their inner shock never dissipated. Anyone who saw that battle knew that True Man Tianjian's strength far exceeded his ranking on the Celestial Being List.

This was already everyone's consensus.

Major forces almost simultaneously concluded that True Man Tianjian possessed top twenty strength on the Celestial Being List, and not the lower end, likely stronger than Luofu Sword Venerate!

In this battle.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate and True Man Tianjian naturally took center stage, but Luofu Sword Venerate's deeds were secretly spread, causing amusement among those in the know, and naturally, no one dared to spread widely, the influence of a Celestial Being List rank twenty-one unparalleled swordsman is immense.

Even these hidden rumors were enough to drive Luofu Sword Venerate insane.

After returning to Thunder Shock Manor, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate ordered his Thunder Shock Secret Record to be sent away, he did not break his promise nor dared to.

Some senior figures in the Blade Path visited, none blamed Thunder Shock Blade Venerate, some even offered compensation, after all, it wasn't Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's incompetence, but the enemy was too strong.

Several great Blade Path masters shared their martial arts with Thunder Shock Blade Venerate, in some sense, he benefited from disaster. Though he lost an arm, he broke through limits during the battle with True Man Tianjian, if he can absorb these Blade Path insights, he can progress further.

Next year, returning to the Celestial Being List is inevitable, even advancing a few ranks.

During this time.

Everyone couldn't help but discuss the True Martial Sword Stele, their eyes filled with envy and shock.

"I saw that True Martial Sword Stele from afar, originally, it's just an ordinary stone. The reason it transformed is entirely because of True Man Tianjian's Sword Intent, his Sword Intent..." At this point, the senior figure from Blade Path fell silent, expression complex, then continued, "Too terrifying."

These brief four words rendered everyone silent.

Someone couldn't help but propose:

"Why don't we emulate the True Martial Sword Stele, establish a Blade Stele for all blademen to comprehend, or else over time, we will be entirely overshadowed by the swordsmen."

This defeat of Thunder Shock Blade Venerate instead united blademen like never before.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate smiled bitterly, shaking his head:

"We likely can't achieve that. To preserve Blade Intent for comprehension, only Blade Demon senior could do it, but Blade Demon senior is elusive and might not involve himself in such matters..."

"I truly wonder how True Man Tianjian comprehended such unparalleled Sword Intent, perhaps through sudden enlightenment... If he had stronger cultivation, he might battle Blade Demon senior in the future."

Upon saying this, everyone couldn't help but feel relieved; thankfully, True Man Tianjian appears aged, or if he reaches the pinnacle of swordsmen, they would truly despair.

Now, the only thing they can present to counter swordsmen is the third on the Celestial Being List, Blade Demon.

Everyone shook their heads, smiling bitterly, then discussed finding other strategies to counter the existence of the True Martial Sword Stele.

...

For the first time, True Martial Sect has entered the view of numerous major forces, larger in scale than the previous two incidents of Celestial Sword slashing demons, after all, the two protagonists involved

are strong enough for the Celestial Being List, even at the bottom ranks, knowing this, there are only thirty-six such strongmen publicly known in Great Yan.

Moreover, it symbolizes the conflict between blade and sword.

Great Yan Imperial Court, various Taoism sects, Southern Border Alliance, Dajue Temple, Inquiring Sword Pavilion... these top forces all secretly discussed.

Meanwhile, in a certain hall.

A group of Demon Sect powerhouses were also discussing this matter.

Sitting at the head were not just one person, but three, one wearing a Bronze Ghost Mask, another a dignified middle-aged man with silver-glowing eyes causing some apprehension, and the third, a middle-aged beautiful woman in green, alluring in every gesture and smile, carrying a certain seduction.

These are the three Vice Sect Leaders of the Demon Sect.

"It seems like last time when Elder Wang and five others went to attack the True Martial Sect, that Senior Tianjian held back a lot of strength? Otherwise, just based on him alone, he might have been able to defeat Elder Wang and the five others."

The voice with the ghost mask had a sinister tone.

Although temporarily abandoning the assault on the True Martial Sect, it does not mean he has forgotten this grudge.

But this battle shook the world, and the strength exhibited by True Man Tianjian was somewhat beyond imagination, even wanting to tackle it later is a tough nut to crack.

The silver-eyed man speculated:

"Perhaps that time, Town North King was just visiting True Martial Mountain, so this old fox concealed his strength?"

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The woman in green nodded in agreement:

"Tianxing makes a good point, Ghost Mask. I think we should temporarily put aside the True Martial Sect. There is a Senior Tianjian this time who has established the True Martial Sword Monument, attracting many swordsmen. It won't be easy to take down the True Martial Sect in the future, and it's not worth the effort since, in reality, we don't have any deep grudges against them."

Immediately, an elder proposed:

"Three Vice Sect Leaders, perhaps we can consider another approach?"

He glanced at Ghost Mask and smiled:

"I heard that Vice Sect Leader Ghost Mask has an unparalleled genius under his command who has already entered the Blood Demon Pool, causing quite a stir and showing the demeanor of a Saint Heir. Since he hails from the True Martial Sect, why not let him try to make the True Martial Sect submit to us?"

"If it is feasible, then not only would we have one less opponent, but we would also gain a strong source of new blood."

The expressions of the three people varied, for they all knew that this elder was referring to Qin Yun.

Qin Yun's transformation in the Blood Demon Pool was unexpectedly smooth and caused quite a commotion, alarming the Grand Elder, who granted special permission for Qin Yun to delve deeper into the pool to draw strength.

Ghost Mask slowly shook his head and said:

"The probability of this plan working is too low; Qin Yun once rebelled against the True Martial Sect..."

The woman in green casually glanced at her slender fingers and said:

"Though he is a defector, the relationship between master and disciple is deep, like that of father and son. I observe Taoist Longshan's affection for this former disciple is not necessarily heartless. It wouldn't hurt to try when Qin Yun comes out of the Blood Demon Pool."

Ghost Mask stared at the beautiful woman without speaking, but everyone could see his displeasure because, after all, Qin Yun was his man. After a few breaths, he suddenly said:

"Vice Sect Leader Lin, I heard that Ruhua's niece is now astonishingly beautiful, with the bearing of a Saintess. Since you think so highly of Qin Yun, why not let her and Qin Yun come together? Perhaps this could set the stage for a great story in our Holy Sect."

Lin Xueshuang's eyes narrowed, and she snorted coldly:

"Ruhua, that silly girl, can't bear the title of Saintess. Who knows where she's been running off to lately."

However, she seemed somewhat moved and began to consider it carefully:

"But perhaps after Qin Yun emerges from the Blood Demon Pool, we can try to let them interact a bit."

Ghost Mask immediately laughed heartily.

In the middle, Xiang Tianxing frowned slightly and interrupted, saying:

"There's another important matter recently."

Everyone's expressions turned serious, realizing what Xiang Tianxing meant.

"The Southern Border Alliance has been acting crazy, launching successive attacks on several of our strongholds, catching us somewhat off guard. Especially near the southern border in White State, one branch was directly wiped out, and a Celestial Human Realm elder was killed!"

In an instant.

Everyone was furious.

Although they had heard of this before, they had not known that a Celestial Human Realm elder had also been killed.

Lin Xueshuang's eyes gleamed with deadly intent:

"Is the Southern Border Alliance really trying to go to war with us? Do those god-and-ghost-like creatures really think that forming an alliance allows them to challenge our Holy Sect? If they're not afraid of benefitting Great Yan, let them come!"

Ghost Mask pondered, somewhat suspicious:

"Could there be some misunderstanding? Our Holy Sect has never had conflict with the Southern Border Alliance. Both parties wish to step out of the Hundred Thousand Mountains, as it is said the living conditions there are becoming harsher, with Exotic Beasts frequently rioting, making even the outskirts unsafe compared to before."

"Whatever the reason, even if there is a misunderstanding, we should still subdue them first! Only then can we sit down and talk!" Xiang Tianxing stood up, his silver eyes filled with killing intent.

"Then let's fight!"

Everyone was incensed.

They could tolerate Great Yan's dominance, but now even the Southern Border Alliance dared to provoke them?

The group reached a consensus and began discussing various countermeasures.

...

Unnoticed and silent.

Amidst the tumult of True Man Tianjian, the Southern Border Alliance and the Demon Sect began to experience various undercurrents, which left the somewhat bewildered Great Yan court wondering why these two forces suddenly clashed. However, for them, it was a good thing, as they were happy to watch from the sidelines and even occasionally added fuel to the fire.

And the instigator of all this was leisurely passing his days at the Seeking Tao Institute.

After the great battle concluded, Ning Qi rarely enjoyed some peace and quiet.

No one disturbed him, as all True Martial Sect disciples engaged in the Sword Dao were enamored with comprehending the True Martial Sword Monument. After Luo Wentian set various rules, it was gradually opened to martial artists outside the True Martial Sect, prioritizing swordsmen but allowing other martial artists to comprehend it as well, though with fewer spots.

Ning Qi lay on a rattan chair, the Enlightenment Tea Tree beside him thriving under the watering of Blood Jade Pill liquid, slowly growing to the height of a thigh.

He himself was communicating with the Sword Intent of the True Martial Sword Monument, sensing the imprints left by those who had delved into the monument in recent days.

Though some small progress was made, given the short time, Ning Qi was rather expectant. At least it proved the method was viable; one person's wisdom could never compare, but the collective efforts of tens of thousands would undoubtedly elevate his Sword Dao to an unprecedented height.



"This recent battle, with applications borrowed from True Martial heritage, was remarkably effective and allowed for such a decisive victory."

Ning Qi reflected on the sword strike that defeated Thunder Shock Blade Venerate.

Heavenly Sword Transformation Nine gave him significant insights.

"Perhaps, the Heavenly Sword Technique can be further perfected by integrating sword arrays."

A spark of inspiration ignited in Ning Qi's mind. He had previously created some powerful sword arrays, such as the Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array, which had astonished several Celestial Human Realm experts at the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony. With this sword array, True Martial Sect disciples had already made a considerable name for themselves in Qing State.

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The Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array has already become a major trademark of the True Martial Sect.

In the past, when Ning Qi created the Heavenly Sword Technique, it was to unleash his own Gang Qi and blend it with the power of Heaven and Earth. Though its power was ample, it lacked intricacy, as his comprehension of the power of Heaven and Earth hadn't reached that level.

Now, as Ning Qi's foundation deepens, it can naturally be further strengthened.

This is not a difficult task for him.

"However, with the current strength and amount of Gang Qi at my Jade Liquid Realm, the Heavenly Sword Transformation Nine is relatively easy, but proceeding further might allow a full-force fusion with the Heavenly Gang Sword Array. Beyond that, it might be somewhat lacking in follow-through."

"To fully evolve the Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array with the Heavenly Sword Technique, hope lies in achieving it after reaching the Primordial Core Realm."

"As for the Ten Thousand Swords in the Sky, that would only be after the Celestial Human Realm."

Ning Qi is somewhat looking forward to it.

He cultivates the Myriad Phenomena True Gang, mastering many paths. Yet currently, his Sword Dao leads in lethality, and with the constant feedback from the True Martial Sword Monument, it is likely to continue maintaining the lead.

"However, the Heavenly Sword Technique is actually the fusion of Sword Intent, Gang Qi, and the power of Heaven and Earth. With my capabilities, transforming it into the Heavenly Blade Technique or the Heavenly Spear Technique poses no problem at all."

Thinking about this, Ning Qi's lips curved slightly.

He reached out with a gesture, and a long blade with a bold purple hue flew out of the room, landing in his hand.

He gently stroked it.

The newly acquired Heavenly Thunder Blade immediately emitted a resonant hum, with lightning flickering on the blade, even resonating with some kind of thunderous force in the High Heaven.

"This blade... is somewhat special. It seems to be able to attract the power of Heavenly Thunder. The Thunder Shock Blade Venerate previously used this blade to gather energy, further amplifying his Thunderous Blade Intent, but didn't fully develop the Heavenly Thunder Blade's capabilities. Fortunately, I know a bit about the Blade Path, and having previously fused with the Thunder Tiger Fake Pill, I have some insights into the Path of Thunderous."

Ning Qi chuckled softly.

Holding the Heavenly Thunder Blade, he swung it, causing a Thunder Dragon Blade Qi to surge forth, only to disappear instantly before it could touch a peach tree.

If the Thunder Shock Blade Venerate were to see such ease and leisure, he would be utterly stunned. His signature martial arts perfectly replicated, even surpassing him in another's hands.

"The Thunder Shock Blade Venerate can certainly be considered a genius in the Blade Path. Once the Thunder Shock Secret Record arrives, I can carefully comprehend it."

Ning Qi remains very interested in the Celestial Being Secret Record.

Now accumulating foundation, after advancing to the Celestial Human Realm in the future, he will be even more in his element.

Dispelling distractions, Ning Qi turned his gaze to the Heavenly Thunder Blade.

Just like the previous Cyan Profound Treasure Armor, he doesn't merely aim to acquire a piece of treasure armor or blade; he hopes to comprehend the essence of the Heavenly Thunder Blade and the operating principle through which it draws the power of thunder.

He has a premonition.

If he can simulate it, he will gain an Unparalleled Secret Technique.

Gang Qi flowed around, and purple hue circulated on the Heavenly Thunder Blade. Ning Qi submerged in contemplation, perceiving the changes of the Heavenly Thunder Blade, with Spiritual Light like a spring, constantly gushing. But after a moment, he shook his head slightly.

"To truly comprehend, I must ascend to High Heaven, or perhaps wait for rainy weather."

To attract thunder, one needs a personal experience.

Ning Qi still harbors some apprehension about the real power of Heavenly Thunder. In this world, up in High Heaven, terrifying lightning exists. Even a Celestial Human Realm expert could be pulverized if they

venture too deep; many records document attempts to explore beyond the skies, all ending in failure with dire consequences.

"Currently, the Town North King is still on True Martial Mountain; once he leaves, I'll attempt again, no rush."

Ning Qi is very patient, and after contemplating the Heavenly Thunder Blade for a while, he began calmly cultivating.

The rumblings of the Heaven and Earth Grinding Wheel Quenching Gang Technique echoed in his ears, and Ning Qi's mind was completely serene.

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Meanwhile, in Bright Martial Pavilion.

The Town North King is sitting across from Taoist Longshan.

After the war, the Town North King didn't leave immediately because Li Ling wanted to comprehend the True Martial Sword Monument, so the Town North King had to allow this, sensing certain intentions within himself, thus deciding to stay on True Martial Mountain.

During these days, the Town North King secretly observed, feeling more and more that the True Martial Sect was remarkable.

The disciples of the sect are quite talented, showcasing some martial arts that even astonished him. Their foundation is deep, prompting him to think of researching the origins of True Martial heritage later; he felt it was not simple.

The most satisfying aspect for him is the teaching ability of Taoist Longshan.

Some people are naturally suited to be teachers. Previously, the incident with Luofu Sword Venerate made the Town North King realize that being a teacher isn't just about strength, compatibility matters too.

He had seen Taoist Longshan teach Zhuang Chen, admitting to himself that he didn't possess such teaching prowess, making the thought in his heart grow stronger, leading to today's scene.

"How has the Town North King's stay on True Martial Mountain been? If there's any neglect, please forgive us." Taoist Longshan felt puzzled as to why the Town North King visited today, but remained courteous.

He guessed that the Town North King might be preparing to leave, after all, he had rarely shown up these past days.

But the first words from the Town North King left Taoist Longshan dumbfounded. He smiled warmly:

"No need for formality, True Man. My visit today is to make a request."

"Please speak, Town North King. If it's within the capabilities of our True Martial Sect, we will surely give our all." Taoist Longshan's expression turned solemn; he always remembered the favor of the Town North King's intervention before.

The Town North King wore a serious expression:

"I wish for Ling'Er to join the True Martial Sect."

Taoist Longshan found it difficult, having just issued a grand promise, only to face embarrassment:

"This... It's not that I'm unwilling, but I'm afraid Senior Tianjian might not be willing to take a disciple."

He instinctively thought the Town North King intended for Li Ling to join True Man Tianjian's school, which was out of the question; only he knew that True Man Tianjian was his own young disciple, making it impossible to accept disciples.

The Town North King shook his head, laughing:

"No, it's not about joining True Man Tianjian's school, I wish for Ling'Er to join your school, True Man. Please, True Man, accept him. I will prepare a generous offering for the apprenticeship."

Upon meeting True Man Tianjian, he felt that although True Man Tianjian was strong, he was definitely unsuitable to be a teacher, too cold, too unfeeling.

Taoist Longshan was even more amazed.

He never expected the Town North King to ask for Li Ling to become his disciple.

"This... what virtue or ability do I have? I'm afraid I might delay the Crown Prince."

He was self-aware that for the Town North King's Crown Prince to seek apprenticeship, surely many would eagerly accept, including some strong Celestial Being List figures. He heard that Luofu Sword Venerate, ranked twenty-first on the Celestial Being List, was once invited to the royal mansion but later left.

Although Taoist Longshan believed he'd eventually have a spot on the Celestial Being List, he had just broken into the Celestial Human Realm and still needed time to accumulate and settle.

The Town North King stood up, and with a bow, offered a ceremonial salute:

"True Man need not be modest. To be frank, I've observed your teaching methods; they can be considered world-class. Ling'Er, having lost his mother early, is somewhat mischievous, but on True Martial Mountain, he has been exceptionally happy. If he can join your school, it would be his fortune. I have no other intention, I simply wish to find a good teacher for Ling'Er, and I ask you to fulfill this!"

His words were earnest, his posture very humble.

In the past, he didn't want Li Ling to risk being targeted, but now with the strong display of True Man Tianjian and the True Martial Sword Monument attracting many swordsmen, the safety factor has greatly increased.

If he arranges for several strong individuals to settle in True Martial City, Li Ling could be even safer than being in the royal mansion, as the Town North King himself couldn't always be around Li Ling.

Taoist Longshan was moved.

For the seventh-ranked Unparalleled strongman on the Celestial Being List to bow to himself so sincerely, it showed genuine intention.

He sighed inwardly, "How loving the hearts of parents are."

Taoist Longshan helped the Town North King up, expressing his thoughts:

"Town North King, do not be like this. To be candid, I also quite like this child, Li Ling. His comprehension and root bone are excellent and his sincerity to Sword Dao, if polished well, will surely achieve greatness."

"Honored by the Town North King's confidence, from now on he will be my school's eleventh True Inheritor."

Upon understanding the Town North King's intent, he decisively agreed.

He did not flatter. Given Li Ling's natural talent, he was indeed a worthy disciple. Although his personality was somewhat mischievous, he was fundamentally kind-hearted. Previously, when Luofu Sword Venerate sought to borrow the sword forcefully, he proactively spoke against it.

Besides this.

Accepting Li Ling as a disciple also meant that a solid support stood behind the True Martial Sect.

Others who wish to trouble the True Martial Sect in the future will have to consider carefully.

The Town North King showed a smile.

A weight lifted from his heart.

He said, "Thank you, True Man! Besides, there's one more thing: Ling'Er greatly admires True Man Tianjian's Sword Dao. Could I trouble you to pass along our request? If True Man Tianjian is willing to share his Sword Dao with Ling'Er, I am willing to exchange it for my Heaven-Suppressing Fist, or seek out other interesting inheritance for True Man Tianjian."

Taoist Longshan was inwardly stirred, nodding gently:

"If I have the opportunity to meet Senior Tianjian, I will convey it truthfully."

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True Martial Mountain.

Many disciples gathered together, the atmosphere was lively as they conducted Li Ling's initiation ceremony.

Li Ling knelt respectfully on the ground, bowing his head and then presented the tea for his master:

"Master, please have tea!"

Upon learning that he was about to be admitted into the True Martial Sect, he felt extremely joyful. Everything he had seen and heard recently made him admire the True Martial Sect greatly, especially



the camaraderie among the true disciples, which he envied, as he was actually quite lonely in the Royal Mansion.

Those Royal Family members who were close to him did so more because of the identity of the Town North King.

Taoist Longshan took a sip of tea with a smile:

"Get up. From now on, you are the eleventh true disciple of the True Martial Sect. We have no rigid rules, just act with a clear conscience, and you must remember this."

He was in a good mood as well.

Recently, he had accepted two disciples with excellent aptitude, and he felt the enthusiasm he had when teaching Ye Qinghe and others returning once more.

"I will engrave it in my heart!" Li Ling nodded earnestly.

Everyone laughed happily and offered their congratulations.

Li Ling greeted his senior brothers and sisters, and Ning Qi and others also smiled and presented gifts. Zhuang Chen was quite excited; he had originally hit it off with Li Ling, and unexpectedly, they turned into senior and junior brothers in no time. Life indeed had such wondrous twists.

The Town North King witnessed this scene and smiled reassuringly.

He felt that his choice was right.

After witnessing Li Ling's initiation ceremony, he descended the mountain to leave, but before departing, he discussed with Taoist Longshan about exchanging insights on Sword Dao with True Man Tianjian, promising that only Li Ling would watch, and he himself would definitely not interfere.

Additionally, he told Taoist Longshan that he would arrange for several experts to be near the True Martial Sect, so if any assistance was needed, they could contact them freely, and the resources needed for Li Ling's cultivation would also be prepared.

This left Taoist Longshan quite moved.

Several days later.

Taoist Longshan formally began teaching Li Ling the True Martial inheritance; he planned to teach Li Ling the Bian Stance.

In the Martial Arts Arena.

Luo Wentian and Xiong Shi were watching; witnessing the scenery, their hearts were filled with emotion. Six or seven years ago, Ning Qi had initially stepped onto the Martial Path, and Taoist Longshan taught him the Bian Stance here; now the scene reappeared, but the object of transmission had changed.

Li Ling was considered a genius, but he was far behind compared to Ning Qi's remarkable talent.

The two exchanged a smile, both recalling their past awkwardness.

They were somewhat astonished by Taoist Longshan teaching Li Ling the Bian Stance, but then they became relieved.

Li Ling was quite excited.

He had heard Zhuang Chen mention the True Martial Nine Stances and the Nine Great Celestial Beings fighting the Martial Saint several times over the past few days, and originally thought he might not have the chance to learn the True Martial Nine Stances, but unexpectedly, his master was teaching him.

However, after the excitement, he couldn't help but hesitantly ask:

"Master, isn't Ninth Senior Brother cultivating the Bian Stance? If I practice this stance skill..."

He felt somewhat uncomfortable, as if he was taking something from Ninth Senior Brother, though it wasn't clearly stated that the True Martial Nine Stances were limited to one stance per person, yet all the disciples thought so.

Taoist Longshan smiled and said:

"No problem, Jiu has his own path. If you later encounter things you don't understand with the Bian Stance, you can consult him. Jiu's Bian Stance is more formidable than mine."

His choice to teach Li Ling the Bian Stance was not a sudden decision, but rather a thoughtfully considered plan.

The True Martial Nine Stances are the foundation of the True Martial inheritance. Initially, Qin Yun's departure had distressed him, and he suffered a setback in this area, but later, Divine Sword Old Man entrusted Zhuang Chen to him on his deathbed, which instead broke his mental block.

Since that was the case, it was simply reassembling the Nine Stances.

Ning Qi is the True Martial Path Guardian, practicing the True Martial Stance, leaving the Bian Stance vacant.

Unless unexpected.

It was unlikely he would take on more disciples afterwards.

Li Ling was quite shocked; he hadn't anticipated that Ninth Senior Brother would be so powerful. During this time, he had heard Zhuang Chen mention several peculiar abilities of Ninth Senior Brother, but hadn't expected the Bian Stance to be practiced more profoundly than his master.

"Come, continue practicing."

Taoist Longshan explained the essence of the Bian Stance, and Li Ling, truly the son of the Town North King, grasped it instantly, allowing Taoist Longshan to fully enjoy the pleasures of being a master.

A moment later.

He had Luo Wentian and Xiong Shi practice with Li Ling, while he himself walked towards the Seeking Tao Institute.

In the Seeking Tao Institute.

Ning Qi continued to comprehend the Heavenly Thunder Blade; ever since the Town North King descended the mountain, he relaxed considerably, not having to be so vigilant, frequently triggering Blade Intent, and wielding the Thunder Dragon Blade Qi, savoring its transformations. He was waiting for sufficiently fierce lightning storm weather, and if not feasible, planned to head to High Heaven for observation.

Of course, he cherished his life and would definitely not delve deeply.

When Taoist Longshan entered the Seeking Tao Institute, he saw Ning Qi swing a blade, with the Thunder Dragon roaring, and then extinguishing the void.

He was somewhat amazed.

Had Ning Qi not been standing there for real, he might have thought Thunder Shock Blade Venerate had arrived.

It was astonishing how, after an encounter, a person's ultimate skill was learned, surprisingly.

Ning Qi turned around and smiled:

"Master."

With a wave of his hand, the Heavenly Thunder Blade flew into the house. Had someone else arrived, the Heavenly Thunder Blade would have been put away long ago, but knowing it was Taoist Longshan, and having just experienced a new insight, he didn't stop.

He invited Taoist Longshan to sit and then brewed tea.

Taoist Longshan took a sip, feeling refreshed and his thoughts brightened several degrees; his eyes lit up as he asked:

"This tea is good, where did it come from?"

Ning Qi pointed to the enlightenment tea tree beside him, already waist-high, and smiled:

"It's not the tea leaves themselves at work; the enlightenment tea tree saplings gather dew every morning. I've had Tiansheng collect it. If Master wishes, I'll have Tiansheng send some over to you in the future."

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Taoist Longshan looked and couldn't help but sigh:

"Back then, Wang Quan sent a dead species, but you managed to bring it back to life. If he knew, he might just be angrily revived."

Back then, the Demon Sect not only attacked the True Martial Sect but also the rebuilding Wang Clan.

Several Celestial Human Realm experts fell together, and Ancestor Wang went missing; Taoist Longshan assumed he was dead.

Ning Qi smiled slightly.

"Master, did you come over because of something?" Generally, if Taoist Longshan has nothing to do, he rarely comes to disturb him.

Taoist Longshan nodded and spoke about the main matter:

"It's the Town North King; he hopes to exchange with True Man Tianjian."

He explained all the Town North King's requests and promises clearly.

Then he asked:

"Do you think it's feasible? If not, I will send a reply to reject him."

Ning Qi fell into contemplation.

Li Ling naturally wanted to learn the Heavenly Sword Technique. However, Li Ling couldn't really learn the Heavenly Sword Technique; it's not that Ning Qi underestimated him, but rather the Heavenly Sword Technique requires mastering the Celestial Being Unity Secret Technique. Just this step is already extremely difficult, and furthermore, it demands high proficiency in Gang Qi and Sword Intent, which is an unparalleled secret technique that can reverse attack the Celestial Human Realm at the Gang Essence Realm stage.

But Ning Qi could adjust.

Change it to a Sword Path Secret Technique that can only be used at the Celestial Human Realm. The key is to teach Li Ling the Sword Intent.

As for the inconvenience of Ning Qi teaching, this problem can be easily solved.

The Formless Gang Body can serve as a substitute.

Thinking like this.

Ning Qi felt it was feasible; it was simply spending a bit of time adjusting, creating some prerequisite martial arts in the Sword Dao, guiding Li Ling step by step, ultimately enabling him to master a weakened version of the Heavenly Sword Technique at the Celestial Human Realm stage.

He was attentive not because he coveted Town North King's Heaven-Suppressing Fist.

Instead, he was interested in Town North King's influence.

Ning Qi thought that maybe through Town North King he could obtain some information about the Martial Saint Realm, as the Town North King is currently ranked seventh on the Celestial Being List, an unparalleled expert, perhaps inherently at Celestial Being Realm Perfection, nearing the Martial Saint Realm, and being a royal family member, he may know some Martial Saint secrets.

This is more worthwhile to him than any inheritance.

But it also depends on whether Town North King is willing.

Ning Qi slowly said:

"Teaching Shiyi the Sword Dao is naturally no problem; Shi and Shiyi are my junior brothers. In the future, when their realms reach the necessary level, I will teach them. However, regarding Town North King, I hope to obtain some intelligence from him."

"Information about the Martial Saint Realm."

Upon hearing.

Taoist Longshan was invigorated.

He instantly understood Ning Qi's thinking; this is already a start to prepare ahead of time.

He nodded and said:

"No problem, after a few days I will send a message informing Town North King of your condition, and if he agrees, I will tell you immediately."

After all, Town North King had just descended the mountain; saying True Man Tianjian agreed right now would be somewhat strange, not fitting True Man Tianjian's character as a secluded and solitary person.

Following that, he added:

"I will also pay more attention and, if there's time, assist you by inquiring from some old friends."

In the past, he did not pay much attention to matters of the Martial Saint Realm, since it was too difficult. Just achieving the Celestial Human Realm already requires a lifetime effort, and the Martial Saint Realm is a legend in every era.

But thinking about it.

His disciple, not even ten years old, already reached such a realm; perhaps within ten years, he could touch the Martial Saint Realm, so preparing in advance is necessary. He internally cursed himself for being careless.

Ning Qi smiled and nodded.

The master and disciple chatted for a while longer before Ning Qi saw Taoist Longshan off.

...

Time slowly passed.



Li Ling gradually integrated into the True Martial Sect, and with the help of fellow disciples, built a small courtyard around Zhuang Chen, naming it Mad Sword Institute.

He was already aware that Zhuang Chen possessed an Innate Sword Bone, and was amazed, feeling considerable pressure, but soon this pressure turned into motivation. Both loved the sword, verifying each other's skills, and through positive competition, progressed more swiftly.

This is also the origin of the Mad Sword Institute's name; Li Ling knew his talent in the Sword Dao wasn't as strong as Zhuang Chen's. If he wanted to keep pace with Zhuang Chen, he had to strive hard, be obsessed with the sword and extreme about it.

Simultaneously.

He also learned about the True Martial Peach Assembly, only regretting he didn't enter the sect earlier this year.

He's thinking that by the time next year's True Martial Peach Assembly comes around, he'd need to get some entertaining things from the Royal Mansion.

Li Ling occasionally also asked Ning Qi about the Bian Stance. Ning Qi didn't hold back, causing Li Ling's progress in Stance Skill to be extremely rapid, making Li Ling more aware of this Ninth Senior Brother's extraordinary nature.

The turmoil from the battle between True Man Tianjian and Thunder Shock Blade Venerate gradually calmed.

True Martial Sect became livelier than usual.

The existence of the True Martial Sword stele attracted many top swordsmen to ponder over the Sword Dao, though fortunately, they were all sensible, and no disputes occurred. After True Disciples sat in town for a while, they relaxed, and thoughts of descending the mountain to train arose.

Jiang Baishan was the most proactive, promptly becoming the focus of his fellow disciples' teasing.

"Fifth Brother, when Thunder Shock Blade Venerate challenged Senior Tianjian, a disciple told me they saw you talking and laughing intimately with a young lady, that lady was clad in white, stunningly beautiful." The fourth disciple, He Yan, made expressive gestures.

Li Ling giggled and said:

"Fifth Senior Brother, could she be our future Fifth Sister-in-law?"

The True Disciples all laughed.

Jiang Baishan blushed red, he gave Li Ling a sideways glance:

"What do you kids know, go play on your own."

Later, seeing everyone still laughing merrily, he decisively accepted the situation:

"So what if she is! Her name is Lin Ruhua, and we've been through ups and downs together, sharing mutual affection, huh, how dare you bachelors laugh at me?"

Chapter 166: Journey to High Heaven, Enlightenment on a Rainy Night (Two-in-One)\_3

Ye Qinghe raised her eyebrows, grabbed Jiang Baishan's ear, and asked who was the bachelor, causing Jiang Baishan to quickly beg for mercy.

Everyone laughed even more happily.

In the end.

Luo Wentian waved his hand with a smile and then asked seriously:

"Fifth brother, since you've established your relationship with Miss Lin, why not take this opportunity to introduce her to our master and us? We can get to know your future wife better. Being so close to home, you should have brought her back; otherwise, the girl might think you have other intentions."

"As your senior brother, I must remind you, once you've chosen your Dao companion, you must be devoted and not abandon her midway!"

His tone became serious towards the end.

Knowing the story of Jiang Baishan's acquaintance with Miss Lin Ruhua, he recalled that initially, the girl almost chopped off his hand, yet they turned out to be a pair of rivals.

Jiang Baishan hurriedly protested:

"I absolutely don't have other intentions, but Ruhua may still have some concerns. I'll try to persuade her, and next year I'll bring her back to participate in the True Martial Peach Assembly!"

He vaguely sensed that Lin Ruhua's identity was not simple, but he believed as long as they loved each other, they could overcome any difficulty.

Everyone immediately gave him a thumbs up.

Ning Qi also smiled and encouraged: "Fifth Brother, keep it up."

They watched Jiang Baishan descend the mountain.

Afterward, several of their fellow apprentices went down the mountain for training, while others remained on the mountain for cultivation.

Ning Qi's Seeking Tao Institute returned to tranquility.

During the White Ape's cultivation, it often hung out with Zhuang Chen and Li Ling. If Ye Qinghe was around, they formed a trio with the ape, and they dominated True Martial Mountain and nearby areas, causing trouble for the nearby exotic beasts. The Iron-Armed Ape, for instance, was often targeted by the White Ape and its companions to get even for the past bullying.

Ning Qi was happy with this.

He quietly cultivated alone, finding enjoyment in solitude.

Currently, he had swallowed his fifth Blood Jade Pill, further improving his strength, and occasionally felt an indescribable tremor from the Jade Liquid Sea.

He was about to turn ten years old.

At this pace, advancing to the Primordial Core Realm next spring was likely inevitable.

Cultivating Breaking Realm required persistent effort, which he had expected, so Ning Qi wasn't worried.

Instead, he was eagerly awaiting Town North King's response; a few days ago, Taoist Longshan had someone send a letter.

...

Ning Qi was contemplating the Heavenly Thunder Blade.

Instead of receiving Town North King's reply, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate unexpectedly sent the Thunder Shock Secret Record first.

As an elite on the Celestial Being List, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's Secret Record was indeed valuable, providing Ning Qi substantial insights. He secretly compared it to the Dragon Tiger Eagle Secret Record, feeling the new record was superior.

Ning Qi integrated it with the Heavenly Thunder Blade for comprehension.

Through these days of effort, he gained numerous insights, making noticeable progress on the Path of Thunderous. His Gang Qi, when converted to thunderous attributes, was extremely forceful and fierce, yet he hadn't found the key to deciphering the Heavenly Thunder Blade's secret of channeling heavenly thunder.

He hadn't yet encountered sufficiently intense thunderstorms.

Ning Qi decided to test his luck at High Heaven.

Late at night.

With no one noticing, Ning Qi suppressed his aura, distanced himself from the True Martial Sect, and then went skyward.

Typically, Celestial Human Realm experts didn't fly particularly high.

But now.

Ning Qi was attempting to break through upward.

Initially, it was manageable, but the higher he went, the greater the pressure, rapidly consuming his Gang Qi, as if being suppressed by a certain will.

Ning Qi's heart went cold.

In this world, it's commonly rumored that the heavens are round and the earth square.

He originally thought perhaps the people of this world hadn't grasped the truth.

After all, he had come from Blue Star in a previous life, knowing the concept of planets and the universe.

But now it seemed.

Perhaps he was too shallow; this world indeed has extraordinarily powerful martial artists, some perceptions might not be wrong.

He cleared his mind and focused upward, increasingly surrounded by emptiness, only the biting Gang wind.

Unknown how long had passed.

The Heavenly Thunder Blade on his back suddenly reacted, emitting a strong purple aura.

His attention snapped to it, and his heart skipped.

Above High Heaven, a glaring lightning bolt descended like a Thunder Dragon, charging towards him, its might incredibly terrifying, comparable to Thunder Shock Blade Venerate's strike.

Ning Qi's body shimmered with green light as the Cyan Profound Body Protection Technique instinctively activated to block this thunderous strike.

Leveraging the thunder's glow, Ning Qi looked around, feeling a bit shocked.

Above him, one terrifying lightning after another swirled within, resembling a deadly domain forbidding any life forms to traverse.

"The rumors are true, High Heaven indeed has a Thunderous Forbidden Zone!"

Before Ning Qi could react, an even more terrifying lightning surged, purple mixed with black, several times stronger than the previous one. Ning Qi was aghast and fully executed the Cyan Profound Body Protection Technique, barely defending against this lightning.

Without any hesitations.

Ning Qi burst into speed, diving downward.

The lightning above High Heaven was inherently chaotic; if he continued to linger, while the Heavenly Thunder Blade attracted even more terrifying thunders, he might meet his end.

"This realm is definitely not within my reach now!"

Once Ning Qi no longer perceived the thunderous fluctuations, he breathed a sigh of relief, the invisible sense of danger dissipating entirely.

He showed a hint of a bitter smile.

Perhaps due to his smooth sailing until now, coupled with easily overwhelming Thunder Shock Blade Venerate, he became somewhat 'complacent.' Now, he completely sobered up, realizing he still needed to grow, some places weren't within his reach yet.

Ning Qi gazed deeply at High Heaven.

Intuitively, it contained significant secrets, yet the Thunderous Forbidden Zone was too terrifying; he suspected even Martial Saints might not penetrate it.

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Taking a deep breath, without any hesitation, Ning Qi continues to dive downward.

No matter what secrets lie there, they are beyond his reach for now, so it's best to stay away.

Returning the same way.

Ning Qi lands atop a mountain peak.

He feels a bit regretful.

This journey to High Heaven couldn't completely comprehend the secrets of the Heavenly Thunder Blade; he has to wait for a rainy day.

He is thinking of returning to True Martial Mountain.

Yet his mind is perceptive.

Ning Qi looks up at the sky, seeing clouds gathering above in the night, with waves of energy brewing. After a moment, thunder roars, shaking the heavens and pouring rain down.

He feels something strange in his heart.

"Is it caused by my earlier venture into High Heaven?"

But he feels it's unlikely.

In some sense, this is like finding a silver lining in the dark.

In a twist, Ning Qi sets aside distractions.

Sitting cross-legged atop the mountain peak in emptiness, with the Heavenly Thunder Blade on his lap, he closes his eyes, beginning to earnestly comprehend; this rare opportunity must be seized.



Roaring!

A blinding thunderbolt breaks through the night sky, striking the mountain peak, shattering rocks, and trembling the mountain.

Then another similarly blinding thunderbolt strikes, hitting Ning Qi's body.

But compared to the thunder Ning Qi experienced atop High Heaven, it is 'gentler.'

A cyan glow appears on his skin, easily blocking it, leaving only wisps of lightning continually flickering on his surface.

The Heavenly Thunder Blade on his leg keeps vibrating, with waves of special energy emanating out.

Thunderbolts are drawn in, Ning Qi does not deliberately guide them, allowing them to strike him. He can fully withstand such a degree, not out of a masochistic tendency, but to more directly feel the Heavenly Thunder Blade's transformation.

Ning Qi's mind floods like a waterfall with spiritual light, constantly surging.

Recent comprehension is continually emerging.

"The Cyan Profound Treasure Armor's strong defense is due to its unique material, similarly, the Heavenly Thunder Blade's ability to draw thunder stems from its material, which becomes more apparent during thunderous weather. If catalyzed with thunderous power, it will be even more evident..."

"The Heavenly Thunder Blade's material changes upon encountering thunder, forming small 'units,' which can be regarded as 'Qimen Array,' and are interrelated, which is the essence of its thunder-drawing ability..."

"If I can simulate these 'units' with Gang Qi, I can achieve the same effect, even further, drawing, amplifying, manipulating thunder... This power can be used in many areas, martial arts, body forging, arrays, artifact refining, alchemy..."

Ning Qi continuously perceives the changes in the Heavenly Thunder Blade and incoming thunderbolts.

Meanwhile.

The Jade Liquid Sea shakes; streams of Gang Qi circulate and gather, Ning Qi uses his body as a test ground, aiming to replicate the Heavenly Thunder Blade's special qualities.

He has a premonition that this time he will reap great rewards; the created secret technique can benefit many aspects.

Unknown how long has passed.

Rumble!

Another thunderbolt strikes.

Ning Qi opens his eyes, revealing joy.

He forcibly suppressed the Heavenly Thunder Blade's effect with Gang Qi, meaning this thunder just now was drawn by his Gang Qi simulation.

Success!

All that's left now is optimization.

"This technique can draw thunder from the sky; it shall be named the Heavenly Thunder Technique."

The Heavenly Thunder Technique can be applied in many places.

Ning Qi is eager to try.

He stands tall within the void, Gang Qi circulating; he holds the Heavenly Thunder Blade, Gang Qi and the blade simultaneously vibrating at a special frequency, drawing a large wave of thunder, far more terrifying than before. This time Ning Qi consciously controls it, the thunder does not strike him, but is instead converted mid-air into controllable thunderous power.

Ning Qi swings the blade.

The Thunder Dragon Blade Qi roars fiercely, turning a mountain into dust under the combined effect of thunder and blade Qi.

This movement is terrifying even beneath the night sky's thunder.

Ning Qi is very satisfied.

This is merely the martial arts application of the Heavenly Thunder Technique.

His painstaking effort wasn't in vain.

Ning Qi puts away the Heavenly Thunder Blade, feeling perceptive, glancing into the distance, raising an eyebrow, then silently disappearing.

Moments later.

Two figures fly through the air, landing atop the mountain peak where Ning Qi once stood. Observed carefully, surprisingly a pair of twin sisters carrying long spears, both with round faces, delicate appearance, seeming very young, but their Celestial Human Realm cultivation exposes their true age is not so young.

At this moment.

Both have expressions full of amazement, looking at the mountain turned to dust, speechless for a long time.

"If I didn't know Thunder Shock Blade Venerate couldn't appear here, I would really think this was his doing," the older sister whispered.

The younger sister shakes her head:

"No, this unknown strong person is even stronger than Thunder Shock Blade Venerate!"

The older sister exclaims:

"But on the Celestial Being List, there's no second unparalleled expert proficient in the Path of Thunderous and Blade Path."

"The world is vast, strong people hidden are countless. Unexpectedly, we sisters encountered one; we don't know whether to say this luck is good or bad."

The younger sister adds:

"Fortunately, that strong person has left; otherwise, if we offended him, it wouldn't be good. We shouldn't have come here before, all because sister's curiosity is too strong, don't forget our mission."

The older sister sticks out her tongue:

"I thought it was just thunder falling, who knew it was a strong person practicing blade here."

"Let's go, curiosity satisfied, let's hurry to True Martial Mountain. The Prince attaches great importance to True Martial Mountain, having us specially escort the highest level secret message; don't know what's inside, seems quite thick."

The younger sister immediately sternly rebukes:

"Stop! Your thought is very dangerous!"

The older sister quickly says:

"I'm just curious. The Prince's grace is as heavy as a mountain; how could I act recklessly?"

The younger sister's expression somewhat eases, no more words.

Both head towards True Martial Mountain through the space.

Chapter 168: Town North King's Secret Letter, Successor Sect Leader (Two-in-One)

The next day.

True Martial Mountain.

Twin sisters set foot on this mountain that had recently become famous, feeling a bit awed.

The mountain was originally nameless, but it became notable because of people.

They saw swordsmen climbing with excitement, finally being guided by True Martial disciples to a certain place.

"That is the legendary... True Martial Sword Monument!"

Their spirits were lifted, just a distant glance allowed them to perceive the overwhelming sword intent within. Although they wield spears, they could draw parallels.

They saw.

At the location of the True Martial Sword Monument, high platforms had long been constructed, centered around the sword monument, continuously rising in height. Vaguely, they could see figures with long swords on their backs sitting among them, frowning in contemplation or opening their eyes in surprise. The aura of a very few made them feel apprehensive.

They stopped to watch.

The sisters, feeling overwhelmed, walked to the mountain gate.

After revealing their identities, the guardian disciples dared not neglect and led them directly to see Taoist Longshan.

A moment later.

True Martial Hall.

The sisters politely greeted:

"Chen Xing and Chen Yue greet True Man Longshan. This time, we are here by the order of our prince to deliver a secret message. Please, take a look, True Man."

They were very courteous.

As she spoke, the younger sister, Chen Xing, took out the secret message from her bosom and handed it over.

Taoist Longshan felt a sense of foreboding in his heart.

The sisters did not conceal their aura, the cultivation of the Celestial Human Realm was fully revealed. Using two Celestial Human Realm powerhouses to escort the message showed its importance, Taoist Longshan quickly remarked:

"It's a long journey for you two, thank you. I wonder if Town North King had any other instructions?"

Chen Yue smiled and said:

"The prince prepared a discipleship gift for the crown prince. The prince ordered the royal mansion's entire collection of Taoist scriptures to be copied and sent over, but they are still on the way, expected to arrive in half a month."

Taoist Longshan's eyes lit up.

Previously, Town North King mentioned preparing a discipleship gift for Li Ling, and he hadn't taken it to heart. Unexpectedly, it turned out to be quite a surprise.

Even though Town North King's mansion is not a Taoist holy land, the collection of Taoist scriptures must be considerable.

This complete set of copied scriptures can greatly enrich the True Martial Sect's Scripture Pavilion.

Moreover.

This is very beneficial for his ninth disciple, Ning Qi.

Taoist Longshan knew Ning Qi always loved reading Taoist scriptures. Previously, the Taoist scriptures sent by the True Profound Sect had been mostly digested. Though True Martial disciples had been continuously collecting over the years, the speed could not match Ning Qi's pace of absorption.

Now that Town North King's scriptures are being sent, it will be enough to let Ning Qi delve into the scriptures for a time again.

"Thank Town North King for his kindness," Taoist Longshan expressed his gratitude with a smile, not being polite.

Chen Xing added:

"Additionally, there is something else to inform True Man. The two of us will stay in True Martial City afterwards to protect the crown prince. If True Man has any matters, you can inform us. If the crown prince has any needs, he can also tell us."

Taoist Longshan nodded in agreement.

This is a good thing.

Chen Xing and Chen Yue protecting Li Ling also means protecting the True Martial Sect.

If the True Martial Sect encounters difficulties, they naturally will not stand by without helping.

Taoist Longshan stood up and said:

"I will have someone call Li Ling over so you can chat."

He could tell that the two most likely had matters to discuss with Li Ling alone.

A moment later.

Li Ling arrived.



He first respectfully called his master, then his eyes lit up calling out to Aunt Xing and Aunt Yue.

Taoist Longshan smiled slightly, leaving the space to Li Ling and the two sisters.

He himself took the secret message from Town North King to the Seeking Tao Institute.

Ning Qi was cultivating.

Under the support of the Blood Jade Pill, even the large grindstone formed by the Power of Heaven and Earth appeared to be covered in a layer of blood, effectively increasing, as strands of Jade Liquid Gang Qi became more condensed, re-merging into the Jade Liquid Sea.

Perceiving Taoist Longshan approaching, Ning Qi stopped cultivating, the pressure around him flashed and then disappeared.

Seeing the secret message in Taoist Longshan's hand, Ning Qi felt a shock in his heart, unable to resist asking:

"Master, has Town North King already responded?"

Taoist Longshan nodded with a smile:

"Indeed, he sent two Celestial Human Realm experts to escort the secret message this time. I estimate he should have agreed to your terms, take a look."

He handed over the secret message.

From beginning to end, he had no thought to open it himself.

This was a transaction between Town North King and his disciple. Though curious, he had no intention of prying.

Ning Qi took a deep breath.

He opened the secret message.

At the top was a piece of gold parchment.

Ning Qi focused on it, his pupils involuntarily shrinking.

Taoist Longshan was intrigued, rarely seeing such an expression on his disciple's face. Most of the time, Ning Qi was extremely calm, almost unreactive even if the sky were to fall.

While he was curious.

Ning Qi handed over the gold parchment.

Taoist Longshan couldn't resist looking, and the next moment he froze in place, as if petrified, with waves surging in his heart.

The information recorded was not much.

Only one short sentence.

"In this world, there is no longer a Martial Saint Technique. To achieve Martial Saint status, one must forge a new path."

In a daze.

The gold parchment in Taoist Longshan's hand began to burn without wind.

In the blink of an eye, it had turned to ashes and dissipated into the void.

The master and disciple exchanged glances, their hearts filled with various speculations. This simple sentence carried massive information, and from Town North King being cautious enough to use this self-incinerating gold parchment, it was evident that this information was highly confidential and could not be spread. Earlier, Ning Qi tried to use Gang Qi to stop the self-incineration of the gold parchment but failed.

#### Chapter 169: The Town North King's Confidential Letter, the Successor Sect Leader

"In this world, there is no Martial Saint Technique... Does this mean all Martial Saint Techniques have been severed? Why would they be severed? Were they erased by someone, or is there another reason?"

Taoist Longshan murmured to himself, unable to remain calm.

There are Martial Saints in the world.

The Martial Saint of Great Yan is proof, yet the Town North King said that to become a Martial Saint, one must forge a new path for themselves.

"Is the path of the Martial Saint of Great Yan impassable? Or is it that someone doesn't want others to ascend to Martial Saint, thus deliberately destroying all Martial Saint Techniques?"

Taoist Longshan's eyes narrowed slightly.

In his heart, he had an even more shocking guess but didn't voice it. The Martial Saint of Great Yan has dominated the world for two thousand years; perhaps he intends to monopolize the universe, preventing others from reaching Martial Saint?

Ning Qi, merely seeing the look in his master's eyes, already knew what he was thinking.

In fact, his initial thoughts were the same as Taoist Longshan's.

But soon,

he thought more deeply.

Previously, when he received the Cyan Blade Sword Saint's legacy from Zhuang Chen, the Martial Saint part of the legacy was missing, as if it had been erased by someone. But there was an additional note saying that to become a Martial Saint, one must absorb the power of heaven and earth for their own use.

"If it was the doing of the Martial Saint of Great Yan, does he have the ability to erase the Martial Saint part from all Martial Saint legacies throughout history? Why not simply destroy the entire legacy, and why add such an unnecessary note?"

"Moreover, if the Martial Saint of Great Yan wants to monopolize the world, he could secretly eliminate those at the Celestial Being Perfection realm. Why allow them to continue growing and seeking the path ahead?"

Ning Qi found it somewhat illogical.

"But if these weren't the actions of the Martial Saint of Great Yan, then who erased these Martial Saint Techniques?"

He voiced these speculations.

Taoist Longshan fell silent.

"Hearing you say this, I suddenly feel that the True Martial legacy I received back then might not be incomplete. Perhaps even the Martial Saint Techniques in the True Martial legacy were erased by someone!" He voiced a shocking thought, but then shook his head.

This was just his speculation. Perhaps the True Martial legacy is one of the few well-preserved Martial Saint Techniques?

"But... why?"

Both were puzzled.

After all, whether or not there is a Cultivation Technique to rely on is a different matter.

For instance, the Celestial Human Realm.

If someone cultivates to the Gang Essence Realm but doesn't have the Celestial Being Secret Record to aid in cultivation, they might exhaust their life without breaking through, as it would mean blindly exploring a breakthrough method.

Now there are no Martial Saint Techniques in the world.

Which means those at the Celestial Being Perfection level need to explore the path forward themselves, forcibly creating a breakthrough method to reach the Martial Saint Realm. This is almost equivalent to pioneering the next realm of the Martial Path, retracing the path of the Human Race, just knowing in advance that the next realm is named Martial Saint.

The difficulty is imaginable.

Ning Qi didn't know how long it took for the initial Human Race to explore the Martial Saint Realm, but it couldn't have been short.

Even with Martial Saint Techniques, breaking through from the Celestial Human Realm to Martial Saint is extremely difficult, with one not emerging even in a few centuries.

Now, without Martial Saint Techniques, it's even more hellishly difficult.

"No wonder there has been no new Martial Saint for two thousand years." Taoist Longshan understood the reason.

Ning Qi's eyes flickered:

"Perhaps this matter wasn't done by one person, but by 'a certain group,' or perhaps another force?"

He recalled the blind old man he met in the small town before, who subtly reminded him not to delve too deeply into Martial Saint matters, as if warning him that Martial Saints were ominous.

He felt he was getting closer to the truth.

"Fortunately, it's just lacking the 'Techniques'." Ning Qi smiled.

In terms of comprehension, he wasn't afraid of anyone.

It's just that there are no Martial Saint Techniques; he needs to create them himself. To others, it might be as difficult as climbing the sky, but to him, it's really not a big deal.

"Once I break through to the Celestial Human Realm, I'll start working on creating Martial Saint Techniques in advance! However, even if I create Martial Saint Techniques, I must be discreet, until I fully understand the truth."

Ning Qi always felt,

there were deeper secrets hidden beyond the Martial Saint Realm, especially concerning the Martial Saint of Great Yan, the only Martial Saint in the world today, who required caution. Although Ning Qi felt that it was difficult for the Martial Saint of Great Yan alone to erase all Martial Saint Techniques, his existence was always somewhat strange.

The master and disciple discussed further.

Ultimately, they both felt that it was best not to spend too much energy on this matter and act low-key instead.

Ning Qi let out a light breath, setting aside his distracting thoughts.

Then he carefully read the next part of the secret letter.

This thick stack was the main body of the secret letter, recording the signature ultimate skill of the Town North King, the Heaven-Suppressing Fist.

Clearly.

The Town North King felt that the Martial Saint information he knew might not satisfy True Man Tianjian, so he attached his ultimate skill, full of sincerity.

Such a secret letter naturally required two Celestial Human Realm experts to escort.

Ning Qi watched attentively, with some surprise in his eyes, nodding slightly.

The Town North King truly deserves the title of unparalleled genius.

The Heaven-Suppressing Fist he created indeed had substance, greatly inspiring Ning Qi, especially in the application of suppressing and sealing with the power of heaven and earth. Previously, the Town North King had used the Heaven-Suppressing Fist in front of Ning Qi, and Ning Qi had learned a bit.

But only by observing the entire Heaven-Suppressing Fist did he realize that the Town North King had only used a part of its mysteries that day.

"It's the Heaven-Suppressing Fist, truly an unparalleled fist technique."

Ning Qi was not stingy with his praise.

Taoist Longshan smiled and nodded, feeling no need to look, even as Ning Qi passed it to him, he didn't take it. The previous Martial Saint intelligence could be known by one more person without harm, but this Heaven-Suppressing Fist was, after all, the Town North King's ultimate skill, used as an exchange with True Man Tianjian, and he wouldn't be so shameless.

Ning Qi did not insist.

He was already organizing several Celestial Human Secret Techniques, which he would later teach to Taoist Longshan, not inferior to the Heaven-Suppressing Fist. As for stronger ones, it's not that he was holding back; he was just afraid Taoist Longshan wouldn't be able to learn them yet.

"After a few days, I will let 'True Man Tianjian' quietly appear to teach Shiyi. Master, please help me to reply to the Town North King to reassure him." Ning Qi said with a smile.

Since he had received the Town North King's intelligence and martial arts, he wouldn't break his promise.

Taoist Longshan also nodded with a smile.

He also spoke about the apprenticeship gift sent by the Town North King, which delighted Ning Qi.

It was truly a timely rain.

He had already fully assimilated the Taoist Scripture of the True Profound Sect, and the Taoist Scripture from the Town North King's mansion would further enhance his foundation.

...

Half a month later.



The copied Taoist Scripture from the Town North King's mansion was delivered to True Martial Mountain, with at least two thousand volumes excluding some duplicates!

One must say.

The Town North King was truly generous, and the foundation of the Town North King's mansion was indeed profound. Such a collection of books was not inferior to some major Taoist sects.

Ning Qi once again immersed himself in a fulfilling life of reading scriptures and seeking enlightenment, with his Gang Qi growing stronger and more solid day by day, bringing him closer to the final transformation.

During this period.

Ning Qi also condensed a Formless Gang Body, while in the back mountain teaching Li Ling some precursor Sword Path Secret Techniques of the Heavenly Sword Technique.

Li Ling was overjoyed.

He had been somewhat troubled recently. While his talent was equally exceptional, compared to Zhuang Chen's Innate Sword Bone, he was still slightly inferior. Only with a passionate love for Sword Dao could he barely keep up with Zhuang Chen's pace, though it was difficult.

But now, with the guidance of True Man Tianjian, he found it much easier.

However, during this close interaction with True Man Tianjian, although he admired him even more, deep down, he couldn't help but feel his own master was better. The reason being, True Man Tianjian was simply too stern and aloof. Although his Sword Dao was unparalleled, Li Ling preferred his master's teaching style.

After some internal struggle, Li Ling secretly shared with Zhuang Chen about his father's 'investment' in hiring True Man Tianjian to teach him Sword Dao.

Zhuang Chen was somewhat envious but was genuinely happy for Li Ling.

The two senior and junior brothers were very friendly, engaging in healthy competition without envy.

Taoist Longshan watched with satisfaction in his eyes.

With the example of Qin Yun before him, he was now very attentive to the situation of his disciples in this aspect.

Time flew by.

When Ning Qi took the eighth Blood Jade Pill.

The year-end arrived.

A major event also occurred in the True Martial Sect.

Taoist Longshan passed on the position, and Luo Wentian succeeded to the position of Sect Leader of the True Martial Sect.

Chapter 170: Is Jiu True Man Tianjian? The Big Moves of the True Martial Sect (Two in One)

True Martial Dojo.

All the disciples gathered together, excitedly watching the two people at the front, who were Taoist Longshan and Luo Wentian.

Today is an extremely important day for the True Martial Sect.

It signifies succession and development.

Taoist Longshan, dressed in a pure white Taoist robe, appeared ethereal and otherworldly. His eyes were filled with deep emotion as he suddenly looked back, as if seeing the path he had walked. The True Martial Sect had developed over decades to become a top sect renowned across the world.

However, more effort is still needed.

The True Martial legacy records the past glory of the True Martial Sect, where even a Martial Saint once appeared, dazzling this world to its utmost.

His gaze then turned gradually solemn as he looked at his eldest disciple:

"Today, I am officially entrusting the True Martial Sect to you. You must always remember your mission, and lead the True Martial Sect forward. Can you do that?"

Luo Wentian's body trembled.

He was very excited, yet also felt a lot of pressure.

The topic of succeeding as Sect Leader had been brought up long before by Taoist Longshan. He had always worried about not doing well, but now, he finally made up his mind to give it his all to fulfill his master's wishes.

He realized that his previous worries weren't that important after all.

Being in the White Mist Realm, assuming the role of a sect leader was barely manageable, and he would continue to improve. It was only a matter of time before he could break through to the Jade Liquid Primordial Core. After cultivating the Sleep Dream Skill, many true disciples found their cultivation progressing at an alarming speed. They realized how terrifying the cultivation technique given by Ning Qi was, enough to break conventional cultivation records.

Apart from this, with Taoist Longshan and True Man Tianjian providing foundational support, he had nothing else to worry about.

After all, Taoist Longshan, now breaking through to the Celestial Human Realm, needed more time to cultivate. He was only hidden behind the scenes, not abstaining from matters. If a situation truly required Taoist Longshan's intervention, he wouldn't stand idly by.

Luo Wentian only needed to focus on handling the sect's development affairs.

He was very adept at these matters, even one might say, over the last decade, although Luo Wentian had no title of Sect Leader, he already had the responsibilities of one.

This is also why Taoist Longshan chose Luo Wentian to succeed him.

The True Martial Sect must continue to develop.

Luo Wentian took a deep breath, suppressing his many inner thoughts, then solemnly declared:

"I will devote my life's energy and will not fail my master's trust!"

Taoist Longshan's eyes glistened with tears. He placed the Taoist crown of the Sect Leader on Luo Wentian and donned the Taoist robe of the Sect Leader on him, then announced loudly:

"From today on, Luo Wentian is the second generation Sect Leader of the True Martial Sect! You must unite under the Sect Leader's guidance and revitalize the True Martial!"

The disciples were also filled with excitement, bowing in respect and shouting:

"We see the Sect Leader!"

"Unite and revitalize the True Martial!"

The snowflakes fluttered in the sky, yet they couldn't extinguish the enthusiasm of the True Martial disciples.

If one doesn't count the previous history, the True Martial Sect is actually still a very young sect. The disciples consider themselves, but there aren't many disputes, as the vast majority are willing to devote their efforts, even to the point of self-sacrifice, for the sect.

Ning Qi watched this scene, feeling deeply moved.

He had been on the mountain for ten years, witnessing the first transition of the sect leader position within his master's sect. Perhaps this kind of event would happen many more times in the future, but this one was the most important to him because it involved his master and his eldest senior brother.

He was a True Martial Path Guardian, preserving the safety of the True Martial. His eldest senior brother was the new sect leader, leading the sect's development, which was wonderful.

Every true disciple was genuinely joyful, and no one thought that Luo Wentian lacked virtue to match his position. Besides him, no one else in the True Martial Sect was more qualified to be the Sect Leader.

In the distance.

Some renowned figures from Qing State were invited to witness the ceremony, including the swordsmen who were meditating at the True Martial Sword Monument. They saw the astonishing cohesion of the True Martial Sect and were filled with admiration—an unparalleled sect with a millennia-long legacy was about to be born before their eyes.

With such cohesion, it's hard not to rise.

Some people started having thoughts.

They had learned some information that after Luo Wentian succeeded as Sect Leader, there would be major actions, and the True Martial Sect might expand.

If they could join the True Martial Sect now, it would definitely be a great opportunity.

...

Bright Martial Pavilion.

Only Luo Wentian, Taoist Longshan, and Ning Qi were present.

Luo Wentian was a bit puzzled at heart. Originally, he wanted to discuss his plans for the coming days with Taoist Longshan. Having just assumed the role of Sect Leader, he was full of ambition and wanted to achieve something significant while he had the spotlight. Unexpectedly, Taoist Longshan called Ning Qi over.

It wasn't because he felt a difference in status after succeeding as Sect Leader, but since none of the other senior brothers were called, only Ning Qi was, it made him somewhat surprised.

But Taoist Longshan's first words left him stunned.

Taoist Longshan smiled and said,

"Little Jiu is the True Martial Path Guardian."

"Path Guardian?" Luo Wentian's eyes filled with questions.

Taoist Longshan began to explain.

"A Path Guardian is one who protects the True Martial legacy. He is the only one who can cultivate our sect's unparalleled True Martial Stance, and only successive Sect Leaders have the right to know the Path Guardian's identity. Remember, no matter who the Sect Leader is in the future, the Path Guardian is above all. In crucial moments, he has the power to dismiss the Sect Leader, and the identity of the Path Guardian must not be easily disclosed."

He half-joked, half-seriously.

Taoist Longshan naturally understood Luo Wentian's character, but if someone else took over in the future, who might not keep their initial intent, at such times, the Path Guardian would play a crucial role, capable of averting crises and restoring order.