

Cultivating 171

Chapter 171: Jiu is True Man Tianjian? The Big Move of True Martial Sect (Two-in-One)_2

Today, calling Luo Wentian and Ning Qi together was also to lay cards on the table. Since Luo Wentian has become the True Martial Sect Leader, he is qualified to know everything, which is the result of discussions between Ning Qi and Taoist Longshan.

Luo Wentian's heart surged with waves of shock, then he said solemnly:

"Disciple understands!"

He looked at Ning Qi with a kind of awe.

At this moment, he suddenly understood things he couldn't comprehend before. All the preferential treatment towards Ning Qi in the past was not merely favoritism, but also to rapidly nurture a Path Guardian.

Unparalleled Stance Skill, True Martial Stance!

He immediately realized why Taoist Longshan had Li Ling cultivate the Bian Stance. It turned out that Ning Qi was already beyond the realm of the True Martial Nine Sons.

He also understood why their master didn't want everyone to focus too much on Ning Qi's cultivation realm in the past.

"Jiu, you really are hiding deeply." He smiled helplessly but was more excited.

He thought that with Jiu's talent, he would surely grow into a pillar of the sky one day. With such a presence guarding the True Martial lineage, it would be more stable. As for the Path Guardian's authority being above that of the Sect Leader, he didn't care at all. Like Taoist Longshan, he only hoped that the True Martial Sect could flourish forever.

Luo Wentian continued:

"Jiu, whatever you need in the future, just tell Senior Brother, and we will use the entire sect's strength to make you the pillar of the True Martial Sect as soon as possible!"

He felt that confessing Ning Qi's identity today was to let him pave a smooth path for Ning Qi in the future, providing all resources at full strength.

He didn't hesitate and immediately expressed his stance.

He felt it was necessary.

But as his words fell.

Taoist Longshan and Ning Qi laughed, especially Taoist Longshan, whose eyes looked at Luo Wentian as if he was watching a naive child.

Luo Wentian was stunned.

He was somewhat at a loss and hesitated to say:

"Master, did I say anything wrong?"

Taoist Longshan laughed heartily:

"Jiu... he has long been the pillar of our True Martial Sect!"

His laughter was filled with endless emotion and contentment, as well as a certain relief.

All along, he was the only one who knew Ning Qi's identity. Now, finally, there was one more person to share it with, and he had an indescribable joy.

Luo Wentian was utterly dumbfounded.

A thousand thoughts and countless ideas surfaced, but he dismissed them one by one.

Taoist Longshan didn't continue to keep him guessing and said with a smile:

"Perhaps you are more familiar with his other identity."

Luo Wentian's breathing became rapid, and a certain guess emerged. His eyes widened instinctively.

"True Man Tianjian!"

With Taoist Longshan's words, he was completely stunned, his entire being petrified, as if his mind was struck by lightning, dizzy and confused.

"Jiu is... Senior Tianjian? How is this possible?!"

Luo Wentian simply couldn't believe it.

If anyone else had said this, he probably would have dismissed it as complete nonsense, but this was spoken by his most respected master, and Ning Qi was even smiling beside him.

He struggled to digest this shocking news.

This was definitely the most explosive news since he took office as the sect leader, and other matters fell behind.

Taoist Longshan and Ning Qi just smiled, watching as Luo Wentian processed and accepted this fact.

After a long while.

Luo Wentian finally came back to his senses.

He shook his head with a wry smile:

"Jiu, you really almost scared your senior brother's soul out!"

To be honest.

Everyone had secretly discussed Ning Qi's cultivation before, but all thought that Ning Qi, having cultivated for seven years, might have reached the Great Success of Inner Essence, at most the Inner Essence Perfection Realm, which was already an exaggerated guess.

Among them, Ye Qinghe mentioned Ning Qi might already be in the White Mist Realm, but everyone thought it was somewhat exaggerated.

In seven years, even martial saints throughout history haven't had such a cultivation speed.

However, today.

After personally hearing from Taoist Longshan that Ning Qi's other identity was True Man Tianjian, Luo Wentian's worldview was somewhat shaken. It was truly astonishing.

In seven years, he had reached a height that absolute geniuses couldn't reach in hundreds of years.

Just thinking about this terrifying time comparison made him feel a bit suffocated.

At this moment, many doubts in his heart were resolved.

Ning Qi, somewhat apologetically:

"Senior Brother, it wasn't intentional to keep it from you..."

Before finishing the sentence.

Luo Wentian had already interrupted, his eyes full of sincerity:

"Jiu, I understand. This choice wasn't wrong. I even think you and Master shouldn't have told me today!"

His expression was grave.

After recovering from the shock, he couldn't help but worry. Such terrifying talent that could make people fear, if known by those enemies, would surely cause sleepless nights and all kinds of schemes to eliminate Ning Qi; this is extremely detrimental to both Ning Qi personally and the future of the True Martial Sect.

Taoist Longshan waved his hand:

"No worries, only the two of us know, just keep it secret. As the successor sect leader, naturally, these things should be told to you so that in the future, if I am not around for some matters, you and Jiu won't be unable to coordinate."

Ning Qi also nodded with a smile:

"Indeed, Senior Brother need not worry."

This was the result of his discussions with Taoist Longshan. Some things are destined not to be hidden for a lifetime. Luo Wentian's character is beyond doubt, and most importantly, Ning Qi's current strength is also gradually strong, except for a very few people who might make him cautious, others pose no threat to him.

Luo Wentian took a deep breath, still digesting this astonishing news, but the excitement in his heart had already begun to rise gradually.

A junior brother with such monstrous talent is exciting just to think about!

True Martial Path Guardian, True Man Tianjian!

Chapter 172: Jiu is True Man Tianjian? True Martial Sect's Major Move (Two-in-One)_3

When the identities of these two people completely overlapped with Ning Qi's identity, he was very clear about what it represented.

He smiled at the corner of his mouth.

Recently, although the True Martial Sect has been prominent and famous throughout the world, there have been some sarcastic remarks, mostly concerning the lifespan of True Man Tianjian. In the last fight between True Man Tianjian and Thunder Shock Blade Venerate, many sensed that True Man Tianjian was old and frail, perhaps with only a few decades left to live.

If True Man Tianjian passes away, then the True Martial Sect would only have Taoist Longshan, leading to a significant decline in prestige.

But now he knew, True Man Tianjian was his junior brother.

Forget the nonsense about his life being short; his junior brother was just like a rising sun!

Luo Wentian felt increasingly confident in his heart.

"Master, Jiu, I want to expand the True Martial Sect and implement some reforms."

Taoist Longshan and Ning Qi exchanged smiles.

"You are the Sect Leader; whatever ideas you have, just go ahead and do it. Both I and your ninth junior brother will support you."

Ning Qi said:

"Eldest Senior Brother, when I am idle, I created many Martial Arts Secret Techniques and placed them in the Scripture Pavilion. You can use them to strengthen our True Martial disciples' strength. If you encounter any difficulties, feel free to tell me at any time."

Luo Wentian couldn't help but sigh:

"So those were all created by you, junior brother. When you previously gave us the Sleep Dream Skill, we already had some suspicions, but Master always said he acquired it in his early years, so we didn't think much of it. But now that I think about it, there are too many loopholes—how could there be new secret techniques appearing every so often?"

He laughed.

Taoist Longshan and Ning Qi also laughed. In the past, concealing their identities always made things less smooth, but now with open honesty, things were much better.

Ning Qi said:

"Compared to before, there are many more; there are more Superior Stance Skills in the Body Tempering Realm, and I also optimized the True Martial Nine Stances, making them close to Unparalleled Stance Skills, but the difficulty of cultivation remains unchanged. Additionally, there are some Stacking Strength Skills, Gang Strength Skills, and Slaughter Martial Arts and secret techniques that Eldest Senior Brother can use as you see fit."

Luo Wentian's heart was stirred.

"Great! With your support, Jiu, if I can't achieve something, then I would be letting down all your contributions!"

He rubbed his hands, already eager to start.

The next day.

Luo Wentian gathered many disciples and announced various reforms.

First.

All the former True Disciples are now set as Elders and Reserve Elders. Among the current ten True Disciples, aside from the three young ones, the others have all stepped into the White Mist Realm.

After advancing to the White Mist Realm, one can become an Elder, while the three younger ones are Reserve Elders.

According to the different personalities of everyone, various halls such as Punishment, Inheritance, Medicine Garden, External Affairs, etc. were established for them to take charge of. For instance, Xiong Shi, being impartial and incorruptible, is responsible for the Punishment Hall. Although the True Martial Sect is currently united, with hardly any underhanded deeds, one must always be prepared for any future issues, especially as expansion might bring in some bad elements.

Besides, after becoming Elders, they can accept disciples, but it's not mandatory.

Secondly.

The Inner and Outer Sect disciples are also reclassified based on age and cultivation level.

Some have exhausted their potential and will be encouraged to step out of the disciple ranks, taking on more internal affairs and assisting in the Sect's development, serving as stewards of various halls or in charge of industries below the mountain.

But their upward movement won't be blocked. According to their contributions to the Sect, they will likewise be able to exchange various Martial Arts Secret Techniques and resources.

And some young ones or those with excellent potential will primarily focus on cultivation while also being given some external tasks, allowing them to gain experience while contributing to the Sect.

This can form a virtuous cycle.

At the same time.

Luo Wentian further detailed the criteria for promoting Outer Sect disciples to Inner Sect disciples, considering not just cultivation but also character and contribution to the Sect.

As for True Disciples.

This is different from before. Previously, the True Disciples were all disciples accepted by Taoist Longshan; as long as they were his disciples, they were True Disciples. However, Luo Wentian felt this, to some extent, diminished the enthusiasm of the disciples.

Therefore.

He implemented reforms.

The number of True Disciples is no longer limited; they can be promoted from Inner Sect disciples based on cultivation and contribution, or exceptionally talented young ones can be granted special permission to become True Disciples, but the criteria are very strict and not easily met.

Especially for the True Martial Nine Stances and subsequent inheritances, Luo Wentian also planned to pass them on to only nine people.

It must be the nine most outstanding True Disciples.

...

As each reform was announced, everyone was amazed. Many ambitious disciples' eyes shone brightly with excitement.

These were indeed significant moves.

And one must admit, after such a reorganization, the vitality of the True Martial Sect was more vigorous, and the structure of the Sect gradually became clearer, ready to burst with even greater vitality.

Ning Qi listened.

In his heart, he couldn't help but feel that his Eldest Senior Brother was born to be a Sect Leader.

So many things were arranged so systematically.

Luo Wentian looked around at everyone and said:

"As the True Martial Sect prospers, in the days to come, the Sect's structures will be gradually adjusted. If any of you have good suggestions, feel free to put them forward."

"And there are two last matters."

"Firstly, I have had someone draft up everyone's contributions to the Sect in recent years. Based on these contributions, each person can enter the Scripture Pavilion once and exchange for Martial Arts Ultimate Skills!"

"Secondly, in three months, the True Martial Sect will open its mountain gates wide and recruit new disciples and members!"

Everyone was in an uproar.

"We express our gratitude to the Sect Leader!"

Taoist Longshan looked on with satisfaction.

Now the True Martial Sect was slowly taking the shape of a top-notch Sect, and he had entrusted the right person.

Chapter 173: Is Jiu True Man Tianjian? The True Martial Sect's Major Move (2-in-1)_4

The major movement of the True Martial Sect quickly spread through Qing State, and then expanded rapidly to other places.

Many people, upon hearing about the True Martial Sect's opening of its mountain gates, were excited, and some ambitious young men set out overnight, traveling thousands of miles.

There were also some Gang Essence Realm experts who knew they could join the True Martial Sect midway and were tempted. Although the standards for joining midway were stricter, and the competition fiercer, almost cutting off access to the core, it was still better than having no sect.

Luo Wentian's series of measures.

The True Martial Sect radiated with even more vigorous vitality.

Every day on True Martial Mountain was a change.

The last time there was such a major movement was Taoist Longshan's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, but this time it was even more. Many buildings began to be re-planned, divided into various functional areas, such as the newly built Scripture Pavilion for storing ordinary Taoist scriptures and some less precious martial arts.

The Scripture Pavilion near the Seeking Tao Institute originally housed more precious ultimate skills and secret techniques, as well as the Taoist scriptures Ning Qi wished to read.

Knowing that Ning Qi was the True Man Tianjian, he felt confident about this Scripture Pavilion.

The True Martial Sect flourished.

Ning Qi's heart was also joyful.

Emotionally speaking, witnessing the daily growth of his sect filled him with an inner satisfaction.

In other respects, the growth of the True Martial Sect meant more strong people, who naturally could better gather numerous resources for him. A sect is a large organization; it's never a one-sided affair where disciples receive all guidance and provide everything. Once disciples grow, they also need to contribute to the sect.

Exotic fruits and flowers, rare copies, unique secret techniques, Taoist scriptures... such things naturally don't just fly in thin air.

They are harvested by disciples, who then contribute to the sect to exchange for martial arts and more suitable resources they seek.

Therefore, Ning Qi believes Luo Wentian's refinement of the contribution system is a very beneficial thing.

Of course.

In truth, it's not solely the work of Luo Wentian. As early as the previous two True Martial Peach Assemblies, various senior brothers had begun discussing the details of refinement, with many suggestions stemming from Ning Qi.

Now, it's merely carried out by Luo Wentian. The new Sect Leader's bold moves naturally elevate his prestige further.

If there's any disadvantage to Luo Wentian now.

It's that his cultivation is not very high.

He broke through the White Mist Realm only two years ago, and at the original cultivation speed, reaching the Jade Liquid Realm would take ten or even twenty years. Even with the assistance of Ning Qi's created secret techniques and pills, breaking through to the Jade Liquid in just two years is impossible. After all, even Ning Qi himself took a year to go from the White Mist Realm to the Jade Liquid Realm.

But Ning Qi has a solution.

He handed Luo Wentian some trump cards, like the Gang Attachment Technique he created. At critical moments, it could enable Luo Wentian to unleash astonishing combat power, and deceive others, needing only one chance to demonstrate, making it impossible for anyone to question the Sect Leader's strength.

Just wait for a few more years; once cultivation further breaks through, reaching the Jade Liquid Realm or Primordial Core Realm, there will be no need to rely on external forces.

This is inevitable.

Even though Ning Qi has created many secret techniques for accelerated cultivation, it's impossible for them to quickly break through several realms in just a year or two, reaching Celestial Human. It defies cultivation principles; after all, even Ning Qi needs to accumulate slowly in the Gang Essence Realm, step by step.

Thanks to the many secret techniques created by Ning Qi, the cultivation speed of Luo Wentian and others now breaks conventional norms. Disciples like the seventh disciple Song City and the sixth disciple Sun Chuanhai have reached the White Mist Realm in their thirties, faster than Taoist Long Shan.

If they didn't obscure their age, it would have attracted many astonished looks.

"To break through faster, normal cultivation can't be quicker than this unless there's a great opportunity from swallowing heavenly materials and earthly treasures, or it harms one's essence, burning lifespan to accelerate growth, but that's not worth it."

Ning Qi shakes his head.

Neither he nor his senior brothers need this.

Accelerating cultivation by burning lifespan is backtracking for him.

His cultivation is for pursuing longevity, unhurried freedom; now, everything is well, it's best to proceed step by step.

"When I reach the Celestial Human Realm or Martial Saint Realm in the future, I should reorganize my Martial Path, possibly further enhancing the limits of cultivation speed."

As for now.

Ning Qi still must focus more energy on himself.

He closes his eyes.

Swallowing the ninth Blood Jade Pill.

Getting closer to breakthrough to the Primordial Core Realm.

Chapter 174: Alternate Saint Heir, Advancement to Primordial Core (Two-in-One)

The True Martial Sect is advancing day by day.

Almost every day brings a change, both internally and externally.

And as the news of the True Martial Sect preparing to open its doors and recruit disciples spread throughout the land of Great Yan, more and more people set out early, heading towards the True Martial Sect, with many who were nearby already gathering in True Martial City.

True Martial City is bustling right now.

There's no way around it.

As of now, the True Martial Sect's foundation is indeed exceedingly profound.

With two Celestial Beings in one sect, Taoist Longshan is already extraordinary, having reached the Celestial Human Realm at less than a hundred years old, making him an unparalleled genius destined to make it onto the Celestial Being List sooner or later. There is also the unfathomable True Man Tianjian, who recently shone brilliantly in a great battle with the Thunder Shock Blade Venerate.

The sight of the True Martial Sword Monument alone is enough to attract a large number of swordsmen wanting to join the True Martial Sect.

Not to mention.

In recent years, as the disciples of True Martial have made a name for themselves in the Martial Realm, many people have come to know that the True Martial Sect has a rich legacy and possesses various ultimate skills and secret techniques.

Some have delved into ancient history.

They already know that the True Martial heritage has been around for a long time, but it was revitalized under Taoist Longshan's hands, raising the enthusiasm for the True Martial Sect's open enrollment even higher.

For all of this.

The people of True Martial Sect are naturally happy to see it happen.

Meanwhile, Luo Wentian is also busy and dizzy with tasks.

However, before opening the sect and enrolling students, he has one more thing to do, which is to head to Tao State.

Having just assumed the position of Sect Leader, he now carries enough weight to lead a team to Tao State and communicate with many top Taoist sects, especially the True Profound Sect. Having continuously invested and shown goodwill before, now that True Martial Sect has gradually gained a foothold, it naturally needs to reciprocate somewhat. There is give and take to maintain long-term connections.

This can also lay a solid foundation for the future ranking of Taoist sects.

At least while True Man Tianjian is still around, the True Martial Sect stepping into the ranks of the world's top Taoist sects hasn't been much of a problem.

Luo Wentian takes a group of excellent disciples along, with Taoist Longshan accompanying them, showing their importance and presence.

"Jiu, during the time we are not here, pay more attention to the matters within the sect." Taoist Longshan conveyed secretly.

Of course, the matters on the surface naturally do not need Ning Qi to worry about.

The former second disciple Xiong Shi has now become the Punishment Elder. With Sect Leader Luo Wentian not around, he is the highest authority, and his experience is sufficient to handle most problems.

Ning Qi naturally nodded to reassure them.

Watching Luo Wentian and Taoist Longshan leave.

Ning Qi once again became 'idle'.

After informing Luo Wentian that he is actually True Man Tianjian, it hasn't really had any extra impact on his life. He still reads the scriptures and cultivates in the Seeking Tao Institute every day. Although a new Scripture Pavilion has been built, it doesn't affect Ning Qi's reading. Sometimes he goes there late at night, and sometimes he asks the White Ape to fetch the scriptures.

Now that Taoist Longshan is accompanying Luo Wentian to Tao State, Ning Qi has taken on a new task.

Occasionally teaching Zhuang Chen and Li Ling.

This isn't a big problem for Ning Qi, as teaching one sheep is no different than teaching two. Moreover, both are extremely bright individuals who only need a little guidance. After revealing the truth to Luo Wentian, Ning Qi has also begun to gradually showcase more of his wonders in front of his fellow disciples.

This is a step-by-step process.

Aside from that.

Ning Qi follows a routine cultivation schedule.

The ninth Blood Jade Pill has been taken for half a month.

He estimates that in about a month, he will naturally reach the Primordial Core Realm, at which point his strength will see a significant leap.

Conducting an inner observation.

The Jade Liquid Sea in his dantian has solidified to an unbelievable degree, occasionally stirring a 'wave' filled with surging power, suspended above which is the virtual Sword Pill, hanging like a great sun. After Ning Qi optimized it, it also possesses some ability to refine Gang Qi.

Such massive Gang Qi is beyond imagining for ordinary people.

Compared to this, ordinary Jade Liquid Realm cultivation is like comparing a firefly to the moon.

The Supreme foundation Ning Qi laid in his early years is already showing effects; the further he progresses, the more exaggerated his strength becomes.

It's unimaginable how powerful Ning Qi will be once he steps into the Primordial Core Realm; he feels he might become unrivaled in the Celestial Human Realm.

Besides looking forward to a breakthrough in cultivation, he also anticipates another matter.

That is the Enlightenment Tea Tree.

The Blood Jade Pill Liquid has been used up, with extremely evident effects. The Enlightenment Tea Tree is now waist-high, taking shape, with tender leaves beginning to sprout on its branches. Ning Qi estimates that before this year's True Martial Peach Assembly, he should be able to harvest a small number of Enlightenment Tea leaves.

The effect of the Enlightenment Tea leaves may not necessarily be useful for Ning Qi himself, but they are certainly a supreme treasure for others.

For Ning Qi, the enjoyment comes from the process of planting and then harvesting, observing the daily growth of the Enlightenment Tea Tree has allowed him to accumulate substantial depth and gain a deeper understanding of the Path of Life, insights that cannot be obtained from reading scriptures.

...

The True Martial Sect is expanding day by day.

At the same time.

The Blood Demon Pool in the Demon Sect's Forbidden Land also experienced significant upheavals.

Figures exuding powerful auras were all guarding outside the Blood Demon Pool, waiting for something, led by a silver-haired elder whose deep gaze held a hint of anticipation.

A moment later.

This silver-haired elder's body shook slightly, staring ahead:

"It's out!"

Everyone cast their gaze.

Seeing a white-haired figure stepping out from the Forbidden Land, the imposing aura from just having broken through the Celestial Human Realm was not yet fully restrained, and everyone could clearly feel the ripples of the Power of Heaven and Earth.

Chapter 175: Alternate Saint Heir, Advancement to Primordial Core (Two-in-One)_2

This white-haired figure has the appearance of a youth, yet everyone senses an air of decay.

After stepping out of the Blood Demon Pool, Qin Yun felt momentarily as if he had lived through an eternity. He glanced at the group of experts from the Demon Sect, and his gaze finally settled on the silver-haired elder at the forefront, respectfully saying:

"Greetings, Grand Elder and fellow Elders!"

The gaze of the Demon Sect's Grand Elder seemed penetrating as he scrutinized Qin Yun up and down, ultimately revealing a smile of admiration and said:

"Though you borrowed the power of the Sad White Hair Secret Technique, it shows courage, and your direct entry into the Celestial Human Realm within the Blood Demon Pool indicates your compatibility with it. Qin Yun, you may become the Saint Heir of our Holy Sect!"

As the Grand Elder finished, everyone's gaze shook, and then someone hesitatedly advised:

"Grand Elder, the position of Saint Heir requires careful consideration."

The root cause lies in Qin Yun's method of breakthrough.

They are no fools, they can all sense that the vitality coursing through Qin Yun's body is likely less than half that of an average Celestial Human Realm cultivator.

Qin Yun is now around thirty years old.

If, through normal cultivation, he could reach the Celestial Human Realm at this age, no one would oppose him becoming Saint Heir. In fact, the entire Demon Sect would yield to him without reservation, as such talent surpasses all Martial Saints from antiquity, destined to become the strongest and make history.

But unfortunately.

Qin Yun did not cultivate normally.

In the Blood Demon Pool, he used the Sad White Hair Secret Technique, nearly burning away all his lifespan to achieve such a rapid breakthrough, and almost dying several times, causing quite a stir in the Blood Demon Pool, which attracted such great attention.

To be honest.

Qin Yun is essentially 'over four hundred years old' now.

Under such circumstances, many naturally dissent.

But Qin Yun's expression remained calm.

Back then, to secure three years for the True Martial Sect, he proactively applied to enter the Blood Demon Pool, determined to live or die in it, thinking he'd either breakthrough the Celestial Human Realm for more influence or perish within. Unexpectedly, he succeeded, thanks to a Heart Demon Secret Technique he acquired years ago.

Having experienced life and death, he now looks at many things with indifference.

"I wonder how master and the others are doing now..."

This thought crossed Qin Yun's mind, and then he bowed respectfully to the Grand Elder:

"Thank you for your favor, Grand Elder. Qin Yun merely took advantage to step into the Celestial Being Realm, and I still need time to consolidate. My qualifications are insufficient, and I ask Grand Elder to reconsider about the position of Saint Heir."

The Grand Elder gave Qin Yun a deep look, then finally said:

"In that case, Qin Yun will be one of the three Saint Heir candidates. After earning merits for our Holy Sect, he will formally ascend to Saint Heir. Does anyone have objections?"

He eyed the crowd with a powerful sense of pressure, signifying no compromise.

Everyone unanimously responded affirmatively.

The role of a candidate Saint Heir fell within the accepted baseline.

Seeing this attitude among the crowd.

The Grand Elder felt disappointed.

Over hundreds and thousands of years, many within the Demon Sect also forgot their initial beliefs, starting to form factions for personal gain.

In truth, he valued Qin Yun not for his cultivation but for his compatibility with the Blood Demon Pool.

With Qin Yun's performance in the Blood Demon Pool, if he were to enter the Celestial Being Perfection Realm, he might have hope to forcibly step into the Martial Saint Realm leveraging the Blood Demon Pool. Such a person not becoming Saint Heir directly would indeed be problematic.

The Grand Elder snorted coldly, turned his sleeve, and left.

The rest just bowed their heads in a respectful farewell.

A moment later, someone approached with a respectful smile:

"Saint Heir Qin, please follow me."

Qin Yun silently nodded and left.

Having spent more than a year in the Blood Demon Pool, now he wished to know what had transpired outside during this time, especially with the True Martial Sect, even though Ghost Mask Vice Sect Leader mentioned three years until its annihilation, who knew if he might change his mind midway.

In principle, after entering the Blood Demon Pool, one should grasp the true meaning of the Demon Sect for its protection and acknowledge the Demon Sect, but Qin Yun didn't know if it was because of the Heart Demon Secret Technique he acquired in earlier years, but he wasn't influenced by the Demon Sect's true meaning.

Others naturally weren't aware of this.

They watched Qin Yun's departing figure, their expressions varying.

Some were ready to gamble early, as Qin Yun's foundation was shallow, but now with the support of the Grand Elder, he might succeed, while others wore dark expressions. Qin Yun's meteoric rise made the original two candidate Saint Heirs become three, undoubtedly adding a rival.

...

Qin Yun sat in the study.

Tied bundles of documents lay on the table. Now being one of the three candidate Saint Heirs, his status was far higher than as a Guardian. One command would naturally bring them forth.

He perused the major events of the past year.

Note down those potentially related to himself.

Then, he turned his gaze to the last bundle of documents, those concerning the True Martial Sect.

His heart fluttered, and he gently opened it.

Information flooded his eyes.

Moments later.

Mixed emotions filled Qin Yun's heart.

"Master... has taken two more disciples?"

He looked at the intelligence shown.

Tenth True Inheritor, Zhuang Chen, former disciple of Divine Sword Sect's Sect Leader, Divine Sword Old Man.

Eleventh True Inheritor, Li Ling, youngest son of Town North King.

In an instant.

He didn't know how he felt, finally turning into silent self-mockery:

"Jiu... has also become a senior brother."

He recalled when Ning Qi was first brought up the mountain by Taoist Longshan, back then he also became a senior brother for the first time, feeling genuine excitement, but later, it gradually changed.

Chapter 176: Alternate Saint Heir, Advancement to Primordial Core (Two-in-One)_3

He does not blame others, everything is his own fault.

He took a deep breath.

Qin Yun flipped through other pieces of information.

"The Celestial Being List is updated, and True Man Tianjian ranks thirty-six."

"Thunder Shock Blade Venerate challenged but was crushed by True Man Tianjian, who then established the True Martial Sword Monument. Is it possible that True Man Tianjian possesses the strength of the top twenty on the Celestial Being List?"

"Has Senior Brother become the Sect Leader?"

...

As Qin Yun read through the reports, his eyelids kept twitching.

Finally, he exhaled a mouthful of turbid air, alleviating much of his earlier worries.

Hearing news of the True Martial Sect again after more than a year, it was better than he imagined.

True Man Tianjian's unexpected strength means that the Demon Sect won't be able to easily target the True Martial Sect. Moreover, there is now a looming presence of the Town North King behind the True Martial Sect.

He felt a slight disappointment in his heart.

Watching the True Martial Sect grow step by step, yet he was not part of it.

His eyebrows furrowed, and his expression suddenly became cold.

The sound of the door opening echoed, as Ghost Mask stepped inside.

Qin Yun stood up respectfully:

"Greetings to Ghost Mask, the Vice Sect Leader!"

Ghost Mask waved his hand, his laughter somewhat low and deep:

"Now that you are already a candidate for Saint Heir, you don't have to act as before when you see me."

Qin Yun felt calm inside, but his expression turned serious:

"The rituals cannot be discarded. Without the Vice Sect Leader's guidance, Qin Yun would not have the opportunities he has today. Even if I were to become a Saint Heir, I would always remember the Vice Sect Leader's kindness."

Ghost Mask smiled, a hint of satisfaction in his eyes, and glanced at the documents on the desk, seemingly nonchalantly asking:

"Reading the True Martial Sect's intel?"

Qin Yun's heart skipped a beat, and he replied naturally:

"Indeed, during the more than a year at the Blood Demon Pool, I never dared forget the Vice Sect Leader's instructions."

Ghost Mask stared at Qin Yun for a moment and then suddenly laughed heartily:

"The Holy Sect has now made a new decision to change its attitude towards the True Martial Sect."

Qin Yun didn't speak yet.

Ghost Mask continued speaking to himself:

"You are now one of the three candidate Saint Heirs, but whether you can remove the word 'candidate' makes a world of difference. Your main competitors now are Xiang Tianxing's faction's Ye Kuang and the Second Elder's faction's Wei Lei."

"Although you have the favor of the Grand Elder, your foundation is shallow. To compete for position, you need to make significant achievements."

"Firstly, if you can persuade the True Martial Sect to join our Holy Sect enterprise, it will be a major contribution. The Holy Sect places great importance on True Man Tianjian and the True Martial Sword Monument."

As he spoke,

Ghost Mask patted Qin Yun on the shoulder. However, Qin Yun only nodded slightly after blinking his eyes, saying, 'I will try my best.'

But he knew in his heart that this was absolutely impossible.

He understood that his master would never pledge allegiance to the Demon Sect.

Ghost Mask continued:

"Secondly, you need to win over neutral figures from Lin Xueshuang's faction. Her daughter Lin Ruhua should be known to you. If you can win her favor, it won't be difficult for Lin Xueshuang to support you. I've discussed this with Lin Xueshuang a few times, and she tacitly agreed. It depends on your skills."

Qin Yun was slightly taken aback, then nodded:

"I will try."

Ghost Mask added:

"Moreover, you need to perform more often in regular times. With a shallow foundation, you need to work even harder."

"Thank you for the advice, Vice Sect Leader!" Qin Yun expressed his gratitude.

If possible, he naturally wanted to become a Saint Heir of the Demon Sect, as it would grant him more resources and even the chance to become a legendary Martial Saint.

Currently, aside from hoping for the success of the True Martial Sect, his biggest goal is to continually grow stronger. He has always been competitive, or he wouldn't have bet his entire lifespan in the Blood Demon Pool.

"By the way, there's an event recently, and it's best if you join me to resolve it," Ghost Mask's gaze gradually turned cold, "Previously, the Southern Border Alliance attacked us for no reason, but now they have sent a message to sit down and negotiate after experiencing our Holy Sect's deep roots and our fierce retaliation."

He briefly explained the background of the incident, then added:

"This matter seems peculiar. After going through life-and-death battles with the Southern Border Alliance, it feels like we've fallen into someone else's trap. This negotiation is the best chance to find out the root cause. Though the Southern Border Alliance acted foolishly, we can't let others take advantage of it for nothing."

Qin Yun slowly nodded and replied:

"The Saintess of the Southern Border? I'm curious to have a look."

...

Ning Qi was still unaware that his impersonation of Elder Wang in eradicating the Southern Border Alliance's base in Qing State had caused a prolonged blood feud between two forces, leading them now to consider negotiation.

He had more important matters to attend to.

Half a month ago,

he had taken his tenth Blood Jade Pill.

Now,

he finally reached his limit.

Rumble!

A faint rumbling emanated from within Ning Qi. If not for him using the Silence Technique to conceal it, any leaked aura would have startled those around.

Ning Qi observed himself from within.

The Jade Liquid Sea seemed boundless, filling the Dantian, and was exceedingly profound, with no visible bottom. Every casual motion was accompanied by immense power.

Ning Qi considered it.

In his current state, he undoubtedly possessed strength comparable to the tail end of the top ten on the Celestial Being List.

During this process of quantitative change, his strength had also improved significantly.

And now, a qualitative change was imminent.

Within the Seeking Tao Institute, only Ning Qi was present.

He sat cross-legged, as the young shoots from the Enlightenment Tea tree emitted a faint exotic fragrance that further soothed Ning Qi's state of mind.

"Turn."

With a thought, everything fell into place.

Within the Dantian,

the once lofty 'Great Sun' shattered and fell, with Gang Qi returning to the great sea.

Chapter 177: Alternate Saint Heir, Advancement to Primordial Core (Two-in-One)_4

Next, the entire Jade Liquid Sea began to rotate, and an immensely powerful vortex appeared in the center of the Jade Liquid Sea, all Gang Qi Jade Liquid was set into motion.

Rumble!

The increasingly intense sound of vibrations emitted from Ning Qi's body.

He sat cross-legged, eyes shut tight, face calm, yet within his body astonishing changes were taking place. The initially deep and solid Jade Liquid could visibly be seen becoming more 'viscous,' gradually transforming from a clear 'liquid' into an 'paste-like' existence.

Ning Qi's bodily potential was tapped, a vigorous vitality merged within, giving birth to mysterious powers.

Unknown since when.

In the center of the Jade Liquid Sea, a pill-like object appeared.

As soon as this Primordial Core prototype emerged, Ning Qi's spirit shook, feeling a sense of transparency and comfort rising throughout his body.

The Jade Liquid Sea spun faster and faster.

The viscous Gang Qi drilled into the Primordial Core prototype.

The Jade Liquid Sea disappeared at a horrifying speed.

Meanwhile, the Primordial Core prototype visibly became rounder, more perfect, with formidable strength contained within that, once unleashed, could shake the heavens and earth.

This crucial step was completed.

Everything went smoothly, without any hindrances, unlike others who find breaking through realms difficult; Ning Qi's foundation was incredibly solid.

...

Time passed slowly.

As the last drop of Jade Liquid poured into the Primordial Core, the entire Dantian space was already 'empty,' compared to before, incredibly clean.

Yet Ning Qi felt unprecedented power.

Primordial Core Realm was achieved!

He observed the Dantian internally, a seemingly ordinary Primordial Core swirling around, seemingly identical to that of other Primordial Core realm martial artists. However, once Ning Qi activated it, the Primordial Core would instantly radiate golden light and unimaginable power would erupt.

"A Primordial Core that can radiate golden light is never recorded in ancient texts."

Ning Qi marveled internally, just like his White Mist Marsh and Jade Liquid Sea, also unrecorded, obviously he's treaded an unprecedented path on the Martial Path, and achieved a cliff-like transcendence.

He stood up, casually clenching his fist, sensing his strength.

The Gang Qi condensed into the form of a Primordial Core had undergone another qualitative change.

Ning Qi released a punch slowly, an incredibly powerful force seemed to freeze the surrounding void, even the wind halted, and the swaying peach trees stiffened, all appeared to have paused.

This was the Town North King's ultimate Heaven-Suppressing Fist, which Ning Qi learned easily by observing and improved, optimizing the suppressive intent to achieve a void-freezing effect.

Even normal Celestial Human Realm powerhouses struggle under such suppression.

He compared it with the day the Town North King strolled and killed four Demon Sect Celestials with ease, severely wounding Elder Wang with a punch.

Ning Qi's eyes gleamed with determination.

"I can achieve the same, even more effortlessly, even Elder Wang adorned in Cyan Profound Treasure Armor couldn't withstand my punch."

He laughed.

Feeling carefree.

Among the top ten peerless powerhouses on the Celestial Being List, he had only seen the Town North King and could only use him for comparison.

Ning Qi felt he could easily defeat Town North King if he went all out now.

"Perhaps my combat strength already stands at the pinnacle of the Celestial Human Realm, uncertain if the top three on the Celestial Being List can match me?" Ning Qi was somewhat excited.

It's not arrogance.

But this sense of power is incredibly genuine, he even made conservative estimates.

"Perhaps only the Martial Saints can threaten me now."

Unconsciously.

Ning Qi had already reached the pinnacle of the world, only a few could stand shoulder to shoulder with him.

And now, he's only in his early teens, although appearing like a fourteen or fifteen-year-old, it doesn't change the fact he's cultivated for less than eight years.

His sense of security increased greatly.

"But I can't slack off, I'm not truly invincible yet, at least Great Yan's Martial Saints are stronger, and the Southern Border Alliance's Blood Emperor Gu, unknown if it can create Martial Saint level beings, and the Demon Sect..."

"There's also the Martial Saint Realm's secrets, which I must face sooner or later."

"I must continue to work hard, reaching Celestial Human Realm soon to be confident enough."

Ning Qi planned his next steps.

The Celestial Human Realm is not difficult for him, the myriad Secret Techniques created before, especially Unity of Heaven and Man, gave him profound insights into the Power of Heaven and Earth, even the follow-up cultivation technique Myriad Phenomena Secret Record he had created.

Next.

It's the Divine Union Yuan Pill, to resonate the Power of Heaven and Earth.

The only obstacle is Ning Qi's Primordial Core is too strong, wanting to fuse his 'God' within requires spending some time strengthening the 'God.'

As for resonating with the Power of Heaven and Earth, for Ning Qi, it's like returning home, familiar beyond familiarity.

So calculating.

Ning Qi estimated the time needed to break through to the Celestial Human Realm is even shorter than when he went from Jade Liquid Realm to Primordial Core Realm, the advantage of previous accumulation.

"Perhaps before the end of this year, I can truly step into the Celestial Human Realm!"

Ning Qi was somewhat expectant.

"I wonder if after stepping into the Celestial Human Realm, can I battle the legendary Martial Saints?"

Chapter 178: The Ninth in Taoism, Used as a Tool?

Regarding the Martial Saint Realm, Ning Qi currently has no concept.

There are very few records of the Martial Saint among the many classics, and the scant bits and pieces of information available are ambiguous, making it impossible for Ning Qi to estimate the strength of a Martial Saint.

Unlike the Celestial Human Realm.

Even though he has never seen the top three experts on the Celestial Being List, at least he has a general idea in his mind.

After all, the limit of the Celestial Human Realm for ordinary people is just that.

The Three Flowers of Essence, Qi, and Spirit reach perfection, and mastering some martial arts secret techniques, it's impossible to defy destiny too much.

"To be conservative, I should walk some distance in the Celestial Human Realm before considering a duel with a Martial Saint."

Shaking his head, Ning Qi felt that he was thinking too far ahead.

At least for now, there is no need to overly worry about the existence of a Martial Saint. Haven't you seen that Martial Saints of Great Yan almost only appear once in a century? As long as the Martial Saint doesn't show up, with his current strength, he is basically invincible.

He continued to feel his physical body, which advanced another level after reaching the Primordial Core Realm's nourishing feedback.

Ordinary Primordial Core Realm practitioners, when reaching this step, would also receive feedback, but their feedback effects are generally average, at most maintaining a level sufficient to bear the power, with the majority of their combat power still coming from Gang Qi.

But Ning Qi is different. The vast Gang Essence allowed his physical body to continuously break limits, having reached an incredible stage long ago. Even the Buddhist Sect's Vajra who specialize in the Flower of Essence cannot match him.

He clenched his fist casually, feeling like he could shatter great mountains even without mobilizing Gang Qi.

The augmentation of the physical body is not merely an enhancement of strength.

It's an enrichment of the human body's foundation and a growth of vitality.

Ning Qi could feel his lifespan increased again, possibly surpassing a thousand years, even exceptionally so, a height difficult for the Celestial Human Realm to reach.

The most direct manifestation.

Is his enlightenment being elevated again, at the limit of his current life's strength.

"This feeling is truly exhilarating!"

Ning Qi sincerely expressed.

The improvement in combat power is just incidental; what truly fascinates him is the transcendence of life each time. The sense of exhilaration and satisfaction from it is incomparable.

"Next, I'll focus on optimizing the 'Refining Spirit Technique.' This is content from the Myriad Phenomena Secret Record. Previously, I felt it was perfect, but now I see room for improvement, step by step integrating 'Spirit' into the Primordial Core to truly control the Power of Heaven and Earth."

His eyes held anticipation.

Although he now uses various secret techniques like Unity of Heaven and Man and the Fake Pill Co-Heaven Technique, he has already caught a glimpse of the Power of Heaven and Earth ahead of time, but those are ultimately mediated through various means, always giving a sense of scratching an itch through boots.

When he truly steps into the Celestial Human Realm himself, he can clearly touch the essence of the Power of Heaven and Earth, allowing for some previous experiments and conjectures. Regarding the Martial Saint Realm, he already has some ideas, just waiting for verification.

"Also, the innate bloodline and Shi's Innate Sword Bone, after reaching the Celestial Human Realm, perhaps deeper exploration can be attempted."

Ning Qi's mouth curved slightly as he slowly closed his eyes, continuing his contemplation beside the Enlightenment Tea tree.

...

Time leisurely passed.

Luo Wentian's side sent back information from Tao State, everything proceeded smoothly, even incredibly so.

Clearly.

The people of the True Martial Sect severely underestimated the influence brought by a True Man Tianjian.

The True Man Tianjian is suspected to possess the strength of the top twenty on the Celestial Being List; what does this mean?

Even taking into account the hidden depths of Taoism, this is enough to rank within the top five among Taoist experts, and on the surface, even the top three!

After all, the top twenty of the Celestial Being List, about thirty percent of those spots are already occupied by Great Yan's Imperial Court, and when distributed to the other martial sects, how many can there be? On the surface, Taoism has only two strong contenders within the top twenty of the Celestial Being List.

Under such circumstances.

The weight of a True Man Tianjian is naturally sufficient.

Even if the lifespan of the True Man Tianjian isn't long, there are at least a few decades left, and during these decades, it's not difficult to maintain a top-tier position for a Taoist sect.

Besides having the strong support of the True Profound Sect.

The True Martial Sect was directly recognized as the ninth top Taoist sect in the world, entering the ranks of the top Taoist sects in the world. Moreover, Luo Wentian mentioned that if it weren't for concerns about the short founding history and the shallow middle-level foundation of the True Martial Sect, it might have moved up two more places.

But even so, they are already very satisfied.

In the letter, Luo Wentian quietly mentioned that Taoist Longshan was extremely delighted, even unusually pulling himself in for a drink, making Ning Qi smile slightly.

He deeply knows his master's long-cherished wish.

Now is just the beginning. It's only a matter of time before the True Martial Sect becomes the number one Taoist sect in the world and even the number one martial sect in the world.

Ning Qi was also very pleased.

Becoming the ninth Taoist sect in the world isn't just about appearances.

There are tangible benefits.

First, the Taoist Scriptures.

As part of Taoism.

The top nine Taoist sects in the world will share some Taoist Scriptures. Although there are no unique secret collections, the sheer volume is enough to greatly enrich the True Martial Sect's scripture collection. Plus, the Taoist Scriptures transcribed by the Town North King had already been sent, and Ning Qi estimated that during his Celestial Human Realm phase, he wouldn't have to worry about a lack of Taoist Scriptures to read.

He now reads Taoist Scriptures faster and faster.

First, because his enlightenment is steadily rising; second, because his foundation is increasingly profound, and he can quickly grasp the essence of some Taoist Scriptures that are a bit superficial, turning them into skills for his own use.

Secondly, the exchanges between top Taoist sects.

Chapter 179: Taoism Part Nine, Used as a Pawn?_2

If any trouble arises, the other top Taoist sects will not stand idly by. They are allies in both attack and defense, which increases the security of the True Martial Sect by one level.

Of course, the other Taoist sects allow the True Martial Sect to smoothly enter the ranks of the top sects partly because of this. The security provided by a True Man Tianjian is substantial. Even as mere deterrence, it's a significant gain.

Ning Qi is, of course, aware of this.

But it doesn't matter.

At this stage, such a deal is more cost-effective for the True Martial Sect.

Besides the smooth journey to Tao State on Luo Wentian's side, True Martial Mountain is also booming. Under the joint efforts of Xiong Shi and many newly appointed elders, True Martial Mountain has transformed dramatically. Pavilions rise from the ground, gradually extending to various locations at the mountainside.

And the disciples are redeeming martial arts from the Scripture Pavilion and practicing diligently, waiting for the right opportunity to shine brightly.

Furthermore.

The news that the True Martial Sect will extensively recruit disciples next month has spread completely. Many people are eagerly awaiting, having arrived in True Martial City early, with most being swordsmen or martial artists aspiring to the Sword Dao.

The True Martial Sword Stele is incredibly attractive.

They have heard that due to the overabundance of people comprehending the True Martial Sword Stele, the new Sect Leader of the True Martial Sect, Luo Wentian, plans to further control the time and number of comprehending the sword stele, and may even set some standards.

In such a scenario, naturally, joining the True Martial Sect is best, as everyone understands the principle of being first to benefit from proximity.

Xiong Shi and others are mixed with joy and concern.

The higher the popularity, the better chance of recruiting talented individuals, but it also increases the possibility of attracting those with ulterior motives or ill intentions, especially as many come for the True Martial Sword Stele and Scripture Pavilion martial arts.

To this end.

They have thought of some screening methods but still feel they are not secure enough.

Upon hearing about it, Ning Qi gradually formed an idea in his mind.

...

Amidst the bustling True Martial Sect.

White State.

This is the place in Great Yan closest to the Hundred Thousand Mountains, with mountains stretching across the state, and many state residents making a living from the mountains, adept at hunting, leading to a fierce folk custom and a multitude of martial artists emerging.

On a precipitous mountain peak, unexpectedly, several luxurious palaces stand atop.

This is a stronghold of the Demon Sect.

Qin Yun and Ghost Mask and others have long been waiting here.

Today is the day to sit down and negotiate with the Southern Border Alliance.

Of course, if the talks do not go well, there might be a battle, so several Demon Sect powerhouses have not relaxed.

Ghost Mask secretly transmitted to Qin Yun with a sly smile:

"The Southern Border Saintess is said to be a peerless beauty with extraordinary martial path talent. You kid are not bad looking either. If you can win her over, you will have no doubt about the Saint Heir position, and even the future Sect Leader position of the Holy Sect will certainly be yours!"

Qin Yun was speechless.

He discovered this Vice Sect Leader has a penchant for matchmaking, previously wanting him to win over Lin Ruhua, the daughter of Vice Sect Leader Lin Xueshuang, and now urging him to win over the Southern Border Saintess. Does he really think everyone loves him?

Speaking of Lin Ruhua, he felt a bit frustrated.

Upon seriously investigating this one's information, he found that the Vice Sect Leader's daughter is always coming and going unpredictably, often disappearing for several months or even half a year, not knowing what she's up to.

There is a rumor within the Demon Sect that she goes to secretly meet her lover. Someone has seen the Vice Sect Leader's daughter caressing a Mandarin Duck Jade Pendant, her eyes filled with emotion.

So it's supposed to be him snatching love away?

But ten days ago, the glimpse of Lin Ruhua's disdainful gaze left him puzzled even now.

Even if she doesn't fancy him, does it warrant such a look?

Shaking his head to dispel the thoughts, Qin Yun spoke about serious matters:

"Vice Sect Leader, please don't joke. The Southern Border Saintess is a future pillar of the Southern Border Alliance. How could she marry an outsider?"

"Today's talks mainly aim to uncover the mastermind behind it. Otherwise, if we keep fighting the Southern Border Alliance, wouldn't we just be benefitting others?"

Ghost Mask's expression turned serious, and he sneered:

"The Southern Border Alliance thinks they've acted covertly, but the matter of cultivating the Blood King Gu has been found by us. If we can find it out, naturally, others can too."

Qin Yun squinted his eyes:

"You mean... the Great Yan Imperial Court?"

As soon as the transmission ended.

Everyone looked towards the distant void, the undisguised fluctuations making them secretly raise their alertness.

They saw a giant millipede speeding through the sky, faster than most Celestial Human Realm flying in the sky, with several powerful aura figures standing on it, the leader masked in black gauze, slender like a willow, with eyes cold and indifferent.

Behind were Snake Granny and two other elders.

Qin Yun squinted his eyes slightly, sensing a trace of threat from this Southern Border Saintess.

The flying centipede landed on the mountain peak, Ghost Mask's eyes flashed, and he laughed heartily to welcome them:

"I've long heard the Southern Border Saintess is a once-a-millennium unparalleled genius. Seeing you today, it turns out the rumors are true."

The Southern Border Saintess's gaze lingered briefly on Qin Yun's white hair, seemingly a bit surprised, and then looked at Ghost Mask:

"Nan Xian is not worthy of Vice Sect Leader's praise. Your sect is equally full of talents, no wonder you can entangle with Great Yan for a thousand years."

The two praised each other.

Showing no signs of tension.

The many powerhouses behind both sides were solemn, knowing it was just appearances. If no consensus is reached, there might be a big battle.

"Please!" Ghost Mask chuckled lightly.

The Southern Border Saintess remained unfazed as she stepped into the great hall.

"Such courage!"

Hearing Ghost Mask's compliment, the Southern Border Saintess said indifferently:

"I came today to resolve the conflict between the Southern Border and the Demon Sect, so let's get straight to the point."

"It's the Holy Sect!" Ghost Mask emphasized.

The Southern Border Saintess was noncommittal, unwilling to waste time on it.

Qin Yun stepped forward and said calmly:

"Since we are here to solve problems, the Saintess must have come with sincerity. In the last half year, your Southern Border Alliance's powerhouses launched multiple attacks on our Holy Sect, with seven

small strongholds and two branches attacked, resulting in the death of two Celestial Being Elders from our Holy Sect, four injured, and numerous Gang Essence Inner Essence martial artists killed and injured. How do you plan to compensate?"

As he finished speaking.

A murderous aura surged from the Demon Sect members.

The Southern Border Saintess remained unmoved.

Snake Granny sneered, saying:

"Only your Demon Sect suffered losses? Our Southern Border likewise suffered significant losses, with four Celestial Being Elders dead and three injured, and more Gang Essence martial artists died than yours. How do you plan to compensate?"

The two sides' conflict intensified, constantly escalating, gradually getting out of control, which is why both parties wanted to sit down and negotiate. Continuing to fight brought no benefit at all.

Qin Yun was about to speak.

But Ghost Mask frowned and said:

"Wait! When our small strongholds in Qing State were destroyed, are you implying it wasn't the doing of your Southern Border Alliance?"

The Southern Border Saintess's eyes flashed:

"Are you saying you're not the ones who wiped out our Southern Border's stronghold in Qing State, leaving no trace of bones, and it wasn't your Demon Sect who did it?"

Snake Granny behind her couldn't help but narrow her eyes.

They had her communication with the blue serpent on her neck, and then once again, they simulated the power of a green force that had destroyed the Qing State stronghold!"

The Demon Sect members were all taken aback.

Ghost Mask stood up, speaking decisively:

"That indeed is a unique skill of one of our Holy Sect's elders, but—"

He paused.

"He is already dead."

For a moment.

Silence fell over the great hall, as everyone realized the situation and what it implied.

Chapter 180: Alliance of Two Sects, Opening the Mountain Gate

The Southern Border Saintess didn't speak, her gaze becoming noticeably colder. Snake Granny coldly snorted and said:

"You claim someone's fallen just because you say so? Who knows if it's true? And even if this person has truly fallen, who knows if your Demon Sect has others who possess this poisonous power?"

At this critical juncture, it was naturally impossible to admit their mistake; otherwise, the upcoming negotiations would become very passive.

Moreover, this somewhat involved Snake Granny, after all, she was the one who detected the poisonous power, and now saying she got the wrong person, she bore responsibility.

Ghost Mask ignored Snake Granny and simply looked at the Southern Border Saintess and continued:

"Since the Saintess has already identified this power as being unique to Elder Wang of our Holy Sect, then you must also know that he had once visited the True Martial Sect, and aside from that, he never exposed himself."

"It was during that visit that Elder Wang fell. We have no need to deceive you. The situation is now very clear; someone is impersonating Elder Wang, destroying your Qing State base, attempting to provoke a blood feud between us. If we continue, it would only benefit others."

Everyone's eyes showed a cold light, filled with the anger of being deceived.

Qin Yun's heart trembled, as Ghost Mask once again mentioned the incident of five Celestial Beings attacking the True Martial Sect at night, and Elder Wang's involvement. He inexplicably felt that this matter might be related to the True Martial Sect, which was not something he wanted to see, being caught between such giants as the Demon Sect and the Southern Border Alliance was not a good thing.

The Southern Border Saintess finally spoke, raising her delicate eyebrows:

"But what we've heard is that your esteemed sect's Elder Wang escaped with his life from the hands of the Town North King?"

Speaking of this, Ghost Mask was immediately somewhat annoyed.

"Humph! The Town North King is cunning; after severely injuring Elder Wang, he did not openly pursue him but secretly followed. When Elder Wang was adjusting his breath, he suddenly attacked and violently killed him. We discovered traces of his unique ultimate skill, Heaven-Suppressing Fist, among the mountains back then."

"If you don't believe me, you can come with me to check."

Snake Granny's eyes were heavy as she said:

"You mean to say that it was the Town North King who acted? But how could he have possessed Elder Wang's unique poisonous power? The traces of power at the Qing State base could not possibly be fake."

She still had some doubts, but her heart had already mostly believed it, considering the Demon Sect had already proposed going to the place where Elder Wang fell to take a look. Even though so much time had passed, she could still judge whether they were lying to her.

Ghost Mask exhaled deeply:

"Now it seems that perhaps it's so; perhaps the Town North King obtained Elder Wang's unique ultimate skill after killing him and used it to provoke a conflict between us. After all, if we start a death battle, the most delighted would be Great Yan!"

He felt he was getting close to the truth.

Qin Yun's eyes flickered; he had other suspicions but felt it involved the True Martial Sect, which he didn't want to mention.

But the Southern Border Saintess slowly shook her head and said:

"No, perhaps we should change our thinking."

Everyone was stunned.

Then they heard the Southern Border Saintess's words like thunder:

"What if the 'Town North King' who killed Elder Wang was also a fake?"

Ghost Mask's pupils contracted violently.

The Southern Border Saintess rhythmically tapped her slender jade fingers on the table:

"Suppose there's a person who is extremely skilled at mimicking others' powers, and his strength is mid-ranked, or even near the top of the Celestial Being List. It's highly possible he first impersonated the 'Town North King' to kill Elder Wang, and then impersonated 'Elder Wang' to destroy our Qing State base."

"And such a person could not only come from the Great Yan Imperial Court but also from other places."

She implied.

Ghost Mask immediately caught on, solemnly stating:

"Saintess, are you referring to... the True Martial Sect?"

The Southern Border Saintess slowly nodded:

"That's right. Elder Wang went to destroy the True Martial Sect and ended up being attacked. From the perspective of benefits, the True Martial Sect is suspicious. You've overlooked them all this time due to their strength. Frankly, the destruction of our Southern Border Qing State base was also linked to the True Martial Sect."

"Although there is no direct evidence, such strange events being repeatedly linked to the True Martial Sect make it hard not to suspect them."

Qin Yun slightly lowered his head, a shadow over his heart as he clenched his fists inside his sleeves.

Snake Granny hesitated slightly:

"But... that day, we saw the Sword Intent of the Celestial Sword's True Man with our own eyes; he was an ultimate swordsman."

The Southern Border Saintess questioned:

"What if it was someone else? No rule says the True Martial Sect can only have one Celestial Sword True Man, perhaps there is another hidden stronger expert?"

Everyone pondered over this idea.

The more they thought about it, the more it seemed plausible.

"I had suspected the True Martial Sect before but later dismissed the suspicion. But now, combined with everything you've said, the suspicion on the True Martial Sect has instead increased."

"We cannot abandon the investigation into the Town North King line, but similarly, we cannot ignore the True Martial Sect."

The Southern Border Saintess's voice echoed clearly in the grand hall.

Ghost Mask couldn't help but lightly sigh and clap his hands:

"As expected of the future leader of the Southern Border, so meticulous and sharp, truly eye-opening. It's a pity the Saintess wasn't born in our Holy Sect."

Saying this, he glanced slightly displeased at Qin Yun, who had been silent all along.

This round of diplomatic exchanges was essentially led by the Southern Border Saintess.

"According to the Saintess's perspective, what should we do?"

The Southern Border Saintess smiled lightly:

"Doesn't the Sect Leader of Ghost Mask already have an idea? Let's form an alliance."

"If previous events were orchestrated by Great Yan, then we must naturally join forces to retaliate. If it turns out to be truly the doing of the True Martial Sect, then find an opportunity to destroy the True Martial Sect together and then jointly resist Great Yan."