

Cultivating 191

Chapter 191: The Power of the Fake Pill, the 16-Foot White Ape, Seeks to Accept a Disciple_4

The Southern Border Saintess was about to retort.

Suddenly, her expression froze, a ripple of power spreading out, affecting her control of energy, making it less perfect.

Qin Yun's eyes flashed as he calmly asked:

"Has something happened?"

The Southern Border Saintess looked deeply at Qin Yun:

"Saint Heir Qin, you truly have foresight. Our Southern Border's pieces have been completely wiped out, including the Primordial Core Realm piece. So I suppose your Demon Sect is in a similar situation."

She had just sensed the fluctuation of the Gu Insect within the piece.

The private room fell into silence.

Qin Yun let out a cold laugh:

"I have long said, do not underestimate the True Martial Sect. My master and eldest senior brother are no ordinary people. Since they decided to open the sect's gates widely, they must have been prepared long ago."

He secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Originally, he planned that if the Demon Sect's pieces infiltrated quietly, he would find an opportunity to leak the information. However, doing so would attract suspicion, as the matter was under his charge, and he did not know about the Southern Border's pieces.

This outcome was the best.

The Southern Border Saintess gazed in the direction of True Martial Mountain, eventually calming down and smiling:

"Since it's troublesome, let's take our time."

Internally, however, she harbored a sliver of doubt towards Qin Yun, but did not voice it.

She considered setting up a trap to test him in the future.

A single setback was nothing; instead, it intensified her interest in the True Martial Sect. The various Divine Mysterious Objects appearing during the sect's disciple examinations intrigued her deeply, especially the Heart Inquiry Platform, which swiftly exposed the pieces.

...

Around the Heart Inquiry Platform.

One by one, the traitors were apprehended.

Luo Wentian had already subdued the Fake Pill power, reverting to his previous calmness, no longer imbued with the dominating Thunderous Power.

The White Ape reverted to his usual form.

He respectfully bowed to Luo Wentian:

"Master Uncle!"

Luo Wentian smiled warmly:

"Tiansheng, you've done well."

He was even more amazed by his ninth junior brother's prowess, with even his subordinate, the Little White Ape, being so formidable, never having revealed its strength before.

Luo Wentian glanced at the traitors and gestured for Xiong Shi to take them away.

Now that all these traitors had been caught, they could be slowly interrogated later.

He turned around, expressing gratitude to the Gang Essence Realm experts who had assisted earlier:

"Many thanks for your help. Our True Martial Sect will remember this and will certainly present generous gifts!"

The crowd waved their hands repeatedly.

They knew that even without their intervention, the True Martial Sect could easily have resolved the issue, so they did not dare to claim credit.

The Gang Essence Realm experts confident of passing the examination to become True Martial Sect disciples now had eyes filled with hope.

Luo Wentian did not disappoint them either.

He announced the list on the spot.

Among the thirty or so who entered the Heart Inquiry Platform, besides five being traitors, over ten failed due to their inadequate character, being either crafty, violent, selfish, or hypocritical, all having just stood by idly, further confirming the Heart Inquiry Platform's accuracy.

Thus calculated,

the total of those who passed was sixteen.

Twelve of them were in the White Mist Realm, and four were in the Jade Liquid Realm.

Though these individuals had some minor flaws, overall they were good-natured, deserving of initial trust.

Upon announcing the list,

Luo Wentian smiled:

"From today onwards, you all will be disciples of our True Martial Sect, temporarily taking on the role of Guardians, protecting our True Martial. Our True Martial will not hesitate to treat you generously!"

He bowed with great sincerity.

Even though these people were joining midway, if they could be wholehearted, Luo Wentian did not mind truly accepting them.

The crowd responded solemnly:

"We pay our respects to the Sect Leader!"

They felt a sense of pride at that moment.

Aside from True Man Tianjian and True Man Longshan, just Luo Wentian and the White Ape's performance was already exceptionally formidable, not to mention the foundations displayed by the True Martial Sect this time. They felt fortunate.

This was also evident from the envious looks in the eyes of those around them.

Luo Wentian was in high spirits.

With these sixteen Guardians joining,

the middle and upper-level combat power of the True Martial Sect received a significant boost.

In some days, the original True Martial Nine Sons could successively ascend to the Jade Liquid Realm, or even the Primordial Core Realm, allowing for a perfect transition.

After this matter of True Martial Mountain's examination spread,

the prestige of the True Martial Sect would inevitably rise further.

Luo Wentian turned to look at the remaining children and smiled:

"Little ones, it's your turn for the examination. Once you pass the Heart Inquiry Platform, you will become disciples of the True Martial Sect from now on!"

The hundreds of children glanced at each other.

Having witnessed the prowess of Luo Wentian, the White Ape, and various Elders, they were filled with yearning for the True Martial Sect. Yet at this critical moment, they hesitated slightly, seeing the Heart Inquiry Platform's power clearly before them.

Luo Wentian did not rush them, merely smiled.

In just a breath, someone responded:

"I'll go!"

Gou Dan was the first to step forward.

Having eaten his fill and watched such a great battle, he further solidified his resolve, raising his hand wrapped in bandages, his eyes resolute. He was aware of the wonders of the Heart Inquiry Platform, but he had no fear. He had come to join the True Martial Sect and was no traitor; he stood upright without fear of shadows.

Luo Wentian laughed heartily, his gaze satisfied:

"Very good!"

Hearing Luo Wentian's praise, Gou Dan grinned foolishly, drawing envy from the crowd.

Following Gou Dan, voices rang out immediately:

"I'm going too!"

"Me too!"

They were mostly the children who had performed well in the first stage, the Heaven-Ascending Ladder.

The rest soon caught on, responding in kind.

But even within those few breaths, a gap in the children's temperaments and wisdom emerged.

Fortunately, the Heart Inquiry Platform was large enough.

Nearly five hundred children entered the Heart Inquiry Platform together.

As before,

everyone relaxed their minds.

The authoritative voice echoed once more.

The inquiry for the children would be stricter, as they were the future of the True Martial Sect, and the root couldn't be crooked.

Respecting teachers and valuing the Martial Path, camaraderie with fellow disciples, chivalry, Martial Path mentality... all these aspects were inquired about.

Moreover,

they would also ask where they came from.

Several minor traitors were silently exposed; some forces had laid deep plans, aiming to infiltrate from the roots. If in the future, a genius made it to the high ranks of the True Martial Sect, the returns would be a hundredfold.

Luo Wentian sneered coldly, instructing others to take these minor traitors away as well.

No one interrupted; others weren't even aware that some had already been removed.

The Heart Inquiry continued.

Luo Wentian focused on Gou Dan.

Gou Dan had impressed him deeply twice now, and he had developed a fondness for talents.

During the Heart Inquiry,

Gou Dan's answers were extremely firm and pure.

"He has a younger sister? She must be an extremely important figure in his life." Luo Wentian noted with interest.

He considered taking Gou Dan as a disciple.

However, he planned to observe for a while longer.

Although a Sect Leader's disciple isn't the next Sect Leader, the decision must be made prudently.

Chapter 192: 300 Saplings, A Big Racket

Time passed.

Luo Wentian and many elders were paying close attention to these outstanding seedlings. Besides Gou Dan, there were others who also performed quite well.

For example, Lu Mang and Ouyang Yuxuan both matched the True Martial Sect's hearts in temperament.

A solemn voice finally resounded once more:

"Wake up!"

The children remaining on the Heart Inquiry Platform all shivered and awoke from the previous Heart Inquiry state.

In this way, they wouldn't be harmed. After all, they were still small and their minds weaker; if they were forcibly awakened like the previous Gang Essence Realm masters, there was a risk they could be turned into idiots.

At this moment.

The children all widened their eyes.

Having personally experienced that miraculous state, they realized it was much more powerful than what they had observed from the outside before.

After going through this Heart Inquiry, they even felt as if their hearts had cleared a bit.

Of course.

Some were happy while others were worried.

Upon awakening, they immediately recalled those genuine answers from their hearts. The children present weren't foolish; just from the previous Gang Essence Realm guardians' assessments, they could grasp some idea of who could pass the Heart Inquiry Platform's test.

Gou Dan felt somewhat jittery and nervous, although he believed he had a clear conscience, he didn't dare assure himself before the results were out.

Meanwhile.

He silently counted and found that some children had disappeared.

This discovery startled him. Despite his poor background, he wasn't stupid; he immediately realized what was happening. There had been spies during the Gang Essence Realm guardians' assessment, so naturally, there could be spies hidden in the disciple assessment.

The children who noticed this were all anxious, fearing that they might be implicated and thus unable to pass the test.

Fortunately, Ye Qinghe's voice gave them a shot of confidence.

Ye Qinghe was the only female elder, both beautiful and dignified, easily winning the children's fondness.

She looked at the little ones on the Heart Inquiry Platform, showing a gentle smile:

"Now, I will announce the list of those who successfully passed the test."

"Lu Mang!"

"Ouyang Yuxuan!"

...

"Li Cheng!"

...

"Gou Dan!"

One name after another was called.

The children whose names were called all clenched their fists in excitement, unable to contain the cheer in their hearts.

When Gou Dan's name was called last, his tightly strung nerves finally eased. He almost burst into tears of joy, having thought he was eliminated when his name wasn't mentioned before.

Ye Qinghe smiled secretly in her heart. She noticed that her senior brother was fond of this boy named Gou Dan, and so intentionally called his name last, as a test of the young boy's patience.

The result pleased her.

This round on the Heart Inquiry Platform had eliminated nearly half, as children typically have fewer thoughts which are easy to correct, and the Heaven-Ascending Ladder had already provided a certain level of screening earlier.

Thus, about three hundred disciples remained.

Looking at these three hundred individuals, everyone smiled. These were the cream of the crop, selected from the best of the best. Their future achievements would undoubtedly not be low. Coupled with the numerous Secret Techniques and resources of the True Martial Sect for training, they were all promising for the Gang Essence Realm; the only difference would lie in their future effort or lack thereof.

Ye Qinghe announced loudly:

"Those whose names were called, from now on, you are True Martial Sect's Outer Sect disciples. Soon, your senior brothers will lead you to familiarize yourselves with the inner workings of the sect."

"The disciples accept the orders!"

The freshly minted True Martial disciples all bowed respectfully.

Meanwhile, those who were eliminated were crestfallen, nearly in tears. Particularly those who had performed well in the Heaven-Ascending Ladder stage found it hard to believe; they were displeased but dared not question it.

Ye Qinghe said with a slightly indifferent tone:

"Those who didn't pass, please leave the mountain. You may also receive a small gift prepared by the True Martial Sect."

She shook her head slightly in her heart.

These children were the ones with crooked 'roots,' whether naturally so or influenced by their surroundings. Regardless, they were not of noble character. While there's a chance they might achieve great enlightenment and transformation in the future, the True Martial Sect wouldn't gamble on that probability.

Uprooting a crooked seedling is quite challenging; it's better to choose a straight one from the start for cultivation, saving time and effort.

After all, the True Martial Sect is not a saintly sect that educates the world.

"Thank you, Elder Ye!"

The voices of those eliminated were somewhat low.

Most accepted reality, but some secretly vowed to make the True Martial Sect regret it someday, thinking there's always a chance for the tables to turn in thirty years.

Luo Wentian had some idea of these thoughts but paid no mind.

The growth of the True Martial Sect would far exceed public expectations.

Thinking about the many Martial Arts Secret Techniques and Pill Formulas Ning Qi gave him, as well as the Divine Mysterious Objects occasionally produced, filled him with awe.

He watched as the three hundred excellent seedlings were led away.

A smile naturally formed on his face.

This was the future of the True Martial Sect, far more excellent than any disciples received before.

This open recruitment of disciples was successfully concluded, despite some small twists, mostly staying within control. It was foreseeable that as the events on the mountain gradually became known, the True Martial Sect's reputation would rise to new heights.

Unless there were special circumstances, the True Martial Sect wouldn't undertake such large-scale recruitment in the short term.

...

As the eliminated children and the Gang Essence Realm masters descended the mountain,

everything that had transpired on True Martial Mountain spread at an astonishing speed.

Starting with True Martial City, then to Qing State, and from there to the surrounding states.

Many were amazed.

Chapter 193: 300 Saplings, A Big Racket_2

This time, the True Martial Sect has truly shown extraordinary depth.

The Heaven-Ascending Ladder, the Mechanical Being, the Heart Inquiry Platform, each of them could serve as a cornerstone for any sect, yet the True Martial Sect brought out three in quick succession.

What left everyone truly stunned was that so many spies from various factions surfaced during the True Martial Sect's recruitment.

Demon Sect!

Southern Border!

Inquiring Sword Pavilion!

Formless Sect!

...

Each of these forces carries significant weight, especially the Demon Sect and Southern Border, which are shrouded in mystery. No one expected them all to attempt to plant spies into the True Martial Sect, leading to widespread speculation.

However, the rest of the True Martial Sect also bolstered its reputation with their performance.

The True Martial Sect was originally famous worldwide, primarily backed by True Man Tianjian and Taoist Longshan. The general evaluation in the Martial Realm was that the True Martial Sect's top-tier combat strength was formidable, but its middle tier was lacking.

But this time, Luo Wentian and Xiong Shi's actions shattered everyone's perceptions.

"That Sect Leader Luo is no ordinary man. It seems the True Martial Sect has a secret technique that can greatly enhance the sect leader's power in a short period. This may be the unparalleled secret technique within the True Martial heritage!"

"And then there's that White Ape, which is said to still be quite young but can already punch into the Jade Liquid Realm and kick through the Primordial Core Realm with incredible ferocity. In the future, it may reach a level comparable to the Flood Dragon Monarch of Hundred Rivers Lake or the Demon Bull King of Cloud Dream Mountain."

"The depth of the True Martial Sect is indeed extraordinary!"

Exclamations of astonishment echoed everywhere.

If one's strength is weak, as was the case with Taoist Longshan before entering the Celestial Human Realm, many would have attempted night raids due to coveting the True Martial heritage. But now that the strength is immense, others will only praise the depth of the True Martial Sect, without any hint of greed.

This is the difference.

Strength invokes awe, while weakness invites envy.

Not all reactions were of awe and admiration; some held malicious thoughts. They felt that the numerous factions infiltrating the True Martial Sect was due to the sect's excessive prominence, fearing it would not enjoy its moment for long.

Especially the Demon Sect, a behemoth capable of opposing the Great Yan Imperial Court, and a mysterious Southern Border, which has gradually come into some people's view in recent years.

These individuals believed that this matter might have follow-up consequences.

The factions that inserted spies so openly might not easily let the matter rest.

On True Martial Mountain.

The disciples were equally exhilarated.

They were still savoring the battle from that day.

The prowess of Xiong Shi and Ye Qinghe was expected, but Luo Wentian's performance far exceeded expectations, even astonishing figures like Xiong Shi and Jiang Baishan. Suddenly, the senior brother possessed such formidable combat strength?

They couldn't help but ask Luo Wentian.

But Luo Wentian merely pointed towards the Bright Martial Pavilion and smiled without speaking.

The group exchanged puzzled glances, feeling slightly doubtful. It wasn't that they didn't trust their master, but they felt if their master had such means, he would have demonstrated them earlier. Instead, a different figure emerged in their minds.

Ning Qi!

Yes, it was Ning Qi.

Nowadays, Ning Qi wasn't as secretive in his actions as before. As his strength grew, he gradually revealed some traces before his fellow disciples, not to boast, but rather naturally.

For instance, they knew the Heaven-Ascending Ladder and other foundations were crafted by Ning Qi.

Adding Luo Wentian seemed reasonable?

But then they thought, if Ning Qi himself could forge an existence like Luo Wentian capable of overwhelming the average Primordial Core Realm, then how powerful must Ning Qi be?

They found this notion a bit exaggerated and chose not to dwell on it.

The other True Martial disciples were also curious about the low-key and mysterious Ninth Master Uncle.

They weren't intrigued by Luo Wentian.

But rather by the White Ape.

After six years of hard cultivation without notice, a single display of power made him known worldwide.

A White Ape Taoist Child under him being so formidable undoubtedly added a layer of mystery to Ning Qi. Especially in recent years, Taoist Longshan and Luo Wentian have continuously obscured Ning Qi's age, so much so that many disciples now have no idea how old Ning Qi is.

They only knew that this Ninth Master Uncle enjoyed studying scriptures, trained hard alone, and only appeared during major events, making him the most mysterious among the previous true disciples.

Some True Martial disciples speculated that the Ninth Master Uncle might be a hidden master.

However, some senior disciples merely chuckled, having an approximate understanding of Ning Qi's age. They felt that no matter how strong he was, he wouldn't be extraordinarily strong, but they wouldn't expose him, choosing instead to leave the newcomers a figure to look up to.

True Martial Mountain became increasingly lively.

With the addition of three hundred excellent seedlings, it grew even more vibrant.

For these newly entered outer sect disciples.

Luo Wentian had naturally long prepared corresponding cultivation plans, with a differentiation in resources based on their performance in the entry test, followed by allocation of martial arts and resources according to the annual competition.

These matters proceeded orderly under the arrangements of Skill-Transferring Elder Sun Chuanhai, who was appointed for his reserved and fair nature.

...

Inside the Bright Martial Pavilion.

Spirit Concentration Incense rose gently, with Luo Wentian, Taoist Longshan, and Ning Qi seated apart.

"Master, Jiu, Second Junior Brother has already interrogated the spies from the entry test," Luo Wentian's eyes carried a trace of anger. "The results on the Heart Inquiry Platform matched those of the heart inquiry, and even those eliminated included ones from the Demon Sect and Southern Border Alliance."

Chapter 194: 300 Saplings, A Big Racket_3

"They mentioned a few things, but nothing of great consequence. The only noteworthy news is that the Demon Sect and the Southern Border Alliance have already formed an alliance!"

Taoist Longshan and Ning Qi both narrowed their eyes.

These two forces alone are of colossal proportions, and now they've formed an alliance.

Ning Qi said slowly:

"It seems that they are indeed suspicious of the incident when the Qing State base was destroyed. Unexpectedly, instead of turning against each other, they've allied."

He was confident that what he did back then left no traces related to the True Martial Sect.

But unexpectedly, things have turned this way.

Taoist Longshan nodded thoughtfully:

"However, they likely have their doubts, and perhaps they don't suspect us very much. Otherwise, they wouldn't just send spies like these to test us."

Given the power and dominance of both forces, if they truly knew about Ning Qi's strategic diversion back then, they would definitely not let it rest.

Ning Qi sipped tea and said:

"Perhaps it's because we've been involved with the Demon Sect and the Southern Border Alliance several times. I'm not afraid of these small moves, just that they might act out of the ordinary. In any case, be extra careful during this period, and don't let them catch any evidence against us."

His eyes were deep; the Primordial Core within him spun rapidly, and powerful energy churned within.

Just give him a bit more time, and when he ascends to the Celestial Human Realm, if these people dare to be wanton, he'll show them the consequences.

Even now, he's not afraid.

If the Demon Sect and the Southern Border were to do something they shouldn't, Ning Qi certainly wouldn't let it rest either.

He was thinking.

If only he could find the headquarters of the Demon Sect and the Southern Border Alliance.

But this is not an easy task. The Southern Border Alliance is located in the Hundred Thousand Mountains, and the Demon Sect has managed to entangle with the Great Yan for a thousand years, always finding ways to survive, surely having multiple hideouts.

Luo Wentian said:

"Jiu is right, during this period, I'll try to minimize the disciples' outings and be more vigilant."

He is very wary of the Demon Sect and the Southern Border Alliance. The current True Martial Sect is still somewhat immature compared to these two.

Ning Qi nodded slightly.

Taoist Longshan asked:

"What about other than the Demon Sect and the Southern Border Alliance?"

Luo Wentian continued:

"Apart from these two, other spies come from the Formless Sect and Inquiring Sword Pavilion, and one came from a first-rate force in Qing State, the Luoshan Sect. But just yesterday, the Luoshan Sect Leader dissolved the Luoshan Sect and hanged himself."

His face was calm.

Sending spies into other sects can be a serious or minor matter. Maybe the Luoshan Sect was just gambling on a big opportunity to infiltrate true power, hoping to seize the chance and maybe even steal the Ultimate Skills of the True Martial Sect.

However, no matter what, the anger of the True Martial Sect is not something a first-rate force can endure.

The Luoshan Sect Leader's suicide was the best choice.

Luo Wentian does not plan to pursue this further.

The key now is dealing with the remaining two forces.

"How should we respond to the Formless Sect and Inquiring Sword Pavilion?" He asked inquisitively.

These two forces are not weak, and he can't make decisions on his own.

The Formless Sect, located in Tao State, used to be the ninth top Daoist sect but was recently pushed out by the sudden rise of the True Martial Sect, leading to some normal resentment, likely plotting to infiltrate the sect seeking an opportunity.

But though that's understandable, it isn't justifiable.

As for the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, it's in Chu State.

Ning Qi has some impressions of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion. When he spoke to Taoist Longshan about the True Martial Stance, Taoist Longshan mentioned that the supreme forces, the Great Yan and the Demon Sect, both have Unparalleled Stance Skills, and that Dajue Temple and the Inquiring Sword Pavilion possess Half-step Unparalleled Stance Skills.

At that time.

Taoist Longshan looked up to the Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

Because the pavilion's strength is indeed formidable, much more robust than the Formless Sect, almost on a different level. The Celestial Swordsmen of the pavilion are numerous, including the strongest Supreme Elder Heart Inquiry Sword Gu Changhe, who ranks fourteenth on the Celestial Being List, a true Unparalleled strongman.

The reason the Inquiring Sword Pavilion sent spies into the True Martial Sect is something Ning Qi roughly understands.

Probably for the True Martial Sword Monument.

Previously, True Man Tianjian established the True Martial Sword Monument, turning the True Martial Mountain into another Holy Land of the Sword Dao, which certainly made the Inquiring Sword Pavilion envious. With the monument's help, they could surely foster countless top-tier swordsmen.

In fact, more than one faction secretly mocked the True Martial Sect's foolishness for sharing the True Martial Sword Monument with the world. Others would wish to hide such a Supreme Treasure, not display it openly.

Hearing Luo Wentian's inquiry, Taoist Longshan also frowned slightly.

One was formerly the ninth Daoist sect in the world, the other a renowned Sword Dao Holy Land, arguably the first.

Both are not weak.

But remaining silent is naturally inappropriate.

If this continues, wouldn't everyone start imitating them, and the True Martial Sect would be exhausted just filtering out these spies?

Taoist Longshan looked at Ning Qi.

Ning Qi's gaze did not waver, calmly saying:

"Naturally, we cannot just let it rest like this."

With these words.

Luo Wentian and Taoist Longshan both brightened up and smiled.

This is confidence!

If Ning Qi had said to let it go, they would have endured for now.

But Ning Qi saying these words means he's unafraid.

The Demon Sect and Southern Border Alliance may not be easily dealt with, but can they not handle you two?

If they are sensible, it's fine. If not, it's also an opportunity to establish their might.

Chapter 195: 300 Seedlings, A Huge Racket_4

Taoist Longshan pondered slightly:

"Wentian, write two letters in the name of the True Martial Sect Leader, condemning them for sending spies. Let's take the moral high ground first. If they want this matter to blow over, they must bleed heavily."

Luo Wentian's eyes lit up, nodding repeatedly:

"That's right, that's exactly how it should be. The Formless Sect used to be the ninth Taoism, and they have plenty of Taoist Scriptures. If we don't demand more this time, how can they compensate for the losses to our True Martial Sect?"

"And as for the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, they have just recruited three hundred young disciples. How can they not contribute a few Treasure Swords and Sword Manuals?"

He became excited, already planning how to make both factions bleed.

Of course, relying on just this wouldn't be enough to destroy the two factions, but neither could they be let off so easily. Both sides must feel the pain deeply for the strategy to work!

However,

he furrowed his brows and said:

"If we adopt a tough stance with the Formless Sect, it should be fine; they fear Jiu. But with the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, there's the Heart Inquiry Sword Gu Changhe, ranked fourteenth on the Celestial Being List, who might not agree so easily."

Ning Qi merely smiled faintly and said nothing.

Seeing this, Luo Wentian was secretly taken aback but reassured himself.

If Ning Qi could remain so calm in the face of someone ranked fourteenth on the Celestial Being List, what was there for him to worry about?

Even his apprehension towards the Demon Sect and the Southern Border Alliance had lessened considerably.

That evening,

Luo Wentian wrote two letters vigorously, denouncing the immoral actions of the Formless Sect and the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, who appeared to be peeking at the True Martial inheritance. He subtly mentioned some dissatisfaction from True Man Tianjian, fully setting the stage.

He then hinted at conditions.

Naturally, he told the Formless Sect that the True Martial Sect's foundation was shallow, lacking some Taoist Scripture collections, particularly rare solitary editions, and the more, the better.

To the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, he mentioned that the True Martial Sect's newly recruited three hundred young disciples were without swords, making it difficult to continue, and said that True Man Tianjian was interested in the Inquiring Sword Pavilion's unmatched Sword Manuals, suggesting they send over two.

Of course, some Spiritual Medicines and Treasures were also available for their careful consideration.

In short, quelling the True Martial's anger without bleeding was impossible.

And then,

these letters were sent overnight to the two factions.

Not only that, but Luo Wentian also had people secretly spread the word about the Formless Sect and the Inquiring Sword Pavilion's sending spies into the True Martial Sect, creating momentum.

After Ning Qi learned of the letter's content, he couldn't help but smile wryly, realizing his senior brother could be quite cunning at times.

As for whether the Formless Sect and the Inquiring Sword Pavilion would agree, he wasn't worried.

Not because he thought they would comply willingly, but because he had confidence in his own strength.

In the end, they would all agree, though the process might be somewhat convoluted.

Ning Qi gazed at the increasingly vibrant peach blossoms outside the courtyard and glanced down at the few tender leaves sprouting from the Enlightenment Tea tree, feeling his heart gradually calm.

Just some trivial side notes.

He began to operate the Refining Spirit with full focus, the Heaven and Earth Grinding Wheel appeared beside him, vaguely emitting a rumbling sound. This was his creation, the Great Refining Spirit Technique, based on the Quenching Gang Technique, but the foundation differed. The Quenching Gang Technique primarily relied on the Power of Heaven and Earth, while the Refining Spirit Technique used the Power of Heaven and Earth as an aid, relying mainly on the Primordial Core for feedback.

Because the 'God' is relatively fragile and cannot withstand the violent Power of Heaven and Earth.

Now, Ning Qi had already achieved preliminary success, the 'God' growing stronger, which was particularly evident in the Celestial Being Unity Secret Technique, and his strength was also increasing, not stagnating.

As time slowly passed,

seven days later,

it was actually the Formless Sect, far away in the Tao State, that replied first.

The Formless Sect's attitude of admitting wrong was good.

The events that had transpired at the True Martial Mountain had naturally reached their ears. Knowing that their spies had been apprehended on the spot, even if they wanted to deny it, there was no way to do so. Their hearts felt bitter; they had initially thought it was a flawless plan but had greatly underestimated the capabilities of the True Martial Sect.

But now, they could only try their best to make amends.

They had originally already agreed upon some compensation.

Unexpectedly, Luo Wentian's 'greetings' arrived right after.

After the Formless Sect members read through the letters, they wished they could curse aloud, their hearts bleeding.

It was too ruthless!

They wanted to withstand it and be tough, but they didn't dare.

The power of True Man Tianjian was still vivid in their minds, not to mention they were the guilty party. Nowadays, the True Martial Sect stands as the ninth largest sect in the lands. Those top sects would only support the True Martial Sect, not them. In fact, several top sects had already begun to exert pressure.

This made the Formless Sect swallow the bitter pill, losing both their wife and soldiers this time for real.

After discussion,

they replied with a kind letter of apology and prepared a compensation list.

They offered 1,500 volumes of Taoist Scriptures, a hundred rare solitary editions, various Spiritual Medicines and Treasures, Exotic Beast Inner Cores, and Martial Arts Secret Manuals, all of good quality.

Luo Wentian saw it and grinned ear to ear.

Having just recruited three hundred young disciples and sixteen guardians, they urgently needed a plethora of resources. Now, a batch had been immediately replenished.

He exclaimed that the Formless Sect people were wonderful.

Even lamented repeatedly that if only more sects tried to send spies during the entrance examination!

This made Ning Qi shake his head and smile.

However,

the compensation matters weren't going so smoothly.

For instance, though the Formless Sect, far away in the Tao State, had already replied and shown their stance, the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, close in the Chu State, had remained silent.

Chapter 196: Supreme Elder, Pressing with Great Momentum

Since the True Martial Sect opened their mountain gate, many have been paying attention to this event.

The admission of weakness by the Formless Sect has undoubtedly elevated the reputation of the True Martial Sect.

Sometimes the rise of a sect is like this, ascending by stepping over one established Martial Path sect after another.

But the prolonged silence from the Inquiring Sword Pavilion is rather intriguing.

"Inquiring Sword Pavilion is an established Sword Dao Holy Land with numerous top swordsmen, and several Celestial Swordsmen, especially its Supreme Elder Heart Inquiry Sword Gu Changhe, who ranks fourteenth on the Celestial Being List! Such strength has no reason to fear the True Martial Sect."

"The Formless Sect fears the Sharp Sword Intent of True Man Tianjian, but Heart Inquiry Sword does not; his fourteenth rank on the Celestial Being List was earned with real battle achievements!"

"Tsk tsk, I wonder how the Inquiring Sword Pavilion will eventually respond? If their sincerity is lacking, the True Martial Sect might not let the matter rest."

Some people keenly smelled the scent of conflict within.

Especially the blademan, who were somewhat excited.

The Inquiring Sword Pavilion confronting the True Martial Sect.

At a deeper level, it can be seen as Heart Inquiry Sword facing True Man Tianjian.

This is the internal strife among swordsmen.

Previously, True Man Tianjian stepped over the prestige of Thunder Shock Blade Venerate to ascend higher, but now, with two unparalleled swordsmen facing off, regardless of victory or defeat, they are happy to see it happen.

At this moment.

They instead hoped the Inquiring Sword Pavilion could be a bit tougher.

Every gaze turned towards the Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

...

The Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

A Sword Tower of three hundred and thirty-three zhang stood towering and magnificent, exuding a Sharp Sword Intent that impressed all.

This is the place of inheritance for the Inquiring Sword Pavilion. If an outstanding swordsman of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion is nearing their end, they would willingly enter and choose a level for eternal rest, leaving behind their lifelong Sword Dao essence. The stronger they are, the higher they can ascend.

The swordsmen of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion all take pride in this.

Over time, no one knows how much Sword Dao inheritance has been left within. Sometimes, swordsmen with unmatched talent are even allowed to enter and absorb the legacy left by their predecessors.

And now.

Numerous powerful figures were waiting respectfully outside the Sword Tower, all high-level members of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

Their expressions were solemn, their gazes unwavering, as if in worship.

Suddenly.

A special wave spread out, shocking everyone into attention; their internal Sword Intent involuntarily aroused, resounding like ten thousand swords, causing all gazes to burn with passion.

Then a white-haired elder appeared silently.

Clearly emerging from the Sword Tower, yet no one could detect it.

The elder appeared ordinary, without a strong aura, his gaze indifferent. If anything, his left hand was peculiar, with only the thumb and index finger remaining, the other three fingers were cleanly severed.

"We pay our respects to the Supreme Elder!"

Everyone saluted respectfully.

Gu Changhe waved slightly, saying:

"Tang Qiu, you called me out, what is the matter?"

His gaze settled on the Sect Leader of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion. Although indifferent, it carried a compelling pressure.

Tang Qiu's heart tightened and he immediately said:

"There is a matter requiring the Supreme Elder's decision!"

A moment later.

In the grand hall, silence reigned.

Gu Changhe sat in the principal seat, overlooking everyone. His voice held no hint of emotion:

"You want to tell me you sent someone to infiltrate another sect, got caught red-handed, and now they've sent a letter asking for an explanation?"

Tang Qiu felt a chill run through his scalp:

"Supreme Elder, this matter started because of the True Martial Sword Monument, that monument is indeed mystical..."

Before he finished speaking, he was interrupted:

"Useless!"

Everyone fell silent as if in fear.

Gu Changhe coldly said:

"Our Inquiring Sword Pavilion has an inheritance of nearly a thousand years; just the Inheritance Sword Tower is enough for our disciples to benefit endlessly. Do we need to covet others' possessions? If you even put a fraction more thought into the Sword Dao, our Inquiring Sword Pavilion would have long become the number one Sword Dao Holy Land under heaven! Not to mention that until now, apart from this old man, there's not even one Celestial Being List swordsman!"

Tang Qiu's face turned bitter:

"The Supreme Elder's reprimand is justified, I will immediately send word to express our apology..."

Gu Changhe's expression grew colder:

"Tang Qiu, it appears you are indeed not suitable to be the Sect Leader of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion."

These words were like a thunderbolt to Tang Qiu, leaving him pale as he knelt fearfully on the ground, not daring to respond.

Gu Changhe stood up, scanning the crowd:

"Is this how you all think as well? A bunch of useless individuals! All of you have lost the sharpness of a swordsman!"

At some point, a sharp aura had already emanated around him, suffocating everyone.

"If you yield in your reply this time, are you intending to disregard the thousand-year reputation of our Inquiring Sword Pavilion? Afraid of a sect that has been only established for a few decades?"

"True Man Tianjian, True Martial Sword Monument, you are amazed by others' strength, yet you forget where your roots are."

"Do you still remember the pride of a swordsman?"

His gaze was sharp.

His words directly pierced everyone's heart, leaving them drenched in sweat.

As the Heart Inquiry Sword, at thirty, he severed three fingers of his left hand to question his Sword Heart, and on that path, his Sword Dao advanced triumphantly. Seeing the younger generations in this way, he felt disappointment.

Calling them useless was considering that they had a treasure mountain but didn't dig into it, instead distracted by other concerns.

Silence filled the grand hall.

After Gu Changhe's anger subsided.

Tang Qiu cautiously asked:

"Then according to the Supreme Elder's view, what should be done?"

He realized the Supreme Elder likely harbored some resentment, originally in peaceful retreat within the Inheritance Sword Tower, being suddenly summoned must have been naturally displeasing.

Gu Changhe glanced sideways:

"True Martial Sect says they are spies, so they are spies? Let them present evidence."

"Is our Inquiring Sword Pavilion so easily bullied? One True Man Tianjian, what can he do, having subdued only one Thunder Shock Blade Venerate. However, managing to erect the True Martial Sword Monument is indeed extraordinary, perhaps he has some unique comprehension in the Sword Dao, but this old man has not been without progress while in closing these years. Perhaps I can advance further on the Celestial Being List!"

Chapter 197: Supreme Elder, Pressing with Great Momentum_2

As he spoke, a hint of pride appeared in his eyes.

Everyone was overjoyed.

"Congratulations to the Supreme Elder!"

Tang Qiu said with a smile:

"Then I'll have someone send a reply."

Gu Changhe nodded slightly, his gaze turned towards the direction of Qing State, a sense of battle rising within him.

Having been in secluded cultivation for so many years without making a move, he was somewhat itching for action. If that True Man Tianjian is dissatisfied, let him come.

...

Several days later.

True Martial Mountain.

Inside the Bright Martial Pavilion.

Luo Wentian spread out the letter, his face suppressing his anger.

Taoist Longshan and Ning Qi read it.

Ning Qi's gaze flickered, but he remained calm.

However, Taoist Longshan snorted:

"It seems the Inquiring Sword Pavilion believes they are too big to admit anything?"

The content of the letter was simple, the words were also very polite, essentially expressing regret that the True Martial Sect's assessment had so many spies mixed in, but the Inquiring Sword Pavilion never sent any spies, wondering if the True Martial Sect had mistakenly identified someone. If there is any need for help, the Inquiring Sword Pavilion is ready to assist at any time.

The surface of the words was well-crafted, but there was no mention of any apologies or compensations.

Deep down, the words seemed to carry a condescending tone.

Compared to the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, the True Martial Sect indeed seemed like a child just taking its first steps.

"It seems the Heart Inquiry Sword Gu Changhe on the Celestial Being List at number fourteen has given them great confidence." Luo Wentian frowned.

He had considered this point before, but never thought the Inquiring Sword Pavilion would be so domineering and shameless.

"What should be done now?"

Thoughts raced through his mind.

Charging at their doors over this matter, though justified by the sect, would seem somewhat rash, not very elegant.

But if no counterattack is made.

They would be ridiculed instead.

Voices were already saying the True Martial Sect only picks easy targets, ignoring the Demon Sect and Southern Border, but harshly squeezing the Formless Sect and the Inquiring Sword Pavilion. If this matter ended abruptly, it would be detrimental to the True Martial Sect.

Ning Qi was also contemplating.

To resolve it, it must be resolved thoroughly and smoothly.

The Demon Sect and Southern Border were just hard to locate their headquarters, rather than being too afraid to act. If an opportunity arose, Ning Qi would strike thunderously.

But now, the Inquiring Sword Pavilion might serve as a target to establish power.

Recently, he worried that if the Demon Sect and Southern Border combined forces, they might target the True Martial disciples due to suspicions about the previous Southern Border Qing State outpost's demise. If so, even with Heaven-Reaching abilities, he would be at a loss to handle everything.

The best solution is to make an example out of one to warn others and establish authority.

Demonstrate strong enough power to make the Demon Sect and Southern Border wary.

Ideally, effortlessly.

Currently, this is not sufficient; the Inquiring Sword Pavilion must be made to come forward on their own.

If originally the Inquiring Sword Pavilion had been willing to honestly apologize, Ning Qi might think of other ways, but now that they refuse to act humanely, they shouldn't blame him for treating the Inquiring Sword Pavilion as the 'chicken'.

Ning Qi slowly spoke:

"Perhaps... we can use overwhelming force."

Luo Wentian and Taoist Longshan both looked over.

Ning Qi continued:

"The True Martial Sword Monument has been established for some time now. What if we suddenly don't open it to the public?"

Luo Wentian's eyes lit up, he reacted quickly:

"During this time, many swordsmen have benefited from our True Martial Sect. They have tasted the sweetness of the True Martial Sword Monument, if suddenly not opened, they will surely go mad."

Taoist Longshan also smiled.

Luo Wentian continued:

"Jiu, you mean... use the True Martial Sword Monument to force the Inquiring Sword Pavilion to submit?"

Ideas began to flow in his mind.

"Great idea!"

"The Inquiring Sword Pavilion said we misidentified people, so we can justifiably seal the mountain and carefully interrogate spies to prevent them from being rescued. In the meantime, the True Martial Sword Monument won't be open to the public, and swordsmen will surely become anxious, but that's not enough, those swordsmen won't focus on the Inquiring Sword Pavilion."

"Then we need to manage this operation well, quietly leaking part of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion's letter back to them. This way, they will know we're sealing the mountain to interrogate their spies, and the pressure will naturally shift to the Inquiring Sword Pavilion."

The more he spoke, the more ideas flowed, his eyes filled with gleam.

"These swordsmen's cultivation is not low. Among them, there are some Celestial Human Realm swordsmen, even one or two from the Celestial Being List have appeared, and many more are Primordial Core Realm swordsmen. Such an uncontrollable force is also something the Inquiring Sword Pavilion must dread."

"But we must handle it well, making sure these swordsmen don't feel like we're using them as pawns, or it might backfire. However, this possibility is small; we only need to guide them well. Many swordsmen around the world have benefited from your True Martial Sword Monument, Jiu, and they know it well. As long as it's not excessive, most will stand by our side."

"At that time, swordsmen around the world will form a great force, and the Inquiring Sword Pavilion will have to respond!"

"Either they bow their heads and submit, or they come to True Martial Mountain."

Luo Wentian's expression gradually grew serious.

"If we look at the current behavior of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, it seems unlikely they'll bow their heads. Most likely, they would come to True Martial Mountain, perhaps even that Heart Inquiry Sword might come..."

He paused, looking at Ning Qi.

Ning Qi merely smiled softly, sipping tea.

"Even better."

The simple three words brought a spark to Luo Wentian's spirit. He suddenly understood Ning Qi's intent; perhaps from the beginning, he never intended to make the Inquiring Sword Pavilion submit, but rather intended to force them to come to True Martial Mountain.

An incredible thought rose in his heart, unable to resist speaking:

"Jiu, are you trying to avoid the hassle of going to the Inquiring Sword Pavilion and that's why you thought of this method?"

Chapter 198: Supreme Elder, Pressing with Great Momentum_3

Ning Qi chuckled and said:

"This isn't my idea, I merely mentioned it. All the details were thought up by you, Senior Brother."

Luo Wentian was taken aback, then smiled wryly.

Alright, this scapegoat will have to be borne by him!

However, his expression gradually turned excited.

The reply from the Inquiring Sword Pavilion had angered him all morning. For such a shameless sect, he must make them pay the price. The people of the True Martial Sect never lacked decisiveness in dealing with enemies, especially when they were being bullied.

He hurried off with enthusiasm.

He still needed to refine the details of this plan.

Ning Qi also left with a smile.

Just a minor episode, not as enjoyable as reading scriptures at the Seeking Tao Institute.

Taoist Longshan watched the backs of his two disciples, shaking his head with amusement but feeling content inside. Having such fine disciples in this lifetime was not in vain.

...

The next day.

At the True Martial Sword Monument.

Luo Wentian personally went and gently awakened the swordsmen who were comprehending the unparalleled Sword Intent. The swordsmen were initially furious, some were at a critical point, as if watching a celestial dance only a veil away. But upon seeing Luo Wentian, they were startled and quickly stood up to salute:

"Greetings, Sect Leader Luo!"

Luo Wentian wore an apologetic and sorrowful expression, cupping his hands in return:

"Fellow friends, there is something I must inform you of. Starting today, our True Martial Sect will temporarily close the mountain, and we must ask you to leave. Once we reopen, we will invite you back again."

Some people immediately became anxious.

They were on the verge of enlightenment, and being halted at such a crucial moment was insane.

"Sect Leader Luo, what has happened? Why is this so sudden? Could you wait a few more days?" the swordsmen asked repeatedly.

Luo Wentian closed his eyes, then reopened them, appearing heartbroken:

"You might have heard a little, previously during our True Martial Sect's entrance examination, many spies infiltrated seeking our True Martial legacy. Now, some of their identities remain unknown, still under interrogation. We received news that some might seize the opportunity to rescue these spies!"

"We had no choice but to take this desperate measure, sealing the mountain gate. I hope you can understand!"

"Only when the identities of the spies are fully revealed, and evidence proving their identities found, will we reopen the mountain gate. You can patiently wait in True Martial City; this day shouldn't be too far. We will inform you as soon as there is any news."

The hatred and anger in Luo Wentian's eyes were visible to the naked eye.

The many swordsmen looked at each other in dismay.

The sect had spoken to this extent, what more could they do? They couldn't possibly demand the True Martial Sect stop their serious matters to continue opening the True Martial Sword Monument. Who knew if any of these swordsmen seeking enlightenment were spies or informers?

The True Martial Sect allowing everyone to comprehend the True Martial Sword Monument was already enough to make everyone grateful, so this incident was naturally understandable.

But in everyone's hearts.

The unknown spies drew more hatred.

Previously, it hadn't affected them, but now that they couldn't continue comprehending the sword monument, their anger rose sharply. Especially those who were close to enlightenment but forcibly stopped, wished they could cut the spies into pieces.

"Sect Leader Luo, if there is anything we can help with, please let us know!" everyone expressed their stance.

Luo Wentian cupped his hands in thanks:

"Thank you all, but this matter is best not to involve you. Please descend and wait for news."

With sighs of despair, the swordsmen left down the mountain.

Who knew when the True Martial Sect would reopen the mountain gate?

They looked back reluctantly with every few steps.

Once all the swordsmen disappeared from True Martial Mountain, the hatred on Luo Wentian's face vanished, replaced by a faint smile.

Beside him, Ye Qinghe wore an odd expression and couldn't help but give a thumbs up:

"Senior Brother, since you became Sect Leader, your acting has become flawless!"

She clicked her tongue twice.

Luo Wentian's face darkened slightly.

"Qinghe, is this how you speak of your Senior Brother?"

Ye Qinghe laughed exaggeratedly:

"I'm praising you! If I didn't already know the plan, I might have been deceived by you, Senior Brother."

Luo Wentian shook his head with a smile.

He gazed into the distance, somewhat profoundly.

Now, all that remains is to let the plan gradually unfold.

Chapter 199: Sword Intent Enhancement, Hanging on the City Gate

True Martial Sect has sealed the mountain, and the Sword Tablet is temporarily closed to outsiders.

With this batch of swordsmen descending the mountain, the news quickly spread throughout True Martial City.

Instantly.

The crowd was in uproar.

Many swordsmen waiting in line at True Martial City became anxious.

"I came from a great distance, waited here for a month, and now you're telling me it's closed?" someone expressed resentment.

But the swordsmen who had just descended the mountain were even more frustrated.

"I almost grasped an unparalleled sword technique, just a little more insight and I would've gained something; don't tell me I'm worse off than you?"

"Well, then when will it reopen?"

"Who knows? Sect Leader Luo said there would be a thorough search for infiltrators to prevent outsiders from mixing in. It makes sense, True Martial Sect has just risen to prominence and attracted attention, so caution is necessary. We all owe something to True Martial Sect and naturally shouldn't cause trouble now."

"Right, we must not be ungrateful. The real culprits are those vile infiltrators; if I knew who they were, they'd deserve a thousand cuts!"

The swordsmen lamented endlessly, full of resentment, but most of their anger was directed at the infiltrators.

However.

Some experienced and wise individuals deduced part of the situation from the minor hints.

"I've heard that during the previous assessment, infiltrators from the Formless Sect and Inquiring Sword Pavilion entered True Martial Sect. Formless Sect has apologized, but Inquiring Sword Pavilion remains silent. Could it be that the interrogations target infiltrators from Inquiring Sword Pavilion?"

"Quite likely, even if the entire matter isn't related to Inquiring Sword Pavilion, they can't be extricated from it."

They gathered in True Martial City, consistently discussing the matter.

They harbored some hope that perhaps True Martial Sect could resolve this matter and reopen the Sword Tablet in three or four days?

But unfortunately.

They were destined to be disappointed.

Time gently passed.

One day.

Three days.

Seven days.

...

True Martial Sect showed no sign of reopening its mountain gate.

The swordsmen grew increasingly anxious.

Contrarily.

True Martial Mountain remained serene and tranquil.

Three hundred seedlings had just joined the sect and needed martial path enlightenment. These individuals are the future of True Martial Sect and thus must not be neglected. Though stance skills could be altered later, the initial foundation must be solid.

Skill-Transferring Elder Sun Chuanhai couldn't handle it alone.

Several elders jointly took responsibility for this.

According to the seedlings' performance, they practiced different stance skills, which would eventually distinguish them based on talent and diligence.

Li Ling and Zhuang Chen both diligently set an exemplary example; Zhuang Chen was already twelve or thirteen, but Li Ling was only slightly older than the newly admitted seedlings. Both of them possessed extraordinary talent, coupled with the White Ape, serving as excellent models for the seedlings.

The sixteen newly joined guardians were also granted different martial arts, striving in cultivation, with each increasing their belonging to True Martial Sect.

Based on their personalities and preferences, they were divided into different areas.

As True Martial Sect sealed the mountain for now, they weren't required to descend it; they mostly digested the new martial arts.

True Martial Sect rarely experienced such tranquility.

Since the world gradually descended into chaos, True Martial Sect's rise meant such peaceful times were rare.

Ning Qi naturally cultivated in the Seeking Tao Institute, as nothing was more important to him than pursuing the Path of Longevity. The Inquiring Sword Pavilion matter was just a minor episode on his cultivation path, leaving the details to Luo Wentian; he, as the Path Guardian, only needed to act at the appropriate moment.

Every day, he refined the spirit, slow and steady, slowly establishing a peculiar connection with the Primordial Core.

This step was actually extremely difficult.

Many martial artists of the Primordial Core Realm failed to achieve it even after four hundred years.

But for Ning Qi, it was a natural progression.

He was too familiar with the Celestial Human Realm.

Immediately upon entering the White Mist Realm, he created numerous celestial secret techniques, especially the Unity of Heaven and Man, which allowed him to preemptively access the mysteries of the Power of Heaven and Earth. Thus, breaking through the major bottleneck of the Celestial Human Realm was even easier for him than entering the Primordial Core Realm from the Jade Liquid Realm.

He could feel his progress every day.

Cultivation was tedious for others, but for him, it contained endless joy.

Ning Qi was reading Taoist Scriptures sent by the Formless Sect.

The Formless Sect dared not skimp, sending valued rare classical editions.

"Everything is formless and shapeless, capable of mutual transformation? This concept is interesting."

Ning Qi smiled slightly, with spiritual light emerging in his mind.

Why did he enjoy reading Taoist Scriptures?

He read not for the ambiguous Taoist texts, but for the insights from predecessors regarding heaven and earth; perhaps someone's insight was limited and biased, but by comprehensively grasping the essence, he wouldn't be hindered. The predecessors' occasional ingenious ideas often brought enlightenment.

Ascension Ladder, Heart Inquiry Platform, and some martial arts secret techniques he created all had traces of these insights.

It wasn't just Taoist Scriptures; Buddhist Scriptures, miscellaneous studies, books authored by martial arts strong persons, even a mountain woodsman's decades of wood-chopping experience, could inspire Ning Qi.

This was the path he aimed to traverse.

"If, in the future, I can create a supreme method capable of encompassing the wisdom of all beings, what kind of scene would that be?"

Ning Qi was somewhat longing.

It was a concept he had been pondering more frequently lately, although his current realm wasn't sufficient, it didn't hinder him from preparing theories and ideas in advance.

Chapter 200: Sword Intent Enhancement, Hanging at the City Gate_2

Just because.

Since the establishment of the True Martial Sword Monument, he truly felt the benefits within it.

The True Martial Sword Monument has been established for more than half a year, with many swordsmen coming to comprehend it. They have certainly benefited greatly from the Sword Intent left by Ning Qi, but Ning Qi is the biggest winner.

In the process of comprehending, the swordsmen must inevitably interact their own Sword Intent with Ning Qi's, so for Ning Qi, there is no secret at all. There will always be the Sword Intent of a talented swordsman that will make Ning Qi's eyes light up.

With his comprehension.

In a single thought, he can transform the essence into his own.

Perhaps one or two swordsmen might not notice, but with time, the growth is extremely substantial.

Compared to before the establishment of the Sword Monument.

Ning Qi's Sword Intent has already improved significantly.

If it were before, the strength of Ning Qi's many paths was actually not very different, all on the same level, simply choosing the form of a sword when he first created the Heavenly Sword Technique.

But now, it can be said without a doubt.

Among the many paths mastered by Ning Qi, Sword Dao is the first.

This is the benefit brought by the True Martial Sword Monument.

In the long run.

Ning Qi's Sword Intent is bound to become the strongest in history, unsurpassed from antiquity to the present day.

"It's a pity that for the time being, it's impossible to emulate the establishment of the True Martial Sword Monument with a blade monument or fist monument, otherwise the persona of True Man Tianjian would collapse a bit, raising suspicion, but it's not a big problem. Now that my Sword Dao is far superior to other paths, I can also use Sword Dao insights to enhance other paths."

Ning Qi chuckled lightly.

This is difficult for others, but not for him.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have the ambition to master all paths.

"Wait for the right opportunity in the future to imitate the True Martial Sword Monument, but this method actually has drawbacks, as efficiency is not so high, and if others are unwilling to come and comprehend the Sword Monument, there's nothing that can be done."

Swordsmen in the world are as numerous as the carp in the river, but how many can actually come to comprehend the True Martial Sword Monument?

Ning Qi shook his head slightly.

This matter is not urgent for now. Now, having learned that gathering the wisdom of all beings through the True Martial Sword Monument holds great hope, that's enough.

A gentle breeze blew by.

The unique fragrance of the Enlightenment Tea Tree wafted into Ning Qi's nose, prompting him to glance at the nearby Enlightenment Tea Tree.

Last month.

The Enlightenment Tea Tree suddenly shot up a segment, reaching Ning Qi's shoulder. Compared to ordinary fourteen or fifteen-year-olds, Ning Qi's height was not lacking, even at shoulder height, it wasn't low. Perhaps in two more years, it could really provide shade beneath the Enlightenment Tea Tree.

At the top of the tea tree, new leaves were already sprouting, exuding a peculiar aroma.

Though not many, it was enough for this year's True Martial Peach Assembly.

Ning Qi wasn't expecting the tea tree to be effective for himself, just a sense of accomplishment. He glanced again at the peach blossom tree outside the courtyard, as the peach blossoms were gradually withering, and peach fruits were already being nurtured.

This year's peach fruits would inevitably be sweeter.

Ning Qi planned to save some after the True Martial Peach Assembly for the end of the year, to give to the new seedlings as a reward.

Ning Qi smiled slightly.

He checked the time and stretched lazily on the vine chair.

Extending a finger, a surge of Gang Qi poured out, then condensed into the form of 'True Man Tianjian'. After advancing to the Primordial Core Realm, the Formless Gang Body became even more perfect. Ning Qi chuckled cheerfully to entertain himself:

"Troublesome Dao friend, please make a trip."

'True Man Tianjian' remained silent and went towards the Back Mountain.

Li Ling had been waiting there for a long time.

From the Town North King, he learned about the 'No Martial Saint Skill' information and the Heaven-Suppressing Fist Ultimate Skill. Ning Qi naturally would not break his promise, and periodically condenses the True Man Tianjian avatar to guide Li Ling in Sword Dao, laying the foundation for his future learning of the Heavenly Sword Technique.

...

The True Martial Sect was peaceful, even Luo Wentian rarely breathed a sigh of relief. Since taking on the position of Sect Leader, his pressure had increased exponentially. Now, although he still had to deal with the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, during the mountain closure at least, nothing else disturbed him, allowing him to focus solely on this matter.

However, in True Martial City.

The swordsmen's restless emotions are increasingly intense.

Some swordsmen who hadn't heard the news also came to this place, only to be bewildered waiting together in True Martial City.

"The True Martial Sword Monument is still not open?"

"What's going on exactly?"

"Could it be that the True Martial Sect regretted and decided never to open it again?"

This restless emotion gradually reached its peak, with some even starting to resent the True Martial Sect.

But suddenly.

The wind direction began to shift.

Unknowingly, a rumor emerged.

"A little birdie told me! It's said that Sect Leader Luo sent a letter to the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, wanting an explanation regarding the spy, but the Inquiring Sword Pavilion firmly denied it, even declaring that as long as the True Martial Sect could prove the spy was from the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, they'd apologize immediately!"

"The reason for the True Martial Sect's mountain closure is related to this! The Inquiring Sword Pavilion covets the True Martial Sword Monument, they are guarding against people from the Inquiring Sword Pavilion!"

In an instant.

All restless emotions were completely ignited.

Everything seemed to make sense, no wonder interrogating a spy required closing the mountain; someone had indeed coveted the True Martial Sword Monument, leaving no choice.

Thinking back to Luo Wentian's previous heartache, hesitation, and silence, everyone understood even more.

"Is it really because of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion?"

"Shameless indeed, it's said the Inquiring Sword Pavilion has an Inheritance Sword Tower that's never open to the public, yet they still covet someone else's True Martial Sword Monument?"

"A disgrace to swordsmen!"

Voices of discussion rose in various places, most people perhaps didn't dare to discuss too much openly, but the sentiment in their hearts was the same, especially under the guidance of some individuals, this trend became increasingly evident.