

## Cultivating 201

Chapter 201: Sword Intent Enhancement, Hanging at the City Gate\_3

Many people's thoughts have changed, shifting the blame for their inability to comprehend the True Martial Sword Stele onto Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

There was certainly some degree of guiding influence behind this.

But in actuality, the comparison is clear.

Inquiring Sword Pavilion has the Inheritance Sword Tower. Originally, no one could fault you for not making your own sect's inheritance public, but the problem lies in the comparison. The True Martial Sect also has a Sword Enlightenment Holy Land, the True Martial Sword Stele, yet they are generous in sharing it with swordsmen everywhere.

In comparison, the difference in approach is obvious.

During this time, some swordsmen also brought up this issue, comparing the True Martial Sect with Inquiring Sword Pavilion. At most, they merely praised the True Martial Sect's open-mindedness without blaming or demeaning Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

But now.

Because of Inquiring Sword Pavilion, I can't comprehend the True Martial Sword Stele?

The surging anger exploded instantly.

You don't want to share your own things, fine, but now someone kindly offers theirs to share, and you still want to take it by force?

This made all the swordsmen furious.

Plus, a small number of people harbored 'envy of wealth' sentiments, having previously criticized the Inheritance Sword Tower of Inquiring Sword Pavilion, and now even more so.

"What does Inquiring Sword Pavilion intend to do? Cut off everyone's path to advancement?"

As soon as such voices emerged.

Many swordsmen reached a consensus.

The animosity among swordsmen against Inquiring Sword Pavilion quickly reached a peak.

This sentiment spread even faster than Luo Wentian imagined and quickly spread across the land, fueled by some, with shadows of some blademen involved. Last time, they took a major hit on the side of the True Martial Sect during the sword versus blade conflict, and now they are eager to see the True Martial Sect and Inquiring Sword Pavilion potentially go at each other.

They were even more enthusiastic than Luo Wentian.

Thinking of witnessing a fight between two Celestial Being List swordsmen, regardless of who won or lost, they would not be at a loss.

Under this momentum.

Near the gate of Inquiring Sword Pavilion, more and more swordsmen gathered.

If it weren't for Inquiring Sword Pavilion's substantial strength, with a fourteenth-ranked unparalleled swordsman on the Celestial Being List, someone might have already gone up to question them.

But even so.

Inquiring Sword Pavilion was not faring well.

On the surface, they couldn't go too far, but they could engage in minor actions.

If your Inquiring Sword Pavilion disciples went out for training, surely it wouldn't be too much to invite you for tea for half a month?

Your Inquiring Sword Pavilion's industries spread throughout Chu State, so surely it's normal for some of them to be annexed?

No one paid attention to your Inquiring Sword Pavilion disciples at the Sword Convention, surely that's reasonable?

Were it only a few swordsmen doing this, Inquiring Sword Pavilion could naturally retaliate with thunderous force as a warning.

But now the vast majority of swordsmen were acting this way.

Among them were not only swordsmen in the Celestial Human Realm, but some actions also had the backing of a few Celestial Being List swordsmen. They themselves might not appear, but ambiguous instructions were no issue.

If Inquiring Sword Pavilion dared to retaliate, it would only lead to more intense conflicts.

This was the grand trend.

These swordsmen might very well have sensed the True Martial Sect's intentions, but being swept along by emotions, indebted to others, and seeing Inquiring Sword Pavilion genuinely infringing on their interests, they couldn't care less. They acted not just for the True Martial Sect, but for themselves.

For a time.

Inside Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

The atmosphere was extremely oppressive.

They didn't expect that in just a month or two, they would be forced into such a passive situation by the True Martial Sect.

...

True Martial Mountain.

Luo Wentian handed the intelligence reports from the foot of the mountain to Taoist Longshan and Ning Qi, smiling with great pleasure:

"This method had an even faster effect than we imagined. These blademen were really helpful."

Taoist Longshan shook his head and chuckled:

"In the Martial Realm, people chase after fame and fortune. Even Celestial Being List experts cannot fully comprehend it. In reality, what difference is there between sword and blade? Fighting over it is truly unwise."

Ning Qi took a sip of tea and said:

"But this is to our advantage. I imagine Inquiring Sword Pavilion can't sit still now."

Luo Wentian gave a thumbs-up in praise:

"Jiu, you truly can predict accurately. Half a month ago, Inquiring Sword Pavilion started sending frequent letters. Although they still haven't admitted to the affair of the spies, their words are now less persistent. They mentioned that someone impersonating Inquiring Sword Pavilion was partly due to their oversight, and they are willing to offer some compensation."

He clicked his tongue twice, disapproving of the compensation, and then took out several letters.

"It seems Inquiring Sword Pavilion is somewhat desperate, their words hinting at us not fixating on the affair of the spies and hoping we reopen our mountain gates." His face held a bit of mockery.

Taoist Longshan sighed:

"I suppose they also realized, Inquiring Sword Pavilion's current situation is fundamentally about the True Martial Sword Stele. Once the True Martial Sword Stele is reopened, everything will be resolved. Unfortunately, they don't realize that they themselves hold the key to solving this issue."

Luo Wentian nodded in agreement:

"That's right. If Inquiring Sword Pavilion is willing to seize this opportunity to open the Inheritance Sword Tower and counter us, not only would they resolve the crisis, but they could also gain a great deal of prestige, putting us at a disadvantage."

"Unfortunately, they won't. Not everyone is as open-minded as Jiu."

"If Inquiring Sword Pavilion had such intentions, they wouldn't have been narrow-minded enough to send people to infiltrate our True Martial Sect. With their ways of doing things, they certainly wouldn't open the Inheritance Sword Tower."

Ning Qi simply smiled faintly.

"Elder brother, what do you plan to do, watch and wait?"

Luo Wentian's expression turned solemn:

"We can't end things so anticlimactically. Even now, when they talk about compensation, it's just a few trifles. It seems they think having that Heart Inquiry Sword means they don't have to fear anything. In that case, they need to understand, our True Martial Sect is not to be trifled with!"

Chapter 202: Sword Intent Enhancement, Hanging at the City Gate\_4

"I plan to hang those few Inquiring Sword Pavilion spies we caught earlier above the gate of True Martial City, so that people can identify whether they are indeed from the Inquiring Sword Pavilion!"

"And add fuel to the fire!"

Ning Qi nodded with a smile:

"Senior Brother, feel free to proceed."

Luo Wentian was assured in his heart.

This was completely intensifying the conflict, aiming to disgrace the Inquiring Sword Pavilion. Perhaps even the Heart Inquiry Sword himself would come personally.

With Ning Qi's support, he could proceed boldly and without hesitation.

The next day.

Some disciples of the True Martial Sect went down the mountain, bringing two Inquiring Sword Pavilion spies into True Martial City.

Before the swordsmen could inquire about when the True Martial Sword Monument would be opened.

The True Martial disciples hung these two crippled spies above the city gate, announcing loudly:

"By order of the Sect Leader, we hang these two here, so the world can see if these spies belong to the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, to avoid wrongly accusing good people!"

After saying this.

They gracefully departed.

And the onlookers were utterly shocked.

Some realized immediately.

Things had escalated!

The conflict between the True Martial Sect and the Inquiring Sword Pavilion had reached an irreconcilable point, and a confrontation was inevitable.

But soon after.

Many people became excited, thinking this might become a grand spectacle.

Outside True Martial City, people came and went, and every day people came to view the two spies hanging there. Several Guardians from the True Martial Sect were assigned to watch over, to prevent them from being rescued.

If a Celestial Human Realm expert intervened, there would be no need to stop them.

Because the involvement of such a powerful expert would already explain everything.

Someone asked:

"May I ask when the True Martial Sect plans to reopen the mountain gate?"

The guardians only smiled:

"Once the identity of the spies is confirmed, we can reopen the mountain gate."

Everyone was deeply shocked, realizing the True Martial Sect's resolve.

The news spread like a whirlwind.

Countless people turned their attention to the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, preparing to see their response.

...

Inside the Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

The atmosphere was extremely heavy.

In the past month or two, the Inquiring Sword Pavilion had faced unprecedented targeting, with everything going extremely poorly, and even some talented disciples were ambushed!

In the long run.

This was extremely detrimental to the development of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

Everyone knew where the root of all this originated.

The Sect Leader of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, Tang Qiu, frequently sent letters to the True Martial Mountain, but it was like a stone sinking into the sea, with no response.



And now.

After learning about the happenings outside True Martial City, all the high-ranking members of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion were furious.

"This is too much! This is truly too much!"

Tang Qiu's cold, angry voice echoed through the great hall.

"This disregards the millennium reputation of our Inquiring Sword Pavilion. If we do not come up with a countermeasure soon, we might become the laughing stock of the Great Yan!"

The high-ranking members were united in their indignation.

"Indeed, the sect is already facing resistance now. If we do not retaliate, in the future everyone will step on us."

"The millennium legacy of the ancestors cannot decline in our hands!"

Someone spoke with murderous intent:

"The True Martial Sect is being reckless, thinking that after gaining some notoriety in recent years, they can disregard all sects in the world? Although the Great Yan Imperial Court is watching, making it difficult to annihilate them, making them pay a blood price is not out of the question!"

"It's been years since we've taken action, perhaps it's time to let the world witness the strength of our Inquiring Sword Pavilion again."

The crowd was agitated.

Infuriated by the True Martial Sect's act of hanging Inquiring Sword Pavilion spies.

Added to the suppressed frustration from being pressured by the prevailing circumstances, it all erupted at this moment, and they wanted to make the True Martial Sect pay the price.

Tang Qiu glanced around at everyone and said in a deep voice:

"The only solution now is to ask the Supreme Elder to take action."

No matter how much they looked down on the True Martial Sect in their words, the power of True Man Tianjian was indisputable.

A cold, indifferent snort came from outside the hall:

"A bunch of useless things!"

Everyone lowered their heads.

"Greetings, Supreme Elder."

Gu Changhe merely glanced coldly at everyone, then waved his hand, pointing at a few among them:

"Follow this old man to True Martial Mountain. I want to see whether those two are indeed spies from our Inquiring Sword Pavilion."

His voice carried an icy killing intent.

Chapter 203: Strolling Leisurely, Slaying Gu Changhe

True Martial City.

More and more people are gathering here.

The wise know that this move is akin to rubbing the face of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion in the dirt. Once matters are brought to the surface, there must be an explanation.

The two forlorn figures atop the city gate stirred the hearts and minds of the crowd.

"Are these two really members of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion?"

"Heh! Other than the Sect Leader of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, who knows? But whether they are or not is no longer important. What matters is that the attitude of the True Martial Sect has been made clear; the key is how the Inquiring Sword Pavilion will respond."

"You're right. I have a feeling that there must be a battle between the two factions to resolve this incident. Could it be that the True Martial Sect wants to rise by stepping over the Inquiring Sword Pavilion?"

...

Voices of quiet discussion arose.

Some of the speculations frightened the crowd.

Everyone knows.

The Inquiring Sword Pavilion is no longer the key here.

The key lies in these two spies, as they represent the face of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion. So, many people are standing by here.

The twin sisters Chen Xing and Chen Yue also arrived around the area.

Under the order of the Town North King, they settled in True Martial City to protect Li Ling at crucial moments, and therefore they were also very concerned about the conflict between the True Martial Sect and the Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

"Sister, what should we do if a war breaks out between the Inquiring Sword Pavilion and the True Martial Sect?"

Chen Xing rolled her eyes:

"Do you even need to ask? Of course, we'll support the True Martial Sect. The Prince sent us here not just to protect the Crown Prince; he has high hopes for the True Martial Sect. As long as the Crown Prince's safety is ensured, we must also assist the True Martial Sect."

"If the True Martial Sect truly cannot withstand it, the Prince's name is still useful."

Chen Yue's eyes widened:

"When did the Prince say this?"

"Naturally, he told me quietly. Sister, you're unreliable; the Prince knows it well."

Being teased like this by Chen Xing, Chen Yue immediately smiled wryly.

In the distance.

Qin Yun and the Southern Border Saintess looked over from a high pavilion, and with their vision, they could easily perceive everything happening here.

The Southern Border Saintess raised her eyebrows slightly:

"The actions of the True Martial Sect are indeed unexpected. No wonder they can cultivate a prodigy like Saint Heir Qin."

Her words carried a nonchalant tone. Previously, after failing to plant spies, she was preparing to take other actions, but before she could make a move, news of the True Martial Sect sealing the mountain emerged, and now they seemingly challenged the Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

Qin Yun gazed coldly at the Southern Border Saintess with anger:

"Saintess, I am no longer a member of the True Martial Sect. Stop mentioning this matter. Instead of wasting time, you'd better focus on your Southern Border Alliance affairs."

The Southern Border Saintess turned and met his gaze.

They looked at each other like a couple, but without the tenderness, the Southern Border Saintess first chuckled. She did not know why, but she always found teasing Qin Yun amusing.

"It's Yiyi's fault. Saint Heir Qin, please calm down." She offered an apology, her usually cold voice taking on a rare hint of softness.

Qin Yun turned his head away.

But in his heart, he couldn't help but think, is the Southern Border Saintess named Yiyi?

The Southern Border Saintess changed the subject:

"What does Saint Heir Qin think will happen to the Inquiring Sword Pavilion?"

Qin Yun said calmly:

"There must be a battle between them."

"Then who has the upper hand?"

"Since the True Martial Sect has taken this initiative, it means they do not fear the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, nor do they fear the Heart Inquiry Sword."

Upon hearing Qin Yun's words, the Southern Border Saintess's gaze flickered.

"If that's the case, the strength True Man Tianjian displayed last time against the Thunder Shock Blade Venerate might not be enough. Perhaps, this time we could see another martial arts strong person who can emulate the powers of others?"

Qin Yun was shocked at heart but did not respond.

The Southern Border Saintess continued speaking to herself:

"Neither the Southern Border nor your Demon Sect can be fooled easily."

During their conversation.

Disturbances had already started in the distant sky.

Vaguely, a few figures could be seen stepping through the air, arriving before True Martial City in the blink of an eye.

Qin Yun and the Southern Border Saintess both focused their gaze in that direction.

Not just them.

All eyes were drawn over there.

The leading figure was an old man with white hair and an indifferent gaze, holding no sword yet exuding an overbearing sharpness, causing others' eyes to sting, too painful to look at directly.

Someone recognized him.

"It's Gu Changhe, the Supreme Elder of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion with the Heart Inquiry Sword!"

"He really has come out from seclusion! This is truly serious now!"

Many eyes widened involuntarily, their hearts beating like a drum.

This peerless strong person, ranked fourteenth on the Celestial Being List, is a living legend. Previously, many thought he might appear, but considered it unlikely, thinking instead that the Sect Leader of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion and several other Celestial Beings might handle the matter.

But now it seems.

They guessed wrong; the True Martial Sect or perhaps the weight of True Man Tianjian is greater than they imagined.

Besides Gu Changhe, the Sect Leader of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, Tang Qiu was present, along with one Celestial Human Realm member and several Primordial Core Realm members, forming a formidable lineup.

In full view of the public.

Gu Changhe and others slowly approached the gate of True Martial City.

They looked up at the two pitiful figures, Gu Changhe's expression remaining calm and indifferent, but Tang Qiu's pupils constricted, and anger rose. He had personally sent these two to True Martial Mountain, reminding them carefully beforehand and promising that if they returned with the True

Martial inheritance and the True Martial Sword Monument's secrets, they would surely be heroes of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

Yet unexpectedly, the reunion was in this scene.

The two spies were overjoyed upon seeing Tang Qiu, but dared not show it.

In front of the city gate.

A few figures approached.

Chapter 204:: Strolling Leisurely, Slaying Gu Changhe - Part 2

Leading the group was Xiong Shi, followed by several newly appointed Guardians.

Xiong Shi gazed at Gu Changhe and the others, his muscles tense, but he still walked forward without a change in expression. The Guardians felt a tingling on their scalps, but gritted their teeth and followed; having received their lord's favor, loyalty was required, especially at such crucial moments, retreat was not an option.

"Greetings to Senior Gu, Sect Leader Tang." Xiong Shi was neither humble nor arrogant.

Tang Qiu glared angrily.

Gu Changhe focused his gaze on Xiong Shi, a terrifying pressure assaulted him. Xiong Shi used all his strength to employ a Meditation Technique created by Ning Qi, managing not to reveal any disgrace. The surprise in Gu Changhe's eyes was fleeting, he spoke indifferently:

"You say the two of them are spies?"

Xiong Shi took a deep breath, without retreat:



"I need Senior Gu to verify this! Perhaps Senior Gu does not recognize them, but Sect Leader Tang surely does."

The people around were stunned.

To think the True Martial Sect's Punishment Elder was so bold, as he was an unparalleled swordsman ranked fourteenth on the Celestial Being List!

Qin Yun looked at his Second Senior Brother, involuntarily clenching his fists within his sleeves.

Tang Qiu's eyes were even angrier.

He was about to speak in reprimand.

Gu Changhe expressionlessly spoke:

"Tang Qiu, do you recognize them?"

Tang Qiu's spirit was shaken, facing the hopeful eyes of the two spies, he decisively shook his head:

"I don't recognize them."

Gu Changhe looked at Xiong Shi, took a step forward:

"He says he doesn't recognize them."

Xiong Shi felt the pressure on him increase a bit more, gritting his teeth he replied:

"Just because Sect Leader Tang says so doesn't mean it's true. Our True Martial Sect has the Heart Inquiry Platform, capable of verifying these two men openly for all the world to see!"

Gu Changhe merely shook his head indifferently:

"Too troublesome."

As the third word was spoken, a flash was fleeting, and two headless corpses appeared on top of the city gate.

Xiong Shi smelled the pungent scent of blood, his pupils contracted, seeing two heads suspended beside Gu Changhe, everyone felt a tingling on their scalps, only to see Gu Changhe glance lightly, not focusing on any specific person, but everyone felt a chill in their hearts.

Gu Changhe's cold voice echoed in everyone's ears:

"I think asking True Man Tianjian might be simpler, he might know these two men's identities."

Even those from Inquiring Sword Pavilion dared not speak further.

Everyone watched the figures walking slowly towards True Martial Mountain, in absolute silence, their pupils filled with shock.

The Saintess of Southern Border was silent for a long time, finally praising:

"What a Heart Inquiry Sword, directly probing the heart, ask one's own heart, ask others' hearts."

Qin Yun remained silent.

Everyone understood.

Clearly, Gu Changhe was not interested in troubling Xiong Shi.

This was to directly clarify without wasting time.

It wasn't important whether these two were spies from Inquiring Sword Pavilion, if True Man Tianjian says they aren't, then they aren't.

If they aren't.

Then the True Martial Sect must pay the price.

Everyone's body slightly trembled, knowing something major was about to happen. When the backs of those from Inquiring Sword Pavilion gradually disappeared, only then did everyone shiver and react, hesitating only for a moment, some daring Martial Artists followed.

Heart Inquiry Sword and True Man Tianjian.

Such two unparalleled swordsmen standing at the pinnacle of Great Yan, should they battle, it would certainly be a rare spectacle not seen for decades.

Xiong Shi let out a long breath, circulating Gang Qi within his body repeatedly until the stiffness throughout his body slowly dissipated.

Gu Changhe's pressure was too great, despite not specifically targeting him, it made him extremely uncomfortable.

His heart felt somewhat anxious, but recalling his Senior Brother's composed demeanor, he felt slightly reassured.

"Let's go back to the mountain!"

Silhouettes flashed towards the direction of True Martial Mountain.

...

Gu Changhe walked leisurely up the stone steps of True Martial Mountain, hands behind his back, his hair white as snow, but steps steady, looking much like an elderly farmer in good health—if one ignored the two heads floating beside him.

He strolled as if through his backyard.

"This mountain range isn't bad, although not comparable to some renowned peaks and rivers within Great Yan, it naturally carries a realm of intent, considering establishing a branch of Inquiring Sword Pavilion here in the future, what do you think?"

He casually commented.

Tang Qiu nodded, with an expression of delight in his eyes:

"Your insight is like a God, some have said True Martial Mountain resembles a natural Divine Sword, now it seems there's some truth, as a potential site for a branch, it might cultivate many talented swordsmen for Inquiring Sword Pavilion."

The group reached a fork in the path.

The left side remained stone steps, while the right was lit with faint blue light on green stone steps, Song City guarded there with a dozen disciples, they were startled seeing Gu Changhe and the others approaching with two suspended heads beside him.

Gu Changhe ignored Song City and the others entirely, his eyes held divine light flickering, with astonishment:

"Is that the Heaven-Ascending Ladder?"

Tang Qiu nodded repeatedly, explaining its wonders in detail.

Gu Changhe praised:

"Indeed, there's some subtlety, very useful for training disciples' mental resilience, the Martial Realm rumors are true, this Heaven-Ascending Ladder could be relocated back."

Song City and the others heard this, all glaring angrily, but the overwhelming pressure rendered them speechless.

Their opponent treated them entirely like air, wantonly commenting on True Martial Mountain as if it was all in his possession.

Gu Changhe ascended the steps.

He had arrived somewhat angry.

But once at True Martial Mountain, his anger dissipated, especially after seeing True Martial Mountain and the Heaven-Ascending Ladder.

Initially, he had no reason to act against the True Martial Sect, but now, the True Martial Sect voluntarily presented the opportunity, everything was justified, even the Imperial Court couldn't intervene.

Great Yan's stance on Martial Sect disputes was quite ambiguous, requiring a valid reason for conflict, avoiding excessive chaos, but also not wanting Martial Sects to be too harmonious, needing them to exhaust themselves.

Chapter 205: Strolling Leisurely, Slaying Gu Changhe\_3

Straight up the mountain.

The disciples guarding the mountain seemed to have been struck by an Immobilization Technique, unable to speak or move, capable only of watching them leave while furiously listening to their unbridled comments on everything about True Martial Mountain.

Until.

A sword monument appeared in the distance before everyone's eyes.

The words "True Martial" on it were striking, seemingly plain at first glance, but upon closer inspection, appeared to be vivid and magnificent, further examination made one feel as though countless Divine Swords were soaring into the sky.

Tang Qiu and others were stunned.

This was their first time seeing the True Martial Sword Monument, enveloped from afar by a mysterious force, preventing insight into its essence, yet even its mere outward signs were enough to awe people.

Gu Changhe's expression became serious for the first time.

Only after a while did he praise:

"Such a True Man Tianjian indeed remarkable."

"But what a pity."

He shook his head again.

No one knew what he was lamenting—whether he regretted that True Man Tianjian was not a member of Inquiring Sword Pavilion, or that this True Martial Sword Monument existed in the wrong place, or perhaps something else entirely.

"Tang Qiu, what would you think if this True Martial Sword Monument were combined with our Inquiring Sword Pavilion's Inheritance Sword Tower?"

Tang Qiu's eyes lit up as he excitedly said:

"Then in less than a hundred years, our Inquiring Sword Pavilion could become the number one Sword Dao Holy Land in Great Yan!"

Gu Changhe laughed:

"Good."

In the distance, Luo Wentian's calm voice echoed:

"It's a pity; Senior Gu's wish cannot be realized. The True Martial Sword Monument belongs to our True Martial Sect."

Luo Wentian understood the signal sent by Xiong Shi and hurried with a group of disciples to the mountain gate. His expression remained relatively calm, but the other elders and disciples were filled with fury, especially Zhuang Chen, whose chubby face quivered as he muttered under his breath:

"These shameless old folks, wait until my Sword Dao reaches Great Success, I'll bring your Inheritance Sword Tower over to fulfill your wish! But, you'll have to make your daydream come true within our True Martial Sect!"

He thought to complain quietly to Li Ling, but only then noticed that Li Ling was absent. Turning his head, he remembered that Li Ling had mentioned discreetly that today was the day to learn from Senior Tianjian.

A sudden thought struck him.

Given Gu Changhe had arrived, Senior Tianjian would likely appear later too, perhaps even bringing Li Ling out himself? That would be quite an impressive sight!

Thinking this, he felt a hint of envy.

Gu Changhe lifted his eyes toward Luo Wentian and the others, scanning them one by one, each feeling an overwhelming sense of dread.

But Gu Changhe soon shifted his gaze, not seeing anyone he wished to see.

He ignored Luo Wentian's meaning.

Speaking to Xiong Shi was only because Xiong Shi barely qualified.

Now.

He found Luo Wentian unworthy of dialogue with him.

With hands behind his back, Gu Changhe stepped lightly into the air, rising upward, standing even higher than the True Martial Sword Monument, as two treacherous heads floated alongside. He gazed into the depths of the True Martial Sect, his calm voice resonating across the mountains:

"True Man Tianjian, come out and meet me."

Initially, this voice was soft; it soon erupted like thundering wrath, shifting the surroundings.

Luo Wentian and the others all shook, surprise flickering in their gaze.

Once Gu Changhe stopped masking his aura, its terror was overwhelming, likening to an unleashed Divine Sword with intersecting Sword Intents seemingly slicing the void—they had no doubt that being inside it would mean turning to scattered fragments without resistance.



At the foot of True Martial Mountain.

The martial artists halted, looking alarmed at the figure standing above the True Martial Sword Monument, which already explained everything.

"Is a battle about to begin!"

None expected the Heart Inquiry Sword to be so domineeringly direct, allowing no room for negotiation.

Even the Saintess of the Southern Border appeared solemn now; though a peerless genius, she fell short compared to such infamous old figures—for in the Southern Border, such strength meant unrivaled authority.

Everyone stared.

Anticipating the appearance of the previously aloof Black Robed Taoist, countless eyes prematurely locked onto the back mountain of True Martial Mountain, where True Man Tianjian had once emerged from.

But they were bound to be disappointed.

A breath.

Five breaths.

Ten breaths.

...

The echoes of Gu Changhe's voice diminished, yet True Man Tianjian still hadn't appeared.

Everyone glanced at each other, puzzled.

"What's happening? Could it be that True Man Tianjian is away?"

Qin Yun felt a tightness in his chest.

In front of the True Martial Sect's mountain gate, several disciples began to feel nervous.

"Why hasn't Senior Tianjian come out yet?"

But seeing their sect leader steadily watch Gu Changhe, they gradually relaxed.

Gu Changhe slowly opened his eyes.

He eyed True Martial Mountain, the True Martial Sect, and the True Martial Sword Monument with indifference.

"Very well, it seems I, Gu, have been inactive too long, and the world has forgotten me." He sighed, yet the hostile aura arising around him still made those at the base of the mountain fearful.

Sword Intent and murder merged, rendering that void a deadly space where all must be cut and shattered.

A sound akin to swords cried within Gu Changhe, followed by resonant chimes of thousands of swords echoing across the sky, as swordsmen strove to control their sword artifacts, yet the sword artifacts trembled, worshipping.

What is the Heart Inquiry Sword?

It queries the Sword Heart, wielding the Taoist Sword, the foremost righteous sword of the land.

All were astounded.

Gu Changhe pointed a finger, and concentrated resplendent Sword Qi gathered, slashing toward the ground beneath the True Martial Sword Monument.

True Man Tianjian dare not emerge?

Then destroy the True Martial Sword Monument!

...

In the back mountain.

Two figures, one large and one small, practiced their sword techniques amidst the forest, as the little Taoist diligently learned, while the Black Robed Old Taoist impassively watched, occasionally striking with Sword Qi to amend errors, or using tree branches and leaves to demonstrate Sword Intent.

#### Chapter 206: Leisurely Stroll, Slaying Gu Changhe\_4

Li Ling dared not look at True Man Tianjian beside him, but in his heart, he felt a towering admiration for his Sword Dao. Every time he practiced swordsmanship, he made great progress. Being able to keep up with Zhuang Chen's pace, following True Man Tianjian in learning swordsmanship was absolutely indispensable.

If it weren't for True Man Tianjian being too aloof, he would really want to learn swordsmanship from him every day.

Suddenly.

An angry shout of thunder echoed from the mountain gate:

"True Man Tianjian, come out and see me!"

Li Ling instinctively looked towards that direction, his eyes widening. He could vaguely see an old man in a white sword robe stepping into the void, standing above the True Martial Sword Monument. He was somewhat angry; this was a great disrespect to True Man Tianjian!

But immediately, he reacted.

This person was extremely strong, and considering the recent events, he roughly guessed the identity of the person before him.

"The fourteenth on the Celestial Being List, Gu Changhe!"

His breathing halted.

But immediately he showed a pained expression as a Sword Qi pointed at his wrist.

"Sword training." The two cold words made Li Ling dare not be negligent.

But his mind couldn't help but drift forward.

Gu Changhe had climbed True Martial Mountain, would Senior Tianjian respond to the challenge?

For a moment, he was extremely hopeful; if Senior Tianjian took him along, how impressive would that be!

The cold voice continued, interrupting his stray thoughts:

"Heavenly Sword Technique is swordsmanship, it's Sword Intent, and even more, it's Sword Dao. Every sword you learn is the Heavenly Sword Technique."

Li Ling carefully remembered this sentence and earnestly comprehended it.

He knew that Senior Tianjian disapproved of giving up halfway. He had already suffered for it before, so once sword training started, he was not allowed to stop.

He obediently completed the swordsmanship practice.

Finally.

He couldn't help but ask:

"Senior Tianjian, are we really not going over?"

Gu Changhe, such an unparalleled master, is surely unmatched by anyone in the True Martial Sect. Li Ling had already sensed the violent fluctuations coming from the mountain gate, even he could tell Gu Changhe's voice carried killing intent and anger.

True Man Tianjian's gaze was extremely indifferent:

"Today, I'll teach you one more sword, watch carefully."

Li Ling instinctively widened his eyes.

He saw the sword in his own hand somehow already in True Man Tianjian's hand. True Man Tianjian casually swung forward, without any astonishing Sword Qi or unparalleled Sword Intent, it was as if the blade was cutting the void unremarkably.

At the Seeking Tao Institute, Ning Qi opened his eyes, smiled faintly, glanced towards the back mountain, then towards the mountain gate, and then focused on the Taoist Scripture sent by the Formless Sect in his hand.

He also didn't expect the people from the Inquiring Sword Pavilion would come today.

However.

It wasn't a big problem.

Now that he had reached the Primordial Core Realm, he no longer needed to have the Formless Gang Body appear as before.

Li Ling stared blankly at this sword, his eyes full of confusion.

But immediately.

This confusion was transformed into shock.

He sensed an amazing Sword Intent soaring into the sky, but it was not in front of him, it was at the mountain gate!

He instinctively turned around.

He saw, after True Man Tianjian swung this sword, the True Martial Sword Monument, which had been silent without movement, finally moved. In his bewilderment, he realized that this sword was not simple at all, but contained the highest realm of Sword Dao that he couldn't comprehend.

At this moment, the high mountain of Sword Dao was revealing a corner through the True Martial Sword Monument.

Buzz!

A gentle humming sound rose from the True Martial Sword Monument, initially subtle and inaudible, but in a breath, it transformed into a surging river, continuously sweeping around.

Gu Changhe was shocked.

Everyone was shocked.

They saw.

After Gu Changhe swung his sword, the initially motionless True Martial Sword Monument suddenly responded, a peerless Heaven-Reaching Sword Intent burst forth from it, like a True Dragon reaching out from the sky, or a giant beast flipping over in the sea.

Ripples spread outward from the True Martial Sword Monument as the center.

Gu Changhe's brilliant Sword Qi instantly turned to dust, with no resistance whatsoever.

Gu Changhe's complexion completely changed, becoming extremely grave.

Everyone's eyes widened even more.

True Man Tianjian hadn't appeared, yet the peerless Sword Intent from the monument was terrifying?

Luo Wentian's eyes flashed brightly, he was one of the few who had been mentally prepared, watching Gu Changhe whose complexion had completely changed, he felt immense satisfaction, almost wanting to laugh out loud. He had already been informed by the mountain-guarding disciples of how arrogant the Inquiring Sword Pavilion members were, viewing the many foundations of True Martial Mountain as their possessions.

Gu Changhe's white hair fluttered wildly, holding nothing back, Heart Inquiry Sword Intent activating ten thousand swords, the Power of Heaven and Earth swept in, turning into mighty Sword Qi, each capable of splitting mountains and severing rivers.

He shouted angrily:

"Some skills, but wanting old me to retreat before lifeless objects, impossible!"

He was extremely furious, feeling insulted.

True Man Tianjian disdained to show up, which was looking down on him. Since that was the case, he had to make him pay a heavy price.

Gu Changhe gazed at the people of True Martial Sect, a monstrous killing intent rose for the first time.

Only blood could wash away the shame he suffered.

Sword Qi densely manifested around Gu Changhe, making him look like an Immortal of Sword, his might was incredibly frightening, the Sword Qi aimed at the entire True Martial Sect, rushing downward, making everyone's scalp tingle at the foot of the mountain.

But Luo Wentian stood unafraid in front of the Sword Qi.

He believed in Ning Qi.

Everyone vaguely heard a cold snort.

The True Martial Sword Monument became even more radiant, ripples spread at an extremely fast speed, Gu Changhe's densely whistling Sword Qi instantly turned to dust, a few remnants like a gentle breeze blew across the garments of the people in True Martial Sect.



## Chapter 207: Leisurely Stroll, Slaying Gu Changhe\_5

"Is this wind unexpectedly comfortable?" Zhuang Chen said, almost in disbelief.

Everyone couldn't help but curl their lips into a smile.

Down in the valley, everyone was already stunned, this struggle between unparalleled heroes was truly thrilling, but the outcome was determined between the two.

The Southern Border Saintess showed a look of disbelief:

"Could it be that True Man Tianjian possesses strength close to the top ten of the Celestial Being List?"

This was far beyond her expectations.

Originally, she thought perhaps she would see the hidden strong figures of the True Martial Sect coming out together to face the enemy, but the development of events made her realize something was amiss.

Gu Changhe was furious.

But in the next moment, his body froze.

A terrifying Sword Intent had already locked onto him; he no longer had the capacity to concern himself with the people of the True Martial Sect, and even the two heads that originally hovered beside him instantly turned to blood mist, some sticking to his robe, but he had no time to attend to it.

In his eyes was a deep look of horror:

"How can there be such terrifying Sword Intent? Could it be the Sword Saint has manifested?!"

But he immediately encouraged himself:

"It's just Sword Intent, without enough strength, it won't exert much destructive power..."

He recalled the rumors Tang Qiu had mentioned before, that True Man Tianjian's Sword Intent is unparalleled, but his lifespan was limited, and his cultivation was not leading.

But just as this thought arose, his eyes widened.

Bang!

A colossal explosion echoed from high up in the sky, everyone instinctively looked, Chen Xing and Chen Yue were petrified, with only one thought in their minds, how could there be such a vast difference among those in the Celestial Human Realm?

In the skies.

Thunderbolts like flood dragons were drawn, suddenly merging into the True Martial Sword Stele.

Then.

Under the guidance of the unparalleled Sword Intent within the Sword Stele, Heavenly Swords soared into the sky.

This scene astonished everyone.

Even Luo Wentian, who had prepared earlier, was dumbstruck.

The Sword Stele draws Heavenly Thunder, transforming Thunder into Heavenly Swords!

This spectacle, unheard of.

Swords emitting soft thunder light swept across the sky, tightly locking onto Gu Changhe; he had no way up or down, sweat accumulating on his brow, realizing he had vastly underestimated True Man Tianjian's power.

Such a terrifying existence might compete with Sun Chasing Sword King for the position of the world's leading swordsman?

"Thirty-six Heavenly Swords!"

Someone subconsciously whispered.

Previously during the battle with Thunder Shock Blade Venerate, it was only the Heavenly Sword Transformation Nine, but now True Man Tianjian still hadn't appeared, yet thirty-six Heavenly Swords manifested; the difference was astounding, everyone realized that True Man Tianjian hadn't given his all before!

Gu Changhe's body trembled, he roared furiously, tried his best to maneuver the Power of Heaven and Earth into Sword Qi, attempting to block those thirty-six Heavenly Swords, unwilling to sit and wait for death.

But it was futile.

The thirty-six Heavenly Swords trembled slightly.

Then evolved into various marvels, within Gu Changhe's despairing gaze, transforming further into a wondrous Sword Array.

Each singular Heavenly Sword was enough to instill fear, let alone transform into the Heavenly Gang Sword Array.

Ning Qi used the Heavenly Thunder Technique to draw Thunder, dividing it into Sword Qi, needing only to consume part of the Gang Qi as a medium; this was a new application he recently discovered, and Gu Changhe became the first to experience it.

Heavenly Swords howled.

Completely engulfed the void where Gu Changhe stood.

Sword Qi erupted continuously.

But soon after, it ceased.

Everyone strained their eyes towards it, just to see a flash of Sword Qi, and Gu Changhe's body was separated, the members from Inquiring Sword Pavilion cried sorrowfully, another Celestial Human Realm flew up trying to catch Gu Changhe's body, only to be struck by another flash of Sword Qi, instantly dying.

Subsequently, all from Inquiring Sword Pavilion perished, leaving only Tang Qiu standing in place, body trembling like a leaf.

In the back mountain.

Li Ling watched Gu Changhe's falling body, feeling a sense of unreality.

Was this truly the unparalleled hero ranked fourteenth on the Celestial Being List?

Afraid that even his father could not accomplish this with such ease.

Beside him, a cold voice without emotion:

"Continue your Sword Training."

Li Ling, like a block of wood, instinctively swung the sword in his hand; moments later, his eyes bore a glint of longing, lifted his head and asked:

"Senior Tianjian, will I one day be as strong as you?"

The cold voice paused for a moment, then replied:

"You will."

Li Ling smiled, his motivation for sword training had never been stronger.

Chapter 208: The Supreme Peak of Sword Dao, Delivering the Sword Tower Personally

Before the gates of the True Martial Mountain.

A silence pervaded.

Only Tang Qiu's cries echoed, this former high and mighty Sect Leader of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion now weeping like a helpless child, with the corpses of several from the Inquiring Sword Pavilion before him. He reached out a trembling hand, only to jerk it back as if shocked.

He was terrified.

Although he didn't know why True Man Tianjian spared his life, he dared not make any extra movements at this moment.

But no one from the True Martial Sect sympathized with Tang Qiu.

Especially those mountain-guarding disciples who had previously witnessed the faces of the people from the Inquiring Sword Pavilion; in their hearts, two words surfaced.

"Serves him right!"

Everyone only looked with reverence at the gradually silencing True Martial Sword monument, their eyes filled with admiration and wonder as if it were tangible.

The scene that had just unfolded was truly astonishing.

Thirty-six celestial swords formed a sword array, directly beheading Gu Changhe, overwhelming him without the slightest suspense.

A disciple of the True Martial Sect had already discerned the profound mystery within it.

"Senior Tianjian used... the Heavenly Gang Sword Array? Could it be that the Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array was created by Senior Tianjian?"

While marveling, they also felt an unprecedented zeal; the Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array had now become one of the True Martial Sect's signature techniques, with many True Martial disciples exchanging for this sword array to practice together.

In the past, although they practiced the sword array diligently, they were never as eager and urgent as they were now.

They saw a faint connection with True Man Tianjian and harbored a deep-rooted aspiration: what if one day they could also independently wield the Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array?

The three hundred newcomers all widened their eyes, internally shaken beyond measure.

Rumors are never as reliable as seeing with one's own eyes.

True Man Tianjian was destined to become their lifelong goal to strive for.

Gou Dan clenched his fists, his eyes incredibly determined.

"One day, I will surely become as strong as Senior Tianjian and protect our True Martial Sect!"

During these days,

he finally experienced the feeling of home once again.

There was ample food, clean clothes, a shelter that didn't leak, and no one looked down on him. He could practice martial arts, and even his sister was allowed to stay with him on True Martial Mountain, filling his heart with gratitude.

Luo Wentian sensed the change in Essence, Qi, and Spirit among the surrounding disciples and smiled internally.

This was a good thing.

In fact, even though he had mentally prepared himself, he was still taken aback, clicking his tongue in surprise. He originally thought that Ning Qi would appear and engage in a duel with the Heart Inquiry Sword as before, but unexpectedly, Ning Qi didn't even show up. He just activated the sword monument, and effortlessly dealt with Gu Changhe.

Before he could marvel at Ning Qi's strength, he smiled and walked towards Tang Qiu, his voice somewhat calm:

"Sect Leader Tang, can we properly discuss the matter of the traitor now?"

Tang Qiu shivered all over.



The calm Luo Wentian appeared as terrifying as a demon in his eyes, like the embodiment of True Man Tianjian. He trembled, already understanding why he survived. He dared not meet Luo Wentian's eyes and simply said:

"Alright, alright... Sect Leader Luo, it's up to you."

Luo Wentian smiled broadly, welcoming Tang Qiu inside as if the previous conflict had never happened.

...

At the foot of True Martial Mountain.

Not a sound was heard.

One by one, the arriving martial artists turned into sculptures, their mouths agape as they stared at the bodies falling from the sky, somewhat incredulous.

They had expected an epic battle.

But unexpectedly, it ended like this.

The Heart Inquiry Sword had been dealt with so easily, and True Man Tianjian hadn't even appeared, which exceeded everyone's expectations.

Chen Xing gasped, glaring angrily at Chen Yue:

"Why are you pinching me?"

Chen Yue murmured:

"This is real. The Heart Inquiry Sword was slain by True Man Tianjian!"

The veins on Chen Xing's forehead throbbed, but his annoyance quickly turned into a long sigh. The shock in his eyes was no less than Chen Yue's.

"This True Man Tianjian... truly terrifying. Before, I thought the True Martial Sect's connection to the Prince was their good fortune, always felt that the True Martial Sect was too small to accommodate the Crown Prince, but now it seems I was shallow. A Prince remains a Prince; perhaps he had realized it long ago."

Chen Yue nodded in agreement, then winced in pain as Chen Xing pinched her back when she wasn't paying attention.

The two sisters were just a small part of the picture.

Thousands of martial artists were all in shock.

Once all the phenomena disappeared, and Tang Qiu vanished with Luo Wentian and the others into the mountain gate, waves of astonished exclamations arose.

"The strength of True Man Tianjian is immeasurable! Ranked thirty-sixth on the Celestial Being List? This is undoubtedly the greatest mistake in this edition of the Celestial Being List!"

"The fourteenth on the Celestial Being List was defeated so miserably, True Man Tianjian definitely has the strength for the top ten, possibly even top five positions!"

"Whoever said True Man Tianjian had little life left? Perhaps he is an elderly Sword God who matured late but rises unyieldingly, potentially reaching the Sword Saint realm before the limit of his lifespan, continuing for another millennium!"

Excited discussions erupted.

People unabashedly expressed their internal shock.

They were trying to elevate True Man Tianjian's prowess as much as possible, lest they get 'slapped in the face' again and again.

If not for the fact that the higher rankings of the Celestial Being List were occupied by peerless ancient monsters with formidable strength, they might have dared the 'great offense' of placing True Man Tianjian in an unfathomable position.

But even so,

True Man Tianjian had already touched the pinnacle of a swordsman.

Some swordsmen could no longer help but compare him to the fifth-ranked 'Sun Chasing Sword King' on the Celestial Being List.

The Sun Chasing Sword King was truly a Sword Dao legend, reigning as the 'Number One Swordsman in the World' for two centuries, with no one able to challenge him. Any of his countless achievements were world-shaking, and no swordsman dared to stand alongside him.

Chapter 209: The Supreme Peak of Sword Dao, Bringing the Sword Tower Over by Oneself\_2

But now.

The display of True Man Tianjian made them unable to restrain their wild speculations.

No one knows where the limits of True Man Tianjian actually lie.

Qin Yun gazed deeply in the direction of the True Martial Mountain gate, a place once so familiar but now a dream out of reach, even making him feel a bit estranged.

He sighed softly.

He recalled the strange Taoist he encountered when he explored the Seeking Tao Institute at night years ago.

Back when True Man Tianjian hadn't appeared, he thought that person was True Man Tianjian. But after seeing Tianjian battle Thunder Shock Blade Venerate last time, he felt it wasn't. Yet today, he inexplicably felt it was.

Perhaps it's because the rise of True Man Tianjian was too fast, too fast.

So fast it gave him an illusion —

"True Man Tianjian isn't hiding his strength, but has suddenly gained such immense power in these few short years!"

This strange thought startled him, and he shook his head with a wry smile.

How could it be possible.

He exhausted four hundred years of lifespan in the Blood Demon Pool, only barely stepping into the Celestial Human Realm. How could someone attain such terrifying power in just a few years? Even if he exhausted the additional four hundred years of life gained after advancing to the Celestial Human Realm, it would still fall far short of True Man Tianjian.

He realized that perhaps the psychological shadow cast by that Taoist from years past was too significant.

"He was likely just at the Gang Essence Realm. If I were to meet him now, I could easily defeat him." Qin Yun thought, a chaotic whirl of thoughts rising in his mind.

Unbeknownst to him, he turned his head to glance at the Southern Border Saintess beside him. The gentle wind lifted a corner of the black gauze, and he saw her smooth, pointed chin. The owner of the chin was silent, no longer lively as before. Qin Yun instinctively asked:

"Saintess, what are you thinking about?"

The two had long since quietly departed, walking in a mountain forest where the wind blew through the leaves, creating a rustling sound.

The Southern Border Saintess sighed softly:

"I was thinking, if True Man Tianjian goes mad, how much of a threat he would pose to us."

Qin Yun's spirits were lifted, nearly forgetting the main task at hand.

This journey was to assess the power of True Man Tianjian, to determine what actions to take against the True Martial Sect. Previously, they had planned to capture important figures from the sect to interrogate them in secret, but the infiltration had failed.

And now.

True Man Tianjian undoubtedly gave them a huge surprise.

Qin Yun remained calm, only speaking lightly:

"Being in the top ten, even top five of the Celestial Being List is indeed strong, but it's not like our Holy Sect or your Southern Border doesn't have such powerful beings, so why worry."

Knowing the strength of True Man Tianjian, he was no longer in a rush. He knew the ways of the Demon Sect and the Southern Border: they would be more cautious before such a powerful person. Though not afraid, there was no need to provoke.

The Southern Border Saintess glanced at Qin Yun and said:

"Saint Heir Qin is so sure this is the full extent of True Man Tianjian's power? What if he can rival Blade Demon and catch up with Wind-listening Old Man?"

"Even if we can deal with such a person, it requires striking him dead with one blow. Otherwise, making a deadly enemy who lurks in the shadows would bring endless trouble."

She glanced back at the True Martial Sect, sighing lightly:

"It seems we must move slowly, not so simply and crudely. Let's start re-investigating from the Blood King Gu case. I recently discovered something interesting, and it has a bit to do with Saint Heir Qin."

Qin Yun was taken aback.

The Southern Border Saintess chuckled lightly:

"Ten years ago, Taoist Longshan brought back a baby named Ning Qi, who is your ninth junior brother, Saint Heir Qin. It's possible he wasn't picked up from the wilderness by Taoist Longshan but was actually from the Snow Plum Manor, annihilated that same year he was born. Of course, you may have never heard of this name. If I hadn't gone through old records, I wouldn't have known either."

She had studied Qin Yun and the True Martial Sect, roughly guessing some reasons why Qin Yun left the True Martial Sect.



Qin Yun's pupils contracted sharply.

The Southern Border Saintess continued:

"Back then, the owner of Snow Plum Manor discovered the Blood King Gu case, which led to our Southern Border's small branch in Qing State wiping them out. Unexpectedly, one person was missed, saved by Taoist Longshan."

"Of course, he actually paid attention to this matter and even suspected whether the baby Taoist Longshan brought back was indeed a survivor from Snow Plum Manor, but at that time, Blood Rain Tower was about to be established, and achievements and rewards were being discussed. That guy kept it hidden, and no one ever infiltrated True Martial Mountain to investigate."

Actually.

Back then, when 'Lord Feng' learned that Taoist Longshan had brought back a baby named Ning Qi, he was greatly surprised.

But after pondering several times, he decided to keep the matter hidden.

Firstly, it was just when he was ascending due to merit, not wanting complications. Continuing the investigation would bring a Primordial Core Realm powerhouse, Taoist Longshan, into the fold, requiring more effort.

Secondly, he suspected that Taoist Longshan deliberately lured enemies with that baby's 'Ning' surname, baiting others into revealing themselves. After all, under such a large fire, how could a baby survive?

Even if that baby indeed were the son of Ning Ye and his wife, for him to seek vengeance would take decades if not a century. By then, Feng might have already attained the Celestial Human Realm, entirely unworried.

Qin Yun felt a surge of killing intent towards the Southern Border Alliance, but he maintained a calm voice:

"What does this matter have to do with the annihilation of the Qing State outpost?"

The Southern Border Saintess stopped in her tracks and said:

"Taoist Longshan had been investigating the Blood Rain Tower case for years. Although he was discreet, there are traces. The motivation of the True Martial Sect is more substantial, this alone is suspicious enough unlike with the Town North King, despite all our resources spent, there's no trace at all. Isn't that proof enough?"

Chapter 210: The Highest Peak of Sword Dao, Sending the Sword Tower Over Myself\_3

Qin Yun said:

"So, according to the Saintess' intention, are we to wipe out the True Martial Sect entirely?"

A sigh echoed through the forest:

"If it were before today, it would be simple."

"But now, just wait. Before the birth of our Martial Saints, provoking such a troublesome enemy isn't wise. Once a Martial Saint is born, True Man Tianjian will be nothing more than a larger ant."

"By then... the True Martial Sect will serve as our sacrificial banner."

Qin Yun felt a chill in his heart.

Yet, a shadow gradually surfaced in his eyes.

It wasn't just because of the predicament the True Martial Sect faced, but also because of the Southern Border Saintess' unclear warning in her words.

It was evident.

The Demon Sect and Southern Border had quietly gathered numerous intel and even devised strategies against the True Martial Sect, yet he remained in the dark, excluded from everything. This indicated that

he had lost the Demon Sect's trust. If not for the Saintess' subtle hint, he might have thought both forces were leisurely probing, preparing to kidnap important people from the True Martial Sect for interrogation.

If it weren't for True Man Tianjian's formidable combat prowess today, perhaps in just a few days, the elites of both forces would have climbed the mountain to annihilate them, yet he would remain unaware.

"When did they start suspecting me?"

"Was it during the first meeting to negotiate with the Southern Border Alliance? Or was it when they sent spies into the assessment before that?"

Qin Yun lowered his head, realizing he had greatly underestimated the Demon Sect. He initially believed he had done everything flawlessly, but now it seemed laughable. He only still had some value; maybe at some point, he would become disposable.

Qin Yun awoke from his reverie.

All his elation from emerging from the Blood Demon Pool as a Saint Heir candidate vanished without a trace.

The Southern Border Saintess didn't look back. She walked faster and faster, her silhouette fading into the forest, leaving only a faint voice behind:

"Saint Heir Qin, being indecisive is not a good habit."

Qin Yun's expression flickered between light and shadow.

He realized he was facing a decision.

...

The Heart Inquiry Sword has fallen!

This news spread across the Great Yan at a horrific speed. The Celestial Being List only accommodates thirty-six, and Gu Changhe, ranked fourteenth, was already at the forefront of the list. The fall of such an unparalleled powerhouse was bound to shake the world.

And to add to it—

The Heart Inquiry Sword was easily suppressed by True Man Tianjian and was slain with a single sword.

This news was akin to an earthquake.

Everyone who heard it initially reacted with disbelief. The recent conflict between the Inquiring Sword Pavilion and the True Martial Sect had drawn much attention, but for it to conclude with the Heart Inquiry Sword's fall? No one had expected it.

Yet when those present that day came forward.

Even skeptics had to believe it.

After all, among those who witnessed the battle, there was no shortage of Celestial Realm experts.

There was no need to lie about such matters; any pretense would be easily exposed.

In no time.

True Man Tianjian became renowned across the land.

Throughout the Great Yan's Thirteen States, everyone was talking about it.

Especially after the details of the battle between Gu Changhe and True Man Tianjian were revealed, swordsmen everywhere were electrified. Almost everyone felt that True Man Tianjian possessed the strength to contend for the title of the world's greatest swordsman.

The fame of the True Martial Sword Stele grew even larger. True Man Tianjian didn't show up personally, yet merely using the sword stele to draw Heavenly Thunder to slay Gu Changhe made every swordsman long for it. Many swordsmen began journeying toward True Martial Mountain.

Thunder Shock Blade Venerate listened to the details of the great battle and remained silent for a long time.

His eyes were filled with shock and confusion.

"Drawing Heavenly Thunder from the sword stele? Why does it sound... just like the Heavenly Thunder Blade?"

He recalled previously sending the Thunder Shock Secret Record and the Heavenly Thunder Blade up the mountain as compensation and shuddered, breaking into a cold sweat. Then he announced, he planned to seclude himself in retreat, perhaps for twenty years!

Everywhere, discussions ensued.

The martial artists marveled, and the various martial sects elevated the True Martial Sect's status higher and higher.

The Formless Sect members were drenched in cold sweat.

Their mental journey was tumultuous. At first, they were apprehensive about True Man Tianjian, sending many compensations, but after seeing the Inquiring Sword Pavilion's two-month defiance, they somewhat regretted, thinking they yielded too quickly, causing their prestige to fall.

Now, witnessing the fate of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, all they felt was gratitude.

Thankfully, they capitulated quickly.

Town North King looked at the letter delivered by Chen Xing and Chen Yue, which contained detailed descriptions of the great battle that day, along with words of praise for his foresight.

He was somewhat perplexed.

"Does this king truly possess such foresight?"

Chen Xing and Chen Yue thought he had long known of True Man Tianjian's prowess and hence sent Li Ling to True Martial Mountain. But in truth, it was for the sake of Taoist Longshan that he sent Li Ling there.

Town North King rarely wore a bitter smile.



He had been present during the battle between Thunder Shock Blade Venerate and True Man Tianjian, where he once lamented that Tianjian's Sword Intent was unrivaled, though its cultivation didn't suffice for top ranks in the Celestial Human Realm. But now, it seemed that True Man Tianjian simply defied common logic.

He was a Sword God in his twilight years, undeniably on the same level as Town North King, and even after reading Chen Xing and Chen Yue's description, Town North King vaguely felt that this might not even be True Man Tianjian's limit.

Town North King pondered further.

"I should have anticipated it—True Man Tianjian wanted to explore matters regarding Martial Saints, which means he has the Three Flowers of Essence, Qi, and Spirit perfected, seeking the Martial Saint path."

His eyes held a longing.

"The path to becoming a Martial Saint is exceedingly difficult; having a companion on this journey is advantageous."

"Yet this time, perhaps some old monsters will be stirred."

After hesitating.

He decided to send a letter to True Martial Mountain.

This matter was far from over.

He wanted to caution the True Martial Sect not to overdo it with the Inquiring Sword Pavilion. Many eyes would be watching them, so as not to leave any culpability; sometimes, eradicating the enemy completely isn't wise.

However.

Luo Wentian evidently hadn't planned on utter eradication; such sinful deeds of annihilation were beyond him.

They only needed to ensure the Inquiring Sword Pavilion would no longer pose a threat.

After a friendly negotiation with Tang Qiu.

The Inquiring Sword Pavilion ultimately agreed to the following conditions.

Firstly, the Inquiring Sword Pavilion would seal itself off for two hundred years, not emerging during that time.

Secondly, they would gift the Inheritance Sword Tower to the True Martial Sect free of charge.

Thirdly, all sect martial arts and texts would be copied, one set to be sent to the True Martial Sect.

Fourthly, they would provide compensation in the form of spirit medicine, treasure materials, treasure swords, and other goods.

Tang Qiu stumbled and didn't know how he returned to the Inquiring Sword Pavilion.

When these terms were announced.

Some were outrageously furious.

"Let's fight them!"

But Tang Qiu's gentle words calmed them down:

"And be slaughtered like pigs by True Man Tianjian? Accept these terms, survive for two hundred years, and there's still hope for the Inquiring Sword Pavilion."

Regret filled everyone's hearts.

A single misstep, leading to more.

Never should they have coveted the True Martial Sword Stele or intended to dispossess their own Inheritance Sword Tower.

Everyone gritted their teeth in frustration.

At a certain moment, the only two remaining Celestial Realm experts ironically wished the True Martial Sect had been more ruthless, annihilating the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, so that they could quietly retreat and later strike from the shadows with impunity.

But dealing a heavy blow to the True Martial Sect? They dared not.

"When will they come to take the Sword Tower?" asked a Celestial Realm elder.

Tang Qiu couldn't bear to look the two in the eye and only whispered:

"They want you both to deliver it personally."

Another elder spat out blood to the sky and collapsed to the ground.

The Inquiring Sword Pavilion members trembled with cold sweat.

That night.

Someone faintly saw two Celestial Beings dragging the hundreds of feet tall Sword Tower, racing through the night.