

Cultivating 241

Chapter 241: Blade Demon and Sword King, The Great Terror in the Nether_3

The Sun Chasing Sword King's eyes glinted: "Good, I will come to watch the battle then."

The exchange between the two powerful figures sent waves of shock in the hearts of all present, as the previous mystery was finally unraveled. The Blade Demon had indeed visited the True Martial Mountain first, and with the Sun Chasing Sword King's announcement to witness the battle, it heightened the anticipation to the extreme.

The Blade Demon nodded.

And stepped away into the air.

The words the Sun Chasing Sword King intended to say were swallowed back.

Originally, he wanted to ask if there was an even stronger strike from the Blade Demon, as he sensed something unfulfilled in the previous Heavenly Demon Blade, but ultimately he did not voice it. Despite a sense of mutual admiration between them, such matters ultimately pertain to personal secrets.

Furthermore.

If there was a stronger stroke, perhaps it would soon be seen.

From the Blade Demon's words earlier, it wasn't hard to detect that even after witnessing his strongest sword, the Blade Demon still considered True Man Tianjian to be stronger than himself.

He wasn't upset by this; he was merely more curious about the True Man Tianjian whom he had never met.

As he watched the Blade Demon leave.

The events of today quickly spread across the world like a whirlwind.

The Sun Chasing Sword King was defeated, and the Blade Demon won again!

At this moment.

The Blade Demon's power was unparalleled, and some even thought that the Flame Martial Grand General and the Wind-listening Old Man might not be able to best him.

The more the Blade Demon fought, the stronger he became, with only one opponent remaining.

True Man Tianjian.

This equally extraordinary figure who emerged out of nowhere, if his previous battle achievements were dazzling, they paled in comparison to the Blade Demon's now. The Blade Demon had challenged nearly half of the Celestial Being List, including several of the top ten fighters.

This final battle.

Was immensely anticipated.

Countless people flocked to True Martial Mountain, with even the once-flaming Imperial Court, Demon Sect, and Southern Border forces casting their gaze there. This was almost the strongest battle beneath the Martial Saint level. Although such figures did not have the final say like a Martial Saint, they still held significant influence.

In view of the three major powers, each had only two or three such strong figures.

...

Amidst this frenzy.

The disciples of the True Martial Sect were overwhelmed with stress, just coping with the martial artists flooding into True Martial City every day consumed much energy, but their hearts swelled with pride because all these people came for True Man Tianjian. This was their honor.

All external affairs were entrusted to Luo Wentian.

While Ning Qi remained unruffled.

He only needed to consider one thing, how much strength to use to defeat the Blade Demon.

"The situation with the Great Yan Martial Saint is unclear, it's best not to be too conspicuous, a victory is needed, but not a crushing one, just showcasing the Sword Intent Realm will suffice." The content on the silver page obtained from Wu Jianghe made Ning Qi somewhat wary.

The soon-to-emerge Martial Saints of the Demon Sect and Southern Border were certainly enemies, but the Great Yan Martial Saint might not be any better. If he was indeed the one who eliminated the Martial Saint Technique from the world, then approaching too much would be giving oneself away.

If his nearing Martial Saint combat power was prematurely exposed, it would bring unnecessary trouble.

Ning Qi felt that it was still most appropriate to use his power before breaking through to the Celestial Human Realm.

He slightly shook his head, casting off distractions, he did not continue to waste his mind on this issue but instead thought about his own cultivation.

After entering the Celestial Human Realm.

To continue growing, naturally, one needs to condense the Three Flowers of Essence, Qi, and Spirit.

"To condense the Three Flowers of Essence, Qi, and Spirit means refining the flesh to condense the Flower of Essence, refining Gang Qi to condense the Flower of Qi, and refining Divine Intent to condense the Divine Flower."

"How to refine them? By resonating with the Power of Heaven and Earth, similarly to my previously created Heaven and Earth Grinding Wheel Quenching Gang Technique and Refining Spirit Technique, only not as exquisite as before."

"But cultivating all three flowers at once is no easy feat. That's precisely why many people stick to a single realm. Even so, it takes ten to several dozens of years to make some progress. I have the foundation of the Heaven and Earth Grinding Wheel Secret Technique, so my progress is naturally incomparable to ordinary people, but it is still very slow."

"With this trend, when can I achieve Three Flowers Perfection?"

Ning Qi slightly frowned.

In recent times, besides sublimating the Unity of Heaven and Man Secret Technique, he was trying to cultivate in the Celestial Human Realm. He improved the Heaven and Earth Grinding Wheel Technique, enabling him to simultaneously refine Essence, Qi, and Spirit, but the progress remained sluggish.

If this continues.

It might take seven or eight years to reach Celestial Being Perfection.

This speed is naturally dozens of times faster compared to others, but for Ning Qi, it is still too slow. The crisis in the Southern Border and Demon Sect is still unresolved, and he needs to improve his strength as much as possible in a short time.

"Previously in the Gang Essence Realm, my Heaven and Earth Grinding Wheel Quenching Gang Technique and Refining Spirit Technique were able to progress by leaps and bounds because I had access to a higher level of power in advance. Now using the Power of Heaven and Earth to refine the three flowers naturally doesn't have the same effect."

"In other words, do I need a stronger 'drive'?"

Ning Qi's mind filled with flashes of Spiritual Light and fleeting thoughts, and after stepping into the Celestial Human Realm, his insight had improved further, and in a blink, he already had a target.

"Heavenly Thunder Technique!"

"Previously, by comprehending the Heavenly Thunder Blade, I discovered the Heavenly Thunder Technique, which can channel the heavenly thunder for my use. The power of the heavenly thunder is strong and domineering; if I can fully control it to refine the Essence, Qi, and Spirit, the effect will be outstanding. But ordinary heavenly thunder may not exceed too much in effect, to be efficient, I have to go to High Heaven!"

Ning Qi exhaled a soft breath.

"The Thunderous Forbidden Zone in High Heaven is very terrifying, but if only drawing thunder from the edges without venturing inside, it should be fine, after all, my current strength is far greater than before."

The more he thought about it, the more feasible it seemed to Ning Qi.

He made up his mind.

After the Unity of Heaven and Man Secret Technique sublimates and his strength advances further, he will attempt to channel the heavenly thunder to refine Essence, Qi, and Spirit.

Thinking this, he inexplicably felt relieved.

Lately, as he stepped into the Celestial Human Realm, the more he perceived the Power of Heaven and Earth, the more he sensed a great unnameable terror hidden within. This situation has never been recorded in any other Celestial Human Realm-related scriptures, nor was it felt before when using the Unity of Heaven and Man Secret Technique to control the Power of Heaven and Earth.

Ning Qi did not know whether it was because his perception was too keen or because his current control over the Power of Heaven and Earth greatly exceeded that of other Celestial Human Realms, which allowed him to detect it.

But he knew that it was definitely not an illusion.

"If those in the Celestial Human Realm cannot perceive it, then the Martial Saints should be able to. Is there some connection between this great hidden terror and the Martial Saint Realm?"

Ning Qi couldn't discern the answer.

But he thought he must grow powerful quickly.

Chapter 242: Secret Technique Sublimation, Sword Path Ultimate Realm

That night.

Ning Qi did not venture up to High Heaven. Instead, he wandered away from True Martial Mountain to a secluded mountain range.

Then he attempted to use the Heavenly Thunder Technique to channel the heavenly thunder.

In an instant.

Strands of purple lightning descended from the void, their power incredibly condensed, indeed stronger than the Power of Heaven and Earth. Following his previous idea, Ning Qi divided the channeled Thunderous Power into three parts.

One for Body Tempering, one for Qi Condensation, and one for Refining Spirit.

The three advanced together, to condense the Three Flowers of Essence, Qi, and Spirit.

This was another wondrous application of the Heavenly Thunder Technique.

Ning Qi sat cross-legged.

Only after a two-hour period did he slowly stop, at this moment he already felt his Essence, Qi, and Spirit reach the limit. If he continued refining, it would exceed the load and backfire.

He opened his eyes, revealing a look of delight.

"This efficiency of refining the Three Flowers is twice that of using the Power of Heaven and Earth!"

This indicated.

His approach was correct, and this method was feasible.

"If the thunder I channel is stronger, then the efficiency of refining the Three Flowers can be even higher." Ning Qi couldn't help but look skyward. In that Thunderous Forbidden Zone, domineering and fierce thunders were countless. If such thunders could be used for refining, the efficiency could easily increase by two or three times.

He contemplated and had already made a plan.

"These next few days, I will fully dedicate myself to completely elevating the Celestial Being Unity Secret Technique. Then I can ascend to High Heaven to cultivate for a two-hour period every day."

Although Ning Qi wanted to go now, he ultimately thought it best to be more cautious.

That Thunderous Forbidden Zone was quite terrifying. Even at the edge, channeling some thunder to refine the Three Flowers required care and caution. It's best to be fully prepared before going, as it wouldn't take many days regardless.

Ten days later.

Ning Qi sat idly at the Seeking Tao Institute. It was winter and snowing, yet the Enlightenment Tea Tree remained lush and green, unaffected by the seasonal climate. Its top was sprouting tender leaves, gathering essence, more than the previous year. At this time, the Enlightenment Tea Tree was already taller than Ning Qi. Under the nourishment of the two Celestial Human Realm experts' bodies from the Inquiring Sword Pavilion, it grew robustly, getting closer to Ning Qi's vision of relaxing under the tree's shade.

He enjoyed contemplating under the Enlightenment Tea Tree.

Vaguely, it allowed his thoughts to become more peaceful and serene.

At this moment.

A myriad of inspirations merged in his mind, and changes followed within his body.

The Primordial Core, glowing with golden light, spun rapidly, and the invisible Bridge of Celestial Being trembled. Affected by this, his whole body was shaking as if something was being activated—an intangible 'root bone,' the potential and treasure within the human body.

With a movement of his Divine Intent, his body and the Earth also established a connection, and a second invisible Bridge of Celestial Being was successfully constructed.

The two Bridges of Celestial Being vaguely resonated, their effects superimposed, achieving a result greater than the sum of their parts.

In an instant, the weather changed.

Ning Qi opened his eyes, joy on his face.

With a thought, strands of the Power of Heaven and Earth immediately gathered. The Power of Heaven and Earth he could originally resonate with already far exceeded the ordinary Celestial Being Realm Perfection, and now it was even more outrageous, more than tripled.

If he exerted his full effort, there might be a scene of overwhelming upheaval in an instant.

Undoubtedly, his strength had increased significantly once again.

With this secret technique as a foundation, the power of his other secret techniques also rose significantly.

"It seems inappropriate to still call the elevated secret technique 'Unity of Heaven and Man'; 'Bridge of Celestial Being' is more fitting."

"The Bridge of Celestial Being secret technique can be taught to Master, which will surely greatly enhance his combat strength, perhaps even approaching the level of the Celestial Being List."

Ning Qi had a faint smile on his lips.

Over the years, Taoist Longshan has not stood still. Every secret technique he could learn, Ning Qi gave him a copy. Unconsciously, Taoist Longshan's strength had risen, and now with this Bridge of Celestial Being, his strength could grow explosively.

"With the Bridge of Celestial Being secret technique complete, it's time to head to High Heaven once again." Ning Qi's eyes twinkled.

That night.

Ning Qi silently soared into the void.

His current power was vastly stronger than during the Jade Liquid Realm, and his speed was extremely fast. The Power of Heaven and Earth filled his body, consuming at an extremely fast pace, but Ning Qi

had a solid foundation and was not afraid. He had abundant Gang Qi of the Primordial Core unused, so he wouldn't encounter danger.

The surroundings gradually became silent, with only the biting Gang wind.

A sense of oppression loomed subtly.

Soon.

He sensed something and halted.

Looking out as far as he could, he saw Thunder Dragons tumbling and roaring. This time, without the Heavenly Thunder Blade, the thunder was not being channeled over, but he could clearly see that some lightning was still aimlessly striking around, some of which even made his heart tremble.

"However, a bit of caution and there's no problem."

Different strength brings a different mindset.

Arriving at the Thunderous Forbidden Zone in High Heaven again, Ning Qi found himself not as powerless in front of this zone, sparking his curiosity once more:

"What would be beyond the Thunderous Forbidden Zone? Could it be another world?"

But with his current strength, it was unrealistic to pass through the Thunderous Forbidden Zone.

Ning Qi estimated that he might have hope once he reached Martial Saint Realm.

Thinking this way.

It seems ordinary Martial Saints might not cross this zone either.

Shaking his head, Ning Qi cleared his thoughts, not forgetting his purpose for this visit.

Quieting his mind.

He began to operate the Heavenly Thunder Technique.

In an instant, the Thunderous Forbidden Zone sensed it from afar. A streak of purple-black lightning shot swiftly, and Ning Qi's eyes glinted. The Power of Heaven and Earth turned into a giant palm that overshadowed the sky, captured it, and then split it into three parts, beginning to refine the Three Flowers.

Chapter 243: Secret Technique Ascension, Sword Path Ultimate Realm_2

His body suddenly shivered, vaguely feeling that he had reached his limit. If he attracted stronger lightning, it might have a counterproductive effect.

Ning Qi closed his eyes and sat cross-legged in mid-air.

He occasionally attracted lightning, but sometimes he accidentally summoned overly strong lightning, which he could only shatter and annihilate. Although there were some setbacks, everything was generally under control.

Another two-hour period passed.

Ning Qi opened his eyes and stopped cultivating.

"Compared to attracting ordinary heavenly thunder, the efficiency has indeed more than doubled. This way, the time for me to condense the Three Flowers is greatly reduced. Moreover, this is not the limit. As I achieve Three Flowers Perfection, my strength will gradually increase, allowing me to endure even stronger lightning, thus shortening the time to perfect. This is a positive cycle."

Ning Qi smiled.

Although there were some uncontrollable factors, overall there was no problem.

This also means.

In the future, this place will become his 'Tao field,' where he will spend one two-hour period daily to cultivate.

At this point.

The cultivation of the Celestial Human Realm is on track. From now on, it just requires steady effort, and the remaining time can be spent exploring the path to the Martial Saint Realm. As he is now getting closer to the Martial Saint Realm, it is time to prepare in advance.

"Let's start with Tiansheng and Shi first."

Ning Qi's eyes flashed.

This was his idea from a long time ago. The legendary Heavenly Beast is suspected to be on a level similar to the Martial Saint. The White Ape's bloodline is unique; if it can be thoroughly studied, it might provide insights into other similar things.

And as for Zhuang Chen's Innate Sword Bone, Ning Qi believes it's somewhat similar to the 'Heavenly Beast Bloodline' among humans, which makes a simultaneous comparison feasible.

...

Ning Qi immersed himself in Dao enlightenment cultivation.

Meanwhile, the world remained in continuous turmoil.

The commotion stirred up by the Blade Demon was finally about to reach its climax. No one knows exactly how this half-year turmoil will conclude, but at this moment, countless eyes were focused on True Martial Mountain.

Who is stronger, the Blade Demon or True Man Tianjian?

This question lingered in everyone's minds.

Especially the blademen and swordsmen, they were even more excited.

If the previous duel between True Man Tianjian and Thunder Shock Blade Venerate was just a milestone in the sword and blade struggle, then the upcoming battle between the Blade Demon and True Man Tianjian is the true pinnacle battle!

This almost represents the strongest among swordsmen and blademen.

Although True Man Tianjian is far less in both achievements and rankings compared to the Blade Demon, the fact that the Blade Demon admitted to retreating from True Martial Mountain previously is enough to prove True Man Tianjian's value. Not only that, even the Sun Chasing Sword King has expressed his recognition of True Man Tianjian.

This only makes everyone more anticipated for the upcoming battle.

The winds and clouds are gathering.

Martial Artists from all over were gathering in True Martial City.

Among them were many Celestial Being List experts who had previously been defeated by the Blade Demon. Some wanted to witness this final battle in person, to see where the Blade Demon's limits lie. For example, Divine Wind Blade Venerate had arrived early, confident that the Blade Demon would win because he is a once-in-many-centuries blade talent, soon to step into the Blade Path Ultimate Realm.

There were also many unparalleled powerhouses such as the Vast Sea Sword Sect and Sun Chasing Sword King gathering here.

The arrival of these people.

Naturally has pros and cons.

The pros are obvious. With so many strong individuals, some are bound to be curious about the True Martial Sword Stele and the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths. The interaction of sword intents greatly benefited Ning Qi, allowing his sword path to significantly advance in just a few days, which is extremely rare.

The cons, however, are that these unparalleled powerhouses have their own personalities, which can easily lead to disputes, and Luo Wentian and others simply aren't qualified to stop them; they can only barely persuade.

Fortunately.

Upon seeing the True Martial Sword Stele, these unparalleled powerhouses fell silent and were in utter awe, thus gradually becoming low-key.

Originally, some people didn't think much of the Blade Demon choosing True Man Tianjian as his final opponent, but now, they've been humbled.

Even though the True Martial Sword Stele showed no fluctuations, the vast and majestic sword intent within made them feel inferior. In a short time of comprehension, they achieved some insights and were also very impressed by True Man Tianjian's broad-mindedness. If it were them, they couldn't open their sword intent to let others comprehend.

Sun Chasing Sword King looked at the sword stele with amazement in his eyes:

"I'm not as good."

He already knew from the descriptions of his disciples that the True Martial Sword Stele was extraordinary, but seeing it for himself, he realized its greatness was beyond his imagination.

"Could it be... True Man Tianjian has already reached the Sword Path Ultimate Realm?" His eyes shook with intense anticipation. If he could witness such a sword path, it would be worth dying!

He stepped down the mountain slowly, waiting quietly for the Blade Demon to arrive, hoping to learn some ultimate truths from the battle.

The people around were even more shocked when they heard Sun Chasing Sword King admit he was no match.

"This is the battle of the first swordsman and the first blademan!"

"The scene will surely be earth-shattering. I am ready to document every detail of this battle, to keep as an heirloom in my Li family!"

"Missing this battle means not knowing when"

Time passed slowly.

No one knows when the Blade Demon will come, but when facing Sun Chasing Sword King, the Blade Demon personally declared he would battle True Man Tianjian, and he surely won't go back on his word.

True Martial City was incredibly lively.

Every day, there were various discussions about the battle.

The True Martial Sect disciples were excited and expectant but also a bit anxious. True Martial City was once again expanding around the surrounding area, but it still couldn't accommodate so many Martial

Artists. Some people simply built wooden houses in the nearby mountains, filling the mountains and fields with figures, much to the detriment of the local exotic beasts.

This is the most influential battle in the nearly hundred years.

Ning Qi also felt somewhat affected, not by restless heart but by the unease of gathering so many people in True Martial City, making it impossible for him to go to High Heaven for cultivation.

"This guy, dawdling, might as well come quickly." Ning Qi couldn't help but mutter a complaint.

Zhuang Chen, standing nearby, heard this and curiously asked:

"Who should come quickly? Ninth Senior Brother, who are you waiting for?"

Ning Qi couldn't help but laugh.

"I'm not waiting for anyone. How is your progress with the Innate Sword Body Secret Technique?"

Zhuang Chen hurriedly replied:

"I'm close to Great Success! This Secret Technique is truly extremely powerful; combined with my Innate Sword Bone, it's like adding wings to a tiger!"

His eyes were filled with admiration. Only he knew Ning Qi had created the Innate Sword Body Secret Technique. The more he practiced it, the more he realized its profoundness, leading to greater admiration for Ning Qi.

Perhaps among the brothers, besides Luo Wentian, Zhuang Chen is the one who truly understands Ning Qi's monstrous talent the most.

Ning Qi smiled and said:

"Do you want to learn even more powerful Sword Path Secret Techniques?"

His words carried a tantalizing tone.

Zhuang Chen's eyes lit up, but he also felt a bit uneasy. He remembered the thrilling experience of creating the Innate Sword Body with Ning Qi. Ning Qi didn't rush him, just like the proverbial calm fisherman waiting for the catch, and indeed, moments later, Zhuang Chen couldn't resist.

He gritted his teeth and said:

"Senior Brother, tell me, what should I do?"

The White Ape nearby showed a sympathetic expression.

Ning Qi chuckled lightly and waved his hand, and a Secret Manual freshly written yesterday fell into Zhuang Chen's hands.

"Master this Secret Technique. I'll call you when I need you."

Over the past few days, he had been pondering how to further explore the White Ape's bloodline and the Innate Sword Bone. After reaching the Celestial Human Realm, he could resonate with the vast Power of Heaven and Earth, but he couldn't yet condense that power within his body, let alone within the White Ape or Zhuang Chen.

The greatest advantage of the Celestial Human Realm is a formidable Divine Intent, far surpassing before.

Therefore, he took an alternative approach.

Inspired by resonating with the Power of Heaven and Earth, he intended to explore bloodlines using a resonance method, which required their cooperation.

This Secret Technique was to put Zhuang Chen's Innate Sword Bone in an excited state, to resonate externally, making it easier for Ning Qi to explore.

A couple of days ago.

The same Secret Technique had been given to the White Ape.

Zhuang Chen took the Secret Manual, his eyes shining bright, nodding vigorously:

"Senior Brother, I will definitely work hard to master it soon!"

Ning Qi nodded with a smile.

Suddenly, his expression changed, looking towards the sky.

The corners of his mouth curved into a smile.

It seemed that his previous murmurs worked; the one who should come had finally arrived.

Chapter 244: Celestial Sword Imprisons Demon Blade

Within True Martial City.

Numerous martial artists were in heated discussion.

They speculated on when the Blade Demon would arrive.

But almost at the same time, Divine Wind Blade Venerate, Sun Chasing Sword King, and other powerful figures were mentally roused, casting their gazes into the distance.

"Here he comes!"

They had all battled the Blade Demon before and were naturally familiar with his aura. Moreover, the Blade Demon made no attempt to conceal his presence, making it easy to detect his movements from afar.

In an instant.

Figures with powerful auras soared into the sky, all converging toward True Martial Mountain.

The people within the city witnessed this scene; everyone's gaze sharpened, then they grew excited.

The sudden appearance of figures like Sun Chasing Sword King, who had been quiet for days, could only mean the Blade Demon had arrived; they couldn't think of any other reason.

Without the slightest hesitation.

Numerous martial artists converged toward True Martial Mountain. True Martial City had been expanding continuously, bringing it closer and closer. Some powerful martial artists within the city could observe the distant battle, but still, they hurried to witness this rare event of a century up close.

An old blind man slowly rose, chuckling silently as he looked at the suddenly deserted storyteller's stand.

He shook his head, his hollow eyes gazing toward True Martial Mountain with a touch of curiosity in his heart:

"I wonder, is True Man Tianjian an old friend?"

He had seen the Blade Demon and Sun Chasing Sword King battle before, and the Blade Demon was not that old friend. Now he came again to ascertain if True Man Tianjian was.

"What a pity. Although the Blade Demon is astonishingly talented, he's still missing a bit." The blind old man shook his head with a sigh, inexplicably tinged with a sense of sadness. His vacant gaze stared unblinkingly, seeming somewhat terrifying, and it was unknown what he was contemplating. He did not head to True Martial Mountain but remained quietly in the storytelling booth.

A dense group of martial artists gathered.

On ordinary days, rare Gang Essence Realm experts were everywhere, but they all kept a low profile because even Celestial Human Realm experts were plentiful. One Celestial Human Realm expert after another traversed the air while others ran on the ground.

Martial artists building wooden huts throughout the mountains also sensed the commotion here and headed toward True Martial Mountain.

Under the attention of all.

A disheveled old man came barefoot.

Heaven and earth fell silent.

Awe arose in everyone's eyes; this was the reputation the Blade Demon had carved out with his knife. In the Celestial Being List, he challenged more than half; many of the unparalleled experts present were his defeated opponents.

Divine Feather Grand General only watched but couldn't help feeling horrified. He sensed something malevolent in the Blade Demon's blade intent as if it were about to split him in two. He secretly rejoiced; fortunately, he cultivated the spear path and was part of the Imperial Court, so the Blade Demon wouldn't come to challenge him. Otherwise, facing such a terrifying opponent, the mere thought made his scalp tingle.

Keen observers already noticed.

The Blade Demon's sword hilt at his waist was nearly imperceptible, reduced to the size of a thumb; it no longer resembled a proper hilt but more like a small piece of iron with nothing attached yet firmly affixed to his waist.

Sun Chasing Sword King exclaimed:

"He... has become stronger compared to when we fought, truly unbelievable. He might only need one opportunity to reach the Blade Path Ultimate Realm."

He understood.

The Blade Demon took a path of forgetting the blade through battle, using each fierce battle to completely forget his blade path and thereby attain the Ultimate Realm where anything could become a blade.

While it seemed easy, it actually required an extremely deep foundation. Although the Blade Demon had made great strides after each battle, the fundamental reason was not the battles but the Blade Demon himself. It wasn't that easy for others to emulate.

Many gazes focused on the Blade Demon.

But the Blade Demon seemed unaware.

After arriving at the foot of True Martial Mountain, his eyes never left the sword monument.

Compared to three months prior.

His strength had further improved, but the sword monument remained as profound as ever. In his heart, he had a certain suspicion, yet he couldn't be sure. Only the weight in his dark pupils seemed almost tangible.

Step by step, he walked slowly, tugging at everyone's heartstrings.

Until he stood a hundred yards from the True Martial Sword monument.

"Senior Blade Demon..." Luo Wentian spoke, but promptly stopped, realizing the Blade Demon had entered a mystical state.

The True Martial Sect disciples clenched their fists secretly, feeling a bit tense.

One's fame, like the shadow cast by a tree.

Since the Blade Demon's emergence, he had stirred up storms; every day, they had heard countless stories about him. And now, the Blade Demon had finally arrived, about to challenge their True Martial Sect's strongest foundation, True Man Tianjian!

Zhuang Chen, Li Ling, and Ning Qi mingled within the crowd. Zhuang Chen and Li Ling's faces flushed red with excitement.

Especially Zhuang Chen, who had just been talking with Ning Qi about True Man Tianjian and the Blade Demon; before finishing his words, the Blade Demon had arrived, prompting him to hastily drag Ning Qi here to watch.

Ning Qi looked at the Blade Demon from afar by the sword monument, his expression calm with only a slight raise of his brow.

He could see.

Compared to a few months ago, the Blade Demon had grown stronger, but he was still a step from the Blade Path Ultimate Realm, perhaps only lacking that one opportunity.

"Is he really aiming to use the Blade Path Ultimate Realm to break into the Martial Saint Realm?" Ning Qi's eyes flashed, a thought arose.

Although he believed breaking into the Martial Saint Realm through the Blade Path Ultimate Realm might not be so straightforward, perhaps observing it could provide some inspiration.

Chapter 245: Celestial Sword Imprisons Demon Blade_2

Amidst the attention of the crowd.

The Blade Demon fell silent before the True Martial Sword Monument.

"What is the Blade Demon doing? Why hasn't he challenged yet?"

Many people murmured in their hearts.

However, figures like the Sun Chasing Sword King were unsure, sensing something, with shock gradually rising deep in their eyes.

Amid the discussions.

A powerful, demonic blade intent surged from the Blade Demon into the sky, stirring the wind and clouds. Though the blade intent enveloped the sword monument, appearing to overshadow mountains and rivers, it gave an illusion of always being a notch below the sword monument.

This time.

Even those lower in cultivation vaguely sensed something amiss.

The Vast Sea Sword Sect individuals gaped in disbelief:

"Has True Man Tianjian truly taken that step?"

He hadn't left Vast Sea Pearl Island for a long time and wouldn't have come to True Martial Mountain if not for the Blade Demon's challenge. He knew of True Man Tianjian by name, but this was the first time he felt it so directly.

The hearts of the crowd trembled.

The Blade Demon stood mid-air, his raging winds fluttering wildly as he looked up and howled:

"True Man Tianjian, please enlighten me!"

From his pitch-black pupils, everyone could feel an incredible fighting spirit and passionate anticipation.

Everyone held their breath, already noticing the Blade Demon's changed attitude. In the previous dozen battles, he'd never spoken before the fight, but now he said 'please enlighten me,' which speaks volumes.

Everyone looked expectantly towards the rear of the True Martial Sect; everyone knew True Man Tianjian was in seclusion there.

Ning Qi's eyes flickered.

Though he could strike from afar at his current cultivation level without being noticed, defeating the Blade Demon wasn't difficult.

But he didn't want to be too ostentatious.

With a thought, a black-robed figure soared from the rear of True Martial Mountain.

After reaching the Celestial Human Realm, the Formless Gang Body secret technique had been further optimized, allowing him to easily exert 70 to 80 percent of Ning Qi's strength. The control range was further, and the avatar was more agile. However, at this moment, the expression of the black-robed elder remained as cold and emotionless as ever.

Many people saw the true appearance of True Man Tianjian for the first time and exclaimed in hushed voices.

At this moment.

The Blade Demon and True Man Tianjian stood facing each other; an invisible aura swept out like waves crashing against mountains. In a trance, it seemed as if a terrifying roaring sound reverberated through the void, with strands of sword intent floating beside True Man Tianjian. The unparalleled swordsmen all narrowed their eyes, discerning some subtle clues.

And the usually reticent Blade Demon seemed to become a 'chatterbox,' laughing uproariously into the sky:

"Good! I'm glad I left you for last; you haven't disappointed me!"

Yet True Man Tianjian remained as indifferent and silent as always.

Everyone pondered over the meaning of the Blade Demon's words.

They suddenly saw a terrifying blade intent rise skyward, gathering the power of heaven and earth, distorting into invisible vortexes within the void filled with demonic power—this was the Blade Demon's signature Triple Demon Blade.

"Human Demon Blade!" The icy words echoed through the void.

The Blade Demon merged with his weapon, becoming a demon blade.

A black demon blade slashed upward, as if to cleave the void, carrying an all-consuming demonic nature.

Many strong figures trembled in their hearts; many weren't even worthy of facing this blade from the Blade Demon. Mighty figures like Divine Wind Blade Venerate had fallen to this very blade, and now, the Blade Demon unleashed it directly, far stronger than during his battle with the Sun Chasing Sword King.

The Sun Chasing Sword King squinted his eyes; at that time, he had resisted this blade with all his might, with his Great Sun Sword Intent almost fully unleashed just to hold even.

He was eager to see how True Man Tianjian would respond.

Yet True Man Tianjian still stood with hands behind his back.

His expression remained unchanged as he raised a finger lightly; around him, infinite void teemed with sword intent. In an instant, a Celestial Sword coalesced, seemingly ordinary but horrifying upon closer inspection. Some saw its extreme sharpness, others saw an unending flow like rivers, and others still saw a tyrannical might like heavenly thunder...

A Celestial Sword manifesting myriad phenomena.

Ning Qi chuckled as True Man Tianjian raised his finger, and the Celestial Sword crashed down, as if a Saint from the Nine Heavens Immortal Palace was enraged, delivering divine retribution.

Reflecting in everyone's eyes were the shattering and disintegration of the demon blade surging upward into nothingness.

The Celestial Sword crashed down.

And dissipated without a trace three feet before the Blade Demon.

True Man Tianjian's indifferent words echoed:

"Bring out your strongest technique."

Everyone was astonished.

Just this one move made the winner and loser clear.

The Sun Chasing Sword King's emotions were tumultuous; even having prepared himself mentally, he was still shocked, speaking with difficulty:

"Sword Path Ultimate Realm, everything can be a sword..."

Not only him, but many unparalleled powerhouses on the Celestial Being List saw it too, waves of turmoil rising in their hearts. They hadn't expected True Man Tianjian to have truly reached such a realm, reportedly a condition for becoming a Martial Saint in bygone eras!

"Could it be True Man Tianjian has stepped into the Martial Saint Realm?" This thought alarmed everyone, but they quickly shook their heads.

Over two millennia, besides the Great Yan Martial Saint, no other Martial Saint had emerged, making it seem unlikely.

Everyone's thoughts were anything but calm.

Yet the Blade Demon felt unprecedented pressure.

This was the realm he longed for.

At this moment.

He gazed at the Black Robed Taoist with feverish intensity, seeing a sort of dawn.

He realized his previous probes were utterly unwarranted.

The Blade Demon took a deep breath, unleashing his blade intent without reservation; at this instant, the void around him, the ground beneath him, and even his own body, all had terrifying blade intents elevating.

Chapter 246: Celestial Sword Imprisons Demon Blade_3

"This blade, it embodies the unity of Heaven, Earth, and Man, called Silent Extinction. It has yet to reach perfection. Please, True Man, guide me!"

The Blade Demon's voice was low and deep, with a bewitching gleam flickering in his pupils, as if enduring immense pressure.

The Sun Chasing Sword King's body trembled, followed by a wry smile.

On that day, he already sensed the Blade Demon had a stronger slash. It turns out his feeling was correct. The Heavenly Demon Blade was not the strongest; the Silent Extinction Blade, formed by combining the Human, Demon, and Celestial Demon Blades, was the essence of the Blade Path pursued by the Blade Demon.

This was his Blade Path, and it was the slash upon which he relied to reach the Blade Path Ultimate Realm.

If this blade was perfected, it would signify the Blade Demon was about to reach the Ultimate Realm.

Under the terrifying pressure brought by the True Man Tianjian.

The Blade Demon was driven to madness, trying to forcibly elevate his Blade Path to reach the Ultimate Realm. This extremely terrifying slash made everyone's breath halt. They stood dumbfounded, as if witnessing an endless stream of Blade Intent surging from all directions of heaven and earth, eventually merging into one with the Blade Demon himself. Were it not for a very slight imperfection, this was practically an unparalleled slash at the Ultimate Realm.

The crowd saw.

True Man Tianjian's expression seemed to change slightly, no longer indifferent; his once cold pupils now readied themselves like a formation awaiting battle.

Ning Qi looked on indifferently.

He nodded silently.

As he observed the Blade Demon's Blade Path, he felt some admiration. This person was indeed exceptionally talented. The path uniting Heaven, Earth, and Man was orthodox, and after merging with the Blade Intent of the Demon Blade, it became terrifyingly lethal. In some sense, this slash was infinitely close to the Ultimate Realm of Blade Intent and Sword Intent.

This gave him quite a bit of insight.

This Silent Extinction Slash could allow the Blade Demon to stand on equal footing with any strong opponent in the Celestial Human Realm, but unfortunately, he faced Ning Qi.

In the True Martial City, an old blind man raised his head, an expression of amazement clear on his face:

"What a remarkable young one, such a pity, such a pity. If he had appeared thousands of years earlier, he would have been a formidable general."

He then cast his 'gaze' upon True Man Tianjian, always feeling a vaguely familiar aura, though it wasn't any old friend he knew.

He continued to 'watch'.

The Blade Demon's Silent Extinction Slash was complete.

The pitch-black Demon Blade was imbued with nutrients drawn from the unity of heaven, earth, and man, its power overwhelming.

True Man Tianjian moved.

His body shook.

Vast and majestic Sword Intent manifested around him. This time, all things in heaven and earth—the mountains, rivers, and even the flowers and grass atop True Martial Mountain—emanated Sword Intent. The Sun Chasing Sword King had once used this move, but compared to True Man Tianjian, it was like a child playing a minor role.

Sun Chasing Sword King watched in awe, as if in worship; this was the realm of his dreams, one he couldn't reach even after 160 years of arduous cultivation.

The mighty Sword Intent soared toward the azure sky.

One after another, celestial swords formed around True Man Tianjian.

One turned into three, three into nine, nine into one hundred and eight, matching precisely the number of Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends.

One hundred and eight celestial swords stretched across the sky, like one hundred and eight blazing suns, blindingly brilliant. Many would never forget this scene for a lifetime. Ever since, everyone thought True Man Tianjian specialized in the aggressively destructive Celestial Sword Intent.

But now, what everyone saw was different.

In those one hundred and eight celestial swords, they saw diverse Sword Intents, too numerous to count. The Sun Chasing Sword King even seemed to see his own Great Sun Sword Intent, making him tremble in awe, as did the others.

True Man Tianjian stood with his hands behind his back, then pointed forward.

The myriad celestial swords gathered into the Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array, descending together.

The Blade Demon's eyes were filled with shock.

Faced with such a celestial sword array, the terrifying Silent Extinction Slash seemed minuscule, yet he was unyielding, with wild hair flailing, brandishing the demon blade in counterattack. Under immense pressure, he advanced further, and the hilt at his waist nearly vanished into intangibility.

In an instant.

Heaven and earth lost color.

Everyone stood dazed, watching this spectacle. The Demon Blade, like a trapped dragon, was imprisoned at the center of the celestial sword array, continuously worn down. In that confined space, Sword Intent and Blade Intent exploded as if about to obliterate the void. Some saw that the very void had indeed twisted ever so slightly; it wasn't an exaggeration but a factual slight distortion!

Those who understood the worth of this clutched their chests, drawing cold air with awe.

But it was noticeable.

The Demon Blade was continuously dissipating; no matter how much the Blade Demon unleashed, it was to no avail. Though a few celestial swords were shattered, more celestial swords kept erupting with power, aiming to suppress the Blade Demon.

"Is the Blade Demon... going to be defeated?"

This thought surfaced in everyone's hearts, both excited and melancholy.

All along, the Blade Demon had never tasted defeat. Almost no one had ever caused him much trouble, but now, he was about to be defeated by True Man Tianjian; the reputation he carved with blood was to serve someone else in the end.

The swordsmen were jubilant beyond words.

The disciples of the True Martial Sect had eyes burning with fervent light.

With a resounding crash.

A crisp sound faintly echoed, and the Demon Blade finally shattered inch by inch, crumbling into pieces.

The Blade Demon had truly been vanquished!

Gazes filled with shock were cast upon the black-robed Taoist, many having once considered this outcome, but never expecting True Man Tianjian to win so decisively. Though it wasn't a sweep, it was indisputably a great victory.

Chapter 247: Thank you, True Man, for helping me

Everyone was shocked and looked towards the horizon.

This scene was different from what most people had imagined. Even the loyal followers of True Man Tianjian likely hadn't expected such a situation, after all, Blade Demon had been extremely dominant all along, undefeated, not even Sun Chasing Sword King could withstand him.

Many people had already predicted that Blade Demon was just a step away from the Blade Path Ultimate Realm, such a figure would be considered as Martial Saint reserve if placed thousands of years ago.

But now.

He was mercilessly defeated by True Man Tianjian.

"Is the gap between Ultimate Realm and beneath it truly so vast?" someone sighed.

They could naturally see that True Man Tianjian had already ascended to the Sword Path Ultimate Realm, which was the fundamental reason he could suppress Blade Demon.

At this moment.

The celestial swords floated silently in the void, though not emitting any glow, yet they seemed dazzling and carried the might to extinguish the Demon Blade, making people unwilling to gaze directly.

However.

The next moment, an even greater uproar arose.

Everyone anxiously looked towards the sky, just because, after the Demon Blade shattered, the remaining celestial swords didn't lose their momentum, seemingly intending to slay Blade Demon in one fell swoop!

"What did Blade Demon do to offend True Man Tianjian, to warrant annihilation?!" Everyone was horrified.

Generally speaking.

Such challenges rarely result in fatal blows, it's an unwritten rule of the Martial Realm.

Blade Demon, along his path, only killed the arrogant Heart Blade Old Man, others were merely severely injured.

People were perplexed.

But the remaining celestial swords had already gathered to form a true Sword Cage, with unparalleled Sword Intent crisscrossing, imprisoning Blade Demon within.

A blind old man showed a look of astonishment.

His originally departing footsteps paused, and he praised:

"Such magnanimity, no wonder he established the True Martial Sword Monument."

"Just unsure whether he can reach that point..."

But then, he slowly shook his head:

"Ascending to Sword Path Ultimate Realm yet not attempting, ultimately lacks a certain aggressive courage, alas..."

The blind old man looked up at the sky, unknown to what he was thinking.

Amidst the shock of others, they heard True Man Tianjian speak calmly:

"If not enlightened now, then when?"

Blade Demon's body trembled, and suddenly he understood, within his pitch-black pupils surfaced a trace of gratitude, in the spotlight of all, he unexpectedly gave up resistance, and then closed his eyes, sitting cross-legged in the cage of surging Sword Intent.

In an instant.

The Sword Cage constructed by celestial swords emitted a startling fluctuation, one strand of Sword Intent from every direction drew inwards, from the sun, moon, mountains, rivers, water, stones, grass

and trees, all were influenced, and not only that, there was no offensive force, rather a unique Dao rhythm emanated.

Sun Chasing Sword King and others were dumbfounded, then their eyes flashed with intense envy.

They had already seen the intention of True Man Tianjian.

This was not to kill Blade Demon, but to help him achieve enlightenment.

They stared unblinkingly, also desperately perceiving the Intent Realm rhythm emitted by the Sword Cage.

Ning Qi watched silently.

His intention to help Blade Demon was not out of sudden goodwill, one is because Blade Demon, as an obsessive blademan, such a person is worth befriending, and will only have benefits without drawbacks for him, secondly, he wanted to see if Blade Demon could break through to Martial Saint after reaching the Blade Path Ultimate Realm, in some respect, Blade Demon served as a 'guinea pig.'

Of course.

Mainly Blade Demon was already very close to the Ultimate Realm, even without Ning Qi's help, he'd just need to spend a bit more time, however, he was defeated by Ning Qi this time and might take longer.

Within the Sword Cage.

Invisible Sword Intent pierced through Blade Demon's body, with each pass, his face paled a bit more, and he let out muffled groans. Given Blade Demon's temperament as an unparalleled strong figure, one can imagine the pain within.

This was for Blade Demon to truly feel this kind of Ultimate Realm Sword Intent, thereby understanding by analogy.

If Ning Qi used Ultimate Realm Blade Intent, the effects would be better, but in full view, if he did so, it would certainly cause countless astonishment; now it was just right.

The crowd saw Blade Demon as if undergoing torture, his forehead sweating profusely, but none doubted, they already knew True Man Tianjian was helping Blade Demon with enlightenment, especially Divine Wind Blade Venerate and others, their hearts full of envy, wishing to replace Blade Demon themselves, even if the process was tenfold more painful, they'd willingly endure.

Time flowed slowly.

It should have been heavy snow time, yet the sun blazed fiercely, even the heavenly phenomena were impacted by the battle of two unparalleled strongmen.

Unknown how much time had passed.

A thunderous roar tore through the clouds, Blade Demon rose tall within the Sword Cage, he shouted to the sky, wild hair swaying, black eyes filled with demonic intensity, as if vying with the heavens for height, observant ones found, Blade Demon's waist knife hilt had completely vanished.

In that instant.

The Sword Cage echoed, each celestial sword emitted Sword Intent, piercing Blade Demon's body in unison.

Blade Demon spat blood.

Yet his momentum did not diminish but increased, numerous Blade Intent gathered from all directions, forming a gigantic Demon Blade, in a flash, forcefully slicing through the Sword Cage.

Everyone was stunned.

"Blade Demon... has entered the Blade Path Ultimate Realm!"

Eyes filled with both envy and awe.

But everyone knew, the most terrifying was still that aloof Black Robed Taoist, who lightly waved his hand, and the celestial swords vanished into invisibility.

The crowd looked.

Seeing Blade Demon bowing deeply, solemnly saluting True Man Tianjian:

Chapter 248: Thank You True Man for Helping Me_2

"Thank you, True Man, for helping me achieve enlightenment!"

True Man Tianjian did not dodge or evade, calmly accepting this bow.

The Black Robed Taoist spoke indifferently:

"It is your own achievement."

Everyone was even more amazed.

The Blade Demon achieved enlightenment, not only not diminishing True Man Tianjian's prestige, but elevating it further. After today, everyone in the world would marvel not only at True Man Tianjian's unparalleled prowess but also at his matchless magnanimity.

They knew, by now, this battle had truly come to an end.

The Blade Demon's act of bowing signified surrender.

Of course, they also didn't think that even after breaking the realm, the Blade Demon would be a match for True Man Tianjian. After all, from the current situation, it seemed True Man Tianjian had perhaps been at the Sword Path Ultimate Realm for a long time, showing a deeper foundation than the Blade Demon.

At this moment, the Blade Demon bowed again:

"I have another matter to request True Man's assistance with."

Ning Qi's eyes flashed, the Black Robed Taoist spoke calmly:

"Speak."

"With True Man's help, I've reached the Blade Path Ultimate Realm and am now poised to break through to the Martial Saint Realm. I request True Man to guard me!"

"Good."

The two exchanged words.

Everyone was dumbfounded, then burst into excitement.

No one expected such an event to unfold after the battle had concluded.

The Blade Demon was seeking to seize victory and enter the Martial Saint Realm!

No one could believe what they had heard. In the past two thousand years, besides the Great Yan Martial Saint, no other Martial Saints were born, and now, were they about to witness the birth of a Martial Saint?

Even the Sun Chasing Sword King and others couldn't help but feel their hearts race, staring in a daze.

The Martial Saint is the realm all Martial Artists aspire to reach.

The Blade Demon took a deep breath, then sat cross-legged in the void.

Choosing to break through now, firstly because this battle fully stimulated his potential. Although his Essence, Qi, and Spirit were not at their peak, the determination and resilience wouldn't find a better opportunity. Secondly, he likely understood the meaning of True Man Tianjian aiding his enlightenment, wanting to return the favor.

True Man Tianjian had been at the Ultimate Realm for so long, yet hadn't stepped into the Martial Saint Realm, possibly out of some concern, which the Blade Demon intended to reciprocate with his own breakthrough experience.

The Blade Demon never owed anyone in his life.

With a thought, he wielded his Blade Intent, slicing away all distracting thoughts from his heart.

Ning Qi watched intently, with unprecedented focus.

It could be said.

This was his closest encounter with the Martial Saint Realm.

Since the Blade Demon chose to break through, it was surely with due preparation.

Under his watchful gaze, the Blade Demon gradually closed his eyes, emitting an astonishing aura, and in an instant, a dense Power of Heaven and Earth converged, clearly sensed by many Celestial Human Realm experts.

Then.

The Blade Demon's body blossomed with vibrant vitality, a peculiar fragrance spread about, causing some to involuntarily swallow, then cover their mouths in shock.

"This signifies the pinnacle of human essence, cultivation of the Tao Fruit, culminating in the Flower of Essence Perfection."

Thoughts settled in Ning Qi's mind.

A peculiar Immortal Flower bloomed on the Blade Demon's body, layer upon layer, though invisible and formless, astonishingly perceptible to all present. As the Flower of Essence condensed, the previously surging Power of Heaven and Earth seemed to undergo some change.

The Blade Demon pressed forward resolutely.

The Gang Essence within surged with full force, while his Divine Intent exploded fervently.

In an instant.

Two more Immortal Flowers condensed.

Flower of Qi!

Divine Flower!

The Three Flowers Perfection, precisely that.

No one was surprised. Not just the Blade Demon; nearly all unparalleled experts on the Celestial Being List's top ten were masters of Three Flowers Perfection. At this moment, they watched most intently, fearing to miss any detail, as they too would eventually tread this path.

At this moment.

The Three Flowers condensed, the world turned tumultuous, and even though some lesser cultivators didn't know what was happening, instinctive fear had already made their bodies tremble.

The gaze of the unparalleled experts burned even hotter.

They saw.

The Three Flowers had already gathered at the top, starting some wonderful metamorphosis.

"The Three Flowers Gather at the Top, and then?" one unparalleled expert after another felt insatiable curiosity.

And the Blade Demon seemed to hear their cry.

A humming sound rang out as the domineering Demon Blade Intent surged skyward from his spine. Having just ascended the Blade Path Ultimate Realm, it was already in play, the method was one the Blade Demon had stumbled upon through lifelong dedication.

He conjured the Heaven, Earth, and Human Three Demon Blades, which in some ways mirrored the Heaven, Earth, and Human Three Flowers.

Now the Demon Blade Intent spanned the Three Flowers, and then commanded them.

Ning Qi felt a jolt of excitement.

As he observed the Blade Demon's breakthrough, he continually cross-referenced with the Dharma recorded on the silver pages left by Wu Jianghe in his mind, sparking continuous insight. He gained a completely new understanding of the Martial Saint Realm.

A wondrous transformation occurred in an instant; what had merely been vaguely connected—the Three Flowers of Essence, Qi, and Spirit—now seemed to form a unified whole. The Three Flowers Gathered at the Top, resembling a peculiar 'funnel,' a 'vortex.'

Then, that originally surging Power of Heaven and Earth appeared to find an outlet.

Through the 'Three-Flower Funnel,' it converged toward the Blade Demon's body!

Everyone was astonished.

This was completely different from the Celestial Human Realm's resonance with the Power of Heaven and Earth, it seemed to forge oneself as a furnace, refining the Power of Heaven and Earth!

The Power of Heaven and Earth fully poured into the Blade Demon's body, which began to tremble violently, his face flushed red, alternating between shades of green and white, his body expanded and then contracted repeatedly, causing everyone watching to sweat nervously.

But as time passed.

The Blade Demon's body gradually returned to tranquility, although there was still an incessant influx of the Power of Heaven and Earth.

Chapter 249: Thank You True Man for Helping Me_3

Sun Chasing Sword King and others felt parched, their minds a bit dizzy:

"Is this... success?"

Had they actually witnessed the birth of a Martial Saint?

But Ning Qi's expression remained as solemn as ever.

He gazed intently at the Blade Demon, as if seeing through the flesh to the situation within. He 'saw' that, although the Blade Demon forcibly absorbed the Power of Heaven and Earth into his body, intending to fuse it with Ultimate Realm Blade Intent and Perfect Three Flowers, it was still unsuccessful.

Looking at the seemingly calm flesh, the situation was actually perilous, with the fundamental issue unresolved and the form of the Power of Heaven and Earth unchanged.

Ning Qi sighed inwardly.

He realized that the Blade Demon was going to fail, for he was nearing the limit. Regardless of knowing that the path to Martial Saint was not so easy, seeing this result right in front of him still gave him a sense of regret.

"Not good." He whispered to himself.

True Man Tianjian acted immediately.

The Celestial Sword swept across the sky, aiming towards the Blade Demon. At this critical moment in his breakthrough, no ordinary person could intervene without backlash, but since Ning Qi had promised to guard the Blade Demon, he would not let him perish in front of his eyes.

Among those present, he alone had the ability to interfere.

No one understood the situation, some were even secretly shocked at why True Man Tianjian acted at such a critical moment. Was he envious of the Blade Demon's impending success?

But the might of the Celestial Sword was unstoppable.

One slash severed the connection between the Demon Blade and the Three Flowers. The Blade Demon, whose body had been gradually calming, suddenly opened his eyes. Only then did everyone realize that his pitch-black pupils had eerily turned blood red.

Using the power of the Celestial Sword, the Blade Demon howled at the sky, and dreadful bloody holes burst open on his body. The Power of Heaven and Earth he had absorbed went out of control, leaving him in critical danger. Yet, his expression remained unchanged as he sliced off his left arm at the root with his right hand!

Blood mist spurted, and the severed arm transformed into a terrifying Demon Blade, with the Power of Heaven and Earth pouring out along with it.

He slashed towards the sky, the strike landing far off in the mountains.

A thunderous rumble was heard.

The mountain range crumbled, and a horrifying slash mark appeared before everyone, causing them all to gasp in shock. Though both had been restrained, it was now clear that the Blade Demon's power in one slash was terrifying.

Their expressions were complex.

At this moment, they understood that True Man Tianjian wasn't taking advantage of a crisis, but was actually saving the Blade Demon. Had he not timely severed the connection, the Blade Demon might have died in the Breaking Realm, never getting the chance for heroic sacrifice afterward.

Clearly.

The Blade Demon had failed.

Unable to witness the birth of a legend, everyone felt deep regret, intertwined with a sense of confusion.

If even such an unparalleled Blademan in the Blade Path Ultimate Realm as the Blade Demon could not step into the Martial Saint Realm, who else could succeed? Could the path truly be blocked?

Someone couldn't help but look at the Black Robed Taoist, contemplating:

"Can True Man Tianjian succeed? It's likely extremely difficult... Otherwise, having reached the Sword Path Ultimate Realm for so long, he might have already stepped into the Martial Saint Realm..."

The blind old man's face was filled with regret.

"Brilliant beyond compare, brilliant beyond compare, to reach half a step on his own, so pathetic and lamentable..."

His expression turned slightly dim, and he quietly departed, as he'd come only to see if True Man Tianjian was his old friend. Knowing he wasn't, he cared for nothing more.

True Man Tianjian might have been more monstrous than the Blade Demon, but he too was born in the wrong era.

Whether the Blade Demon or True Man Tianjian, they were of considerable age, and barring any accidents, it would be hard for them to achieve much more.

True Martial Mountain fell silent.

The Blade Demon spat blood towards the sky, his black pupils gazing at the heavens with an apparent reluctance, seeming to question the heavens as to why the path was cut off.

The immense confusion and sorrow deeply resonated with everyone present, as if they could empathize with it.

Everyone roughly understood the Blade Demon's thoughts.

After centuries of arduous cultivation, even seizing an opportunity to enter the Blade Path Ultimate Realm could not lead him to the Martial Saint Realm. The remaining lifespan seemed void of hope, a notion more painful than death for such a pure Martial Artist and Blademan.

If not for his steadfast Martial Path will, he might have chosen to perish in the Breaking Realm.

"Thank you, True Man, for your intervention. This kindness the Blade Demon will remember." The Blade Demon's voice was hoarse.

His expression was complex.

He wanted to ask where True Man Tianjian had reached, but ultimately he refrained.

In the watchful eyes of the world.

The Blade Demon, disheveled and barefoot, walked into the mountains, soon disappearing from sight. Everyone was silent, as if seeing a hero's downfall.

The Black Robed Taoist said nothing and then landed on True Martial's rear mountain.

This earth-shattering battle finally concluded.

Everyone exhaled deeply, realizing their backs were soaked. The dramatic twists and turns had truly opened their eyes.

First, the Blade Demon was defeated by True Man Tianjian, who displayed Sword Path Ultimate Realm, leaving everyone in awe. Later, True Man Tianjian assisted the Blade Demon to reach the Blade Path Ultimate Realm, envied by countless people. Although the Blade Demon's attempt to reach the Martial Saint Realm ultimately failed, what was witnessed today was enough for everyone to savor for a lifetime.

It could already be foreseen.

Once the outcome of this battle spread across the land, it would cause a tremendous upheaval.

Everyone looked at the True Martial Sword Monument, their gazes hotter than ever. After True Man Tianjian showcased such Sword Path Ultimate Realm, even the Sun Chasing Sword King couldn't help but crave the monument. It could be foreseen that more unparalleled experts would come to comprehend and enhance Ning Qi's Sword Dao.

Ning Qi couldn't help but smile slightly, seeing it as a virtuous cycle.

However.

The greatest gain for him from this battle was observing the Blade Demon's Breaking Realm.

He watched the direction the Blade Demon disappeared, his eyes flashing as a certain idea stirred in his mind.

Chapter 250: Ten-Year Agreement, Shocking the World

At this moment, True Martial Mountain was already in an uproar.

With the departure of True Man Tianjian, everyone finally began to unleash the excitement that had been suppressed for so long. The disciples of the True Martial Sect were all fervent, as this battle truly made their blood boil.

The strength of the Blade Demon already left them with lingering fear, such a Demon Blade seemed beyond the mortal realm, but True Man Tianjian was even a step higher.

Especially the many new seedlings in the sect, each secretly resolved to become as strong as True Man Tianjian in the future.

Sometimes.

Martial path talent is not the most critical.

Once you have talent, perseverance and mindset are even more important. A good goal and role model can benefit one for a lifetime, providing strength when encountering difficulties, and now, True Man Tianjian has undoubtedly become such an existence in the hearts of many True Martial disciples.

Luo Wentian was full of emotions.

He exchanged a silent glance with his master, both seeing the astonishment in each other's eyes.

Only the two of them knew that the esteemed True Man Tianjian was merely eleven years old now.

Their trust in Ning Qi became even firmer.

Besides the many disciples of the True Martial Sect, those martial artists who had come from afar to watch the battle were also thrilled, feeling that this journey was worthwhile, not wasting the long wait they endured.

"It's truly unimaginable that True Man Tianjian is so powerful. We initially thought the True Martial Sect would benefit from the Prince's influence, but now it seems that one day, the Prince might benefit from the True Martial Sect." Chen Xing and Chen Yue sighed.

True Man Tianjian repeatedly refreshed their understanding, and they were genuinely happy that their Crown Prince could find such a good sect.

Sun Chasing Sword King whispered to a few disciples of the Sunset Sword Sect around him:

"You go back first. I will stay in True Martial City for a while."

After witnessing such unparalleled swordsmanship from True Man Tianjian with his own eyes, he was eager to stay and contemplate the Sword Stele for a while.

The people of the Sunset Sword Sect looked concerned:

"Ancestor, this..."

Sun Chasing Sword King frowned and scolded:

"What? Do I not even have the freedom to act?"

Everyone quickly responded in fear:

"Ancestor, we dare not, it's just... we also want to stay here a while longer..."

Sun Chasing Sword King was astonished, then smiled and waved his hand.

Such scenes could be seen everywhere.

Many unparalleled powerhouses, perhaps disguised or openly, mostly intended to stay near True Martial City for a while. Whether it was the True Martial Sword Stele or the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths, they were all about to witness a climactic surge.

Everyone sighed:

"Upon arriving, who could have expected True Man Tianjian to win so decisively, the strength of the Blade Demon was without any fluff, but True Man Tianjian was simply stronger. Perhaps he's already the strongest below the Martial Saint, with such strength, even the Wind-listening Old Man at the top of the Celestial Being List might not be his match."

"Though the Blade Demon was defeated, it's an honorable defeat. Although he failed to break through to the Martial Saint Realm, he gave those who follow a direction. Such existence has been extremely rare for so long."

"I wonder if after being defeated by True Man Tianjian this time, the Blade Demon will disappear. That would indeed be a tremendous loss to the Martial Realm."

Amid the lively discussions.

Ning Qi was calm and composed, yet he also felt it would be a pity if the Blade Demon, like twenty years ago, vanished from the scene. His eyes flickered as he made a decision.

...

A disheveled old man walked barefoot through the mountains and forests.

The Blade Demon left True Martial Mountain, wandering aimlessly, looking up at the sky, with a trace of confusion in his pitch-black pupils.

Failing to break through, with only about a hundred years of life left, where to go next?

For a moment, he lost his aim.

Having reached the Ultimate Realm in the Blade Path, further progress would require a similarly long accumulation of time. Its difficulty was no less than reaching the Martial Saint Realm.

With only a hundred years remaining, he found himself at a loss as to what to do.

Or rather, whatever he did seemed to lose its meaning.

Because success seemed destined to be out of reach.

Even with the Blade Demon's mindset, he felt despair, as this failed breakthrough made him doubt and question his martial path.

"Perhaps... I should have perished in the previous breakthrough, what use is this broken body?" the Blade Demon muttered, stopping in his tracks.

A detached voice rang out:

"If so, would you be content?"

The Blade Demon's body trembled, and he turned around. A Black Robed Taoist had appeared behind him at some unknown time. He hoarsely asked:

"What guidance does the True Man have?"

This 'True Man Tianjian' was not using the Formless Gang Body, but rather Ning Qi in disguise and transformation.

Ning Qi looked at the somewhat despondent Blade Demon, shaking his head in disappointment:

"If your mindset is only this, I truly shouldn't have just saved you."

The Blade Demon's pupils contracted, and he remained silent.

Ning Qi stood with his hands behind his back, gazing at the sky, his words indifferent yet filled with an incomprehensible domineering aura:

"Is a hundred years a short time?"

He genuinely thought so, as since he embarked on the martial path, it had merely been eleven years. He could hardly imagine what heights he could reach if given a hundred years.

The Blade Demon was stunned.

It was as if thunder exploded in his mind.

Why not continue fighting for a path in those hundred years?

He looked back on his life, beginning with sword training, advancing boldly, then mastering both sword and blade, beyond the reach of ordinary people. Later, he abandoned the sword for the blade, focusing solely on the blade, reaching the Transformation Realm in the Blade Path. Along this journey, he encountered numerous difficulties, but when had he ever given up?