

Cultivating 251

Chapter 251: Ten-Year Agreement, Shocking the World_2

But why, suddenly, did he have thoughts of giving up the Martial Path and even his life because of his failure in Breaking Realm?

In an instant, he broke into a cold sweat and suddenly woke up.

He realized that the immense fear he felt during the Breaking Realm had given rise to a Heart Demon.

If not for True Man Tianjian's sudden appearance to awaken him, he might have already fallen into confusion and predicament, which he did not wish for.

Blade Demon bowed deeply:

"Thank you, True Man, for waking me up. I owe you another favor."

First, saving his life, and then helping him overcome the Heart Demon, this kindness was not small.

He did not say anything like repaying the favor with his life in the future, only remembering this indebtedness in his heart.

Ning Qi, with his back to Blade Demon:

"How about a deal?"

Blade Demon was taken aback, then solemnly said:

"Please speak, True Man."

Ning Qi said calmly:

"You help guard True Martial Mountain for ten years, and within those ten years, I will give you a Martial Saint Technique."

This was precisely Ning Qi's plan to find Blade Demon, as the situation in True Martial Sect was not very safe now. With the hidden threats from the Demon Sect and the Southern Border, he didn't even dare to venture too far away. If Blade Demon, such a strong presence, could hold the fort, he could sometimes be at ease to go down the mountain for a while.

Besides,

If Blade Demon was there, perhaps they could exchange insights on the path to Martial Saint, which could provide him with some inspiration.

Blade Demon's pupils contracted sharply, looking incredulously at the back of the Black Robed Taoist:

"Is True Man so confident?"

It wasn't that he had any doubts about the deal's content. After receiving two great favors from True Man Tianjian, even without any return, guarding True Martial Mountain for ten or twenty years wasn't a big problem, as it wouldn't hinder his comprehension of the Blade Path. What shocked him was Ning Qi's promise to give him a Martial Saint Technique within ten years.

Having just experienced the failure of Breaking Realm, he deeply knew how difficult a task this was.

Ning Qi smiled faintly.

He said nothing, just pointed a finger, and instantly, a surge of Demon Blade Intent erupted from him, the terrifying demonic aura enough to distort the void. Just as the Blade Intent was about to strike Blade Demon, it dissipated instantly, but Blade Demon stood frozen, as if turned to stone.

How could he not recognize this Blade Intent?

"You... you... how could you..."

He was at a loss for words, even more shocked than when he was defeated by Ning Qi before. This was simply unfathomable; his Blade Intent had been learned by someone else, and the level was not lower than his own.

The scene before him nearly overturned his world view.

Ning Qi turned around, only smiling without speaking.

Blade Demon gradually came back to his senses, but the shock and astonishment in his eyes grew even stronger. He roughly knew by now, True Man Tianjian had learned his Blade Intent during their duel, but this... was simply against the natural order!

How could there be such a monstrous person in the world?

At this moment, the Black Robed Taoist before him was filled with unprecedented mystery.

And recalling Ning Qi's promise earlier, his heartbeat inevitably quickened, a sense of hope surged in his heart, perhaps... there really was hope to obtain a Martial Saint Technique? Even if not in ten years, then twenty, thirty, or even hundred years, there was always hope.

Blade Demon took a deep breath, asking his inner doubt:

"Compared to the True Man, I am far behind. Why would the True Man need me to guard True Martial Mountain?"

Ning Qi said:

"I won't hide it from you. True Martial Sect has offended the Demon Sect and the Southern Border. Perhaps in two or three years, a Martial Saint will be born. Though achieved with external help, they might use True Martial Sect as a sacrificial flag. Would you be willing?"

Unexpectedly.

After hearing this, Blade Demon had no more hesitation.

His dark pupils lit up, laughing heartily:

"To have a chance to fight with a Martial Saint, how could I refuse? Since the True Man trusts me, I will not betray that trust. When you enter the Martial Saint Realm in the future, please do not hesitate to teach me."

Ning Qi laughed.

"Of course."

He felt much more relaxed, realizing he hadn't misjudged Blade Demon.

"In normal times, you can reside in the Forbidden Land at the back of True Martial Mountain. Most of the time, your intervention will not be needed. If I'm not around and True Martial Sect faces an unsolvable crisis, then I'll trouble you for help."

"Alright."

With that.

Ning Qi then leisurely departed.

There was no binding agreement between them, but after exchanging blows, they both understood. In a sense, they were the same kind of people, with a steadfast pursuit of the path which would not be tarnished by breaking trust and causing a flaw in their Martial Path will.

Blade Demon watched the Black Robed Taoist's back, still in awe, with that Demon Blade Intent lingering before his eyes.

"Such a terrifying person truly overwhelms the ages."

Suddenly, he was startled, recalling True Man Tianjian's erection of the True Martial Sword Monument and the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths, and his eyes were filled with even greater astonishment.

"Perhaps... he truly can forge a path to Martial Saint..."

Blade Demon disappeared from the spot, the confusion in his heart completely gone.

He had found his target once again.

...

The ten-year agreement between Ning Qi and Blade Demon was known to no one.

Yet at this moment, the world was in upheaval. The details of the battle between True Man Tianjian and Blade Demon spread to the Thirteen States at an astonishing speed, even reaching lands beyond Great Yan.

Each top martial sect was shocked.

Some hidden families or sects even heard of this matter.

Indeed, the commotion caused by Blade Demon was too great.

The storm that lasted for more than half a year ended in this way, with the prestige Blade Demon accumulated ultimately serving to enhance True Man Tianjian's reputation. After this battle, True Man Tianjian's fame had reached the pinnacle of Great Yan.

Chapter 252: Ten-Year Agreement, Shocking the World_3

Countless swordsmen were ecstatic.

Since the emergence of the Blade Demon, who ranked third on the Celestial Being List, he had firmly surpassed the Sun Chasing Sword King ranked fifth, and now he was finally defeated by another unparalleled swordsman. Swordsmen, whether in peak combat strength or in numbers on the Celestial Being List, had comprehensively surpassed blademen.

Not to mention, True Man Tianjian also reached the legendary realm of the Sword Path Ultimate Realm, and the Blade Demon's achievement in the Blade Path Ultimate Realm was also thanks to the assistance of True Man Tianjian.

Thus.

The struggle between sword and blade ultimately ended with swordsmen as the victors, and thereafter, sword practitioners in the Martial Realm would grow in numbers, gradually overwhelming in momentum. Numerous swordsmen regarded True Man Tianjian as their idol, feeling proud as a result.

The Martial Realm was abuzz with discussions, with martial artists continuously flocking to True Martial Mountain to comprehend the True Martial Sword Tablet and the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths.

Unbeknownst to all.

The prestige of the True Martial Sect was also growing day by day.

As long as True Man Tianjian remained, the True Martial Sect was almost untouchable, transforming at an astonishing speed. Luo Wentian felt both pain and joy, busy to the point of exhaustion, unable to find time to cultivate, yet genuinely pleased with the changes in the True Martial Sect.

The True Martial Sect's reputation was now renowned, drawing many Celestial Being List powerhouses to comprehend the True Martial Sword Tablet and the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths. This was a benefit provided by the True Martial Sect, forming an effective deterrent against the Demon Sect.

Luo Wentian could clearly sense.

The prying eyes of the Demon Sect had significantly decreased, which calmed his mind considerably.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere in both the Demon Sect and the Southern Border was indeed somewhat oppressive.

Originally hoping that True Man Tianjian would lose to or even be severely injured by the Blade Demon, they were caught off guard when the Blade Demon was defeated instead, elevating True Man Tianjian's prestige even higher.

"Sword Path Ultimate Realm, this Senior Tianjian is indeed extraordinary."

Even as opponents, many in the Demon Sect couldn't help but sigh lightly.

They knew that even within the Demon Sect, there wouldn't be more than two people at such a level, possibly only one.

Many high-ranking members of the Demon Sect gathered together.

Lin Xueshuang had already gone to the Hundred Thousand Mountains, but the other two Vice Sect Leaders weren't in the main seat; in the center was a silver-haired elder, the Grand Elder of the Demon Sect.

"Grand Elder, should we inform the Sect Leader about this?" Xiang Tianxing suggested.

The silver-haired elder, after a moment of contemplation, shook his head and said:

"No need. The Sect Leader has been in seclusion for a Jiazi. Since we don't plan to act against the True Martial Sect for now, let him continue to contemplate the Martial Saint Technique."

Ghost Mask sighed:

"We don't even know the Sect Leader's current situation. He reached the Ultimate Realm long ago, and has the experience of many predecessors in the Holy Sect to refer to. If successful, and we harness the power of the Holy Pill to create a Martial Saint, we'd have two Martial Saints altogether. What would we fear of the Great Yan Martial Saint, and why join forces with those in the Southern Border?"

Everyone remained silent, originally holding some confidence, but the Blade Demon's failure to break through made their hearts sink.

This path is too arduous.

Without external assistance, it may not be achievable within an eight-hundred-year lifespan, and might take continuous exploration by generations. However, they estimated that Great Yan wouldn't give them such time. Over the years of entanglement with Great Yan, they too had paid a price.

The Grand Elder looked around at everyone, speaking solemnly:

"Regardless of whether the Sect Leader succeeds or not, the crafting of the Holy Pill must not halt. With such strength, Senior Tianjian cannot be underestimated. For now, don't concern yourselves with the True Martial Sect, and cease all minor actions. Focus all efforts on crafting the Holy Pill."

"Let me remind you once more, the matter of the Holy Pill is our Holy Sect's highest secret. Anyone who seeks to explore its secrets—"

"Dies!"

Upon these words, a powerful sense of oppression enveloped everyone, without exception, even the two Vice Sect Leaders trembled slightly, eyes filled with awe.

"Yes, Grand Elder!"

...

At the same time.

The situation in the Southern Border was virtually identical.

Each tribal high authority was discussing the matter.

The Southern Border Alliance is composed of numerous tribes; it's naturally not as centralized as the Demon Sect. The highest authority is the Clan Elders Council, with nine elders from the nine most powerful tribes, deciding significant matters by vote.

However, over the years, the Southern Border Alliance has grown increasingly cohesive, with silent assimilation taking place. Many tribes have already prioritized alliance interests over tribal ones, especially among the new generation of youths.

Lan Yiyi was reporting on the battle between True Man Tianjian and the Blade Demon:

"Elders, this is the situation. True Man Tianjian's current strength is unfathomable; across our alliance, only the Gu God might contend with him."

Mentioning the Gu God, her eyes flickered slightly with apprehension.

Many elders were astonished.

"That True Man Tianjian can hide so deeply, what terrifying depth of thought. Since enmity is set, he must be struck down in a single blow!" One rosy-cheeked elder stated coldly.

But another robust elder countered:

"The Sword Path Ultimate Realm, such formidable strength, are you suggesting the Gu God should personally intervene? Do you wish to derail our alliance's grand schemes?"

"Then should we let the True Martial Sect be so arrogant? The facts are clear; the Qing State stronghold was destroyed by the True Martial Sect. If this grudge isn't avenged, our alliance would look ridiculous to others!"

"Small impatience leads to spoiling great schemes; the greater cause is essential!"

The elders voiced their opinions, debating ceaselessly, with some being radical and others being conservative.

Lan Yiyi felt inexplicable annoyance, but she could not reasonably persuade anyone, and could only quietly bow her head.

Finally.

A decisive voice interrupted.

Elder Lanhe spoke:

"Since agreement cannot be reached, let's follow the old rule and vote. I believe our current priority is cultivating the Blood Emperor Gu; once a Martial Saint emerges, what's a mere True Man Tianjian? Why disturb the Gu God at this critical point."

Everyone remained silent.

Then they voted.

Ultimately, by a result of five to four, it was decided to temporarily shelve all actions against the True Martial Sect.

The initially outspoken, rosy-cheeked elder appeared sullen and displeased, glancing at Lanhe and then Lan Yiyi, he suddenly smiled:

"Saintess, how progresses your Secret Technique cultivation? Do not jeopardize the greater cause."

The previously silent Southern Border Saintess jolted, responding coldly:

"No need for Elder Red Flame's concern, Yiyi has been diligently cultivating."

After saying this, she bowed to the elders and withdrew.

Watching Lan Yiyi leave, the sullen-faced Lanhe erupted instantly:

"Red Flame, you dog, why involve Yiyi in our old geezers' matters? Have her sacrifices not been great enough?"

The Power of Heaven and Earth gathered around him, and he seemed ready to strike at the slightest provocation.

The other elders quickly restrained Lanhe, soothing him while all reproached Red Flame:

"Elder Red Flame, those words were indeed inappropriate, refrain from bringing it up again."

Red Flame snorted coldly without responding, feeling a slight twinge of regret. However, seeing Lanhe disgruntled brought him immense satisfaction.

Lan Yiyi walked out of the pavilion, hearing vague disputes from behind, yet maintained an expressionless demeanor, exuding a cold aura that warned others to stay away.

Someone approached cautiously, with a trembling voice:

"Saintess, someone from the Demon Sect is seeking you."

"Who?" Lan Yiyi's gaze was icy.

"He identified himself as Qin Yun."

Chapter 253: Cherish the One Before You, Discussing the Dao with the Blade Demon

In the mountain forest.

The young man with white hair and the Saintess in a black dress strolled side by side. A Wolf Race Exotic Beast suddenly rushed out but was easily killed by the young man with a single point of his finger. A breath of energy burst forth, frightening some peeping Exotic Beasts to hastily retreat.

Lan Yiyi glanced at Qin Yun and said:

"It seems Saint Heir Qin has been doing well in the Hundred Thousand Mountains, handling Exotic Beasts like a fish in water."

Qin Yun smiled bitterly:

"Saintess, please don't mock me. I'm no longer any kind of Saint Heir. Just call me Qin Yun. As for this visit, it's to thank the Saintess personally. If not for the Saintess's words, I'm afraid Qin Yun would still not be free."

His previous situation was indeed not good. Not only was he deprived of his candidacy for Saint Heir, but he was also placed under house arrest, unable to go out.

After he arrived in the Hundred Thousand Mountains, he worked hard to gain a foothold and learned the details of the high-level meeting between the Demon Sect and Southern Border. Only then did he find the opportunity to thank Lan Yiyi personally.

Lan Yiyi's eyes were deep, her words self-mocking:

"Just call me Yiyi. Saintess? Heh, if I had a choice, I wouldn't want to be this Saintess."

The forest was somewhat silent.

Qin Yun's gaze was momentarily stunned, then he softly asked:

"Yiyi, are you in a bad mood?"

Lan Yiyi remained silent. The two of them walked in silence, unknowingly reaching a mountain peak, where the rolling forest waves, the steaming clouds, and the snow in the far distance could be seen. The scenery was extremely beautiful.

Leaning on the mountain peak, Lan Yiyi's head slowly rested on Qin Yun's shoulder.

Qin Yun's heart trembled, a faint fragrance lingered at his nose. Before he could react, Lan Yiyi's soft voice spoke:

"Qin Yun, tell me... if a person's future is already predetermined, is it still necessary to work hard?"

Qin Yun roughly guessed something.

Although his time in the Hundred Thousand Mountains was not long, he had heard some rumors. The Southern Border Saintess was different from the Demon Sect Saint Heir. If the latter became the Saint Heir, they would be the future Sect Leader heir. But the former... it's said to be a sacrificial offering.

The current status and reverence are only for future use, just a castle in the air.

He took a deep breath and looked down at Lan Yiyi's profile, earnestly saying:

"There's no absolute destiny, everything is possible."

Lan Yiyi smiled self-mockingly:

"Everything is possible? I have clearly worked very hard, struggling to prove myself, striving to enhance my value, but ultimately I can't escape my fate. Qin Yun, do you know what my greatest regret in life is?"

"What is it?"

"I was born in a small tribe. That year, the alliance selected a Saintess, and I luckily became one of the thirty-six candidates allowed to go to the Divine Temple for the Divine Wash. Back then, I thought I had found hope to rise, to lead the tribe to survive staunchly."

"But my grandmother, who was also an elder of the tribe, was not even slightly happy when she found out. Instead, she was furious. I didn't understand and had a big argument with her. In the end, I sneaked in to receive the Divine Wash, and as I wished, I became the Southern Border Saintess. I wanted to prove to my grandmother that I was not wrong, that I could help the tribe."

"But unfortunately, I never saw her again. On the day I received the Divine Wash, the tribe was attacked by Exotic Beasts, and not a single survivor was left."

Lan Yiyi's delicate body trembled slightly, and Qin Yun felt a twinge of pity in his heart as he wrapped his right arm around Lan Yiyi's shoulder to comfort her.

Lan Yiyi continued:

"Later, I learned why my grandmother was so vehemently opposed. It turns out the so-called Saintess is so laughable."

The ridicule on her face deepened.

Over the years.

She has held a revered status in the Southern Border, rising from a small tribal branch to become a core figure of the Lan Clan, but ultimately she cannot change her own fate.

Qin Yun was at a loss for words.

He thought of himself, how a single careless choice back then led to a path of no return.

He softly said:

"Since it's already like this, giving up is futile. The only option is to give it your all. Perhaps your grandmother wouldn't want to see you resign to fate like this. Yiyi, I'll help you."

Lan Yiyi suddenly turned her head, and then smiled charmingly, though her delicate body unknowingly slid away, leaving Qin Yun somewhat lost. Lan Yiyi smiled and said:

"If you were the Demon Sect Saint Heir, maybe you could help me. But now... just take care of yourself."

Qin Yun's face immediately showed an awkward expression.

Lan Yiyi chuckled.

"I'm not teasing you anymore. I appreciate your goodwill, but this matter isn't something you can intervene in."

As she spoke, her voice became distant again:

"Qin Yun, some things shouldn't be regretted only after they are lost. Cherish those around you more."

Qin Yun was puzzled.

Lan Yiyi had already leaped into the sea of clouds, like an ethereal Immortal, and Qin Yun stood there in a daze, not chasing her, only left with Lan Yiyi's voice echoing from afar:

"Here's some good news for you: the Southern Border has decided to temporarily suspend all actions against the True Martial Sect."

Qin Yun was stunned on the spot, watching the beauty leave.

His thoughts were in turmoil, reflecting on many things, remembering his master, his senior brother, his third senior sister, and his ninth junior brother.

His eyes showed confusion, a bitter smile on his face.

...

The Demon Sect and Southern Border unexpectedly both decided to temporarily suspend actions against the True Martial Sect. This was outwardly manifested by the suddenly diminished peeping eyes around True Martial City. Of course, the conflict with the Imperial Court remained intense, and if they encountered True Martial disciples in the midst of it, they would still be ruthless.

They just wouldn't keep looking for weaknesses of the True Martial Sect to plan a sect extermination like before. True Man Tianjian's strength made them somewhat apprehensive, worried that pushing the old monster too far might cause him to abandon all concerns and create trouble.

Chapter 254: Cherish Those Before You, Discussing Philosophy with Blade Demon_2

Flame Martial Grand General's Mansion.

The Flame Martial Grand General received a secret message from Divine Feather Grand General. He sat in the pavilion by the lake silently, only sighing after a long pause.

"What a Blade Demon, what a True Man Tianjian." The old man murmured, his heart shaken, not even noticing when the fishing rod dipped.

The world knows that the Flame Martial Grand General ranks second on the Celestial Being List, but they don't know he is also a blademan.

Only a few veterans in the military are aware of this. Back then, the Flame Martial Grand General wielded the Overlord Blade with such might on the battlefield that rivers of blood flowed.

Now, hearing the Blade Demon has stepped into the Blade Path Ultimate Realm, his heart instinctively stirred with battle intent, for he has also entered this realm. Looking across the world, it's likely only the Blade Demon can match him in a full battle.

As for the True Man Tianjian.

"I fear even I am not his opponent."

The Flame Martial Grand General sighed.

Perhaps only the mysterious Wind-listening Old Man can fight the True Man Tianjian.

He repeatedly looked over the secret message, pondering its detailed descriptions. Divine Feather Grand General had been thorough in his report, making him feel as though he was watching the scene personally.

When he saw that the Blade Demon attempted to forcibly break through the realm using the Blade Path Ultimate Realm, he shook his head without a trace of surprise.

The Flame Martial Grand General's expression was somewhat wistful.

"In the past, people like us stepping into Martial Saint was not a difficult task, but now..."

"The Blade Demon may have no hope of breaking through in this life, but as for this True Man Tianjian... I wonder if he could create a miracle. Perhaps... it's worth consulting the Ancestor."

His gaze grew solemn as he contemplated.

Finally, he made up his mind and headed in the direction of the Imperial Palace.

As he proceeded, everyone he met bowed in greeting, their expressions fearful, but the Flame Martial Grand General merely waved his hand dismissively and casually spoke to a Chief Eunuch:

"Tell His Majesty I'm going to the Royal Ancestral Hall."

In the eyes of millions, the Great Yan Emperor is an unparalleled existence, but only a few know that the Great Yan Emperor is merely an executor; it is the Martial Saint who is truly supreme, and within the Imperial Court, there are also a few who can speak on equal terms with the Great Yan Emperor.

The Flame Martial Grand General walked deeper into the palace.

He finally paused before a heavily guarded ancestral hall, where a squad of powerful Forbidden Guards stood watch, though in reality, they only served to prevent minor troubles—the true guardian forces were much stronger.

The arrival of the Flame Martial Grand General startled many Forbidden Guards.

But he merely waved his hand.

"I am here to seek an audience with the Ancestor." This remark was not directed at the guards but to several hidden figures.

He leisurely stepped forward, finally stopping at the entrance to the Forbidden Land.

He didn't speak, but knelt heavily, respectfully prostrating himself.

He knew that if the Ancestor wished to see him, he would naturally appear.

Time passed slowly.

The sun set and the moon rose, repeating in such a cycle.

After three days.

The Flame Martial Grand General rose with a bitter expression. He shook his head, wanting to say something, but swallowed it all in the end, and then left dejectedly.

Several hidden gazes also showed a mixture of emotions:

"Even with Li Yanwu's rapport with the Martial Saint, he can't meet him. The Martial Saint wouldn't..."

"Do not dare speculate about matters of the Martial Saint. Remember your duties!"

"It's not unheard of in the last two thousand years, it's just that this time the Martial Saint has been dormant a bit longer, no need to worry."

Despite these thoughts.

The crowd's hearts were still complicated.

In recent years, Great Yan has been beset by internal and external troubles, leading some to gradually develop anxiety.

...

As time passed.

The outcome of the battle between True Man Tianjian and the Blade Demon spread wider and wider, becoming known throughout the Great Yan Thirteen States. Many even began to doubt the credibility of the Celestial Being List.

Indeed, it seemed absurd. When the Celestial Being List was updated this time, True Man Tianjian was initially ranked thirty-sixth, but now, the third-ranked Blade Demon wasn't even his match, indicating a vast discrepancy between ranking strength and actual competence.

In response.

The Celestial Emperor's Mansion, which issues the Celestial Being List, felt equally aggrieved. Over the years, there had never been someone like True Man Tianjian, who possessed great strength yet chose not to reveal it, unveiling his prowess in a piecemeal fashion, like squeezing toothpaste.

Of course, they dared not harbor any resentment towards True Man Tianjian.

The Celestial Emperor's Mansion urgently updated the rankings, placing True Man Tianjian third and the Blade Demon fourth, with everyone else shifted back accordingly. Furthermore, since Heart Inquiry Sword died at the hands of Ning Qi, and Heart Blade Old Man was killed by the Blade Demon, Thunder Shock Blade Venerate was once again fortunate to make the list, ranking thirty-five, with another strong figure filling the thirty-sixth slot.

The entire world was in awe.

Just these two people had already turned the Celestial Being List upside down.

Notably, upon hearing the Blade Demon's defeat by True Man Tianjian, Luofu Sword Venerate turned ghostly pale, immediately declaring a century-long retreat. The earlier offense to the True Martial Sect seemed significant or insignificant, entirely depending on whether they took issue or not. He was so

unnerved this time that he dared not even spectate, fearing that a disagreement might lead True Man Tianjian to strike him down with a sword.

Those aware of the situation couldn't help but smirk privately.

Besides the Great Yan Thirteen States.

Many forces outside of Great Yan also heard of the event, such as the Near-Sea Sect, Northern Barbarian, and Desert Ancient Race, all turning their gaze towards it. Because this time it's not just about the battle between the strong on the Celestial Being List; the secrets concerning the Martial Saint are also involved. The Blade Demon's failure to break the realm led many forces to discuss fervently, fearing the depths of this unfathomable True Man Tianjian.

Chapter 255: Cherish the Ones Before You, Discussing the Dao with the Blade Demon_3

A faint voice had already started to emerge: True Man Tianjian might become the next Martial Saint.

However.

No matter how noisy the outside world was, it had nothing to do with Ning Qi.

Since the day he made a ten-year agreement with Blade Demon, he returned to True Martial Mountain and resumed his previous routine life.

Blade Demon was arranged to stay at the Forbidden Land in the back mountain, known only to Taoist Longshan and Luo Wentian.

Of course.

Blade Demon was unaware that the so-called True Man Tianjian was merely a young boy of eleven.

Perhaps one day Ning Qi would face Blade Demon with his true appearance, but that day was not today.

Inside the Seeking Tao Institute.

Ning Qi was contemplating the silver page he had previously obtained from Wu Jianghe, which contained insights and speculations regarding the utilization of absorbing the Power of Heaven and Earth, somewhat similar to Blade Demon. Years ago, when Wu Jianghe's Sword Dao reached the Ultimate Realm, he also attempted to break into the Martial Saint Realm but failed.

Therefore, Ning Qi did not hold high hopes for Blade Demon, and indeed it turned out to be so.

"However, their methods of breakthrough differ somewhat; Blade Demon uses Ultimate Realm Blade Intent to command the Three Flowers, thereby introducing the Power of Heaven and Earth into the body, whereas Wu Jianghe combines Sword Intent with the Three Flowers. Both have some semblance but failed at the next step."

"Introducing the Power of Heaven and Earth into the body is already challenging, so how can one refine the Power of Heaven and Earth?"

"If one were to use their own body as a furnace, it requires an extremely powerful physical strength, even the strength of Flower of Essence at Perfection isn't sufficient. Had I not intervened that day, Blade Demon would have perished. Perhaps other factors are required as well?"

Ning Qi pondered silently, his brows slightly furrowed, as he deduced various possibilities, yet he hadn't reached that stage himself to try.

Then, he let out a long breath.

Regardless, the Martial Saint Realm was now unfolding its veil before him, no longer as unknown as it was before.

Suddenly.

His eyes moved, looking towards the direction of the back mountain, he sensed an intangible Blade Intent spreading. Only those whose Martial Path Intent had reached the Ultimate Realm could perceive it; Blade Demon was calling him.

Ning Qi's mind stirred.

A Black Robed Taoist appeared, and then headed towards the back mountain.

After a short while.

Blade Demon's figure appeared before Ning Qi, he said calmly:

"Blade Demon brother, why did you call for me?"

Since Blade Demon ascended the mountain, he had been calm, but today he suddenly showed a change.

Blade Demon turned around, his gaze somewhat astonished.

He had been keenly sensing the surroundings, yet he still couldn't find out where True Man Tianjian came from; only when close could he sense it. He admired True Man Tianjian secretly.

Blade Demon's voice was slightly hoarse:

"Recently, I've been nurturing my injuries and eliminating the Heart Demon, and now that it's done, I wish to share my experiences of breaking into the Martial Saint Realm that day with the True Man."

Ning Qi looked.

Though Blade Demon's left arm was empty, his Essence, Qi, and Spirit were even stronger. At their level, losing an arm was indeed not a big deal and did not affect power.

Seeing Blade Demon speak thus, Ning Qi felt anticipation in his heart.

"I am willing to hear your experiences." He expressed with a slightly solemn demeanor.

The two didn't bother with formalities and directly sat cross-legged on the ground, an intangible momentum immediately spread around.

Blade Demon recalled for a moment, then slowly spoke:

"That day, with the aid of Tianjian brother's hand reaching the Blade Path Transformation Realm, I had the thought of breaking the realm, after hundreds of years of deduction; the Martial Path Intent reached the Ultimate Realm can connect Three Flowers, further drawing the Power of Heaven and Earth into the body."

"Everything happened as I deduced, nothing went wrong, but...there is something to this day that I find unfathomable."

At this point, a barely noticeable fear appeared in Blade Demon's eyes.

Ning Qi's spirit was startled, asking:

"What aspect?"

Blade Demon adjusted his breath, continued:

"That day, when I commanded the Three Flowers Gathering at the Top with my Blade Intent, I reached the lifelong limit of control over the Power of Heaven and Earth. At that moment, I vaguely sensed a suppressive feeling, and as the Power of Heaven and Earth poured into the body, the suppressive feeling intensified tenfold, a hundredfold, with a great terror seemingly enveloping my heart, as if great calamity was about to befall."

"Were it not for the fixation on reaching the Martial Saint Realm being my obsession for hundreds of years, I truly had the thought of giving up on the spot; considering it now, the emergence of the Heart Demon after my failure in breaking the realm was related to this, otherwise, I would not have succumbed."

His will was resolute, generally not easily succumbing to Heart Demon obsession.

Ning Qi's pupils narrowed sharply.

"Could it be that you sensed a great terror hidden within the Power of Heaven and Earth?"

Blade Demon froze, squinting his brows:

"Earlier, I hadn't thought deeply, only felt that this great terror came from the oppression of Heaven and Earth, not allowing us to achieve Martial Saint. Now, hearing Tianjian brother's words, it might actually come from the Power of Heaven and Earth itself? Tianjian brother saying so, could it be you also..."

Ning Qi nodded slightly:

"To not conceal from Blade Demon brother, since I reached the Celestial Human Realm, I often sensed a fearful feeling from the Power of Heaven and Earth. Initially, I thought only I had this perception, even once doubting if I was mistaken, but now Blade Demon brother felt the same, it mustn't be mistaken."

Both unconsciously glanced at the sky, faintly feeling a sense of fear.

"If it truly is so, does that imply, there's a problem with the Power of Heaven and Earth? That's causing us to fail in achieving Martial Saint?"

"Or maybe that has been the case throughout ages, and we must overcome this great terror to reach the Martial Saint Realm."

Blade Demon remained silent.

With the Martial Saint inheritance severed, everything had to be explored oneself, which was indeed challenging.

Chapter 256: Cherish the One Before You, Discussing Dao with the Blade Demon_4

In a short time, he would be unable to advance to the Martial Saint Realm again. The True Man Celestial Sword before him might have more hope.

Blade Demon continued:

"That sense of immense terror is just one aspect. To step into the Martial Saint Realm, the key may lie in mastering the Power of Heaven and Earth, not in our crude manipulation, but in precise control, refining it into an existence like our Gang Qi. In that case, it would surely unlock a powerful and unparalleled force!"

There was some yearning and hope in his eyes, but he quickly shook his head and said:

"But it's not easy. Previously, when I absorbed the Power of Heaven and Earth into my body, I could feel its terrifying power, but I just 'gulped' it down. Essentially, there was no difference whether it was inside or outside me."

"After thinking carefully over these past few days, the key points might be two."

"Firstly, how to 'digest' this Power of Heaven and Earth, which requires countless trials. Secondly, where to store the 'digested' Power of Heaven and Earth. If it's randomly filled into the body, it would be like that day when I almost exploded and died, and even brother Celestial Sword couldn't save me."

Ning Qi listened to Blade Demon explaining the details of breaking the realm.

That day, although he was close, he couldn't sense the many situations within Blade Demon's body so clearly. Now, listening to Blade Demon, combined with his previous observations, he suddenly felt as if the clouds had parted, revealing a clear view.

In his mind, Spiritual Light was rising, and he gradually gained an outline of the Martial Saint Realm.

This time, it was truly an invaluable harvest.

With solemnity, Ning Qi said:

"Thank you, brother Blade Demon, for your generous enlightenment."

Blade Demon merely waved his hand.

"I owe great debts to brother Celestial Sword. Such minor insights from failure are not worth mentioning."

Ning Qi pondered for a moment and said:

"I also have some insights. Brother Blade Demon, why not give them a listen?"

Blade Demon's eyes brightened, assuming a posture of intent listening.

Ning Qi slowly began to speak.

Though he lacked experience in breaking the realm, he gleaned much inspiration from the pages left by Wu Jianghe. With his perception, a slight extrapolation made it as though he personally experienced breaking the realm. For instance, listening to Blade Demon reveal his realm insights, Ning Qi felt as if he had experienced a realm break again—if not more. He could extrapolate multiple times, gaining far more than Blade Demon himself.

At this moment.

He combined both aspects and shared some of the essence within.

Instantly, Blade Demon listened, enchanted.

The light in Blade Demon's dark pupils shone brilliantly, muttering repeatedly:

"The intent of the Martial Path not only governs the Three Flowers but can also blend with them. In this way, the Power of Heaven and Earth drawn in may become more controllable, more 'obedient.'"

"Accommodating the Power of Heaven and Earth can turn oneself into a furnace. Enhancing the furnace's strength is crucial—not merely the body's inherent strength, but also 'sculpting,' like an alchemy furnace, where the fundamental material's strength is just one aspect, with the various wards on it being equally critical."

"As for where to store the refined Power of Heaven and Earth, replacing the Primordial Core might be a good choice. Exchanging a strand of refined Power of Heaven and Earth for a strand of Gang Qi is indeed a brilliant idea—a truly brilliant idea!"

"..."

"So that's how it is... so that's how it is!"

The more Blade Demon listened, the more delirious he became, the more excited he grew, unable to resist clapping his hands and laughing heartily.

When he finally collected himself, he bowed to Ning Qi, utterly convinced. His eyes were full of admiration, feeling that Ning Qi's words had opened the door to a new world for him.

"Brother Celestial Sword, great kindness requires no thanks, accept my bow!"

Ning Qi merely smiled, then said:

"Brother Blade Demon, there's no need for this. We are merely discussing the Dao. This discussion is just my conjecture; take what aligns with your journey as just a reference."

Blade Demon nodded, his spirit soaring.

At this moment.

He truly believed that if anyone in this world could step into the Martial Saint Realm, it would undoubtedly be True Man Celestial Sword!

Chapter 257: The Scene Deep Within the White Ape's Bloodline

After discussing with the Blade Demon, Ning Qi's life returned to its previous calm.

This discourse was greatly beneficial to Ning Qi, giving him a deeper understanding of breaking through to the Martial Saint Realm, with the beginnings of a clear path in sight.

Of course, the Blade Demon also gained immensely from it.

Ning Qi held nothing back from him, allowing the Blade Demon to gain many insights and directions, after which he hurriedly entered a secluded cultivation state, but he did not forget his agreement with Ning Qi. If someone truly comes to invade, he would naturally come out of seclusion to suppress them.

This way.

The True Martial Sect became even safer.

Ning Qi breathed a sigh of relief. Originally, his greatest worry was that when he descended the mountain, the Demon Sect and Southern Border would seize the opportunity to attack True Martial Mountain. But now, with the Blade Demon guarding, coupled with the True Martial Sword Stele and many martial artists gaining insights here, if these two forces were to invade, they might suffer a great loss.

"In this way, I can go down the mountain to investigate the secrets of the Martial Saints of the Southern Border and Demon Sect. If I can find their secret location, I can strike first and nip this crisis in the bud."

Ning Qi's eyes flashed.

He had not forgotten the two swords hanging over his head. Although he was very strong now, if a true Martial Saint came to kill, he might not be able to fully protect the True Martial Sect.

"Senior Brother, are there any clues from the Imperial Court?" Ning Qi asked.

Luo Wentian shook his head helplessly:

"Recently, the Imperial Court and the forces of the Demon Sect in the Southern Border have been in fierce battles, also following the leads of Exotic Beast Inner Cores and Blood King Gu, but they are very cautious and often use this to set traps. The Imperial Court lost quite a few strong members. They only know that the Southern Border needs to refine the Blood Emperor Gu, while the Demon Sect is refining a treasure called the Holy Pill, but they have no more detailed information."

"I suspect they have already relocated their base, just intentionally creating confusion and diversions."

Ning Qi frowned slightly:

"Relocated their base?"

"Outside the Hundred Thousand Mountains and Great Yan?"

Luo Wentian nodded:

"That's right, now the Imperial Court also suspects this, but the Hundred Thousand Mountains is the Southern Border's stronghold, filled with Exotic Beasts and many toxic mists. The Imperial Court can't intervene, and outside the Great Yan, the place with the largest population is the Northern Barbarian grassland. Although it's not as populous as the Great Yan by a factor of eleven, it also has no problem supporting the Blood King Gu."

"Considering the relationship between the Imperial Court and the Northern Barbarians, they are also beyond reach. Divine Feather Grand General even suspects that the Demon Sect and Southern Border might have already formed an alliance with the Northern Barbarians. If this is true, it will become even more troublesome."

Ning Qi exhaled a little.

The Demon Sect and Southern Border were already difficult to deal with. Adding the Northern Barbarians would make it even more complicated.

"Everyone seems to want to carve a piece out of Great Yan."

If possible, Ning Qi would prefer to remain uninvolved; unfortunately, the True Martial Sect had already been drawn into the situation, forced to stand with the Great Yan, and he still did not know whether that Martial Saint of Great Yan was a friend or foe.

The situation had become quite complex.

Ning Qi resolved in his heart that he needed to strike first, but also absolutely must not reveal his identity and strength to the Imperial Court's side, lest he attract the attention of Martial Saints, which could prove even more dangerous than now.

"Senior Brother, I plan to descend the mountain." Ning Qi said.

Luo Wentian was shocked:

"Jiu, you want to..."

Ning Qi nodded:

"That's right, instead of waiting for others to bring the fight to us, it's better to strike first. But you don't need to inform the Imperial Court about this; instead, focus on gathering as much intelligence on the Blood King Gu as possible for me."

The Demon Sect's Martial Saint Secret Treasure is only known to be called the Holy Pill, with no detailed specifics, only that it requires the Exotic Beast Inner Core.

But Ning Qi had personally encountered the Blood King Gu from the Southern Border before, and to avoid risk, Ning Qi used the Blood King Gu at the foot of the mountain to avoid it being perceived by the Southern Border locals.

And now, he could do the opposite. If he could obtain a Blood King Gu and discover the method of mutual perception between the Blood King Gu, he might be able to capture all of Southern Border's Blood King Gu in one fell swoop.

Therefore, he intended to start with the Blood King Gu.

Luo Wentian looked a bit apologetic; Jiu was only eleven years old, yet he had to bear so much.

But he did not persuade much because he knew that this was indeed the best choice.

He said in a serious tone:

"Jiu, it happens that the year-end is approaching. Stay for a few more days, and wait until I have sorted through the intelligence sent from the Imperial Court before you go down the mountain."

Ning Qi nodded lightly. There was no rush for these few days. This year's year-end competition would surely be lively. The three hundred seedlings, after this period of cultivation, had already achieved a little success; it would be an excellent opportunity to test their cultivation results, and there might be outstanding ones who could be promoted to True Disciples.

Feeling the worry and concern in Luo Wentian's gaze, Ning Qi smiled and said:

"Senior Brother, don't worry. With my current strength, even if nothing is found, there won't be any danger."

Luo Wentian smiled wryly:

"I only regret that my own strength is too weak."

Ning Qi offered a few comforting words.

This was really not their fault. After all, by the normal development path, the True Martial Sect was supposed to gradually move towards revitalization through generations of efforts, but Ning Qi's sudden emergence undoubtedly shortened this time by a great deal, making it seem as if others couldn't keep pace.

This is normal since not everyone has Ning Qi's profound insight.

But it is not a major issue either. In time, once this foundation is slowly digested, it will gradually transform into true strength.

Chapter 258: The Scene Deep Within the White Ape's Bloodline_2

Today, Taoist Longshan is just like this. After Ning Qi imparted many Celestial Human Realm Secret Techniques to him, he began to progress rapidly. He is fully focusing on cultivating his strength to avoid needing Ning Qi to resolve every issue he encounters.

...

Time flows slowly.

In the cold winter of the twelfth lunar month, snowflakes fluttered down.

However, the atmosphere in the True Martial Sect remained fiery as always. During this period, the True Martial Sword Stele and the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths were crowded with people. Many martial

artists came after hearing about them, organized and insightful, and many obtained considerable benefits, further enhancing the fame of the True Martial Sword Stele and the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths.

To this, Ning Qi naturally was happy to see it happen.

Now, his Sword Dao is naturally number one, belonging to a strong level in the Ultimate Realm, but many other Intents have also stepped into the Ultimate Realm.

One method connects to all methods. Many martial artists left their martial paths in the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths, laying bricks and adding tiles to Ning Qi's cultivation.

This complements Ning Qi's study of Taoist Scriptures and Heavenly Phenomenon, making his progress faster.

Apart from daily routines of ascending High Heaven to guide Heavenly Thunder for cultivation, the most focus Ning Qi currently puts on is the research of the White Ape and Zhuang Chen.

Yesterday.

The White Ape finally succeeded in cultivating the Resonance Secret Technique that Ning Qi taught.

At this moment in the Seeking Tao Institute, the White Ape activated the secret technique, with its entire bloodline being in an aroused state. A wild roar escaped, unable to control the aroused bloodline, its body began to swell rapidly. In an instant, a sixteen-zhang tall Giant Ape appeared in the courtyard, like a mountainous peak, with those golden-tinted eyes being exceptionally divine and unmatched. Anyone who saw it could tell that the White Ape's bloodline was extraordinary.

"Teacher." The White Ape scratched its head, somewhat embarrassed, not because it wanted to flaunt intentionally, but it was unable to control itself.

Ning Qi waved his hand slightly.

He had already used the Power of Heaven and Earth to shield the surroundings from disturbances.

An expression of anticipation appeared in his eyes.

Immense Power of Heaven and Earth gathered at once, enveloping himself and the White Ape. Then, it started to vibrate at a frequency opposite to that of the White Ape's body.

This is a secret created by Ning Qi through the study of the principle of Yin Yang Liangyi, mutually attracting, which allowed the bloodline within the White Ape to further reveal its secrets.

In an instant.

An extreme tingling sensation emanated from the White Ape's limbs and bones, a sensation as if the entire body was about to disassemble. Cold sweat appeared all over the entity of the White Ape, and its heart twitched, but it was trying hard to persist. Anything Ning Qi requested, it never refused. Moreover, it understood that its teacher researching its bloodline was for its benefit.

Ning Qi nodded inwardly. Over the years, the White Ape following him into cultivation and pursuing Dao, had a determined Dao Heart, far surpassing most so-called geniuses.

He wasted no time.

While maintaining the resonance frequency of the Power of Heaven and Earth, the immense Gang Qi turned soft and then poured into the Giant Ape's body, Ning Qi began to carefully perceive.

Earlier, he researched the White Ape's internal framework and created the Ape King's True Body secret technique.

After teaching it to the White Ape, it even vaguely merged with the White Ape's bloodline, undergoing mysterious change, transforming into an innate ability-like existence. But this time, he intended to delve a step further, exploring the deeper secret of the White Ape's bloodline.

Illusion-breaking Spirit Eyes.

This was the real powerful ability belonging to Yuan Tiancheng.

According to Yuan Tiancheng himself, his current Illusion-breaking Spirit Eyes can even have a certain effect on strong Celestial Human Realm practitioners, allowing him to see through the weak spots of their resonance with the power of heaven and earth. Now, not even Luo Wentian, who controlled a Fake Pill, might be his match.

This naturally made Ning Qi somewhat expectant. If he could unravel the secret of the White Ape's bloodline, perhaps he could replicate the Illusion-breaking Spirit Eyes. This would undoubtedly be an unparalleled secret technique that could be effective even when dealing with a Martial Saint.

Currently, Ning Qi's opponents have long been on the unknown level of Martial Saint. As for the Celestial Human Realm, no one would be his enemy, merely a few moves apart.

He closed his eyes to perceive.

Divine Intent cautiously blended with the bloodline inside the White Ape.

Rivulets of special waves spread out.

Ning Qi's body trembled.

In an instant.

His spirit seemed to be placed on a vast land. With a feeling of suspicion and uncertainty, a heaven-shattering roar that could shake the sun and moon echoed through the mountains and wilderness. Ning Qi was astounded to see a Silver Giant Ape roaring at the moon. Its body was as high as a mountain, and Yuan Tiancheng's body was a sixteen-zhang, already extremely oppressive, but before this Silver Giant Ape, it was like an ant.

"Heavenly Beast!"

Ning Qi subconsciously thought.

This Giant Ape let out roars at the moon and drummed its chest so fiercely that it shook the heavens. Waves visible to the naked eye spread toward the surroundings. Such majesty was by no means comparable to the Celestial Human Realm; he saw that strands of the Power of Heaven and Earth actively entered its body, and within the moonlight, there were also magical powers entering through its mouth and nose.

"Rumors said the Heavenly Beast is the spoiled child of the heavens and earth, naturally able to control the power of heaven and earth, which truly is the case!" Ning Qi's breath was somewhat rapid.

The Human Race painstakingly strives to reach the Martial Saint Realm, able to refine the power of heaven and earth, but it is only reaching their starting point. Such disparity left him speechless. He was utterly certain that this Silver Giant Ape was undoubtedly an existence at the Martial Saint level and definitely not amongst the weaker ones.

Ning Qi continued watching.

Though he could only see the side of the Giant Ape, the pressure still impacted his spirit, making him feel tremendous stress.

The Silver Giant Ape continued devouring moonlight, absorbing the power of heaven and earth, but for some reason, Ning Qi could perceive the Giant Ape's emotions growing more agitated, manifesting as becoming increasingly violent in its actions.

The Giant Ape got angry, smashing mountains with a punch and disrupting rivers with a stomp, traces left by its chest-drumming could become visible marks.

Ning Qi held his breath.

Suddenly.

The Giant Ape seemed to sense something, and it abruptly turned around, its pair of dazzling golden eyes stared directly, causing Ning Qi's mind to freeze in this inexplicable realm of time and space.

In an instant.

All the scenes shattered, splintering like spider webs spreading apart, carrying a bone-chilling coldness.

He vaguely saw that the roar of the Giant Ape seemed to carry a hint of terror.

Ning Qi's body trembled, recovering from the previous state of his divine intent merging with the bloodline. His complexion turned slightly pale, feeling a lingering fear.

That one glance.

Was extraordinarily terrifying.

It unexpectedly seemed to see through time and space directly to Ning Qi, making him feel seen. It was the first time he had felt that way, rendering him immensely uneasy.

At this moment, he didn't know when the White Ape had already fainted. Ning Qi was shocked and hurriedly went forward to check. He relaxed only after finding it merely exhausted.

He began to recall the previous scenes.

"To have seen the legendary Heavenly Beast, this bloodline inheritance is indeed marvelous." Ning Qi marveled.

This was his first close encounter with this level of existence. He could sense that he was still far from the Giant Ape. If he truly confronted it, he might not even manage to escape alive.

"Does this mean this is the source of Tiansheng's bloodline? If Tiansheng continues developing his bloodline, one day, he might become such a powerful being." Ning Qi mused.

"However, that glance should not have been directed at me."

Ning Qi recalled the golden eyes of the Giant Ape, the feeling of seeing through everything was still deeply etched. Yuan Tiancheng's golden eyes, in comparison, were really like a toddler's first steps. Initially, he thought the Giant Ape had discovered him, but upon reconsidering, it seemed impossible. Across endless ages, how could the Giant Ape possess such abilities? If it truly could achieve such steps, even Immortals and Gods would be similar.

"The subsequent scenes are unseen because my divine intent is not strong enough, not because the Giant Ape was 'staring at me'. If I didn't feel wrong, it seems something changed later on, with the Giant Ape's roar containing some fear."

Ning Qi felt as if something were scratching at his heart.

Instinct told him that this could be related to the severed Martial Saint inheritance.

He took several deep breaths to gradually suppress his anxiety.

Haste would get him nowhere. Anyway, the White Ape was here. As long as his divine intent becomes strong enough, he would naturally be able to see it; with his current cultivation speed, Three Flowers were progressing at an astonishing pace, reaching the Realm of Three Flowers Perfection to unlock the secret was merely a matter of time.

"Though only seeing this for now, it doesn't affect my deconstruction of the Golden Pupil of Illusion-breaking. With further studies, success is inevitable."

Ning Qi smiled.

This time wasn't entirely fruitless.

However, every time divine intent connects with the White Ape's bloodline, it bears a certain burden on the White Ape. This cannot be rushed, awaiting the White Ape to recover before continuing, but every con has a pro. The White Ape regularly enduring such exercises also greatly aids in developing its bloodline power.

Ning Qi pondered whether there might be similar scenes within Zhuang Chen's Sword Bone.

In a few days, Zhuang Chen's Resonance Secret Technique should be successfully cultivated as well.

Chapter 259: Accepting a Disciple and Bestowing a Name

Ning Qi put away his distracting thoughts, allowing strands of gentle Gang Qi to flow into the White Ape's body. The previously unconscious White Ape slowly awoke, initially startled, then scratched his head sheepishly and said apologetically:

"Sorry, Teacher. I was trying my best to steady my mind just now, but the bloodline fluctuation was so intense that it knocked me out."

Ning Qi waved his hand:

"First, carefully feel if there are any abnormalities in your body."

The White Ape carefully perceived and a hint of joy appeared in his eyes:

"Aside from a bit of mental fatigue, everything else is fine. Not only that, I feel my bloodline development has improved a bit!"

Ning Qi was immediately relieved, then smiled and said:

"Tell me in detail about your feelings during the bloodline resonance."

The White Ape thought for a moment:

"At first, it felt tingly and numb, as if my whole body's tendons and bones were about to fall apart. Then I entered a state of confusion, and vaguely, I seemed to hear a roar..."

He spoke slowly, and Ning Qi nodded slightly, thinking to himself:

"It seems like what I saw in the depths of the bloodline can also be vaguely sensed by Tiansheng. The roar he heard must be that of the Silver Giant Ape. If things develop normally, there will come a day when the bloodline is developed enough for him to see that scene himself."

Seeing the White Ape standing respectfully, Ning Qi smiled and said:

"Let's go, the annual competition is about to start, we'll head over."

The White Ape nodded repeatedly, with a bit of joy in his eyes.

He was always mischievous and got along well with the many disciples of the True Martial Sect. This time, he could see many acquaintances competing on stage, so he naturally wouldn't miss the chance to join the fun. In fact, if he wasn't too powerful now, he would want to go up and play himself.

The man and the ape headed toward the Martial Arts Arena.

From afar, they could already see the lively atmosphere, and the arrival of Ning Qi and the White Ape caused quite a stir, with many curious eyes cast their way.

To new disciples, Ning Qi was quite mysterious, rarely showing himself. Yet, the occasional information that leaked out highlighted the Ninth Elder as an unparalleled genius, and the White Ape under him further confirmed this.

The scene during the mountain-opening assessment, where the White Ape manifested the true form of the Ape King, was still vivid in everyone's minds.

Yet, before Ning Qi, the White Ape was extremely respectful.

Amidst the gazes of the crowd, Ning Qi stepped onto the chief seat.

"Jiu, Tiansheng, you're late." Ye Qinghe teased with a wink and grin. With Taoist Longshan not present this time, she openly took out her wine gourd, taking occasional sips, leaving Luo Wentian shaking his head with a wry smile.

Even as an Elder now, this third senior sister was still so unruly.

Ning Qi smiled, greeting the fellow disciples:

"A little matter delayed me. What stage are we at now?"

Fourth Senior Brother He Yan laughed and said:

"We're down to the top ten now. There are quite a few good seedlings this time. The seedlings selected using Jiu's method are stronger than ours. Don't be fooled by Third Senior Sister's casual demeanor, she praised one of the youngsters more than once earlier, and it seems she might finally take on a disciple this time."

Ning Qi was a bit surprised, then couldn't help but laugh aloud.

Just thinking about Ye Qinghe teaching a disciple felt somewhat incongruous.

Ye Qinghe glared at them, scoffing:

"I'm telling you now, Yuxuan, this young lass, has a connection with me. You can't snatch her from me."

Ning Qi looked toward a young girl wearing purple. Though young, she was already a budding beauty with a gentle demeanor. He had some impression of her, recalling her notable performance during the mountain-opening recruitment. It seemed her name was Ouyang Yuxuan.

Thinking about this gentle young girl following a wine-loving mentor every day, he couldn't help but feel a bit of sympathy for her.

He recalled Ye Qinghe tricking him into drinking wine when he was young, a smile appearing on his lips.

Ye Qinghe huffed:

"Go ahead and laugh. When I nurture her to suppress the third-generation disciples of True Martial, you'll see!"

The crowd laughed even more heartily.

At the same time, there was a sense of nostalgia in their hearts. Time had flown by so quickly, and before they knew it, they had become the mainstay of the True Martial Sect, at the point of taking on disciples themselves.

The group chatted and laughed.

Meanwhile, the disciples' duels were still fiercely underway.

This time's competition was divided into two parts for new and senior disciples.

The senior disciples had the Outer Sect and Inner Sect competitions, while the new disciples were the previous three hundred seedlings. Their competition was even more important, not only determining their starting point but also elevating the top three to True Disciple status.

Of course, besides that, the rewards given to both new and senior disciples were quite generous this time.

Now, the True Martial Sect was wealthy and well-resourced. The main goal was to absorb this foundation and enhance strength, so the rewards offered were generally beyond expectations, including Martial Arts Secret Techniques, Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, or Divine Weapons, all of which stirred disciples' hearts. Naturally, Ning Qi's cultivated True Martial Peach Fruit was among them, and he even provided a small portion of Enlightenment Tea as a reward.

Ning Qi watched earnestly. While these disciples' duels seemed like child's play in his eyes, they represented the future of the True Martial Sect.

He felt very gratified.

In the past, it could take about ten years to succeed in the Body Tempering Realm and be considered an unparalleled genius.

But now, in the True Martial Sect, it's no longer the case. With a series of Secret Techniques developed by Ning Qi to enhance Body Tempering efficiency and the improved Body Tempering Powder, the progress of Body Tempering has greatly accelerated. The same talent now requires only about forty percent of the original cultivation time!

Chapter 260: Accepting a Disciple and Bestowing a Name_2

This is an extremely exaggerated degree; if spread, it would shock the world. Fortunately, the new batch of disciples from the True Martial Sect have never left the mountain.

In reality.

It's not just the Body Tempering Realm.

After Ning Qi completed the existing realms, he summarized and, combined with his cultivation experience, created many universally applicable Secret Techniques that could simplify the cultivation in the Inner Essence and Gang Essence Realm. The most direct example is that when Jiang Baishan descended the mountain, he was already nearing the Jade Liquid Realm.

"Back then, I completed the Body Tempering Realm in three years, an unprecedented speed. But if the cultivation Dharma Methods I've created are spread, I wouldn't be surprised to see some prodigies far outpace my efforts. Will those future generations think little of me then?"

Ning Qi smiled faintly.

No one can predict what will happen after a millennium or beyond; when legends fade, the zealous successors are bound to think the events of the past exaggerated.

On the arena.

The elder disciples' matches have ended.

Having made a name for themselves before the Sect Leader and various elders, the winning disciples were all excited and joyful. The elder disciples have their own path to becoming True Disciples, so they would not feel that the sect favors the new disciples.

After Luo Wentian offered encouragement, the main event of the day arrived.

The top three new disciples.

There was a hint of expectation in Luo Wentian's eyes.

Ning Qi couldn't help but smile, as he naturally knew his senior brother's preference. That young boy named Gou Dan, though of humble origin, possesses a tenacious spirit; Luo Wentian has been observing him secretly for a long time, and not just Ning Qi, even Xiong Shi and others have noticed.

The matches proceeded.

Though they were just children, their progress in Body Tempering was already quite remarkable, and their mastery of Martial Arts Realm was not low either. Each of them punched and kicked with force,

like young leopards and tigers. Three hundred seedlings were the cream of the crop, and these ten were the best among those three hundred.

Many elder disciples watched in surprise, feeling as though the new waves of the Yangtze River are pushing the old ones, a sense of crisis suddenly emerged.

Luo Wentian and others were immensely pleased.

Round after round of competition proceeded.

Soon.

The top three were decided.

The first was a young boy who stood out during the big comparison, even at such a young age he was already extremely robust, coming from the Gaoyang Lu family, Lu Mang.

The second was Ouyang Yuxuan, whom Ye Qinghe favored, from the Ouyang family. Her cultivation talent faintly surpassed Lu Mang, but Lu Mang's natural strong bones gave him an advantage.

The third was the beggar-born Gou Dan.

In response.

Everyone was extremely surprised. Compared to others who were exposed to the Martial Path from a young age, Gou Dan's starting point wasn't high; breaking into the top three was entirely due to his hard work and perseverance. Ning Qi nodded in appreciation, having sensed this little fellow practicing diligently in the Martial Arts Arena several times with his Divine Intent.

Such a person is destined for great achievements.

Cultivation talent determines a person's lower limit, but perseverance and persistence decide a person's upper limit.

In the past, when stepping into the Martial Path, Ning Qi only considered Root Bone as the most important. But as his cultivation grew stronger and his understanding of the Martial Path deepened, his thoughts gradually changed. In the later stage, heart and perseverance are more important, they determine a person's ability to bravely move forward, whereas Martial Path Root Bone can be supplemented through other means.

Someone training fast doesn't necessarily mean they are strong.

As Ning Qi pondered.

All eyes of the True Martial disciples were already on the top three, filled with envy.

New disciple top three can directly become True Disciples, the future training they receive is immeasurable compared to others.

Lu Mang and the other two's faces turned red in excitement, having been awarded their big competition prizes, they awaited the next thrilling part.

Luo Wentian laughed and stood up, looking around at the many disciples with a satisfied expression:

"Your performance today was excellent, I'm very pleased. You are the future of the True Martial Sect, continue to strive for greatness, making the sect thrive!"

Everyone was excited.

"Yes, Sect Leader!"

Through these great events, the True Martial Sect is already united from top to bottom.

Luo Wentian did not linger, he looked at Lu Mang and the other two, laughing:

"The three of you shall be True Disciples. Fellow brothers and sisters, is there anyone willing to take on apprentices?"

Everyone held their breath.

This was unexpected.

Currently, True Disciples of the True Martial Sect don't all have to be apprenticed to elders; some simply receive more resources.

As Luo Wentian finished speaking.

Ye Qinghe was already standing up with a smile; she was the only female elder, and everyone would give way to her.

She looked at Ouyang Yuxuan with a smile and asked:

"Little Yuxuan, would you like to become my apprentice?"

Ouyang Yuxuan was delighted, not expecting to be the first chosen. She replied crisply:

"Disciple greets Master!"

Though young, she knew the weight of her master.

Everyone watched with smiles, while Lu Mang and Gou Dan unknowingly clenched their fists, gradually becoming tense.

Xiong Shi's expression turned slightly serious, he stepped forward and looked at the robust boy:

"Lu Mang, would you like to join my tutelage?"

Lu Mang's face was filled with joy. Xiong Shi was the Punishment Elder, known for his justice and seriousness, but definitely a famous teacher. Lu Mang respectfully kowtowed, and Xiong Shi showed a faint smile, quite fond of Lu Mang since his Martial Path mirrored his own somewhat.

Thus, only Gou Dan remained.

Yet, remaining elders merely smiled without any movement.

Gou Dan's face turned slightly pale, but he quickly adjusted with deep breaths.

"Gou Dan, Gou Dan, it must be your inadequate performance that the elders weren't impressed, tomorrow you must work harder. Still, it's great now that you've become a True Disciple with a better starting point, keep striving ahead!"

Gou Dan's expression gradually firmed.

Actually, deep inside, he harbored a desire he never told anyone, which was to become Luo Wentian's disciple.

During the big competition, Luo Wentian personally delivered him water and food, a care he cherished his whole life, but Luo Wentian was the revered Sect Leader, he dared not even hope, simply burying the thought deep within.

Ning Qi quietly observed Gou Dan's expression, nodding approvingly.

It's rare for someone so young to quickly adjust their mindset.

Luo Wentian was also observing, and finally, he smiled:

"Gou Dan, would you like to be my disciple?"

At that moment.

A burst of astonishment.

Everyone was shocked, unable to believe their ears, while Gou Dan was frozen as if in a dream, barely a second ago he affirmed his inner desire for more attention from the Sect Leader, never expecting to hear the Sect Leader offering to mentor him.

Gou Dan's face turned red, eyes watery with emotion, trembling as he respectfully kowtowed:

"Gou...Gou Dan would like to!"

Various gazes fell upon Gou Dan, filled with envy.

Luo Wentian lifted him up, gently patting his head with a warm smile:

"Since you are entering my tutelage, calling you Gou Dan thereafter would be too careless. Do you have a surname?"

Being the disciple of the Sect Leader, speaking of the name Gou Dan when walking down the mountain would inevitably cause commentary.

Gou Dan shyly shook his head:

"I don't know either."

He has been called Gou Dan since his memory, and later, after recognizing a few words, thought about naming himself, but lived as a wanderer, relying on his sister, whether or not he had a name mattered little, hence the thought faded.

Luo Wentian sighed lightly, then said:

"In that case, henceforth bear my surname; from now on, you shall be called Luo Nianchu. May you remember your beginnings and never lose sight of your path."

His expression gradually grew solemn.

Luo Wentian valued Gou Dan's spirit, striving to never forget one's beginnings is the best guidance.

Gou Dan—no, Luo Nianchu—thrilled beyond measure, kowtowed once more:

"Thank you, Master, for granting me a name!"

He silently repeated the name Luo Nianchu over and over with joy and determination, promising himself to fulfill his master's expectations.

Everyone was moved.

Luo Wentian bestowing both discipleship and a name, clearly placed great importance on Luo Nianchu.

Ning Qi and the others laughed:

"Congratulations to senior brothers and sisters for acquiring outstanding apprentices!"

Luo Wentian and the three all laughed heartily, feeling elated.

These three apprentices are unparalleled Martial Seeds, well nurtured, they will surely accomplish great feats.

The White Ape watched enviously, hoping one day he could boldly call Ning Qi 'Master'. He cautiously glanced at Ning Qi, then quickly lowered his head, silently cheering himself on.

Ning Qi seemed aware, merely smiling slightly.