

Cultivating 431

Chapter 431: World Will_2

"It seems that Taoist Friend Tianjian isn't very welcoming to me, and perhaps has some misunderstanding."

Ning Qi shook his head and said:

"Divine Nun, you misunderstand. I just happened to encounter a challenge in my cultivation that I'm about to resolve, and don't wish to be interrupted."

The South Sea Divine Nun showed a look of admiration:

"I see, no wonder your strength is so astonishing. I truly admire your dedication to the Dao from the depths of my heart, feeling inferior myself."

She paused and continued:

"Then I shall be brief. I've come today to remind you of something; the Black Blood Demon Monarch may have already secretly allied with the Mountain and Sea Realm!"

Although her voice was low, what she said was earth-shattering.

Ning Qi's eyes narrowed.

"What do you mean by this, Divine Nun? Although I've had conflicts with the Black Blood Demon Monarch, with the external threats present, I don't wish to falsely accuse anyone."

The South Sea Divine Nun sighed:

"You may not know, but that wretch of a Black Blood Demon Monarch was a notorious villain in the ancient era. He wantonly slaughtered mortals, using their souls and blood to forge the Black Blood

Demon Banner. If it weren't for the Martial Realm needing people at that time, I'm afraid everyone would have joined forces to suppress him!"

"During the great decisive battle that followed, he almost escaped the battlefield. Although he valiantly killed many from the Mountain and Sea Realm after the manifestation of world will, his previous actions linger like a thorn in our hearts."

"Today, during his battle with you, I observed from the shadows. The Black Blood Demon Monarch seemed to be beaten quite miserably by you, but he wasn't going all out, seemingly hiding something."

"Now that the invasion of the Mountain and Sea Realm is imminent, we must unite and prevent the destruction of our home. However, others may not think the same. Some selfish individuals might already be seeking to offer the Martial Realm in exchange for a chance of survival!"

Her words carried a tone of earnest sincerity.

Ning Qi's heart was moved.

Indeed, there was one thing the South Sea Divine Nun was not wrong about.

During the battle in broad daylight, although Ning Qi had certainly not used his full strength, he also sensed that the Black Blood Demon Monarch had held back.

Ning Qi gazed at the South Sea Divine Nun, a faint golden light flickered in his eyes, but the South Sea Divine Nun appeared to be open and unguarded.

"Today's matter is something you should keep to yourself, Taoist Friend. Be cautious, and it would be best not to mention it to others. Frankly, I don't even know whom to trust within the Martial Realm anymore."

She sighed softly and then departed.

But within her eyes there was a trace of melancholy and despair.

Ning Qi watched her back calmly.

"Interesting."

He chuckled.

He truly couldn't judge the truth in the South Sea Divine Nun's words.

However.

There was one thing the South Sea Divine Nun did not know; his relationship with the old Profound Turtle was anything but ordinary, and they could completely trust each other. With a thought, Ning Qi summoned the old Profound Turtle through the True Martial Hall's seal.

"Hall Master, what are your orders?" Ever since Ning Qi became the master of the True Martial Hall, the old Profound Turtle had always been very respectful, even insisting that Ning Qi not call him senior. Despite having told Ning Qi it wasn't necessary, the old Profound Turtle persisted, and over time Ning Qi let it be.

Ning Qi also learned the old Profound Turtle's name.

Gui Changqing.

"Changqing, what do you think of the South Sea Divine Nun?" he asked, and then relayed the sudden visit from the South Sea Divine Nun in detail.

Gui Changqing furrowed his brow:

"She speaks the truth. The Black Blood Demon Monarch is indeed arrogant and does wicked deeds. If it weren't for these special times, he would have been attacked together long ago, but whether he has joined the Mountain and Sea Realm cannot be determined."

"As for the South Sea Divine Nun, she has a good reputation. Although she lives in seclusion overseas, whenever she appears in the world, she always does good deeds, showing compassion. It makes sense for her to warn the Hall Master."

"However...it all seems a bit odd somehow."

Ning Qi nodded slowly:

"It seems that this awakening of the world will not be so simple."

"Very well, Changqing, I want you to pay more attention to the South Sea Divine Nun. As for me, I'll keep a close watch on the Black Blood Demon Monarch to prevent them from causing any disturbances. It's best to eliminate all inside traitors this time."

"Yes, Hall Master!"

They discussed further details.

Ultimately, they decided that being cautious cannot be overstressed.

...

Time passed slowly.

Apart from the South Sea Divine Nun's initial visit, no one else came by over the following days except for acquaintances like Taoist Baishan, leaving Ning Qi with some peace and quiet.

His efforts in progressing through the Realm Lord Realm went exceedingly well.

Unfortunately.

The final step remained elusive.

And today.

Is the day everyone sets out for High Heaven.

Ning Qi could distinctly sense that the world seemed to have undergone a subtle transformation, as if what used to be somewhat lifeless was now more vibrant.

The saints gathered once again in the void above Heavenly Peak Mountain.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint appeared slightly excited:

"Ladies and gentlemen, the world will has already begun to awaken. Today is the best time for us to awaken the world will!"

All the saints were extremely excited.

Especially the new saints, who were full of aspirations. They had never seen the world will before, but from the ancient saints, they had learned something about its immense power.

"Let's go!"

With those words.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint took the lead, soaring into the void.

Several absolute strong persons followed closely.

The saints collectively unleashed their spiritual power, ascending towards the heavens.

The scene was spectacular, with the spiritual power of a hundred saints shining in multicolored brilliance, with no attempt to conceal their presence, creating what looked like a vibrant rainbow bridge of spiritual energy stretching above Heavenly Peak Mountain.

Continuously ascending.

Soon they reached the Thunderous Forbidden Zone. For some, it was their first time witnessing such a sight, and they couldn't help but be awestruck; they had not expected the world to contain such a formidable forbidden zone.

Chapter 432: World Will_3

Ning Qi was already familiar with the path, his heart undisturbed.

Back when he first reached the Celestial Human Realm, he had already set foot here and even used the thunderstorms here for cultivation. In the past, these many thunders naturally seemed incredibly terrifying to him, but now, they were as insignificant as a gentle breeze.

At this moment, all saints had gathered, spiritual power condensed into a field, and many thunders were extinguished halfway through their charge.

To the Martial Saints, most of the thunder within the Thunderous Forbidden Zone was not something to fear.

All saints stepped into the forbidden zone.

Such a large number of outsiders seemed to have angered the thunder, making it much more violent than Ning Qi had ever seen before, but it was futile.

Finally, they reached the last barrier.

Blood-red lightning!

"Rumble!"

The terrifying booming sound filled the ears of every Martial Saint. At this moment, even the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint and others wore grave expressions as they saw the blood-red lightning interweaving, seemingly forming a thunderous celestial curtain that completely blocked the way forward.

Each strand of blood-red lightning exuded a dreadful aura, with various visions manifesting within, sometimes transforming into a blood-red Thunder Dragon, other times appearing as an ancient thunder mountain.

This was after the initial awakening of the world's will, which had significantly reduced the power of the blood-red lightning; otherwise, they would not dare to tread here at all.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint looked at the other absolute strong persons:

"Everyone, let us each protect some of our fellow Taoists."

They all nodded.

And then.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint took the lead, tossing his cane, which instantly transformed into a heaven-reaching giant pillar. Then, a massive blade emerged from its sheath, the Heaven-Slaying Blade Intent was domineering and unparalleled, forcibly annihilating the surrounding blood-red lightning. Ning Qi observed that within the Heaven-Slaying Blade Intent, a force lay dormant and unmanifested.

"Is it the prototype of Divine Techniques?" Ning Qi murmured to himself.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint shouted:

"Follow me!"

The heaven-reaching blade light swept up twenty Martial Saints, leading the way out.

Next was the Great Yan Martial Saint, who wielded a red seal in his hand, exuding domineering might, and in an instant, endless flames surged out, transforming into a Fire Lotus. He, too, swept up twenty Martial Saints, closely following behind the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint.

The old Profound Turtle smiled slightly.

He manifested his true form, though not as terrifyingly large as thousands of zhang, he shrank it to several dozen zhang, with the turtle shell glowing a rich green light. He sheltered twenty Martial Saints beneath him, viewing the blood-red lightning as a sea, and swam past effortlessly.

The Black Blood Demon Monarch snorted coldly, a Black Blood Demon Banner appearing in his hand. The banner expanded with the wind, black clouds rolling, also sweeping up twenty Martial Saints and departing.

The South Sea Divine Nuns gave Ning Qi a gentle smile, then the White Jade Purification Bottle in her hand emitted a soft sacred light, conjuring a Thousand-Handed Bodhisattva. The Bodhisattva's twenty palms lifted twenty Martial Saints, guarding them at her chest, and she headed towards the blood-red lightning.

Each absolute strong person displayed their divine techniques, leaving all saints in awe.

In Ning Qi's eyes, golden light surged, and he nodded quietly.

Now only he was left.

He chuckled lightly, swept his hand, and the True Martial Sword instantly expanded to several dozen zhang, unleashing unparalleled sharpness, cutting apart the lightning beyond the sword's edge.

"You shall follow me."

The remaining Martial Saints respectfully leaped onto the True Martial Sword, and they all transformed into a beam of sword light and shot forward.

Blood-red lightning was like an abyss, like an ocean, its terrifying power made every absolute strong person be cautious, the saints were filled with dread, fearing that a single misstep would leave them with no remains amidst the sea of lightning.

Ning Qi moved with ease, yet he still maintained a position not too different from the others.

This allowed those observing in secret to breathe a sigh of relief.

Soon.

The sea of blood-red lightning reached its pinnacle.

An immense, magnificent, awe-inspiring aura swept over them, and every Martial Saint instinctively felt a surge of reverence in their hearts.

Ning Qi's mind was stirred, feeling slightly excited.

"Is that... the will of the world?"

Once through the blood-red lightning, a brand-new space appeared before everyone, and at the highest point there, an indescribable existence stood silently, as if it had always been eternal.

Chapter 433: The Traitor

"Dong!"

"Dong!"

"Dong!"

...

The rhythmic thumping sound continued to resonate, with the orb emitting a vast aura contracting its light, as if it were a heart beating. The sound echoed like the sound of Tao, containing some kind of Taoist charm within it.

Every Martial Saint had a look of shock on their faces, even the Ancient Saints were no exception.

"Is this the World Will?"

"What a magnificent aura, I only feel like an ant before It."

"Seeing the World Will again, it's just as majestic as before, no, even more majestic than before. Our plan was indeed successful!"

All Saints were in awe and even more excited.

The current state of the World Will was obviously good, even though it was only in the initial stage of revival, it did not show any sign of weakness.

This provided them with more hope.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint and others had expressions of joy in their eyes.

"Everyone, when you step inside, do not harbor hostility. Just leave your Spiritual Power to protect your body, for the World Will has an instinct to attack anything that poses a threat to it."

All Saints nodded.

At this moment.

Even the few Absolute Strong Persons unconsciously slowed their breathing, fearing to disturb the World Will.

Ning Qi's eyes flickered with a golden light, and his mind was constantly injected with Spiritual Light. After seeing the World Will with his own eyes, he was able to touch its essence more closely, and many of the past baffling problems were almost solved.

"The World Will is not the Martial Realm itself, but more like a subconscious collective bred by the Martial Realm, aimed at sublimating and protecting the Martial Realm itself. I was right; this way, merging with the World Will will not provoke the Martial Realm's backlash."

"After all, just replacing a 'caretaker' does not threaten the body itself, unlike the Mountain and Sea Realm which would swallow the entire world directly."

Ning Qi's mouth curved into a smile.

Although he had the combat power of the Divine Power Realm now, it would still be somewhat difficult to confront the entire Martial Realm. But if it were only the World Will, relying on the various Dharma Methods he comprehended, it wouldn't be a big problem.

"Everyone, let's go in together." The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint said in a deep voice.

All Saints nodded in unison and then stepped into the space where the World Will was located.

"Boom!"

Almost at the moment they stepped in, the originally gentle orb silently burst into light, and even a shocking Tao sound reverberated, an extremely strong sense of oppression crushed over everyone.

The Martial Saints changed their expressions.

But the voice of the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint had already sounded first:

"Do not resist! Just protect with Spiritual Power!"

Everyone felt a shiver in their hearts, instinctively protecting themselves.

Led by the few Absolute Strong Persons, a Spiritual Power barrier was formed, barely resisting that terrifying sense of oppression.

Ning Qi could clearly see.

After not resisting, the oppression was somewhat weakened, and then an immense consciousness swept over, seemingly identifying the identities of everyone, whether they were people of the Martial Realm was not difficult for It to discern.

The atmosphere was somewhat stagnant.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint took a deep breath, and with respect in his eyes, he shouted loudly:

"All Saints of the Martial Realm come forward, beseeching the Supreme Martial Realm Will to save our beings!"

As the words fell.

His Spiritual Power continuously evolved in the space before him, presenting one shocking scene after another.

There was the Ancient Era, when great foes invaded, and the beings of the Martial Realm charged repeatedly, fighting to the point where the heavens and earth cracked, and mountains of corpses piled high.

There was the World Will awakening at a critical moment, endowing beings with great combat power, initiating a counterattack.

These were scenes of the Ancient people battling the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Ning Qi saw many familiar figures within them.

Old Profound Turtle, the Great Yan Martial Saint, the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint, the Black Blood Demon Monarch... although their appearances were somewhat different, the essence of their powers could not change. Apart from these people, there were other strong individuals who could match them in strength, fighting relentlessly, but they were not so lucky and eventually all perished one by one.

Looking at those heart-shocking scenes, many Martial Saints who had never gone through that era were shaken in their hearts, fearing the terrifying power of the enemy from the Mountain and Sea Realm, yet anger surged within them.

The scenes continuously evolved.

In an instant, it shifted to the World Will falling asleep, and then All Saints discussing how to deal with the next Mountain and Sea Realm invasion.

Followed by generations of people putting forth relentless effort.

Until the Spiritual Awakening, and the World Will awakening again.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's voice carried sorrow:

"Now the great enemy still exists, about to invade our homeland again, we beseech the Martial Realm Will to bestow a cleansing, to aid us in Breaking the Realm, and save all beings!"

All Saints were emotionally stirred, shouting in unison:

"We beseech the Martial Realm Will to bestow a cleansing, and save all beings!"

These vivid scenes resonated with everyone's bloodline, stirring a united spirit of standing against the common enemy in many people's hearts.

The originally radiant Martial Realm Will gradually became peaceful.

It did not have autonomous consciousness but only an instinct to protect the Martial Realm.

Now these scenes made It gradually recall the sense of crisis from long ago, and it was that sense of crisis that finally brought It into being, and now, that familiar sense of crisis was approaching again, hope rested in these people before It.

"Buzz!"

A gentle light spilled from the Martial Realm Will, landing on each person, bringing forth a sense of clarity and comfort, and the previously terrifying oppression also dissipated.

Joy appeared on everyone's faces.

This signified that the Martial Realm Will had already acknowledged them and responded.

Several Absolute Strong Persons showed looks of longing on their faces.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint shouted:

"Everyone, time is of the essence, why not concentrate spirit and calm the mind quickly?"

Chapter 434: Traitor_2

After speaking.

He took the lead, landing at a place closest to the Martial Realm Will, about a hundred zhang away. Then the others, including Ning Qi, did the same, the six of them each a hundred zhang apart from the Martial Realm Will, forming a circle with the Martial Realm Will at its center.

Right after.

The Five Elements Perfection and those Fifth Realm Martial Saints followed suit, sitting three hundred zhang away from the Martial Realm Will, also sitting cross-legged, eyes closed, regulating their breaths.

The rest of the Martial Saints sat in order of cultivation, moving outwards step by step.

A hundred saints surrounded the Martial Realm Will, forming concentric circles, with one powerful aura after another erupting, creating a truly spectacular scene.

Everyone quieted their minds, concentrating deeply.

In an instant.

The Martial Realm Will shone brightly once more, but this time the light carried no sense of oppression, instead exuding a peculiar force, soft rays of light wrapping around everyone, the closer to the Martial Realm Will, the more intense the infusion of this special power.

Ning Qi carefully comprehended.

He felt the spiritual power within him boiling continuously, his five organs shimmering with a five-colored radiance, circulating unceasingly. The special power emanating from the Martial Realm Will fell upon them, producing an extraordinary change, various insights surged into his mind.

"What a miraculous power! Is this the Origin Power of the world? Even more wondrous than the power during the Spiritual Awakening, it easily helps one step into realms unimaginable before."

Ning Qi felt the Five Elements Qi within his five organs fusing, undergoing a transformation, a process that did not require much from him, everything happening naturally.

From the True Martial heritage, Ning Qi was already aware of how to cultivate the next realm, the Purple Mansion Realm.

Five Qi Towards Yuan, condensing divine techniques, then using divine techniques to open the Purple Mansion.

Originally, the process of Five Qi Towards Yuan was extremely difficult, let alone the condensing of divine techniques, but now, under the blessing of Origin Power, Ning Qi only needed to provide a thought, and the divine techniques were already nurturing in that direction.

Even though Ning Qi had planned to follow his own deduced Realm Lord cultivation system, at this moment, he couldn't help but be amazed.

In the distance.

Martial Saints had even begun breaking realms.

Because for low-realm Martial Saints, breaking through was easier, needing only sufficient Five Elements Qi.

At this moment.

He understood the meaning behind the Martial Saints' painstaking scheming over the millennia.

Through the processes of Spiritual Awakening and the world's will baptism, a large amount of high-end combat power could be rapidly created. When the Mountain and Sea Realm invades in the future, with the world's will temporarily granting a burst of power, victory could be within reach.

Thoughts spun in his mind.

All around, fluctuations of realm breaking were evident.

However, some like Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint were slower, as they intended to step from the half-step Divine Power Realm into the true Divine Power Realm, requiring more time with this power.

Ning Qi slightly perceived, leaving a part of his consciousness, then immersed himself in deducing the Realm Lord Realm.

I must admit.

This rich infusion of Origin Power allowed him to nearly unreservedly glimpse the mysteries of the world's will, even enabling him to pre-engrave secret imprints within, preparing for the upcoming fusion.

This was an unexpected joy, making Ning Qi even happier than breaking through to the Divine Power Realm.

Time slowly passed.

Everything was progressing well.

All the saints made tremendous breakthroughs, and several absolute strong persons reached critical moments.

But just then.

A sudden change!

The Black Blood Demon Monarch, who was originally closing his eyes and striving to break through his realm, suddenly opened his eyes, filled with a sinister smile. Without a word, the Black Blood Demon Banner appeared in his hands. With a wave, from within the banner shot out black blood demon chains exuding a corrosive aura, burning with black flames.

Targeting, straight at the world's will!

"Buzz!"

The world's will seemed to sense the crisis, suddenly shining brightly, but it was too late. The prolonged baptism had temporarily weakened the world's will, those demon chains shooting like lightning, about to form a cage trapping the world's will within.

The saints, horrified, opened their eyes, just in time to witness this scene.

They had no time to think.

Everything happened too suddenly.

But someone had been on guard all along.

Ning Qi also opened his eyes:

"Courting death!"

His gaze was cold; he had always left part of his consciousness on alert for the others. Thus, at the moment the Black Blood Demon Monarch acted, he had already reacted, having regarded the world's will as his possession, now merely taking this opportunity to weaken its power a bit, for easier fusion later and to fish out a traitor.

Unexpectedly, he really couldn't hold back.

Silver-white sword light flashed and vanished.

The True Martial Sword split into countless sword qi, slashing towards the black blood demon chains.

The Black Blood Demon Monarch looked at Ning Qi with a sinister grin, eyes full of unbridled killing intent:

"You dog, I've tolerated you for a long time already!"

In an instant.

A terrifying aura erupted, the Black Blood Demon Monarch made no effort to conceal his power, the demon banner waving, black clouds rolling, transforming the once serene void into a fierce battlefield, terrifying auras sweeping across.

One by one, black skulls roared out, their howls shaking one's soul.

Drops of black blood converged into a rain, forming a torrential downpour aimed at Ning Qi.

Divine technique in its budding form, Black Blood Divine Rain!

The power displayed by the Black Blood Demon Monarch at this moment was far stronger than when he was at Heavenly Peak Mountain.

The saints exited their states of comprehension, stunned, watching in horror.

"This is... the power of the Mountain and Sea Realm!"

In the image evolved by Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint earlier, there was this black skull power, now it appeared on the Black Blood Demon Monarch.

Combined with the sudden betrayal of the Black Blood Demon Monarch.

The answer was obvious.

"Black Blood Demon Monarch, why betray us!" The Martial Saints' eyes turned bloodshot, and old Profound Turtle couldn't help but angrily rebuke, with green spiritual light gathering on him.

The Black Blood Demon Monarch chuckled sinisterly:

"Betrayal? It's merely that those who understand the times are wise! You fools, do you really think these preparations alone can withstand the power of a realm like the Spirit Realm?"

"Let me tell you, the earlier situation was just because the Mountain and Sea Realm was unprepared when hit by the world's will. But now with preparations, do you think you can win? How laughable!"

He grinned viciously at the saints.

The blood rain blotted out the sky.

Half launched indiscriminately, half targeted at the world's will.

Ning Qi's expression remained calm, he extended a finger, and five sword qi shot skyward.

Five Elements Divine Sword Qi!

The sword qi was fiercely sharp, containing many mysteries, inter-relating, perpetuating endlessly, its power boundless, surpassing even divine techniques. The Five Heaven-Reaching Sword Qi cleft through the Black Blood Divine Rain.

The Black Blood Demon Monarch's eyes narrowed, chuckling darkly:

"Celestial Sword, with your talent, do you really intend to sink along with the Martial Realm? Why not join me in destroying this world's will and usher in the Mountain and Sea Realm army? By then, with this merit, we would not only join the Mountain and Sea Realm but also have endless resources!"

Ning Qi said nothing.

The South Sea Divine Nun was the first to rebuke:

"Black Blood Demon Monarch, I truly misjudged you. Originally, I thought you would find your way back. But it seems that habits are hard to change. You deserve death!"

"Fellow Taoists, join me in helping Taoist Friend Tianjian to kill this traitor!"

Several absolute strong persons gradually awoke, they had been on the verge of breaking through, but now had to forcibly interrupt.

Old Profound Turtle gathered green light in his palm, transforming into an ancient green mountain, pressing down on the Black Blood Demon Monarch.

The South Sea Divine Nun's jade bottle glowed, conjuring a thousand-handed Bodhisattva, exuding a holy aura.

The two absolute strong persons struck together, their might terrifying.

But in the next instant.

Everyone was stunned.

The thousand-handed Bodhisattva suddenly shifted direction, its mighty hands, dense and forceful, bombarded Old Profound Turtle. Even though Old Profound Turtle had been warned by Ning Qi to be wary of the South Sea Divine Nun, this sudden turn of events left him momentarily unprepared, forcing him to hastily manifest his true form for tortoiseshell defense.

"South Sea Divine Nun, what are you doing!" Gui Changqing shouted angrily.

The South Sea Divine Nun chuckled softly:

"I suddenly feel that the Demon Monarch's words have some merit."

In her laughter, there was unusually a hint of allure.

The saints felt chills all over.

The situation had gotten dire.

Chapter 435: Only the Wise and Able Understand the Times

The South Sea Divine Nuns suddenly took action, almost unnoticed by everyone. The implication is clear; the South Sea Divine Nuns could not have been swayed by the Black Blood Demon Monarch with just a few words, so there is only one possibility.

The South Sea Divine Nuns have defected too!

Among several Absolute Strong Persons, two have defected, which is terrifying.

Everything happened suddenly.

Close to the place of world will.

Ning Qi battles the Black Blood Demon Monarch, Gui Changqing and the South Sea Divine Nuns are entangled in combat. The Black Blood Demon Monarch and the South Sea Divine Nuns clearly intend to exert some kind of influence on the world will, but Ning Qi and Gui Changqing block them. The battle's ripples are exceedingly frightening, making it impossible for All Saints to intervene; they can only watch anxiously. The situation has already become somewhat chaotic.

Moreover, there is an even more terrifying thought in everyone's minds.

Are there other traitors besides these two?

Almost at the moment this thought arose.

Waves of Spiritual Power fluctuations suddenly exploded.

Martial Saints were wearing hideous expressions, attacking their compatriots around them.

"Barbarian Emperor! How dare you?"

"Buddha Baoshu, why do this?"

"Evergreen Martial Saint, I truly misjudged you, despite treating you as a close confidant!"

Voices of condemnation rang out.

All Saints could not fathom that these once closest enemies would fall so low. The battle hadn't even begun yet, and they had already defected. Have they forgotten the deep hatred spanning thousands of years?

They were devastated and in disbelief, feeling struck both physically and mentally.

The rebellious Martial Saints were filled with murderous intent.

"Those who embrace the current circumstances are wise. We merely seek a path to survival!"

"Paths that differ do not work together!"

They were resolute; since they chose this path, they would not regret it.

These rebellious Martial Saints were steadfastly preventing others from assisting Ning Qi and Gui Changqing.

Though their numbers were few, several among them had profound cultivation.

To some extent.

The closer one's cultivation is to the limit, the less they wish to die. They also wish to see scenscapes higher up; after countless years, it's normal for some people to develop ulterior motives.

"Supreme Martial Realm will, please send down Heavenly Thunder and annihilate these traitors!"

A Martial Saint cried out in blood, attempting to forcefully call upon the Martial Realm will using the ancient Tao Sound Secret Technique.

This is also why the traitors hadn't secretly attacked the Martial Saints earlier: if they had revealed their intentions with a single careless act, everything would be lost. No matter how strong they were, they

didn't count for much in front of the Martial Realm will. They endured until now, seizing the best opportunity during the brief period of weakness right after the Martial Realm will's baptism.

The Martial Realm will, hearing the call of All Saints, shone brilliantly.

But invisible Spirit Chains suddenly materialized, binding it tightly, preventing any leakage of power.

Everyone was astonished.

This Dharma Method was exceedingly terrifying and clearly targeted the Martial Realm will; the traitors came prepared. This Dharma Method was highly likely bestowed by the Mountain and Sea Realm!

Hopeful yet horrified glances were cast towards the final two Absolute Strong Persons.

Great Yan Martial Saint and Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint.

Even after the other four Absolute Strong Persons went to battle, these two remained uninvolved, seemingly wary of one another.

But now.

Following the appearance of the Spirit Chains around the Martial Realm will, the Great Yan Martial Saint's gaze suddenly turned sharp, and he said solemnly:

"Heaven-Slaying, why? Why is it you?"

He had a look of disbelief in his eyes, having considered it might be others, even thought the fighters now staging a battle might be acting, yet he held back from acting first. But never did he expect it to be Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint.

This enforcer and Orderer walking the world had also decayed over the long ages.

The others were equally terrified.

No one could have imagined even Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint would defect.

All at once, everyone felt a wave of insecurity; the blow to morale was immense. To some extent, Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint was considered the top figure in the Martial Realm, although he was not openly called this, many Martial Saints believed it.

Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's face remained calm, silent.

He replaced words with actions.

The Heaven-Reaching Giant Blade burst forth with terrifying Blade Intent, slashing towards Great Yan Martial Saint. The powerful, unmatched strength seemed almost capable of splitting the sky!

The Great Yan Martial Saint's pupils shrank sharply, he cast out the Ancient Seal, boundless flames roared and erupted, morphing into various phenomena, but in the face of such an overpowering Heavenly Blade, they were severed one by one. Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's power surpassed what had been shown before.

Li Yanwu felt tremendous pressure.

He had a premonition that he was not Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's match, and his heart grew heavier.

Li Yanwu shouted angrily:

"Heaven-Slaying, you have defected to the Mountain and Sea Realm. Are you honoring the glory and will of your ancestors? Do you know that the Heaven-Slaying lineage was entirely wiped out by the Mountain and Sea Realm, leaving only your ancestor alive? Have you forgotten such a deep-seated hatred?"

These words would have been fine if unsaid; as soon as they were spoken, Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint, who had maintained a calm expression, suddenly twisted into fierce rage.

"Ancestor's glory and will?"

"Scornful glory! All scornful!"

"Why do you all enjoy the love of parents and the care of close friends, while I, the world's strongest, must remain as solitary as a gutter rat? Why?"

Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's pupils brimmed with bloodshed, seemingly set to vent years of suppressed bitterness, striking repeatedly with no mercy.

"From the day I was born, I was blind by nature, suffering torment daily, my family perished, cursed by the heavens with solitude. No matter whom I treated well, that person inevitably faced hardship, tormented endlessly."

Chapter 436: A Wise Man Knows When to Act_2

"Accompanying me is only the inheritance from my bloodline. That power tells me that I must bear the responsibility, walk the earth, and guard the world."

"My father, my ancestor, were all like this."

"But why? Why this damn responsibility? What have I gained? The admiration of the world? Or the so-called glory?"

"I don't need it!"

"All I want is to live like a normal person!"

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's angry shouts echoed in everyone's hearts, a series of incredulous gazes turned toward the elderly figure. Some opened their mouths to speak, but ultimately said nothing. Those new Saints who were unaware of the secrets likely found it puzzling.

However, all the Martial Saints who understood the bloodline inheritance of the Heaven-Slaying lineage remained silent.

The Great Yan Martial Saint's face was complex, but after taking a deep breath, he spoke solemnly:

"That's no excuse."

"The invasion of the Mountain and Sea Realm has us bearing humiliation for the greater plan. It's not only you suffering; millions are as well."

"I alone span across the river of time, watching each blood heir sacrifice themselves for me. My heartache is no better than yours, but I know it's all worth it."

"Heaven-Slaying, think about the images within your bloodline inheritance, consider the generations of effort from your Heaven-Slaying lineage. It's still not too late to turn back!"

He still wants to persuade the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint to turn back.

But the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint angrily responded:

"I can't turn back anymore!"

His body suddenly expanded, transforming into a giant several hundred feet tall. Then, he grasped his massive blade and swung it furiously, shattering layers of space. The Great Yan Martial Saint was horrified, feeling a vast pressure and a sinking heart.

"You... you're channeling the power of the Mountain and Sea Realm!"

The scene was chaotic.

Six absolute strong persons fought in pairs, and the remaining Martial Saints had their respective opponents.

Although the ordinary Martial Saints of the Martial Realm held the advantage, everyone understood the real key lay in the battlefield of the absolute strong persons. If victory was decided there, the overall outcome would follow.

Currently.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint was clearly overpowering the Great Yan Martial Saint, and victory was only a matter of time.

Martial Realm's many Martial Saints felt an overwhelming heaviness in their hearts.

An insider laughed madly:

"Everyone, why not join us in abandoning darkness for light? We're all heroes of one realm; why be so stubborn?"

Some Martial Saints were shaken.

Ning Qi's eyes glimmered with gold.

He had been battling the Black Blood Demon Monarch but had not been using his full strength.

The reason was simple: since things had come to this, it was necessary to clean everything up in one go, exposing all the insiders. Most developments were as he had expected, including the unexpected emergence of the South Sea Divine Nuns and insiders among the Martial Saints, which was quite normal.

But he hadn't anticipated that the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint would choose to defect.

This made him sigh a bit. After learning from the Profound Turtle about the Heaven-Slaying lineage's contributions to the Martial Realm, he always thought that even the Great Yan Martial Saint's betrayal was more likely than the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's.

"In this light, the arrangement with the Gu God back then was also likely the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's doing."

Ning Qi's mind was racing, yet his actions remained swift. The Five Elements Divine Sword Qi slashed away, driving back the Black Blood Demon Monarch's banner, nearly cutting holes in it and applying enormous pressure on the Black Blood Demon Monarch.

Everything happened in the blink of an eye.

Once an insider began to tempt the other Martial Saints to defect, Ning Qi knew it was time to act.

The fish had all been netted; there was no need to wait any longer.

"Celestial Sword, defecting now and join me in killing others could earn you great credit, but once the dust settles, even if you want to join the Mountain and Sea Realm, there won't be a chance. Let me tell you the truth, the world passage between the Mountain and Sea Realm and the Martial Realm is about to connect. You can still decide now!"

Black Blood Demon Monarch sneered insidiously, attempting to shake Ning Qi's resolve.

Ning Qi merely smiled calmly:

"Is that so?"

Black Blood Demon Monarch's heart leapt, foreboding warnings arose.

In the next moment.

His pupils widened abruptly, sensing an unparalleled sharpness cleaving toward him, nearly tearing him apart. The terrifyingly potent Five Elements Divine Sword Qi surged even more!

"Arrggh!!"

A scream echoed.

Almost all the Martial Saints looked in the direction of the sound, their eyes filled with disbelief.

What they beheld.

An arm soared into the sky, and before the banner could reclaim it, it was shredded into pieces by the sword's edge.

The arm's owner was none other than the Black Blood Demon Monarch.

The Black Blood Demon Monarch, filled with shock, looked at Ning Qi and shrieked:

"How is this possible? Has he entered the Divine Power Realm? How can he be so strong?"

Pale-faced, he gazed at the five-colored sword qi, his eyes filled with fear and dread. The sword qi, suddenly united, unleashed supreme power that even his embryonic Divine Technique couldn't match. Caught off guard, his arm was severed, and even the demon banner was sliced by half.

The old Profound Turtle laughed heartily, unleashing a green light to tightly bind the South Sea Divine Nuns. The South Sea Divine Nuns panicked, trying to break free to aid the Black Blood Demon Monarch with her White Jade Purification Bottle, but she couldn't escape. After all, the Profound Turtle hailed from the True Martial Immortal Sect, and though the South Sea Divine Nuns had been granted Immortal Path Techniques by the Mountain and Sea Realm, they were of little advantage.

"Old turtle, get out!" she cursed in anger.

But Gui Changqing laughed cheerfully:

"Have the guts to smash my shell."

The Great Yan Martial Saint, who had been at a complete disadvantage, was also stunned, then laughed wildly:

"The heavens have not forsaken our Martial Realm! The heavens have not forsaken our Martial Realm! Martial Saint Tianjian, truly a peerless talent!"

Boosted by Ning Qi's strength, the morale of the Martial Realm surged, while the insiders felt an increasing heaviness in their hearts.

If Ning Qi first dealt with the Black Blood Demon Monarch and freed his hand, the outcome would turn entirely opposite!

In a split second.

The tides shifted.

In a breath, another Five Elements Sword Qi slashed down, which Ning Qi, having comprehended the baptism of the world's will, fused the Five Elements Divine Sword Qi into one, its power was truly immense. The Black Blood Demon Monarch shrieked, retreating swiftly, spitting blood continuously, his black blood banner swelling in an attempt to envelop the sword qi.

But it was useless.

Slashing down with a sword, the demon banner shattered into smithereens, dispersing the dark clouds and blood rain with sword edge.

As the Black Blood Demon Monarch was about to perish under this strike, a Heaven-Reaching Blade Qi slashed down, the giant swung the blade in a sweeping strike, carrying formidable power to intercept.

At the critical moment, the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint acted.

He forcibly withdrew from the battlefield with the Great Yan Martial Saint, slashing with his blade just in time to block Ning Qi's five-colored sword qi aimed at the Black Blood Demon Monarch.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint stared at Ning Qi, his voice was deep:

"I underestimated you; it seems you didn't use your full strength back then."

He naturally didn't know that Ning Qi had made progress in a short amount of time; back at True Martial Mountain, even though he didn't use full strength, the terrifying strength now was unmatched.

Ning Qi sighed lightly:

"You've strayed down the wrong path, what a pity."

Angry roars accompanied fierce and domineering blade light:

"Who's strayed down the wrong path is still uncertain!"

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's momentum surged once more.

"Heaven-Slaying!"

The Heaven-Reaching Blade Qi collided with the five-colored sword qi, the terrifying wave spreading, causing even the other absolute strong persons to feel apprehensive. These two had already surpassed the half-step Divine Power Realm's strength threshold; although the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint hadn't

stepped into the Divine Power Realm, with the Mountain and Sea Realm's bestowed Secret Techniques enhancing him, he barely possessed Divine Power Realm-level strength.

Ning Qi's eyes shone brightly with gold.

He glanced at the Great Yan Martial Saint who intended to assist and said plainly:

"You handle the other side."

As the words fell.

The five-colored sword qi split into five, morphing back into five sword qis, but it wasn't over. The five sword qis kept splitting, thousands upon thousands, instantly forming an overwhelmingly dreadful sword array!

The sword array swept, encompassing the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint, Black Blood Demon Monarch, and South Sea Divine Nuns within.

Ning Qi was intending to fight one against three!

Chapter 437: Suppressing the Universe

Streams of Five Elements Sword Qi converge in the sky, and then begin to operate in a mysterious manner. In the blink of an eye, a massive sword array is formed, brimming with fierce sharpness and filled with Five Elements Qi, containing an unnerving power within.

The Great Yan Martial Saint looked in shock at the three Heaven-Slaying Martial Saints caught in the array.

He saw the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint block Ning Qi's path, intending to rush to support immediately, but hadn't expected this scene to unfold.

Gui Changqing chuckled:

"Brother Li, have faith in the Hall Master, let's go clear the aftermath over there."

He had absolute confidence in Ning Qi, who was a peerless genius qualified by the True Martial Immortal Sect. In the past pinnacle of the True Martial Immortal Sect, this was virtually the contemporary Taoist, and such a figure claiming invincibility among peers was no joke, even crossing realms to battle with ease.

The Great Yan Martial Saint took a deep breath, nodding slowly, sensing something special from Gui Changqing's address of Ning Qi.

The two absolute strong persons immediately rushed towards another battlefield.

The Barbarian Emperor and other rebels all narrowed their pupils, despairing in their eyes. If the Great Yan Martial Saint and Old Profound Turtle joined this side, they would have no power to resist at all.

At this moment.

Their only hope was for the three Heaven-Slaying Martial Saints to swiftly suppress Ning Qi and come to support.

Hopeful gazes looked towards the sword array.

The Black Blood Demon Monarch managed to stabilize his body, constantly swallowing spirit pills and treasure medicine, barely maintaining his condition at six or seven tenths. He sensed the unparalleled edge of the surrounding sword array, feeling frightful, relaxing only slightly upon seeing the South Sea Divine Nuns and Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint.

"Heaven-Slaying, Divine Nuns, this arrogant child, let us suppress him together!" Receiving bouts of pain from the arm, his expression twisted slightly.

South Sea Divine Nuns nodded slowly, yet her expression remained solemn.

Her strength is formidable, second only to the Great Yan Martial Saint and Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint, but at this moment she felt an intense sense of crisis. The swords hovered in the air, their sharpness pricking her all over, as if her soul was trembling.

She looked towards Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint.

"This sword array is extraordinary, joining forces is harm not benefit, the only way to break through is each choosing a point to disperse it!"

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint stood towering between heaven and earth; he had been analyzing the weaknesses of the Five Elements Sword Array but had come to no better solution.

Hearing this.

The Black Blood Demon Monarch's expression changed greatly. His peak condition was not present, originally hoping South Sea Divine Nuns and Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint could shelter him somewhat, but now hearing Heaven-Slaying's idea of each fending for oneself made him uneasy.

But before he could speak.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint and South Sea Divine Nuns had already roared towards two sides of the sword array from south to north.

The domineering blade light swept all, with world-shattering might intending to crush the difficulty of the sword array, simultaneously the South Sea Divine Nuns summoned a Thousand-Handed Bodhisattva again, weapons in hand, pounding with terrifying power.

Their plan was simple.

They intended to smash the array before it fully formed, fearing its completion would result in a dreadful demise.

The Black Blood Demon Monarch grit his teeth, finally lacking the courage to choose alone, he wielded the Black Blood Demon Banner, choosing to follow behind the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint glanced coldly at him but continued to wield the blade.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The series of explosive sounds kept resounding, terrifying everyone.

They realized that the three Heaven-Slaying Martial Saints feared the Celestial Sword Martial Saint's sword array greatly.

The crux of the battle lay here.

But to everyone's shock.

The sword array radiated five-colored brilliance; regardless of the efforts of the three Heaven-Slaying Martial Saints, not a single sway could be seen.

"How... how is this possible?" The Black Blood Demon Monarch was shivering with terror, already witnessing the five-colored sword qi gather behind the array, prior his arm was severed by one such strike, nearly dying from the sword.

But now.

Were there more than one these five-colored sword qi?

Ning Qi stood aloof in the air, his gaze indifferent, forming the sword technique with his hand.

This Five Elements Sword Array evolved from True Martial Sword was his strongest move currently, fused with the newly comprehended Five Elements Sword Qi, its power terrifying.

Everything happened in a flash.

In just a brief moment, the three Heaven-Slaying Martial Saints had attacked over a hundred times but were all blocked by the Five Elements Sword Array.

And now.

The sword array had fully formed.

Almost instantly, a great terror enveloped the three.

The Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's expression changed drastically, his gigantic form shrinking back to normal size, while layers of knife light enveloped his being. Simultaneously, the South Sea Divine Nuns' pupils contracted violently, the Thousand-Handed Bodhisattva ceased pounding, its arms overlapping protectively across her chest.

The Black Blood Demon Monarch reacted a beat too late.

He was coordinating with the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint, continually bombarding the sword array with the tattered Black Blood Demon Banner casting a torrential blood rain, unaware the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint retreated so rapidly, cursed under his breath; trying to change back to using the demon banner for protection, but it was too late.

A suffocating sensation surged over.

The five-colored sword qi descended.

Singular sword qi may not possess the power as before, but overwhelmed by quantity, rotating Five Elements, endless regeneration, sword qi poured down like rain.

All Saints were stunned.

If this wasn't a Divine Technique, what is?

The Black Blood Demon Monarch cried out sharply:

"Heaven-Slaying, save me!"

Within a few breaths, the sword qi had already utterly shattered the tattered demon banner, then engulfed the Black Blood Demon Monarch who was previously heavily injured, now facing such terrifying sword qi, naturally could not withstand.

Chapter 438: Suppressing the Universe_2

Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's eyes flickered. His initial movement to intervene paused, as he coldly watched the Black Blood Demon Monarch being obliterated by the Sword Qi.

A peerless strong person of the Martial Realm fell just like that.

Not even his remains were preserved.

Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint continued to resist with all his might, unleashing every tactic he had. His giant blade emitted an indescribable glow, and the Heaven-Slaying Blade Intent was extremely domineering, barely withstanding the bombardment of the Five-Colored Sword Qi.

Meanwhile, on the other side.

The situation for the South Sea Divine Nuns wasn't looking good.

Even though she was strong, she was still within the realm of half-step Divine Power. Facing Ning Qi's ferocious assault, she found it extremely difficult to withstand, marginally better than the Black Blood Demon Monarch.

Visible cracks appeared on the White Jade Purification Bottle.

One by one, the Thousand-Handed Bodhisattva's arms were severed. The South Sea Divine Nuns' face turned pale, blood oozed from the corner of her mouth, and a slight charming air emerged. She sighed softly:

"Taoist Friend Tianjian, I was momentarily bewitched and deceived. If I had known a peerless genius like you existed in the Martial Realm, I would never have chosen to betray. I know I was wrong. Is there a chance for me to make amends?"

Her voice sounded genuinely pitiful.

But Ning Qi remained unmoved.

Now realizing the mistake, why not earlier?

He didn't believe her claim that knowing his existence would have deterred her betrayal. In fact, according to the original plan of All Saints' millennia-long plot, there was still hope, yet they chose treason anyway.

Ning Qi was not about to keep a ticking time bomb by his side.

Ning Qi raised his hand, and more Sword Qi surged down.

The South Sea Divine Nuns gritted her teeth furiously:

"Martial Saint Tianjian, do you truly intend to eradicate us completely? How will you resist the Mountain and Sea Realm without us three?"

Yet Ning Qi's gaze remained indifferent.

The Sword Qi grew even more ferocious.

The South Sea Divine Nuns turned pale, screaming in shock:

"Heaven-Slaying Taoist Friend, save me!"

Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint did indeed make a move, but not to save her.

At the critical moment, a domineering Blade Qi crossed the void, and to the South Sea Divine Nuns' astonished eyes, it beheaded her with one swift strike—perfectly timed to attack just before the Sword Qi shattered the Thousand-Handed Bodhisattva's defense.

Everyone trembled, another peerless strong warrior fell, it was terrifying.

Yet they were also bewildered, why did Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint cut his own limb?

Ning Qi's gaze sharpened.

Even more fearsome Sword Qi surged down to suppress Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint, but it was too late. He timed it perfectly, sweeping the South Sea Divine Nuns' corpse back with a Blade Qi. He glanced at the spot the Black Blood Demon Monarch had fallen, where blood mist still drifted.

The next moment.

The South Sea Divine Nuns' body also burst into a blood mist.

Using their flesh and blood energy as a medium, Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint erupted with an astounding upheaval, chanting an ancient and obscure Tao Sound, a peculiar feeling enveloped everyone. The old Profound Turtle's expression changed drastically:

"Hall Master, he's calling for the Mountain and Sea Realm's strong warriors! Probably the Primordial Spirit Realm!"

Such a strong figure, if they descend now, even suppressed by world limits unable to exert peak power, their methods and knowledge would still pose a catastrophic threat.

In the vague distance.

There seemed to be responses:

"Who summons me!"

The heavenly sky above grew clearer, some connection forming, the image becoming sharper and revealing a black-robed silhouette. Though the true form was obscured, just the silhouette alone induced an impending sense of collapse upon everyone, unlike anything felt even against world wills.

Fear gripped everyone's heart.

Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint respectfully shouted:

"Begging True Monarch to grant me power!"

Crossing the world's barrier was no easy feat. Two half-step Divine Power flesh sources fell short for constructing a stable passage, yet the secret technique's partial power invocation was already a remarkable feat.

Ning Qi's eyes narrowed.

Then he snorted coldly.

He could see that the power's cross-realm arrival needed at least three breaths.

"Three breaths, that's enough!"

A thought turned.

All the powers of the Five Elements Sword Array unleashed without restraint!

With both Black Blood Demon Monarch and South Sea Divine Nuns gone, Ning Qi could focus entirely on dealing with Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint.

His Sword Technique transformed once again.

In an instant.

The Five-Colored Sword Qi began converging, and Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint sensed an intense crisis, his pupils contracted, opting to launch a preemptive strike, as long as he withstood three breaths, once power traction arrived, he could reverse the situation or at least withdraw safely.

He transformed into a hundred-zhang giant once more, wielding his giant blade to slash the heavens.

But in just one single breath.

The Sword Array's strength concentrated into one, manifesting as a thousand-zhang Five-Colored Sword Qi, an alarming sight.

All eyes widened in disbelief, even Great Yan Martial Saint and old Profound Turtle felt suffocated and threatened by the Five-Colored Sword Qi; the colossal sword unrelentingly crashed down upon Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint, without holding back.

Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint roared madly, counter slashing upwards, attempting to cleave the sky by force.

All observed closely.

Not daring to miss a moment.

Time seemed to freeze, leaving only the slow motion of the colossal sword and blade-wielding giant converging.

Finally.

Their forces met.

"Boom!!"

The dreadful reverberation snapped everyone back from silence.

They saw.

The thousand-zhang Sword Qi devastated and dominated, crushing irresistibly, the giant blade splintering inch by inch, the giant's flesh dissolving piece by piece, Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's face filled with unwillingness as he raged and howled, to no avail.

One breath later.

Dust settled.

Only trails of blood mist drifted through the void.

Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint had perished.

All Saints felt somewhat dazed.

Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint, the strongest of the Martial Realm, had actually died?

Great Yan Martial Saint showed disbelief before sighing softly, Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's end resulted from his own choices, not blaming others.

Old Profound Turtle laughed loudly, glancing at Ning Qi with admiration.

The remaining rebels looked ashen, with Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint's death, their fate sealed.

Each Martial Saint gazed at Ning Qi with reverence.

From this day forward.

Ning Qi was the strongest in the Martial Realm!

Single-handedly annihilating three peerless strong warriors, a reputation forged through feats—none dared doubt.

Everyone was emotionally stirred; today's occurrences far surpassed their imagination's peaks and valleys, leaving even Martial Saints somewhat weary.

Ning Qi exhaled lightly.

But today's matters clearly were not yet fully resolved.

Above the heavens.

A potent power traversed from an obscure void, but without Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint as a vessel, it seemed fleeting, unable to fully manifest its might.

Ning Qi's Sword Qi cleaved through, instantly shattering that power.

The heavenly sky, previously clearing, became blurry again.

Vaguely.

Everyone saw the black-robed figure turn abruptly, unclear features but only a pair of aloof, commanding eyes inducing tremors, those eyes upon All Saints as if observing ants, fixing upon Ning Qi, a voice echoed:

"This True Monarch remembers you."

Deep malice nearly spilled forth, freezing souls.

All Saints turned pale, more terrifying than any world will, truly ants before such a presence—even without power projection, inherent fear stirred within.

But Ning Qi remained impassive, steadily meeting those eyes, then cleaved downward.

The image above heaven instantly dissipated entirely.

Just before dispersal, many clearly saw growing rage within the black-robed figure.

Everything returned to stillness.

Every gaze upon Ning Qi began to kindle subtle reverence, admiration for wielding such courage—knowing Ning Qi might embody the greatest genius since the Martial Realm's dawn.

Or rather, also its hope!

"We thank Martial Saint Tianjian for turning the tide!"

Each Martial Saint bowed deeply, full of reverence.

If not for Ning Qi, today the Martial Realm would be in grave danger.

Ning Qi entirely deserved such a salute.

Chapter 439: Expedition

Ning Qi calmly received this courtesy.

In today's battle, he indeed played a crucial role. If it weren't for him fighting three enemies alone and slaying all three of the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saints, the Martial Realm might have already met its end, with all the Martial Saints present dying.

This kind of great favor is indeed a lifesaving grace.

All the saints clearly understood this in their hearts, so they looked at Ning Qi with great gratitude.

As for Taoist Longshan and others, their gazes at Ning Qi were full of pride, especially Taoist Longshan, who seemed to have momentarily returned to the sea of fire from over a decade ago. He couldn't imagine how he deserved to take in such an extraordinary disciple.

"Please rise, everyone," Ning Qi said calmly.

He looked around at everyone.

Compared to when we came, more than thirty people were missing, and they were all traitors.

It's somewhat unimaginable that thirty percent of the Martial Saints in the entire Martial Realm chose to side with the Mountain and Sea Realm, including three who stood at the peak of the Martial Realm in the Half-step Divine Power Realm. If it weren't for Ning Qi's sudden emergence, the fate of the Martial Realm would have been sealed.

However, even so.

The Martial Realm has suffered greatly.

Many traitors were killed, causing severe losses in top-tier combat power. If it weren't for the quick end of the battle and the rapid support from Gui Changqing and the Great Yan Martial Saint, while no ordinary Martial Saints fell, some were seriously injured, which would have made the losses even greater.

At this moment.

The saints gradually withdrew from the joy of victory, a look of confusion rising in their eyes.

Almost half of the top combat power in the Martial Realm is gone, and the Mountain and Sea Realm had long started to lay out plans. It seems that their invasion will come soon, leaving the future destiny uncertain.

The Great Yan Martial Saint also felt dejected.

Sighs of lamentation arose one after another, full of worry.

Especially the Ancient Saints, who felt extremely defeated, having plotted for tens of thousands of years and barely managed to survive into the present through various secret techniques, even to the extent of becoming unlike their former selves, only to end up like this.

The will of the Martial Realm's baptism today was only half completed, with only some Low Realm Martial Saints having broken through, while those in the Fourth and Fifth Realm Martial Saints had yet to break through.

This was a heavy blow striking at everyone's soul.

But Ning Qi didn't experience much emotional disturbance.

He had long set his mind on this eventuality. Although the situation now is a little worse than previously imagined, it is still within his acceptable range.

Originally, he did not place hope on others.

Encountering the world's consciousness prematurely is not entirely without benefit. At least, after accepting the world's baptism, Ning Qi has completely perfected the Realm Lord Realm.

In other words.

He is now able to attempt to fuse with the world's consciousness!

Seeing everyone looking dejected.

Ning Qi didn't say much; he simply swung his sword, and strands of sword light flickered, shattering the Spirit Chains that originally bound the world's consciousness.

The next moment.

The world's consciousness shone brightly!

It had been restrained all this time; even sensing the crisis, it had no way to break free. Now freed in one blow, it surged furiously.

The Martial Saints' attention was all drawn in, followed by some shock.

They were previously participating in the world consciousness awakening together with the traitors for baptism, but just now the traitors suddenly restrained the world consciousness, intending to heavily damage or even destroy it. If now the world consciousness cannot distinguish between good and evil, acting purely on instinct and treating them as enemies,

this would be adding insult to injury.

Thinking of this, the Martial Saints grew even more fearful.

The power of the world's consciousness roared, and strands of domineering spiritual power shot towards the surroundings, in great rage.

Fortunately,

a Five-Colored Sword Qi slashed upwards, severing these strands across the void, guided by Ning Qi to form barriers with blood-colored thunder, separating everyone from the world consciousness.

Seeing the indiscriminate attacks of the world consciousness, everyone wore bitter smiles.

The Great Yan Martial Saint spoke with a heavy heart:

"The world consciousness acts only on instinct, and it may not be able to distinguish good from evil for some time. In the short term, there's no way to calm it; for now, we can only retreat temporarily. We'll return when the world consciousness becomes more docile."

All the saints slowly nodded, but they all knew it would become even more difficult afterward.

The invasion of the Mountain and Sea Realm is imminent, and every minute and second is precious. Who knows when the world consciousness will completely calm down, and who knows if the world consciousness will continue to bestow blessings afterward — everything is unknown.

The saints were filled with despondency.

Subconsciously, they looked to Ning Qi.

Ning Qi, now the strongest in the Martial Realm, naturally held the highest authority. Moreover, some observant people noticed that Ning Qi's expression had barely changed throughout, even as the Great Yan Martial Saint's confidence waned; he remained consistent.

Gradually, many eyes fixed on Ning Qi.

The Great Yan Martial Saint couldn't help but ask:

"Taoist Friend Tianjian, do you have any other solutions?"

Ning Qi looked around and said calmly:

"I have a method; we could give it a try."

All the saints fell silent, their eyes gradually filled with hope.

...

Mountain and Sea Realm.

Sky high and ground far, vast and expansive, thus named for its melding of mountains and seas.

Immortal mountains stretching endlessly, treasures of nature within, countless rare birds and exotic beasts. The spiritual sea, wide and broad, containing all things, the deep sea endless.

Black Demon Mountain.

Clouds of murderous aura, stretching to the sky, various portentous phenomena rising, deterring any approach. Within, powerful presences flickering faintly.

This is the foundation of the Black Demon Sect.

But at this moment.

A roar of fury shot straight to the heavens, a massive black skull bellowing, spewing Black Flame, its might causing many disciples of the Black Demon Sect to tremble with fear.

"Who has incited such wrath from the Black Flame True Monarch?"

Many speculations surged in their minds, watching the enormous black skeleton roar, unrestrainedly emitting power, most disciples dared not breathe heavily, their eyes filled with longing.

Chapter 440: Expedition_2

What is a True Monarch?

In the Spirit Realm, only those who reach the Primordial Spirit Realm are qualified to be called a True Monarch. Once you enter the Primordial Spirit Realm, you can enjoy a lifespan of thirty thousand years and can even have your Primordial Spirit emerge to manipulate various Divine Techniques like earth, wind, water, and fire. Even in the Spirit Realm, they are formidable cultivators.

The Four Steps of Immortal Ascension have already reached the third step, especially after obtaining the Primordial Spirit. They can possess others and live a second life; it's not so easy to perish.

The disciples speculated among themselves.

The rear mountain, Heaven-Reaching Cliff.

The eyes of Black Flame True Monarch in a black robe were cold, not yet having calmed from the provocation of the ant from the Lower Realm.

"A mere native of the Lower Realm, as insignificant as an ant, dares to be so presumptuous. When we breach your world, I will extract your Spirit Soul and suppress it under Heaven-Reaching Cliff for ten thousand years, tortured daily by Black Flame!"

He felt greatly challenged in his dignity.

A soft laughter rang:

"Senior Brother Black Flame, why get so angry? I've said before, this Jiazi 1673 world is not so simple. The Golden Spirit Sect was once incredibly powerful and was a major sect in the Beixuan Domain."

"But what was the outcome? They attacked, and their forces were completely wiped out. Not only did they fail to obtain the rewards from the will of the Mountain and Sea Realm, but they also lost many prodigies and strong warriors, declining in strength, falling into obscurity within a few thousand years, which then gave our Black Demon Sect a chance to annihilate them!"

"The lesson from the past cannot be ignored. Senior Brother, perhaps you shouldn't rush to make minor moves to gain major merits. Rather, wait for the Sect Leader to complete the world passage and crush them boldly!"

A charming woman in a purple dress walked over, her attire somewhat revealing, full of allure. Although she was advising with her words, her eyes showed a hint of gloating.

"Zi Yun, are you mocking me?" Black Flame True Monarch stared coldly, an overwhelming sense of oppression surging forth.

True Monarch Ziyun patted her chest, speaking sweetly:

"What do you mean, Senior Brother? I was merely giving a kind reminder. After all, this information was obtained from the Golden Spirit Sect's secret vault; there's no falsifying it."

"If I remember correctly, the Golden Spirit Sect dispatched ten thousand Inner Sect disciples from the Magic Realm and many True Disciples of the Purple Mansion Realm who temporarily suppressed their cultivation through various means, and they carried many Secret Treasures as well."

The Golden Spirit Sect wiped out several small worlds. Who would've thought they'd overturn here?"

Black Flame True Monarch snorted heavily and then said in a deep voice:

"I naturally understand the reason behind it; it was merely because the world will of the Jiazi 1673 world awakened back then. Now we have countermeasures and will not repeat the Golden Spirit Sect's mistakes. When the world will of that small world destroyed the passage, it was also severely damaged. So many years have passed, it might have completely perished already."

"Moreover, Junior Sister, have you forgotten? The Golden Spirit Sect was strong, but is our Black Demon Sect weak? We've absorbed the entire foundation of the Golden Spirit Sect; even at its peak it couldn't compare to us!"

"This time, the Sect Leader has said to spare no effort in taking Jiazi 1673 world. Such a baptism by the will of the Mountain and Sea Realm can at least allow the birth of one or two Great Powers of the Void Path Realm in our Black Demon Sect! At that time, we can become an Upper Sect in the Beixuan Domain!"

His eyes were filled with passion and anticipation.

True Monarch Ziyun laughed mischievously:

"So that's why Senior Brother laid the groundwork in advance, to use this as a stepping stone into the Void Path Realm, and stand shoulder to shoulder with the Sect Leader?"

The expression of Black Flame True Monarch changed, he shouted:

"Zi Yun, do not speak nonsense, my loyalty to the Sect Leader is as clear as the mountains and seas, I have no ulterior motives. This layout is just to probe Jiazi 1673 world in advance to avoid unexpected situations later."

"Besides, I'm not without gains from this. Due to internal strife in Jiazi 1673 world, their top combat strength has halved. When we embark on the expedition, we will definitely suppress it with ease!"

True Monarch Ziyun playfully pinched a corner of her clothing, smiling nonchalantly:

"I'm afraid the Sect Leader might not believe you, and if you don't explain clearly, Senior Brother, you could be in trouble~~"

Black Flame True Monarch shot her a cold glance:

"In this expedition, my Primordial Spirit will emerge to prove my loyalty to the Sect Leader!"

As his words fell.

The always playful face of True Monarch Ziyun changed dramatically, she looked at Black Flame True Monarch in disbelief, as if thinking he had gone mad.

Although the Primordial Spirit can emerge, it's usually not done because it's risky. Entering a small world also causes power to be suppressed, and at best, through the special burst of the Primordial Spirit, one can exhibit strength surpassing the Magic Realm. However, if something unexpected happens, they could fall on the spot.

If the Primordial Spirit is destroyed, there's no chance of returning, not even for reincarnation.

This basically amounts to risking one's life on the front lines.

She gazed deeply at Black Flame True Monarch and then bowed respectfully:

"Zi Yun misunderstood Senior Brother, please forgive me!"

Black Flame True Monarch merely waved coldly.

But deep inside, there was a fiery passion.

He was not truly loyal to the so-called Sect Leader. To be honest, he wished to replace him. The reason for taking such a risk was due to what he had discovered when the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint summoned him.

"The world will of that small world not only hasn't perished, but has become even stronger!"

"Something's wrong, there must be something wrong! I've researched a lot of information on Jiazi 1673 world. The world will back then was definitely on the brink of perishing. Restoring to such strength in ten thousand years is impossible just by relying on the foundation of a small world!"

"There must be a mystery, maybe there's an opportunity hidden within. If I can obtain it, I might step into the Void Path Realm without needing the baptism of the Mountain and Sea Realm will, and perhaps even higher!"

"This way, I can truly become the master of the Black Demon Sect in the future!"

He harbored intense ambition in his heart.

This is not an impossible thing.

Among the many small worlds invaded by the Mountain and Sea Realm, though rare, such examples exist.

Either born from exotic treasures of the small world or formed by strange materials from the Sea of Realms falling into small worlds, or remnants of some Spirit Realm giant's fall... all these are possible.

Black Flame True Monarch felt that the Jiazi 1673 world was such a world.

As thoughts spun in his mind.

A mighty demonic voice suddenly echoed above the Black Demon Sect:

"Disciples of the Black Demon Sect, come to pay respect!"

Almost instantly.

Everyone stopped what they were doing, eyes full of reverence as they looked towards the core of Black Demon Mountain, knowing well who the owner of this voice was—the Sect Leader of the Black Demon Sect, Black Demon True Monarch!

Black Demon True Monarch was no ordinary True Monarch, and already had half a foot into the Void Path Realm.

There were rumors that even without relying on the baptism of the Mountain and Sea Realm will, he could become a Great Power of the Void Path Realm on his own; it was merely a matter of time.

In an instant.

Above Black Demon Mountain, numerous powerful figures soared into the sky, densely packed, stretching beyond the eye's reach.

In front of Black Demon Cliff.

Black Flame True Monarch and True Monarch Ziyun had already arrived, not daring to delay for a moment.

The rest of the elders and disciples also halted before the cliff, orderly arranged according to their power.

Inner Sect disciples from the Magic Realm, True Disciples from the Purple Mansion Realm, elders of the Primordial Spirit Realm, none dared slacken. As for the weaker Outer Sect disciples and servant disciples, they didn't come; it was not out of disrespect, but because they weren't yet qualified to become disciples of the Black Demon Sect.

An extremely powerful and robust figure slowly stepped forward, with a presence so overwhelming that each gaze was bowed in respect.

Black Demon True Monarch stood with hands behind his back, overlooking all beings:

"Disciples, prepare five thousand Inner Sect members and three thousand True Disciples; we will conduct a campaign on Jiazi 1673 world in a month!"

All the disciples became excited, shouting in unison:

"We heed the call!"

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