

Cultivating 501

Chapter 501: Perfection_2

"It seems the people sent by Ye Chen also perished? We might as well let Ye Chen be the vanguard. If this 'Immortal Species' is not worth the effort, we should carefully calculate the fall of Jiang Xuan."

She snorted coldly, feeling the tremendous frost power within her, extremely confident.

Over the years of secluded cultivation, she prided herself on being able to contend with Ye Chen.

"The First True Inheritor? It's not so easy to secure that position! This is a good opportunity to see Ye Chen's progress these years!"

The aura from Ice Soul Peak also shook and spread out.

The First and Second True Inheritors awakening in succession left the True Disciples of Infinite Sword Sect in a state of shock and doubt, as various rumors began to spread.

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True Martial Realm.

The brutal battle had finally ended.

Millions of cultivators from the Mountain and Sea Realm perished, further expanding the area of the Immortal Burial Battlefield, which occupied a significant region in the north of the True Martial Realm. It could be foreseen that this region would undergo even more mystical changes.

Ning Qi did not interfere; this was the magical nature of the world itself.

At this moment.

The Enlightenment Realm Tree continuously extended, absorbing the violent tides of Spiritual Qi.

The fall of a million strong cultivators in the True Martial Realm brought with it the imprints of the Mountain and Sea Realm, causing the Spiritual Qi of the True Martial Realm to surge to ten times the level it was during the Black Demon Sect era!

Once this bounty is fully digested.

Ning Qi would naturally achieve the Realm Lord Realm of Perfection!

Rumbling!

Spiritual Qi like dragons delved into the void, as if a terrifying giant beast was devouring the Spiritual Sea.

In the past, Ning Qi would have taken years to meticulously absorb these Spiritual Qi step by step, but now the True Martial Realm has evolved, and with the Enlightenment Realm Tree, just a few days are enough.

He gazed over the world, eyes filled with anticipation.

On the battlefield, the cultivators of the True Martial Realm watched the grandeur, filled with fervor.

"The Realm Lord is eternal! The True Martial Realm forever!"

The triumphant morale following victory spread across the world, filling every creature with fervor.

Ning Qi nodded slightly, his vast voice resounded:

"You have rendered meritorious service and shall be rewarded."

He could have resolved it all by himself, but if he did, wouldn't the True Martial Realm cultivators be mere decorations? It wouldn't benefit their growth or cultivate a sense of belonging.

Moreover, it wouldn't allow an opportunity to boost their power—rewarding without merit is a taboo leaving many hidden dangers. The meritocracy system was a rule set by Ning Qi himself, and he must adhere to it.

Under the fervent gazes.

The power of the Enlightenment Realm Tree descended into the minds of many cultivators, manifesting an aura that made them feel ecstatic.

Furthermore, according to their contribution in battle, they were awarded merits to exchange for Divine Power Magical Treasures at their discretion.

"We thank the Realm Lord!"

The excited and fervent voices echoed in all directions.

Watching this scene.

Qin Minghao and many disciples of the Sword Sect were filled with envy.

Ning Qi chuckled softly, his gaze lowering:

"You all will also be rewarded."

Though the power of the Enlightenment Realm Tree couldn't take root in their souls, as the master of the tree in the True Martial Realm, bestowing blessings and wisdom upon them was not difficult for Ning Qi.

In an instant.

Vast power descended, instilling them with transcendent auras.

Many disciples of the Sword Sect were stunned.

At this moment, they felt better than ever, as Spiritual Light entered their bodies, greatly enhancing their comprehension, allowing them to solve problems that once puzzled them in an instant. Their Divine Techniques and Magical Arts drastically progressed, reaching realms they once yearned for.

Moreover.

A torrent of pure and immense Spiritual Qi poured into their bodies like treasure medicine being infused at all times.

Their Magical Power soared at such a rapid rate that it made them dizzy.

But they could sense that this boost in cultivation had no latent troubles, only requiring a little time to refine and polish.

To this.

They were not unfamiliar.

The will of the Mountain and Sea Realm sometimes descends similarly.

In a moment.

The numerous disciples of the Sword Sect were in sheer ecstasy, all previous dissatisfaction vanished; for Ning Qi, they now had nothing but immense awe and reverence.

Ning Qi's lips curved into a slight smile.

Giving a slap followed by a sweet date, though simplistic, proved effective.

In the Mountain and Sea Realm, ultimately he still had shallow foundations, many reincarnated beings in the True Martial Realm needed time to grow, having a batch of loyal Sword Sect disciples would make future endeavors easier.

Therefore, he was not stingy in granting these disciples a little more empowerment, to enhance their capabilities.

Of course, there was one more crucial reason.

Conquering a small world, receiving the baptism of the Mountain and Sea Realm's will, is only natural.

After observing for a moment, Ning Qi focused on himself:

"According to conventional logic, sacrificing a small world that bore wisdom should easily suffice for me to reach the Realm of Perfection of the Primordial Spirit; it's a suitable opportunity to elevate the cultivation of my reincarnation body."

In an instant.

Vast Realm Power gathered, pouring into the reincarnation body.

This was the 'fortune' belonging to the reincarnation body.

The True Martial Realm descended into the joy following a grand victory.

Every moment, vast amounts of Spiritual Qi were being refined, making the True Martial Realm grander and broader, with new worlds appearing endlessly, new Spiritual Objects emerging continuously, foretelling an impending period of explosive growth.

After which, a long phase of steady development would ensue.

After all, once Ning Qi reached the Realm Lord Realm of Perfection, the True Martial Realm's limit would be largely set, with the strongest cultivator being the Primordial Spirit Realm.

Unless one day Ning Qi breaks through to the Rule Realm, at which point the True Martial Realm would undergo yet another transformation.

Time passed.

Several days felt like a blink.

Ning Qi's reincarnation body had long since ascended, naturally reaching the Realm of Perfection of the Primordial Spirit.

Upon returning to the Mountain and Sea Realm, he could gradually comprehend the Power of Rules, aiming for the Void Path Realm. If the reincarnation body reaches the Void Path Realm, it would certainly benefit the true body in advancing to the Rule Realm.

Ning Qi sat upright in the Inner World.

Gazing at the void.

He could see the edges of the True Martial Realm continuously extending, although the pace had now gradually slowed.

At a certain moment.

"Boom!"

A celestial sound reverberated, causing every sentient being in the True Martial Realm to instinctively look up. On the heavens, colors intertwined, clouds glowing, and a mysterious emotion swelled in their hearts, bringing tears to their eyes.

The cultivators felt this even more deeply.

In an instant, the surrounding void became more stable, filled with a sense of perfection. They helplessly found that their destructive capabilities had diminished.

In reality, this was a predicament the True Martial Realm cultivators had to face, the world improved too swiftly; years ago, a cultivator in the Magic Realm could casually split a mountain, but after several years, it required their utmost effort.

Yet everyone knew this was due to the world's improvement, mostly feeling only joy.

This signified ever higher heights they could aspire to reach.

A glint of joy appeared in Ning Qi's eyes.

The Realm Lord system was a path he himself devised; over the years he had refined it with the wisdom accumulated by the Enlightenment Realm Tree, making this path increasingly perfected.

By now.

He was utterly certain that if he continued along this path, his future limits would surpass the Immortal Path.

"Reaching the Realm of Perfection in the Realm Lord Realm, the True Martial Realm will also reach the limits of a small world."

"With the power of the Enlightenment Realm Tree, at the very least, the True Martial Realm can sustain over a million Magic Realm cultivators, probably even more. After some years, the birth of a Primordial Spirit Realm shouldn't be far off."

Ning Qi's thoughts whirled.

The transformation of the True Martial Realm was reaching the peak of a small world.

Celestial sounds rang incessantly, infused with the aura of the Dao.

With the final celestial sound echoing, every being in the True Martial Realm instinctively felt a tremor in their soul.

Though the Rule Origin was not yet present in the True Martial Realm, there was already a semblance of perfection.

Inside the Inner World, the Realm Power was vast, beginning to take form, surging into the reincarnation body.

The Thunder Heavenly River became more profound, manifesting various visions within. Vast tracts of land appeared in the Inner World, with Spirit Mountains suspended and Spiritual Seas ebbing and flowing, faintly glimpsing a magnificent Immortal Hall standing in the deepest void.

All of this was spontaneous.

Ning Qi, filled with a sudden insight, felt an infinite mystery surging up.

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Chapter 502: Senior Brother Ning Is Angry

Inner World.

Ning Qi felt unprecedentedly good.

His vision soared continuously, and the boundless darkness of the Sea of Realms appeared in his perception. Small worlds flickered like fireflies, and in a blink of an eye, some lights extinguished while new ones lit up.

True Martial Realm was one of them.

However, now True Martial Realm was no longer just a firefly; it was like a glowing 'small beast,' far more dazzling than the surrounding small worlds.

"This is milestone progress!"

Ning Qi rejoiced, then looked at that 'great sun' and gradually became more restrained.

"Still, I need to keep working hard, as the gap with the Mountain and Sea Realm is too vast, and I must remain discreet. According to the information collected over the years in the Mountain and Sea Realm, one day it is very likely to sacrifice all the small worlds within its range to complete the final leap. These small worlds with the same origin have benefits that other worlds cannot replace."

Therefore, Ning Qi always felt a sense of crisis.

Destroying the Black Demon Sect, exterminating the Twelve Sects cultivators of the Chu Kingdom Immortal Cultivation Realm, and holding the coordinates of the True Martial Realm were merely to avoid the immediate crisis.

But the real major crisis had never originated from these.

"Desperate improvement is the ultimate path."

Ning Qi's gaze was deep, every time he viewed the Mountain and Sea Realm from this perspective, he felt something different. The oppressive sensation like that of a giant beast filled him with pressure but also motivation. He knew that the current Mountain and Sea Realm was likely stronger than usual Spirit Realm standards, but he had to continue forward bravely.

"If I achieve Perfection in the Rule Realm, I should have some power to protect myself. If I can step into the realm beyond Rule Realm, I might have the ability to contend with the Mountain and Sea Realm."

"However, there's no need to worry too much. Mountain and Sea Realm's final leap is not that simple, as it seems tangled with another Spirit Realm. If full-scale war breaks out, it won't end quickly."

Conquering a Spirit Realm is not a simple task, since it's a world of the same level, unlike the easy sweeping of small worlds.

Ning Qi contemplated.

He gradually gathered his scattered thoughts and then carefully experienced the mysteries of this advancement.

Spiritual Qi from the Sea of Realms continued to pour into the True Martial Realm, processed constantly by the Enlightenment Realm Tree. Although it couldn't facilitate the world's further growth, it made cultivation easier for the cultivators within and increased the availability of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

This was a disguised enhancement of the True Martial Realm's power.

"But the most important change this time is the connection with the Mountain and Sea Realm!"

With a thought, Ning Qi significantly sensed the ability to control the connection between the True Martial Realm and the Mountain and Sea Realm.

When unnecessary, he could reduce this connection to the minimum to ensure his safety, avoiding unwanted attention.

And when needed, he could increase it to the maximum.

As for its function...

Very simple.

If Ning Qi's reincarnation body in the Mountain and Sea Realm encounters a life-and-death crisis, it can resonate with the True Martial Realm. At that time, he can open a domain world, pulling enemies into it, and his primary body can enhance the reincarnation body through the domain, resulting in terrifying power surge.

Ning Qi smiled.

This was undoubtedly extremely useful.

Now that he had achieved Perfection in the Realm Lord Realm, if his powers were transferred, he would be unbeatable in Void Path Realm. Even against Integration Realm giants, he might have the power to fight. This level of combat strength was already at the top in Beixuan Domain.

"With this, many things will have more room for development in the future."

He gradually retracted his thoughts.

After experiencing various benefits post-advancement, realm power, this peculiar force, transformed again, far stronger than magical power and primordial spirit power. This is why Ning Qi boasted such formidable combat strength even without mastering the rules.

This represents the essence of condensed worlds and Ning Qi's understanding of the myriad Dao.

"Next, it's about merging with the Rule Origin! Upon returning to the Mountain and Sea Realm this time, I can start on this matter and try to acquire more Spiritual Treasures containing Sword Rules."

"Unfortunately, despite killing so many Twelve Sects cultivators in Primordial Spirit Realm this time, not a single complete Spiritual Treasure was obtained, just a few broken lower-grade ones."

Ning Qi shook his head and laughed in dismay.

But this was expected; some loose cultivator Great Powers didn't possess lower-grade Spiritual Treasures, let alone these small sect cultivators in the Primordial Spirit Realm.

After observing the changes in the True Martial Realm for a while and confirming no omissions.

Ning Qi felt relief.

Next, just let the True Martial Realm develop naturally. Leave everything to time.

He spent a few days with Luo Wentian, discussing about the situation of fellow brothers and their master. When mentioning Zhuang Chen's fortunate reincarnation, Luo Wentian couldn't help but smile knowingly, eager to see the scenery of the Mountain and Sea Realm.

"Senior Brother, why not entrust True Martial Immortal Sect to someone else to look after?" Ning Qi hoped his senior brother wouldn't be too overworked and could experience different lifestyles.

Luo Wentian felt tempted but quickly replied with a smile:

"Maybe after some time, when there's someone worthy of trust, I'll visit the Mountain and Sea Realm."

He always remembered the feeling when their master, Taoist Longshan, placed the Sect Leader's Taoist Crown on his head. Through these years, he never dared to slack off, and if a suitable person wasn't found, he would never venture to the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Ning Qi could only let him make his own decision.

...

Mountain and Sea Realm.

Heavenly Gang Sect.

Spatial distortion waves surged, and many gazes lit up.

"The Expeditionary Army, has returned?"

The familiar spatial passage opened, but the anticipated millions of cultivators army did not appear. Only a few hundred people emerged from the passage, led by none other than the esteemed True Inheritor Ning.

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The powerful figures left behind by the Heavenly Gang Sect breathed a sigh of relief and cautiously asked:

"Dare I ask, True Inheritor Ning, if the Sect Leader is still campaigning in the minor world?"

He thought.

Ning Qi probably returned to the Mountain and Sea Realm to wait after solving the biggest problem since the time to conquer a minor world is uncertain. Some can be quick, needing only a dozen days, while others might take several years.

Ning Qi glanced at him indifferently, said nothing, and turned to step into the Three-Colored Treasure Ship.

The hearts of many cultivators left behind trembled.

Then they saw Qin Minghao's gaze turn icy cold, a smile tinged with murderous intent appeared at the corner of his lips:

"Heavenly Gang Sect, conspiring to murder my Infinite Sword Sect disciples, a capital offense! Exterminate... the entire sect! The remaining eleven sects, guilty of harboring!"

In an instant.

A light screen appeared in the sky, showing the scene when the elder of the Heavenly Gang Sect killed four disciples of the Infinite Sword Sect.

Suddenly.

The crowd was in an uproar, casting incredulous glances at Qin Minghao, and then visible panic began to rise.

"True Inheritor Ning, is there some misunderstanding here? How could our humble sect, the Heavenly Gang Sect, dare to offend the Upper Sect?"

"True Inheritor Ning, please see clearly! We had no knowledge of this matter at all!"

"Heavenly Gang Sect audaciously overstepped bounds, we had no idea! We are willing to exterminate the entire Heavenly Gang Sect to atone for our sins!"

Voices rose in frantic explanations.

But hundreds of Infinite Sword Sect disciples turned a deaf ear.

Their gazes were cold and filled with murderous intent.

This was to eliminate future problems.

After all, they all knew well that without the will of the Mountain and Sea Realm descending for cleansing, many things could not be explained. By killing all the informants, whatever happened could be at Ning Qi's discretion.

He could easily say that he had sacrificed the minor world for power.

After all, the cultivation level enhancement of the Reincarnation Body and many disciples could not be faked.

With Ning Qi's talent and status, even if some Great Power from the Infinite Sword Sect had interest in this minor world, they could only stop at this, as a world birthed with intelligence was no match for an 'Immortal Species,' much less when it has been sacrificed, with no way to track back even if one wanted to pursue.

Ning Qi estimated that some might pay special attention to so many cultivators falling in the minor world, but he could handle it.

With a wave of Qin Minghao's hand, a Yin Yang Array shot up to the sky, expanding in an instant, enveloping all cultivators within the Heavenly Gang Sect like a mountain.

His gaze was indifferent:

"Kill!"

...

Moments later, Qin Minghao respectfully stepped onto the Three-Colored Treasure Ship:

"Senior Brother Ning, it has been resolved, and traces of the Mountain and Sea Realm's will's cleansing have been left, foolproof."

Ning Qi nodded slowly:

"Return to the Infinite Sword Sect."

He knew that when reaching the sect, there might be another struggle; this time, by seizing the opportunity to kill Wei Feng and Jiang Xuan, the first True Inheritor Ye Chen and the second True Inheritor Jiang Qingxue would surely not let it slide.

His eyes flickered slightly:

"Just right, to seize the position of the First True Inheritor."

Now that the main body has reached Perfection in the Realm Lord Realm, the next step is to plan for the Rule Realm. To acquire more Rule Spiritual Treasures, effort must be made to elevate the cultivation and status of the Reincarnation Body. The higher Ning Qi's position in the Infinite Sword Sect, the more important he would become, allowing access to more useful information.

Qin Minghao respectfully responded yes.

However, he turned and stepped off the Treasure Ship, taking several other True Disciples with him.

The target was naturally the other eleven sects.

Since they had started, they must follow through; this was Qin Minghao's understanding. Some things must be carried out proactively without waiting for orders from above; as a sidekick, one must also have the insight of bearing the brunt voluntarily.

The Immortal Cultivation Realm of the Chu Kingdom was destined to face a heavy blow, but for the remaining sects, that was an exceptional opportunity for a rise.

Such scenes were not uncommon in the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Sometimes, provoking a Great Power or Giant could easily result in bloodshed across a realm of Immortal Cultivation, and no one would find it unusual. The law of the jungle, and the respect for struggle in the Immortal Path, had long been ingrained in the very souls of every living thing in the Mountain and Sea Realm.

...

Infinite Sword Sect.

Shooting stars fell, and the spiritual glow filled the sky.

Ever since the day Wind Thunder Peak and Ice Soul Peak trembled, rumors had multiplied.

"It's said that True Inheritor Ning is ready to challenge the position of the First True Inheritor!"

"Really? Is this true? If I remember correctly, True Inheritor Ning only stepped into the Primordial Spirit Realm for less than ten years, although his talent is unparalleled, the Wind Thunder Sword Body of the First True Inheritor is not ordinary either."

"Hey! You've been in closed-door training recently, right? Haven't you heard? It's rumored that the First True Inheritor and the Second True Inheritor both sent their trusted followers to follow True Inheritor Ning, and guess what? It's very likely that they have been trapped and killed by True Inheritor Ning!"

"Two True Disciples dead?"

"News leaked from Wind Thunder Peak and Ice Soul Peak says so, their Soul Lamps have extinguished, whether trapped by True Inheritor Ning is unknown."

"Right now, we are just waiting for True Inheritor Ning to return; by then, the First True Inheritor might come to seek justice! Even the Second True Inheritor will not let it rest."

...

Discussions arose stealthily in various caves.

No one dared openly discuss these unmatched prodigies, but the attention behind the scenes was inevitable.

It was a rare grand event in the Infinite Sword Sect.

A violet-clad woman stepped out of the meditation cave.

Lu Ziyue had already stepped into the Primordial Spirit Realm, achieving True Disciple status.

On principle.

This should be a joyful event.

But upon realizing that Ning Qi had already stepped into the Primordial Spirit Realm and became a True Disciple more than ten years ago, her complexion became a bit colorful. She had imagined such a possibility but when it unfolded before her, it still left a bitter tinge.

"Junior Brother Ning... Senior Brother's talent is truly beyond the imagination of mere mortals." She muttered to herself, finally letting go of that trace of unnoticeable attachment in her heart, gradually coming to terms.

After years of seclusion, she had already gained insight; without Ning Qi's teachings, she might never have stepped into the Primordial Spirit Realm, the gap between them was unimaginable.

Therefore.

Upon learning of the recent events, Lu Ziyue was not overly concerned.

"With Senior Brother Ning's capabilities, if it truly is his doing, he certainly has it all under control."

Lu Ziyue thought in her heart.

She stepped out from the True Inheritance Hall and did not choose an independent peak as her base but intended to join Ning Qi at the Five Elements Peak.

But just as she launched her Escape Light, two other lights intercepted her mid-air.

"Lu Ziyue?" The expressions on the faces of the man and woman showed some peculiarity.

Perceiving the aura of the Primordial Spirit Realm, Lu Ziyue slightly bowed:

"It is I, greetings Senior Brother, Senior Sister."

Undoubtedly, these were two True Disciples.

"You certainly have good fortune," the red-clad woman's eyes showed hinting envy.

The other male disciple's gaze was somewhat cold:

"It's good that it's you, come with us to Wind Thunder Peak, Senior Brother Ye wishes to see you."

Lu Ziyue's heart trembled, she knew full well that although she just became a True Disciple, she was aware of the big names among the True Disciples. Wind Thunder Peak, Senior Brother Ye, it was obvious who wanted to see her if she was still unclear, she'd be living in vain.

In an instant, she understood Ye Chen's reason for seeking her.

Anger filled her heart, but she took a deep breath, keeping her expression unchanged:

"I trouble you both to lead the way."

The tall male disciple glanced at Lu Ziyue with a somewhat strange look, and then the three headed towards Wind Thunder Peak.

...

Several days later.

A Three-Colored Treasure Ship transformed into clouds and mist, slowly descended at the mountain gate of the Infinite Sword Sect, and countless gazes were shaken. This news spread almost instantly throughout the entire Infinite Sword Sect, especially amongst many True Disciples, who simultaneously showed expressions of watching a good show.

Ning Qi returned to the Five Elements Peak.

He looked at the familiar territory, a smile appearing on his face, speaking of, throughout these years in the Mountain and Sea Realm, he spent most of the time dwelling in the Five Elements Peak, only occasionally venturing out.

But shortly after settling down, Qin Minghao came hastily.

He brought two pieces of news.

Firstly, Lu Ziyue had broken through to the Primordial Spirit Realm, attaining the status of a True Disciple.

Secondly, Lu Ziyue had been taken to Wind Thunder Peak.

Ning Qi listened quietly, downing the wine in his cup in one go.

Qin Minghao's heart trembled, knowing that Senior Brother Ning was angry.

Chapter 504: Witnessing with Your Own Eyes

The relationship between Ning Qi and Lu Ziyue within the Infinite Sword Sect is no secret.

Almost everyone knows about it.

Ning Qi was brought back by Lu Ziyue, and in the early stages, she even gave him quite a lot of resources. The two were close, and many envied Lu Ziyue's luck. She thus received rewards from the sect, which played an important role in her breakthrough into the Primordial Spirit Realm.

But now...

Lu Ziyue was 'invited' by Ye Chen to Wind Thunder Peak a few days ago.

Although nothing happened, it was clearly a provocation.

As for the reason, Qin Minghao was aware.

It was most likely because of Wei Feng.

Qin Minghao lowered his eyebrows, and dared not speak much. After witnessing Ning Qi's true origins in the True Martial Realm, he was even more respectful towards Ning Qi. He wasn't worried Ning Qi couldn't handle this trouble, but was rather concerned about the aftermath.

"Senior Brother Ning..." He finally spoke cautiously.

But before he could finish, Ning Qi's calm voice interrupted him:

"Go to Wind Thunder Peak."

Qin Minghao's heart trembled.

"Yes!"

Cold sweat broke out on his back, and he immediately went to make preparations.

He suddenly realized he had underestimated Lu Ziyue's position in Ning Qi's heart.

Indeed.

Ning Qi valued Lu Ziyue greatly.

It wasn't a matter of romantic feelings, but rather a connection of fate. When Lu Ziyue brought him back to the Infinite Sword Sect, their bond was destined to be significant; moreover, Lu Ziyue treated him sincerely. Both emotionally and rationally, Ning Qi wouldn't stand by idly, especially since Lu Ziyue's calamity was due to him.

The Five Elements Peak began to operate at a remarkable speed.

The disciples who had just returned bore solemn expressions as they gathered in mid-air.

After being baptized by the origin of the True Martial Realm, all the disciples had greatly enhanced their cultivation, especially several True Disciples, who had made significant advances in their cultivation, enough to rank among the top tiers of True Disciples. Qin Minghao was enough to position himself in the Top Ten True Inheritance.

All gazes turned, filled with shock.

In just a short time unseen, had the foundation of Five Elements Peak grown so much?

Before they could ponder, an extraordinary figure in white rose into the sky, and many powerful figures bowed fervently:

"Senior Brother Ning!"

Ning Qi nodded slightly and stepped into the air towards Wind Thunder Peak.

In an instant...

The entire Infinite Sword Sect was in an uproar.

Even many True Disciples who were in closed-door cultivation broke cover because they knew that the upcoming events might affect the future landscape of True Disciples.

...

Wind Thunder Peak.

Many powerful figures stood respectfully in the white jade square, where two figures sat playing chess. The man was tall, with every move accompanying wind and thunder, unmatched and overbearing. The woman's figure was graceful, dressed in purple, exuding a unique charm, though her face carried a frosty expression at the moment.

Ye Chen smiled:

"Junior Sister Lu, why the cold demeanor? Do you know that in the Infinite Sword Sect, many wish to see me but cannot, let alone sit opposite me."

He was somewhat boastful, but it was a fact. As the leading True Inheritor in the sect, he stood at the pinnacle of many disciples.

Lu Ziyue's expression was cold:

"Senior Brother Ye is naturally of divine grace; Lu Ziyue merely stumbled into True Inheritance by luck. What virtue does she have to warrant your interest."

Ye Chen gazed at the exquisite woman before him; he had seen countless beauties, but at this moment, inexplicably felt the woman before him had a peculiar charm. He casually placed a piece in a spot full of holes:

"Junior Sister Zi Yue, why the modesty? These days of interaction, your talent has captivated me. Why don't we become Dao Companions?"

As his words fell...

Envious and jealous gazes were cast, as Ye Chen had yet to have a Dao Companion. Many female True Inheritances who followed him coveted this position, yet unexpectedly today, Ye Chen broached the topic himself, targeting the newly entering True Inheritor, Lu Ziyue.

Lu Ziyue was taken aback, then a trace of anger arose in her eyes, and she coldly said:

"Senior Brother Ye is indeed extraordinary, but Lu Ziyue is unworthy."

She understood.

The other party's intentions weren't genuinely to become Dao Companions; it was likely more about using her to strike at Ning Qi, treating her as a mere tool.

Even setting aside these factors, Ye Chen was not whom her heart desired.

This person's actions were overly domineering, and he never considered others' feelings. If they became Dao Companions, she'd merely be a subordinate.

She inexplicably thought of Ning Qi.

Whenever discussing Dao with Ning Qi, it felt like a gentle breeze, akin to bathing in spring. If she truly had to consider a Dao Companion, she would only choose someone like Ning Qi. At this thought, a subtle blush arose on her face.

Ye Chen lowered his gaze slightly, the piece between his fingers turning to powder and drifting downward.

Several angry shouts erupted around:

"Bold! Senior Brother Ye's divine grace is your fortune of a hundred lifetimes. Not knowing gratitude is one thing, but daring to refuse, how dare you!"

"Frog at the bottom of the well, you're like an ant, Senior Brother Ye is like the bright moon, and now there is a chance to bask in its glow, yet you don't treasure it?"

Numerous followers glared angrily at Lu Ziyue.

If not for Ye Chen's presence, Lu Ziyue might have already been crushed by that terrifying aura.

Even so, she felt immense pressure, her face paled.

But Lu Ziyue said nothing, bowing her head and biting her lip.

Ye Chen, disheartened, shook his head and said:

"Seems I've expected too much from you."

He slowly rose.

About to speak, he suddenly turned his gaze toward the distant sky, then a cold smile formed on his face. He glanced at Lu Ziyue and spoke coolly:

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"I know what you're thinking, and soon you'll see how vast the difference is between him and me."

Everyone's gaze turned toward the distance.

The powerful auras stirred the wind and clouds, and the starry sea of clouds in the central peaks was trembling incessantly.

The disciples of Wind Thunder Peak all showed cold smiles.

A moment later.

A cold voice echoed:

"Senior Brother Ye, we are here at Senior Brother Ning's order to fetch Junior Sister Lu. Junior Sister Lu has been staying at Wind Thunder Peak for several days, and we appreciate Senior Brother Ye's hospitality."

A blue-robed youth appeared outside Wind Thunder Peak, with the Three-Colored Treasure Ship faintly visible in the distance, and formidable figures appeared indistinctly.

Ye Chen said nothing.

To him, Qin Minghao was not worthy to speak.

Around him, followers sneered:

"What status do you have that you dare speak to Senior Brother Ye? Call the person behind you!"

Ye Ning stepped forward in mid-air, landing in front of Qin Minghao with a sinister grin. Soldier meets soldier, king meets king—the followers failed if they allowed Senior Brother Ye to act against someone like Qin Minghao.

"I know you, Qin Minghao, right? Just a transparent figure among the True Disciples, how dare you act with impunity, assuming you've transformed? Today, I'll make you face reality!"

Ye Ning laughed heartily, sharing the same lineage as Ye Chen, and was exceptionally powerful among the followers.

Then.

He condensed a Primordial Spirit giant hand, reaching toward Qin Minghao—a higher-level application of the Dharma Aspect technique, pooling partial power more purely. Instantly, the sea of clouds rolled, revealing many onlooking True Disciples.

Everyone felt a surge of excitement; they hadn't expected such intense battle right from the start.

But Qin Minghao remained calm.

Once he had to look up to Ye Ning, but now, he had transformed.

Standing calmly, he extended a fist, flickering with black and white light, shifting unpredictably. Practicing the Yin Yang Sword Path, with Ning Qi's guidance, he had transformed, concealing metaphysical profundity; even without the Sword Dao, its power was immense.

"Boom!"

The earth-shattering sound shook Ye Ning, and the Primordial Spirit giant hand he condensed was shattered instantly. His Primordial Spirit shook, and he spat blood.

The crowd was in uproar.

Qin Minghao was so fierce?

Ten years ago, he was just the most inconspicuous among hundreds of True Disciples.

"Just under True Inheritor Ning's guidance for less than ten years, he has improved this much?" Each True Disciple felt envious and looked fervently at the figure high on the Three-Colored Treasure Ship.

Ye Ning was humiliated and angry, ashamed amidst the crowd—it wasn't just his face, but Ye Chen's as well.

"I was careless just now, come again!" he roared.

But his arm was held by a disciple.

"Senior Brother Wang," Ye Ning suppressed his anger.

Sharing the same lineage as Ye Chen, he disdained most of Ye Chen's followers except Wang Ye, who was no ordinary man, being among the Top Ten True Inheritance, ranked ninth.

The Top Ten True Inheritance all had their own pride.

Even the first and second True Inheritance would not follow others.

But Ye Chen had gained Wang Ye's allegiance, and the tenth-ranked He Tian had followed Jiang Qingxue, while others ranked higher were solo, with competitive thoughts.

"Let me; you're not his match," Wang Ye said deeply.

Towering with spirit armor and a muscular arm exposed, he was among the few cultivators of Infinite Sword Sect who didn't follow the Sword Dao, practicing body refinement. Ye Chen once promised to leverage the Ye Family's power to find Body Refining Profound Skill for him, gaining his allegiance.

Wang Ye saw clearly that Qin Minghao had stepped into the Top Ten True Inheritance; letting Ye Ning continue would only shame Ye Chen, so he stepped forward decisively.

Ye Ning was unwilling.

But he withdrew consciously.

In the spotlight.

Wang Ye ascended step by step, standing opposite Qin Minghao with a calm gaze:

"For you to rise from obscurity to today is no easy feat. Unfortunately, you shouldn't oppose Senior Brother Ye."

Qin Minghao sneered:

"I'll return the same words to you; Senior Brother Ning is a realm you can't reach."

"How long have you followed Senior Brother Ye, and how much have you progressed? While I, under Senior Brother Ning's guidance, can defeat you today."

His words subtly hurt Wang Ye, who once had great pride but found the path blocked, throwing himself under Ye Chen's command, hoping to gain the Profound Skill. Yet, after these years, the results were minimal, and every mention of it had Ye Chen responding that the time wasn't right.

Looking at the other side, within just ten years, Qin Minghao had gone from the fringe among True Disciples to the Top Ten True Inheritance, the disparity was vast.

For a moment, he felt a pang of jealousy.

Wang Ye's gaze was icy:

"Defeat me? You try it."

Angry, intending to vent on Qin Minghao, he stepped into the air, his figure rising into a hundred-zhang giant with three heads and six arms, each holding fierce magical treasures, all top-grade, emanating murderous aura, cleaving visible traces through the sea of clouds, reflecting the astonishment in everyone's hearts.

"Three-headed Six-armed Soldier Fiend Body!" He Tian whispered, his gaze somewhat serious. He was an old rival of Wang Ye, familiar with him, and this was the early opportunity Body Refining Profound Skill Wang Ye obtained. If not missing parts, his achievements might have been much greater. Not having clashed for ten years, Wang Ye's progress was unexpected.

Beside him, Jiang Qingxue nodded slightly.

She looked toward the distant Three-Colored Treasure Ship, eyes curious with inquiry; if Ning Qi didn't showcase expected abilities today, the issue with Jiang Xuan wouldn't be settled.

Her gaze then fixed on Qin Minghao.

Qin Minghao's eyes showed careful consideration, but he wasn't afraid; a soaring Sword Intent shielded him, manifesting Yin Yang, the black and white sword light flashed toward Wang Ye.

Facing Ye Ning earlier could be handled at will, but now against Wang Ye, he must give his all.

Senior Brother Ning was watching from behind—he absolutely couldn't disgrace him.

Instantly.

The two clashed fiercely.

Both were top-tier in the Primordial Spirit Realm, possessing top-class Profound Skill and Magical Treasures, making their fight intensely turbulent; the sea of clouds overturned, drawing awe-struck attention from True Disciples who couldn't believe Qin Minghao and Wang Ye were evenly matched.

Even... slightly edging ahead.

Primordial Spirit Magical Power conjured sword lights, shifting in the void, constantly dividing, sometimes transforming into dragons, sometimes converging into rivers, revealing profoundness, while Wang Ye also showcased the might of a Body Refining True Monarch, with his punches and kicks wielding immense power, his flesh comparable to magical treasures, rampaging through.

Their combat waves attracted more and more disciples.

Even high-level sect members turned their gaze.

Yet, those Great Powers didn't intervene; wanting to become a strong figure requires contention, even in the sect. This dispute, instigated by Ye Chen and Ning Qi, wouldn't see intervention unless it turned uncontrollable; otherwise, they wouldn't stop it.

Lu Ziyue watched in astonishment, but her gaze remained fixed on the distant Three-Colored Treasure Ship, vaguely feeling a warm gaze looking over, as if assuring her.

The initial tension in her heart miraculously faded, a light smile appearing on her lips.

Ye Chen snorted coldly.

Hands behind his back, watching the battlefield.

Initially confident, his gaze grew colder.

In the sky above, the black and white sword light grew fiercer, transforming into black and white twin hydras, slashing Wang Ye's flesh bloody.

"Slash!"

Qin Minghao shouted, spirited and imposing, integrating the Yin Yang subtlety Ning Qi spoke of, wielding an unbelievably powerful sword strike, forcibly knocking Wang Ye away.

Instantly.

The Dharma Aspect shattered; everyone was stunned.

They witnessed the rise of a prodigy.

Qin Minghao calmed his turbulent emotions, knowing the source of all this. He faced Ye Chen without fear:

"Senior Brother Ye, at Senior Brother Ning's order, we've come to fetch Junior Sister Lu!"

Chapter 506: The Great Five Elements

The sea of clouds churned, a silence enveloped the scene.

Countless awestruck gazes turned toward Qin Minghao. At this moment, he was undoubtedly the focal point.

To have grown from an obscure nobody to someone who can openly defeat the ninth True Disciple in less than a decade—how could the other True Disciples not be envious?

Unconsciously, they looked towards the Three-Colored Treasure Ship that always overlooked Wind Thunder Peak, their inner fervor growing ever more intense.

Just earlier, Qin Minghao seemed ordinary, so why the sudden meteoric rise?

The answer was self-evident.

All of it happened after he followed Ning Qi.

Remember when.

As soon as Ning Qi was promoted to a True Disciple, Qin Minghao went to follow him, drawing considerable ridicule. They said he didn't value his True Disciple status. Even though Ning Qi was praised as an 'Immortal Species' by the Supreme Elder at the time, it was after Ning Qi showcased his brilliance that one should pledge loyalty.

But now.

Who dares to mock?

A voice in their hearts said, what good judgement, what courage!

Emotions surged in the crowd.

Then they turned playfully towards Ye Chen.

Today, Ning Qi has not yet made a move, but like glimpsing a leopard by looking at a single spot, just from Qin Minghao's strength, it is known that the rise of this True Inheritor Ning is unstoppable!

Wang Ye is already Ye Chen's strongest follower, yet now he is not Qin Minghao's match.

What choice will Wind Thunder Peak make next?

Whether Ye Chen acts personally or relies on sheer numbers, his face is bound to be lost.

It also means, at least in some measure, that Ye Chen is inferior to Ning Qi.

Ye Chen's expression gradually darkened.

He stared at Qin Minghao coldly and said:

"Since when does a dog have the right to speak to me? Junior Sister Lu visits me of her own will, and it's not your place to dictate?"

Qin Minghao remained unfazed, but Wang Ye lowered his head, a flicker of anger in his eyes. Those words practically included him in the insult; if Qin Minghao is Ning Qi's dog, does that not make Wang Ye Ye Chen's dog too?

He felt discontent.

As the words fell,

A green sword light, unbelievably fast, flashed in an instant, striking in front of Qin Minghao. His expression changed drastically; the black and white sword light instinctively protected him, yet it was

easily slashed a thousand feet away. His face turned pale, sensing immense power from that green sword light.

This is a real gap in strength.

Qin Minghao took a deep breath, intending to continue his action.

A faint voice sounded:

"Junior Brother Qin, stand down."

Numerous gazes involuntarily focused on the place where the voice came from.

On the Three-Colored Treasure Ship, a white-robed figure, resembling an Immortal, had unknowingly appeared. His gaze was indifferent, looking down at Ye Chen, as if an immortal was looking down on an ant. Many saw Ning Qi for the first time; their hearts couldn't help but skip a beat.

Such a transcendent and extraordinary demeanor was beyond their imagination, as if nothing could shake his will.

Ning Qi's gaze fell on Lu Ziyue, who seemed excited, and he showed a gentle smile:

"Congratulations on becoming a True Disciple. I've come to take you to Five Elements Peak."

Ignored!

Completely ignored Ye Chen!

Ye Chen's already unpleasant expression turned even more overcast. Since his rise, when had he ever received such treatment at Infinite Sword Sect? But then he laughed, somewhat grimly.

He watched quietly as Lu Ziyue walked through the air to stand in front of Ning Qi, not stopping her.

"Ning... Senior Brother Ning." Lu Ziyue whispered, a little shy, the sudden change in status left her a bit unaccustomed.

Ning Qi merely chuckled:

"I've arrived a bit late, are you alright?"

Lu Ziyue shook her head repeatedly.

The two seemed unbothered by anyone, Ning Qi genuinely ignored everyone, while Lu Ziyue was completely tense.

Ye Chen's cold voice interrupted:

"I've long heard of the name 'Immortal Species'. Today, I haven't experienced anything else, but I've certainly experienced your arrogance."

Lu Ziyue's heart skipped a beat, obediently standing behind Ning Qi.

Ning Qi finally turned his gaze to Ye Chen:

"You owe me an explanation."

His words were gentle yet carried an irrefutable tone, high and mighty, as if speaking carelessly to his own dog.

Ye Chen's pupils shrank sharply, anger driving him to laughter:

"An explanation for you?"

Ning Qi ignored him, continuing indifferently:

"You placed Wei Feng into Five Elements Peak, that's one. Ignoring Junior Sister Lu's wishes, you forced her to Wind Thunder Peak, that's two. Considering it's your first offense, a small punishment serves as a big warning."

Wind and thunder instantly roared around Ye Chen; he appeared opposite Ning Qi in an instant, his face menacing:

"So you're saying, you killed Wei Feng and still want an explanation from me?!"

Amidst the sea of clouds, unbeknownst to when, fierce winds gathered, with terrifying lightning stirring within like hidden dragons, causing many True Disciples' expressions to change. Ye Chen, who hadn't appeared in a long time, seemed to have further advanced his cultivation.

Ning Qi's gaze remained unchanged:

"Wei Feng met an unfortunate downfall as he followed me in battle within the Small World."

Ye Chen sneered repeatedly, the Small World capable of claiming an Upper Sect True Disciple? You're better off deceiving ghosts.

But that didn't matter.

What mattered was he needed a pretext.

"And if I don't give this explanation?" Ye Chen's hair danced wildly, cyan and purple spiritual light gathering around him, wind and thunder accompanying, making him seem exceptionally domineering. Twin sword auras like agile roaming dragons split the void.

Those were Ye Chen's accompanying spirit swords.

One was the Cyan Profound Sword, the other the Purple Capital Sword, both lower-grade spiritual treasures, extremely compatible with his Wind Thunder Sword Body.

At this moment, the spirit swords had yet to unleash their power, yet an incredible aura was already brewing, causing many True Disciples' expressions to change, with Jiang Qingxue's gaze heavy, an icy blue hint flickering deep in her eyes.

Chapter 507: The Great Five Elements_2

"Ye Chen's Wind Thunder Sword Body is about to reach Small Success, at which point his Primordial Spirit will be immersed in Wind Thunder True Intent, easily merging with heaven and earth to comprehend a Power of Rules, and perhaps even more. This guy is extremely ambitious, aiming to grasp the rules of wind, thunder, and sword all at once!"

Jiang Qingxue understood Ye Chen's background, let out a long breath from her heart, and unconsciously a surging battle intent emerged.

"No wonder he is the first True Disciple, able to suppress me for so long. Let's see how this 'Immortal Species' will respond."

Her eyes showed some curiosity.

Ning Qi was most famous in the Infinite Sword Sect for his terrifying cultivation speed. Although he had some battle achievements before, they posed no threat to those true talents.

Countless gazes fell on Ning Qi, but he remained calm, responding to Ye Chen with action:

"Won't give it? I'll just take it myself."

In an instant.

The sea of clouds overturned, and it seemed as if the galaxy was reversing, with mountains and rivers trembling.

Ning Qi placed his left hand behind his back, extending his right hand slightly. In an instant, a giant hand shimmering with five-colored light suppressed down, intending to grasp Ye Chen along with Wind Thunder Peak. Everyone's pupils dilated instantly. Such a move was truly... domineering!

Yet also a bit arrogant, seemingly underestimating Ye Chen, the first True Disciple.

"Presumptuous! Calling you an 'Immortal Species,' do you truly think you've become immortal?" Ye Chen roared angrily, the Spirit Sword by his side erupting, the Cyan Profound Sword moving at the highest speed, the sword light like a teleportation, and was almost about to strike as the five-colored giant hand pressed down.

The fierce gale, like a Divine Sword, was difficult to resist even for top-grade Treasure Armor. If it were Wang Ye's physical body, he feared it would be sliced into a hundred and eight thousand pieces in an instant.

But...

"Poof."

"Poof."

Muffled sounds continued to echo as the Sword Qi, which could tear apart Treasure Armor, had no resistance against the giant hand, one after another being annihilated.

Everyone was stunned, unable to believe it.

Wang Ye's pupils shrank sharply, his hands and feet clenched instinctively, and Jiang Qingxue's gaze also froze.

"Is that... Great Five Elements Divine Light?"

She was somewhat horrified in her heart.

It was rumored that there was a terrifying Divine Technique called Five-Colored Divine Light capable of brushing away anything with no resistance. Now the five-colored light atop the giant hand bore some semblance to that. It wasn't that the giant hand was hard enough, but rather the five-colored light atop ground the Sword Qi to extinction.

"No! It can't be the Great Five Elements Divine Light. Ning Qi's realm can't possibly be that frightening. However... he seems to be on this path and has already made some achievements. What a Five Elements Sword Monarch, what an Immortal Species! Truly terrifying!"

She whispered softly, and her words caused the followers around her to be shocked.

Jiang Qingxue was genuinely stunned, no longer as composed as before. She realized that today, Ye Chen might not achieve his wish.

Ye Chen was equally shocked in his heart.

All his fury vanished in an instant, and he realized the person before him was an unparalleled formidable foe.

"Divine Cloud Wind and Thunder Sword!"

He no longer tested, and both Spirit Swords soared into the sky, slashing toward the five-colored giant hand. The two Spirit Swords intertwined, and the cyan and purple lights merged into one. High up in the heavens, the Wind and Thunder roared in response, turning the Sword Qi into a pillar of light piercing the sky.

"Boom!"

The Wind Thunder Divine Sword finally broke through the five-colored Spiritual Light, piercing through the giant hand.

The many disciples of Wind Thunder Peak all breathed a sigh of relief and revealed smiles, but before those smiles could fully manifest, they instantly froze.

Ning Qi's gaze was indifferent, looking down like a deity:

"Not bad, you haven't entirely lost the title of First True Disciple."

This light evaluation resonated, leaving no further doubts.

Everyone then realized that the five-colored giant hand was merely a casual strike from Ning Qi.

As the voice fell.

Ning Qi casually pointed, and a golden Spirit Sword transformed into a dazzling sun pressing down, with the five-colored spiritual light being extremely bright. Each beam of sunlight descended, turning into strands of Five Elements Sword Qi.

To this day.

Ning Qi's understanding of the Path of Five Elements had long reached the Ultimate Realm. There were many cultivators of the Five Elements Path in the True Martial Realm, and many of their novel ideas became his nourishment. The Great Five Elements Sword Qi he comprehended in the past also turned into an ultimate Divine Technique.

This was the first time it exhibited in the Infinite Sword Sect, and the entire venue fell into a stupor.

The Sword Qi was like a rain of five-colored lights. Ye Chen was petrified, like an ant looking up at the heavens.

In an instant.

The Wind Thunder Sword Pillar turned to nothing, the sea of clouds smoothed out, leaving only strands of five-colored light dispersing. Occasionally, a thread would fall on the onlookers, making their bodies tremble until they realized it was just five-colored lights with no magical power fluctuation. Only then did they breathe a sigh of relief, but their eyes filled with even greater awe.

Ye Chen stood like a sculpture.

He dumbfoundedly stared at his hands, with a bitter heart. Since his debut, his path had been smooth sailing, but this was the first time he encountered such a crushing defeat. Instinctively, he looked to the horizon, where a figure in white seemed to be rising without end, like a True Immortal judging his 'crimes.'

A wisp of sword light swept by, and the Cyan Profound Sword and Purple Capital Sword fell into Ning Qi's hands. He examined the two Spirit Swords carefully and smiled contentedly.

"Considering it's your first offense, a small punishment as a warning."

Ye Chen's face turned even paler.

Even though he was the First True Disciple, the Spirit Swords were extremely precious to him, not to mention that the Ye Family found them specifically to complement his Wind Thunder Sword Body, assisting his Enlightenment. These two swords played an indispensable role in his current achievements.

But now being seized before him by Ning Qi was tantamount to having an arm chopped off.

He wanted to say something, but since he instigated the challenge first, according to the Infinite Sword Sect's rules, there was nothing wrong with the opponent taking his two Spirit Swords.

But he was unwilling.

He clenched his fists, completely losing his past spirit and domineering might, lowering his head with eyes filled with deathly stillness and grayness, his Dao Heart shattered.

One by one, the disciples of Wind Thunder Peak were all stunned and dejected. Ye Chen's crushing defeat cast a shadow over their hearts, and they didn't dare to look directly at the figure in the sky.

Many True Disciples were also shocked.

They initially thought they would witness a fierce battle today, but they didn't expect it to be this scene. Some True Disciples expected Ning Qi to win, but never imagined it would be such a one-sided overwhelming defeat—unbelievable!

After all, Ye Chen could suppress many True Disciples for hundreds of years as the First True Disciple!

But now, he was defeated so miserably.

The crowd seemed to see a great sun rising gradually, with countless fiery gazes, especially recalling the recent terrifying progress of Qin Minghao, feeling even more stirred.

Jiang Qingxue pursed her jade lips tightly, her body tensing.

It was not only because of this shocking scene but also due to the casual glance cast at her, causing her heart to instinctively tremble.

After all, it wasn't just Ye Chen involved in arranging internal spies back then.

Watching Ning Qi play with the two Spirit Swords casually in his hands, Jiang Qingxue's breath lightly hitched.

It was evident that today, Ning Qi's rise was unstoppable.

If not handled well, it would bring about a frightening enemy in the future.

When facing Ye Chen, she still had thoughts of opposition, but facing Ning Qi, she had none. Such a prodigy, even within the Great Domain Immortal Sect, would certainly be a top-tier prodigy!

Jiang Qingxue was just about to speak.

An overwhelming pressure suddenly descended from the sky.

"Rumbling!"

The sea of clouds quivered, instantly condensing into a majestic face like a Heavenly God. The imposing face's gaze locked onto Ning Qi with some kind of malice, and a rolling voice thundered through the void:

"Presumptuous! Using such ruthless means in a duel between same sect members, shattering one's Dao Heart, seizing Spirit Swords, utterly vicious!"

The owner of the great face seemed particularly outraged, with terrifying pressure further weighing on Ning Qi's head.

"Return the Spirit Swords!" A vague figure of a black-robed elder appeared, hair fluttering, staring fiercely.

But Ning Qi was fearless.

His expression unchanged, facing the overwhelming pressure of the Great Power, he raised his head and responded:

"Supreme Elder, you are mistaken. Ye Chen was in the wrong first. According to our Sword Sect's rules, his Spirit Swords rightfully belong to me. As for his shattered Dao Heart? He was just incompetent."

Seeing Ning Qi stand against a Void Path Realm Great Power directly, all the disciples were astonished.

Chapter 508: Sect Leader

What is the Void Path Realm?

The Primordial Spirit merges with heaven and earth, comprehends a power of rules, and possesses a lifespan of one hundred thousand years.

At this stage, even in the Spirit Realm, one can be called a Great Power.

This marks a chasm-like difference from the Primordial Spirit Realm, as the power of rules is a higher-dimensional force. No matter how powerful a prodigy is, it is absolutely impossible to defeat the Void Path Realm from a higher realm. This is a fundamental difference in power.

Whether one has mastered the power of rules is another matter.

Even Ning Qi, with his current reincarnation body, invincible in the Primordial Spirit Realm, dare not claim he can fight against the Void Path Realm.

However.

At the very least, Ning Qi believes he wouldn't be crushed like an ant.

Of course, this isn't the main reason for his calm response. He wasn't afraid because he had already anticipated this situation before he came.

The black-robed elder's gaze was furious, as if thousands of sharp swords pierced through the sky, but before he could take any action, a loud shout descended:

"Old Ghost Ye, you're certainly becoming more unreasonable as you age! A Supreme Elder bullying a junior who has only practiced for a few decades?"

The disciples were horrified.

They saw a purple sun in the sky transform into a purple-robed elder. Who else could it be but Supreme Elder Ziyang?

"I've seen Supreme Elder Ziyang." Ning Qi chuckled inwardly and bent slightly.

Using Ye Chen as a stepping stone, how could he not thoroughly understand the situation?

The vast Infinite Sword Sect is naturally not a monolithic piece. Among them, two families are particularly prominent. One is the Ye Family from the first True Inheritor, and the other is the Jiang Family from the second True Inheritor. Several Sect Leaders have emerged from these two families, and there are a few Great Powers holding sway within the sect currently.

It can be said.

If this continues, when these two families produce a few more Sect Leaders, the Infinite Sword Sect will gradually become controlled by the families, whether Ye or Jiang, which is not a good thing.

Such a situation is naturally not what the 'sect-born' strong individuals wish to see. They hope to oppose the two big families, instigate internal conflicts, and hope to attract more non-family prodigies.

Thus, when Ning Qi showcased unparalleled talent in the past, Supreme Elder Ziyang was exceptionally excited.

He saw the hope of revitalizing the sect factions and suppressing the two big families within Ning Qi.

Therefore, when Ning Qi learned of this, he naturally had someone inform Supreme Elder Ziyang of the situation in advance.

"Excellent! Excellent!"

Supreme Elder Ziyang smiled as he examined Ning Qi, having witnessed the previous battle. In less than ten years, Ning Qi could already oppress Ye Chen. This level of talent and potential exceeded his expectations.

Ning Qi just courteously smiled.

In the distance.

The black-robed elder, 'Old Ghost Ye,' also revealed his true form, standing beside Ye Chen, glaring at Ziyang, shouting:

"Old Ghost Ziyang, are you really going to favor this brat?"

Ziyang turned around and sneered:

"Favor? You, Old Ghost Ye, are blindly partial. That's the real favor, isn't it? Is it because Ye Chen is from your Ye Family that you disregard the rules and arbitrarily suppress other disciples? Let me ask you, do you still have the Infinite Sword Sect's rules in your heart?"

His momentum was overwhelming, strands of power of rules descended, and all disciples held their breath with their hearts racing. The confrontation between Great Powers exceeded their expectations for the day.

Old Ghost Ye was momentarily stunned:

"Cease speaking filth! I, Ye Qingtian, am naturally loyal to the Sword Sect, but this brat is so ruthless towards fellow disciples, he must be punished. Going so far as to break the Dao heart and seize spiritual treasures, how is this any different from the Demon Path?"

"If we don't set an example today, everyone will imitate in the future. How can our Sword Sect thrive and unite?"

He used this to impose a large accusation, pulling out a sneer:

"Just return the Spirit Sword to Ye Chen, and we can show mercy, going into secluded cultivation in the Celestial Killing Cave for fifty years will suffice."

Everyone's complexion changed.

The Celestial Killing Cave is not a good place, filled with Celestial Killing Gang Wind, corroding bodies and spirit souls. Fifty years in there, even if one survives, they'd be severely weakened. This was an attempt to stifle Ning Qi's future potential, knowing that Ning Qi's rise has only occurred within a few decades of cultivation, yet now he is made to waste fifty years, with such intent readily apparent.

Ziyang laughed angrily, and the purple sun behind him suddenly burst forth with light, suppressing Ye Qingtian, with a roar like heaven's movement:

"Old Ghost Ye, are you trying to destroy our Infinite Sword Sect's Immortal Species?"

This stirred his wrath.

Between heaven and earth, strands of power of rules fell, slicing the clouds into strips. The arrays of the central peaks couldn't shield against such fluctuations. At this moment, countless Inner Sect and Outer Sect disciples within the Infinite Sword Sect looked towards that direction with shock.

Ziyang's hair and beard flew wildly, his eyes like swords:

"A mere Ye Chen, let him be abolished if he's abolished. Compared to the Immortal Species, he's nothing!"

"Let alone the fact that he was at fault first. Just two Spirit Swords, as compensation for his mistakes, couldn't be more fitting. Our Sword Sect's disciples are never the delicate flowers that can't withstand storms. If his Dao heart shatters so easily, what a misfortune for him to be our Sword Sect's first True Inheritor!"

"Old Ghost Ye, if you want to fight, come!"

His aura was imposing, fearless of any enemy, determined to back Ning Qi.

Ye Qingtian's face was extremely gloomy.

"Fine! Very well! Since you, Ziyang, are being unreasonable, let me see if you've actually advanced in these millennia!"

Being challenged in public like this, if he doesn't respond, he'll have no face left to continue in the future.

Everyone held their breath.

Ning Qi's eyes also had a touch of seriousness. If the two Void Path Realm Great Powers were to fight, the power would be enough to shake heaven and earth. However, he also knew that they probably wouldn't fight today. If they did, it would signify that the Infinite Sword Sect was close to fracturing.

Chapter 509: Sect Leader_2

From the experiences in the Infinite Sword Sect over the years, although there is strife in the sect, it is generally upward-moving.

Indeed.

Just as this thought settled.

A powerful aura descended from the sky, forcibly interrupting the confrontation between two Great Powers.

Two figures appeared, Vice Sect Leader Cang Wanhe respectfully followed behind a refined middle-aged man. Everyone bowed their heads in respect, even Supreme Elder Ziyang and Ye Qingtian bowed politely:

"Greetings, Sect Leader!"

Jiang Baichuan smiled and waved his hand, speaking gently:

"Both Supreme Elders are pillars of the Sword Sect, why hold grudges?"

Standing there, his aura was as elusive as clouds in the sky. He was once the top True Inheritor, born of the Jiang Family, and eventually seized the position of Sect Leader, leading to a period where the Jiang Family held significant power, suppressing the Ye Family.

Therefore, the Ye Family placed their hopes on Ye Chen, hoping he could secure the position of Sect Leader for the Ye Family in this generation.

Ye Qingtian snorted coldly:

"Sect Leader, please judge, should Ning Qi be punished for such actions?"

Before Ziyang could speak, Jiang Baichuan had already looked at Ning Qi, with a hint of surprise in his eyes, he smiled and said:

"You truly live up to being the Immortal Species designated by Supreme Elder Ziyang, indeed extraordinary. I was far inferior in my time; given time, you will surely elevate the Sword Sect to new heights."

Upon hearing such praise.

Ye Qingtian's face froze, while the words Ziyang was about to utter were retracted, with a smile on his face, the inclination became very obvious.

Ning Qi respectfully said:

"Sect Leader praises me too much, it was merely luck."

Jiang Baichuan shook his head with a smile, then said:

"In my opinion as Sect Leader, why not let this matter go? After all, it was Ye Chen who was at fault first. Without challenges, one cannot grow. Ye Chen is extraordinarily talented and will surely become a great figure in the future. This experience may not necessarily be a bad thing, as they are all geniuses of the sect, they may have to fight side by side one day, there's no need for this."

He mentioned nothing about the two Spirit Swords, instantly making Ye Qingtian and Ye Chen look extremely upset.

Jiang Baichuan is indeed the Sect Leader of the Infinite Sword Sect, but he is also a member of the Jiang Family. While maintaining a certain degree of fairness, he is more willing to seek benefits for the Jiang Family.

Suppressing the Ye Family undoubtedly aligns with the interests of the Jiang Family, and this was quite a good opportunity. The rise of Ye Chen had always made the Jiang Family somewhat apprehensive. If Ye Chen succeeded in taking the position of Sect Leader, the Ye Family would have a remarkable leap, but now, with Ning Qi's unexpected rise suppressing Ye Chen, the Ye Family's hopes were dashed.

He preferred the Sect Leader faction to take control over the Ye Family seizing the position.

Of course, he also couldn't let the Sect Leader faction become too comfortable.

Everyone's expressions were varied.

Ziyang and Ning Qi naturally had no objections, Ziyang clasped his hands with a smile:

"We heed the Sect Leader's instructions."

Ye Chen finally adjusted his mindset and couldn't help but step forward:

"Sect Leader, this matter arose because our Sword Sect's True Inheritor, Junior Brother Wei Feng, was killed by Ning Qi. I acted out of agony. According to our sect rules, while disputes are permissible, True Inheritors are forbidden from killing each other; violations lead to either the abolition of one's spiritual cultivation or the destruction of the Primordial Spirit!"

He clenched his fist and roared quietly, his gaze at Ning Qi flickered with both resentment and fear, and he bluntly dragged Jiang Qingxue into it.

"I dare swear by the Heavenly Dao, this is true, and Junior Sister Jiang Qingxue should know something about it, as Junior Brother Jiang Xuan also fell at Ning Qi's hands!"

The words fell.

The scene was silent.

The rule forbidding True Inheritors to kill each other is an unbreakable law. If such matters are handled privately that's one thing, but if brought to light, it must be taken seriously, or else, morale will collapse and the sect's fall is not far off.

Jiang Qingxue's scalp tingled, inwardly cursing Ye Chen for dragging her down.

Seeing Jiang Baichuan and the other Great Powers' gazes, she didn't dare lie and could only speak in a low, vague voice:

"I was on good terms with Junior Brother Jiang Xuan, he had entrusted me with his Soul Lamp, joining Five Elements Peak. Some time ago, Junior Brother Jiang Xuan's Soul Lamp extinguished."

Everyone instantly understood.

Wasn't this just about placing Jiang Xuan in Five Elements Peak?

However, this kind of thing does not look good on the surface anyway, so Jiang Qingxue altered her version, but the numerous experienced Great Powers present couldn't fail to see through these little tricks.

The gaze of the many Great Powers looked towards Ning Qi:

"Is this true?"

Pressure immediately soared, and the disciples behind Ning Qi from Five Elements Peak were all extremely nervous.

But Ning Qi had already prepared his response, he replied calmly:

"To the Sect Leader and all Supreme Elders, this disciple accidentally gained fortuitous opportunity and learned that a small world with budding wisdom appeared in the Immortal Cultivation Realm of Chu Kingdom, so I led the disciples of Five Elements Peak there. Unexpectedly, the small world was peculiar, with many natives capable of exerting Primordial Spirit Realm power."

"I put forth all my strength to seize it, but as for Junior Brother Wei Feng and Junior Brother Jiang Xuan, they unfortunately perished."

"I would never dare slaughter my kin, please Sect Leader discern clearly!"

Everyone's expressions grew more astonished.

A small world containing Primordial Spirit Realm power, that was incredibly rare.

Ye Chen was furious:

"Ning Qi, you have a lot of nerve, how dare you deceive the Sect Leader! Why is it that so many disciples of Five Elements Peak survived, yet Junior Brother Wei Feng and Junior Brother Jiang Xuan died, and... as far as I know, the twelve sect cultivators of the Chu Kingdom's Immortal Cultivation Realm who went with you were completely annihilated!"

He sneered coldly, continuing:

"Are you deliberately hiding something to cover your crimes?"

The many Great Powers' gazes bore even more investigatory intent, with several gazes even rising in intrigue.

This small world was indeed peculiar, capable of driving Ning Qi to such lengths to kill so many cultivators. It was likely harboring a remarkable opportunity, potentially one that could achieve the Integration Realm power, perhaps even directly reaching the Harmonization Realm!

As for further than that, they dared not think, as it was just a small world after all.

But even so, it was enough to captivate them, without Jiang Baichuan's presence, questions might have already begun, causing Ziyang's heart to sink, silently shielding Ning Qi from those probing gazes.

Jiang Baichuan's gaze was calm but contained great authority:

"Ning Qi, how do you explain?"

Ning Qi bowed slightly:

"Sect Leader, please see."

He waved his hand, and a white Profound Crystal flew out, it was the Shadow-shooting Spirit Crystal, capable of recording everything that happened, with even Great Powers unable to modify its contents.

Ye Chen's complexion shifted, and then he saw a vast war scene projected.

In the images.

Ning Qi led the charge, with all the Infinite Sword Sect disciples following by his side. Behind them were numerous True Monarchs of the Primordial Spirit Realm, along with a hundred thousand cultivators of the Twelve Sects. However, the enemies opposite were equally daunting, each with formidable auras, unlike typical natives of a small world, imbued with unknown powers, exuding black qi, resembling demons.

Everyone present felt a bit startled.

Even the numerous Great Powers had a trace of curiosity in their eyes, racking their brains for any race bearing resemblance.

Ning Qi chuckled inwardly.

This was, of course, something he had prepared long ago. Having achieved Perfection in the Realm Lord Realm, recreating such a war scene was indeed all too easy, a simple demonstration of Realm Power. In the projection.

Mountain and Sea Realm cultivators kept falling, as well as native entities of the small world.

Suddenly, a powerful confrontation erupted.

A bitter fight unfolded, with Ning Qi striving to protect the many Sword Sect disciples. Nevertheless, Wei Feng and Jiang Xuan together with a few other Sword Sect disciples were battered down.

As a matter of course, those disciples were engulfed by the enemy tide, reduced to dust.

Ning Qi solemnly bowed slightly:

"That is the truth of what transpired. For the deaths of Junior Brother Wei Feng and Junior Brother Jiang Xuan, I am truly heartbroken."

Chapter 510: Profound Truth Secret Realm

Upon witnessing the scene displayed by the Shadow-shooting Spirit Crystal, the crowd's expressions varied.

When they heard Ning Qi's words, their hearts became as clear as mirrors.

He could protect hundreds of Sword Sect disciples, but not Wei Feng and Jiang Xuan, who were both in the Primordial Spirit Realm?

It was obvious that Ning Qi was intentionally revealing a flaw.

Most likely, Ning Qi had already realized that the two were spies sent by Ye Chen and Jiang Qingxue, and he meant to expose them.

Yet nobody could find fault with it.

Was it Ning Qi who killed Wei Feng and Jiang Xuan?

No.

That was enough.

Those Great Powers were well familiar with the open and secret battles among True Disciples, as they had advanced this way themselves, with many peers having fallen by their hands in the past. The Immortal Path values competition; without struggle, how can there be progress?

Ye Chen's face was grim, never expecting that Ning Qi would have such a move up his sleeve. He growled resentfully:

"I plead Sect Leader to see clearly. Ning Qi deliberately let our Sword Sect True Inheritors be in danger while harboring sinister intentions. Perhaps he has an unknown origin. In my opinion, we should search his Spirit Soul to rectify the fundamental truth!"

Jiang Baichuan only gave him a dismissive glance, making Ye Chen feel like he was struck by lightning, his face turning pale.

Does a disciple like him have the place to teach a dignified Sect Leader what to do?

Ye Qingtian immediately discreetly shielded Ye Chen and respectfully said:

"Ye Chen misspoke, I hope Sect Leader pardons him. However, Ye Chen's words bear some truth. This Shadow-shooting Spirit Crystal was provided by Ning Qi, and although Great Powers cannot alter its contents, there might still be other means. I urge Sect Leader to consider carefully."

Jiang Baichuan's eyes flickered.

Supreme Elder Ziyang immediately became angry:

"Old Ghost Ye, are you suggesting that Ning Qi found a Giant of the Integration Realm or even an Ancestor of the Unity Realm to fabricate the Shadow-shooting Spirit Crystal?"

He laughed in rage.

Throughout the entire Beixuan Domain, only the Beixuan Upper Sect possesses Integration Realm beings. Even the ancient Infinite Sword Sect does not have such Giants appear; if Ning Qi truly had such powers behind him, what would be the purpose?

Many of the Great Powers and True Disciples nodded slightly.

Ye Qingtian also paused, muttering:

"Anything is possible. A clear conscience fears no shadow; besides the Shadow-shooting Spirit Crystal, there are other ways to verify."

He chuckled, his gaze falling on the numerous disciples of the Five Elements Peak behind Ning Qi.

There were quite a few survivors from that day. Sometimes, memories are more reliable than anything.

Ning Qi's expression changed imperceptibly, which further solidified Ye Qingtian's confidence.

The crowd quickly caught on.

To find out the truth, just search a disciple's soul.

Some Great Powers did not oppose and even somewhat agreed, as they were curious about the small world Ning Qi had campaigned against, wanting to know what secrets lay within.

Supreme Elder Ziyang's face showed displeasure; he wanted to speak but ultimately refrained.

Finally, Ning Qi spoke:

"Supreme Elder Ye, I must decline the order with difficulty! Many fellow disciples of Five Elements Peak are willing to follow me. How could I let them be wasted by a soul search!"

Anger was apparent on his face.

But in Ye Qingtian's eyes, this was a sign of a guilty conscience.

"Heh, why don't you take their place then?"

Ning Qi stood unyieldingly:

"Then please, Supreme Elder, take action!"

Everyone's eyes revealed unusual expressions, especially those True Disciples, who developed more admiration for Ning Qi, seeing how he stood against Great Powers for his followers, contrasting sharply with Ye Chen who treated his followers like dogs. Such a person was clearly more worthy of following.

Many disciples of the Five Elements Peak showed gratitude and respect.

The atmosphere was a bit eerie.

Sect Leader Jiang Baichuan pondered for a moment and said:

"Ning Qi, this Sect Leader possesses a Divine Technique called the Taiyin Soul Illumination Technique, capable of peering into Primordial Spirit memories. For those with Primordial Spirit Realm strength, there would be no harm, merely weakness for a few months. Would you let your followers try it?"

Ye Qingtian immediately sneered.

He naturally knew long ago that Jiang Baichuan had such a technique, and he was just deliberately steering things step by step.

Before Ning Qi could speak.

Qin Minghao had already stepped forward and replied:

"Report to Sect Leader, this disciple is willing to try, to prove Senior Brother Ning's innocence!"

He was visibly agitated, as if he himself had suffered a great injustice.

Several other True Disciples also stood up in unison:

"This disciple is willing to try, and please let Sect Leader search our Spirit Soul, to prove Senior Brother Ning's innocence!"

The onlookers were all amazed.

Searching one's soul is not a trivial matter; even with Sect Leader's technique, it's not without harm. Not to mention, it means laying all one's private secrets bare to the public, which no common person would be willing to do.

Yet now.

Ning Qi's numerous True Disciples seemed eager to volunteer.

What does this represent?

Ning Qi was highly respected, possessing the demeanor of a leader.

If he were extremely harsh on his followers, this would never happen.

Several Great Powers nodded approvingly, gaining a favorable impression of Ning Qi. The internal strife in the Infinite Sword Sect was becoming increasingly fierce, and they felt lacking a leader to purify the atmosphere. Deep down, they thought, as long as Ning Qi had no issues, they would not allow him to suffer any grievances.

Ning Qi spoke with a heavy voice:

"Subject only to Sect Leader's arrangement."

Lu Ziyue looked at him, her eyes showing slight concern.

Jiang Baichuan calmly observed the True Disciples, and finally his gaze settled on Qin Minghao:

"Let it begin with you."

Qin Minghao took a deep breath, closed his eyes, and sat cross-legged in the void.

A glimmer passed through Jiang Baichuan's eyes as he casually pinched his hand, producing a dark, profound Taiyin glow, fluctuating as it penetrated Qin Minghao's mind. In an instant, Qin Minghao let out a low growl, his face contorted.