

Cultivating 81

Chapter 81: Gathering of the Strong

In True Martial City, heavy snow was falling, yet it could not dampen the enthusiasm of the martial artists. Inns were overflowing, and people were warming themselves with wine, engaging in hearty discussions. Special couriers traveled between the mountain top and bottom to ensure the latest news reached them promptly.

This was why people flocked to this place even if they couldn't ascend the mountain—they could get firsthand information.

Meanwhile, on True Martial Mountain.

The sky was clear.

The mountain top and bottom seemed like two different worlds. Seen from afar in the sky, there was a very distinct dividing line.

Above the True Martial Dojo.

Tables were arranged according to a special pattern. Over the past three days, guests had arrived and were seated under the guidance of True Martial disciples. At the center was a high platform, currently empty.

But when everyone looked at that high platform, their eyes bore a look of reverence. They knew who would sit there shortly, and an anticipation rose in their hearts.

Guests kept arriving.

"Mist Rain Pavilion of Cang State comes to offer congratulations!"

Luo Wentian's voice rang out, drawing many gazes over.

Luo Wentian made a gesture, and several graceful women in white dresses came from the foot of the mountain. Their elegant steps and ethereal presence radiated an unparalleled charm. Even though they were all veiled in white silk, it was clear these women were beauties of the highest order.

Some young people brought by their elders for knowledge and experience were staring and bashfully lowered their heads.

Ning Qi curiously observed the leading woman. She was also in a white dress but had an embroidered crescent moon.

He wasn't amazed by the lady's grace but rather her unconcealed aura, which was at the Primordial Core Realm, comparable to the Divine Sword Old Man.

Ye Qinghe came over with a smile and said:

"That's the Second Pavilion Master Liu Mingyue of Mist Rain Pavilion. Don't be fooled by her youthful appearance; she's almost the same age as our Master. Last time, when our Master pursued the Iron Ridge Three Fierce to Cang State, Mist Rain Pavilion helped us a lot."

Ning Qi understood and replied with a laugh:

"Pavilion Master Liu is impressive, but she's not even a tenth of our senior sister."

Beside them, Zhuang Chen wiped his mouth and nodded repeatedly, making Ye Qinghe feel pleased. She laughed and called them 'two little tricksters,' before running off to greet more guests.

There were more forces arriving today than in the previous three days, especially those coming from distant places.

"Ascetic Sect of Yun State comes to offer congratulations!"

...

"Nocturnal Blade Sect of Chu State comes to offer congratulations!"

...

"Sea-covering Gang of Cang State comes to offer congratulations!"

...

"Gu Buyi of Three-Eyed Divine Fist comes to offer congratulations!"

...

"Ye Chen of Gale Swift Sword comes to offer congratulations!"

...

Powerful forces and renowned figures kept arriving, among them were many first-rate, and even top-notch, forces. Though the Celestial Being Strong Persons did not come in person, they sent significant representatives to attend.

As for those strong loose cultivators, the weakest were at the Jade Liquid Realm, and many at the Primordial Core Realm.

Every time a notable strong person arrived, it caused an uproar.

Ning Qi noticed that most attendees were from Qing State, Yun State, Cang State, and Chu State. The True Martial Sect was located at the junction between Qing State and Yun State, so the most came from these two states. As for Chu State and Cang State, those were places where Taoist Longshan had traveled extensively in the past, building many connections.

The sun gradually rose in the east.

True Martial Mountain grew ever more bustling.

Ning Qi was in a good mood, not only because today was his master's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony but also because many guests brought gifts, including many Martial Arts manuscripts. Gifts presented at today's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony were naturally not ordinary items.

Ning Qi had long read all the scriptures in the Scripture Pavilion over the years, and this fresh wave of additions naturally made him happy.

He stood aside with Zhuang Chen, accompanied by the White Ape, occasionally drawing looks from others.

However, he remained calm and composed.

Suddenly.

He raised an eyebrow and looked towards the sky.

The previously noisy True Martial Dojo fell silent, as an indescribable wave emanated from the distant sky. Every gaze was involuntarily drawn, including those of the Primordial Core experts.

Amidst widespread attention.

A figure stepped through the air—no, to be precise, there were three figures.

A middle-aged man in white, of unremarkable appearance, but flanked by a stunning woman on each side. The two women were strikingly similar and of considerable cultivation—they were a pair of lovely twins.

At the moment, the three were somewhat oblivious to their surroundings. The two stunning women held spirit fruits and fine wine, serving him gently, fingers lightly stroking, and offering kisses now and then, with fragrance wafting around.

Such a scene made many young people extremely envious, yet their elders looked on with reverence.

For someone to carry themselves in such a way, they must be an unmistakable Celestial Human Realm expert.

Some well-informed individuals had already identified the newcomer, a look of realization appearing in their eyes.

At first sight, the three were still a distance away, but with a blink, they were already at the foot of True Martial Mountain.

Taoist Longshan soared into the air, appearing in everyone's line of sight, and he actively greeted the middle-aged man, laughing heartily:

"Carefree Brother, you've come in person, I'm truly grateful!"

His words revealed the visitor's identity.

Ren Xiaoyao, known as the Carefree Monarch, led a carefree and romantic life, yet possessed a dash of heroism. His experiences had a bit of a legendary flavor; he came from a loose cultivator background, yet had constant fortuitous encounters, eventually reaching the Celestial Human Realm—a role model for countless loose cultivator martial artists.

The Carefree Monarch also laughed heartily:

"Your Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, Junior Brother Longshan, of course, I must attend. I thought I'd be delayed after fetching a jug of fine wine from Moon Viewing Tower in Yun State, but it turns out I'm the first to arrive?"

Everyone was enthralled. The 'first to arrive' the Carefree Monarch mentioned naturally referred to being the first among Celestial Human Realm experts. In their eyes, only peers in the same realm were worth their attention.

There is a saying that goes, below the Celestial Being, all are insignificant.

Even a Primordial Core realm martial artist could only garner slight attention from a Celestial Human Realm expert, unless they showed potential to reach that realm, in which case they might receive special notice.

One who cannot perceive the Power of Heaven and Earth is ultimately not a true strong person.

Taoist Longshan gestured:

"Carefree Brother, please!"

The two took their seats on the central high platform, chatting and laughing, with their Celestial Human nobility captivating everyone.

Ning Qi observed curiously from afar. The aura of this Carefree Monarch was not concealed; he seemed slightly stronger than Taoist Longshan, but not by much.

Taoist Longshan had told Ning Qi that cultivating in the Celestial Human Realm was far more challenging. Often, one might stagnate for decades, and many exhausted their potential upon barely reaching the Celestial Human Realm, making no further progress.

"It seems the Carefree Monarch's early fortuitous encounters have limits, or perhaps his innate talent has reached a peak. It may not be long before my master surpasses him."

"I just wonder if my one strike of the Heavenly Sword Technique could injure him?"

This thought arose unprompted in Ning Qi's mind. This was the second Celestial Human Realm expert he had seen, besides Taoist Longshan.

Chapter 82: Celestial Being List 33

However, as this thought just arose, Ning Qi chuckled to himself, realizing he unbeknownst had such a comparison in mind, perhaps due to the subtle sense of crisis evoked by the Celestial Human Realm strong person.

The arrival of the Carefree Monarch elevated the atmosphere of the True Martial Dojo to a higher level.

Especially some strong loose cultivators, whose gazes were filled with fervor; some attractive ladies also had a glimmer of affection in their eyes.

It is said that the Carefree Monarch has never accepted disciples but is fond of female beauty. However, every woman who follows the Carefree Monarch gains substantial benefits, like the current twin sisters who are beneficiaries.

The Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, to put it plainly, is a massive arena for fame and fortune, where everyone seeks what they need.

Taoist Longshan and True Martial Sect use this opportunity to display their foundation and become renowned worldwide, while others take the chance to network, gain insights, and explore any opportunity to acquire a bit of Celestial Being fortune.

At this moment.

Carefree Monarch and Taoist Longshan had just sat down, but simultaneously, they stood up again, exchanged a smile, took a step, and appeared outside the Tao Field.

Everyone's gaze trembled, then followed.

Then they saw an old Taoist with crane-like features appear from the horizon. Dressed in a purple robe, holding a duster, with white hair and beard, he had even more Taoist charm than Taoist Longshan.

"Taoist Friend Longshan, I am late, please forgive!"

"Carefree Monarch, greetings."

The old Taoist showed no arrogance, spoke with a cheerful smile, yet Taoist Longshan and Carefree Monarch showed no neglect.

"True Man Baihe, thank you for your kindness." Carefree Monarch cupped his hands and said.

"Taoist Friend Baihe's presence here is an acknowledgment of my True Martial Sect as a Tao Sect courtyard; I am grateful." Taoist Longshan sincerely expressed thanks.

This remark stirred everyone internally, with some already realizing something, faces full of amazement.

Luo Wentian noticed Ning Qi's puzzled expression and whispered:

"Little Junior Brother, you might not know. Although our True Martial Sect is a Taoism sect, to rank among the top Tao sects in the world requires support from top Taoist forces. True Man Baihe is a member of the True Profound Sect, ranked fifth in the world."

"Master specially invited them; his lifelong wish is to become the best Tao sect in the world and revive the glory of True Martial."

Ning Qi immediately understood.

In the past, the True Martial Sect didn't even have a Celestial Human Realm individual, making competing for Taoist rankings an unrealistic dream. But now things are different; with Taoist Longshan reaching the Celestial Human Realm, planning naturally begins.

However.

With the current foundation of True Martial Sect, let alone being the best Tao sect, even getting into the top ten is difficult.

It still requires gradual effort.

True Man Baihe landed beside Carefree Monarch and Taoist Longshan; none of the three sat down, but instead gazed towards the mountain, and Ning Qi also sensed before anyone else.

In the midst of everyone's confusion.

A group approached quietly from the foot of the mountain, comprising elderly, middle-aged, and young individuals, all carrying a faint sense of superiority, the centerpiece being a luxurious litter carried by robust youth, the 'Wang' character on their sleeves revealing their identity.

Qing State Wang Clan.

Everyone's gaze turned strange.

After all, the previous feud between Taoist Longshan and the Wang Clan was well-known throughout the Martial Realm. Though it was said that the two families had reconciled, they were not expected to be so friendly. Many originally believed the Wang Clan would not show up when they delayed their arrival.

But now, seeing the grand display, it's evident they made quite an effort.

Everyone looked towards the litter, already guessing the person's identity.

And Taoist Longshan's words confirmed their speculation:

"Ancestor Wang's presence amidst his busy schedule to True Martial Mountain is truly awe-inspiring for Longshan."

He smiled, yet internally puzzled; logically, someone of Ancestor Wang's advanced age would rarely venture out, especially given the recent conflict with the Wang Clan—sending a Gang Essence Realm master would have already been quite respectful, yet unexpectedly Ancestor Wang came personally.

A hoarse laugh emerged from within the litter:

"I promised to attend your Celestial Being Grand Ceremony before; a person must keep their word."

As he finished speaking, a richly dressed old man appeared before everyone, occasionally coughing, his style differing somewhat from the other three Celestial Human Realm masters, but none underestimated him.

In the previous battle, Ancestor Wang's miraculous life reversal was also widely known in the Martial Realm; everyone knew Ancestor Wang feared Taoist Longshan's potential rather than his current strength.

"Ancestor Wang is genuinely trustworthy." Carefree Monarch and True Man Baihe praised with a smile.

Ancestor Wang glanced at the other three Celestial Beings, a hint of joy surfacing in his eyes; both Carefree Monarch and True Man Baihe displayed formidable power.

The rest were quite excited.

At this point, three Celestial Beings had already arrived, exceeding many people's expectations. Initially, it was believed that someone like Taoist Longshan, with no solid foundation, would attract at most one or two Celestial Beings to support the event.

The four Celestial Beings standing there emitted an unparalleled aura, stirring many individuals profoundly.

Yet some wondered why, with the auspicious timing approaching, the four had not yet taken their seats.

"Taoist Friend Longshan, could someone else be coming?" True Man Baihe curiously asked.

Taoist Longshan smiled mysteriously:

"An elder is coming."

His eyes revealed anticipation.

Curiosity arose in several hearts; someone being addressed as an elder by Taoist Longshan in such a setting must be extraordinary.

Previously, addressing Ancestor Wang as an elder during the Wang Clan dispute was merely out of courtesy; in reality, most Celestial Human Realm masters are peers, with very few truly deserving the title of elder.

Ancestor Wang's heart couldn't help but skip a beat, slightly exhilarated.

Time passed.

The Golden Crow almost hung vertically.

Suddenly, a 'moo' sound echoed, clear and piercing through the sky.

Many people shivered, and the expressions of the Celestial Human Realm masters took on a hint of respect, even Ning Qi's eyes showed seriousness.

Among the previously arrived Celestial Beings, Carefree Monarch, True Man Baihe, Ancestor Wang, and his own master might have varying strengths but overall remain within one tier, with Ning Qi feeling he could handle them to some extent.

But now, facing this individual—not even visible yet—that faint sense of pressure made him extremely vigilant.

All eyes focused, and at the end of their vision, a figure riding a cyan bull slowly emerged.

The clear 'moo' sound earlier was emitted by this cyan bull, its fur smooth as jade, eyes like brown glaze filled with innocence and wisdom, its aura strong, marking it as an Exotic Beast at first glance.

Upon the cyan bull's back, an elder with closed eyes seemed in deep sleep; behind him was a blade, unsharpened.

The cyan bull let out another 'moo', and the elder slowly opened his eyes, a trace of confusion flickered before noticing the bustling scene upon True Martial Mountain.

"We've arrived, indeed arrived. Good bull, go play."

Yawning with a smile, he leaped off the bull's back like a simple farmer, as if disregarding everyone at the True Martial Dojo.

Yet, none of the Celestial Beings dared harbor any resentment.

For the elder riding the cyan bull was ranked thirty-third on Great Yan's Celestial Being List.

Cyan Bull Blade Master.

Chapter 83: Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array

"Greetings, Cyan Bull Senior!"

Both Taoist Longshan and Carefree Monarch, as well as True Man Baihe, slightly bent forward to show respect.

Taoist Longshan said with a smile:

"Today, with the presence of Cyan Bull Senior, my Celestial Being Grand Ceremony can truly be considered complete."

Only Ancestor Wang felt somewhat awkward because his age was indeed greater than Cyan Bull Blade Master. Addressing him as 'Senior' seemed a bit odd, yet doing nothing would appear too casual. He could only muster a cheerful smile.

However, Ancestor Wang felt more joy than awkwardness within his heart.

He never imagined that Taoist Longshan could invite a powerful figure on the Celestial Being List to stand forth, making his attendance truly worthwhile. The corners of his mouth slightly lifted, and his smile carried more genuine delight.

Everyone present held an expression of awe in their gazes.

A powerful figure from the Celestial Being List.

Virtually considered to be at the pinnacle of Great Yan, in an era where Martial Saints rarely emerged, those thirty-six figures were the strongest.

Even though Cyan Bull Blade Master was only ranked thirty-third, Taoist Longshan and the four Celestial Human Realm experts combined would be effortlessly suppressed.

Ning Qi slowly withdrew his gaze to avoid being detected by Cyan Bull Blade Master.

He could feel the subtle pressure, especially from the formidable Bladeless Blade behind the elder, causing him some amazement at the remarkable Blade Intent nurtured within.

"Master once said that the Celestial Human Realm is quite unique. Some only cultivate one realm, some two, and others cultivate all three realms simultaneously, and the sequence of cultivation differs. Hence, their combat capabilities are not as straightforward as those in the Gang Essence Realm."

"Determining who is stronger among Celestial Human Realm experts requires actual combat unless their paths are similar. For most, it's evaluated based on past achievements, thus giving rise to the Celestial Being List."

"The Celestial Being List is issued by the Great Yan Royal Family. Those who make it onto the list are the top-tier experts of the Celestial Human Realm, enjoying utmost prestige."

Undoubtedly.

Cyan Bull Blade Master is currently the most powerful person Ning Qi has encountered.

Cyan Bull Blade Master gestured with a cheerful smile:

"All are in the Celestial Human Realm, so the title of Senior or not doesn't matter. If you don't mind, just call me Brother."

He gazed at Taoist Longshan with appreciation in his eyes:

"Longshan lad, years ago I believed your entry into the Celestial Human Realm was inevitable, but I didn't anticipate it being ahead of what I imagined. It's only a matter of time before you surpass me."

Such admiration startled the Celestial Beings present.

Clearly, the two shared an exceptional relationship.

Taoist Longshan laughed heartily:

"Cyan Bull Brother, you overpraise me. Catching up to you is unpredictable in terms of time."

He was somewhat emboldened. Years ago during his travels, he was rescued by Cyan Bull Blade Master in a crisis and received some guidance. Now, as these years have passed, he himself has stepped into the Celestial Human Realm; the sense of achievement is beyond words.

"Ladies and gentlemen, please be seated!"

With everyone now arrived, a total of five Celestial Beings occupied the central platform, instantly elevating the excitement within the Tao Field.

Taoist Longshan stood at the center, Cyan Bull Blade Master to his left, True Man Baihe to his right, with the others seated on the sides.

Excited glances were exchanged as conversations began.

No one anticipated so many Celestial Realm experts would descend upon today's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, nor have a powerful figure from the Celestial Being List present.

This news quickly spread throughout True Martial City, prompting Martial Artists unable to ascend the mountain to clench their fists in regret for missing today's grand spectacle. Some even proclaimed it was worth coming despite not witnessing the Celestial Beings, as sharing the same realm was an honor to recount in days to come.

Ancestor Wang's gaze displayed slight envy and jealousy.

Recalling his own Celestial Being Grand Ceremony three hundred years ago, there had been barely one Celestial Realm friend in attendance, with numerous promises made thereafter. Compared to Taoist Longshan's current grandeur, it paled in comparison.

However, remembering the purpose of his visit, his mood relaxed considerably.

Time slipped by gradually.

Everyone at True Martial Dojo felt the change and quieted down.

Luo Wentian's invigorating voice rang out:

"The auspicious hour has arrived, the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony officially begins!"

In an instant.

There were nine thunderous drumbeats heard throughout, stirring the crowd's blood to unknown fervor.

Following this came the rise and fall of ceremonial music, originating from afar, immersing the senses.

Fine wine and gourmet dishes adorned the tables.

True Martial disciples dressed in ceremonial robes and holding ceremonial swords poured in; thirty-six from the Inner Sect, seventy-two from the Outer Sect, precisely matching the numbers of Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends.

"We offer our tributes to the Sect Leader!"

The True Martial disciples were spirited and the Sword Dance suddenly commenced, resembling the rising sun.

Despite lacking a murderous aura, the Sword Dance exhibited disciplined form, with the cooperation yielding intricate transformations. When employed in battle, it surely wouldn't be ordinary; this was both a Sword Dance and a compelling Sword Array.

Everyone's eyes gleamed brightly, despite them being only Body Tempering Realm and Inner Essence Realm Martial Artists, the exhibition truly embodied the True Martial Sect's foundation.

Those with keen insight easily recognized these disciples possessed excellent foundations, capable of standing out as talented disciples within ordinary sects, yet True Martial Sect had so many.

In an instant.

Many people's perceptions shifted; originally believing True Martial Sect only produced an extraordinary talent like Taoist Longshan, now they saw that Taoist Longshan's training of disciples was equally formidable.

Representatives of some long-standing forces looked grim; with the foundation True Martial Sect displayed, within a few decades, they would surely gain a firm foothold as a top dominion.

Ancestor Wang felt slightly bitter.

His greatest concern in recent years had been the lack of promising youth within the Wang Clan. How could a family's talents compare to gathering talents from the world? Seeing the abundance of genius True Martial disciples today made him reconsider whether to introduce external fresh blood.

Yet, families differed from sects, for if too much external blood was integrated, if they gained power one day, would the Wang Clan still be the Wang Clan?

Cyan Bull Blade Master simply smiled and enjoyed the fine wine.

Meanwhile, True Man Baihe observed the Sword Dance of the True Martial disciples intently. As a practitioner of Taoism, he was particularly sensitive to the numerology of Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends, and as he watched closely, his astonishment deepened.

This Sword Array was not simple.

He couldn't help but ask:

"Taoist Friend Longshan, might I inquire about this Sword Array...?"

His words drew the attention of several Celestial Beings.

Taoist Longshan said with a smile:

"This Sword Array, when unified, forms the Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array. Divided, it becomes the Heavenly Gang Sword Array and the Earth Evil Demon Sword Array, enabling collective strength against adversaries, employing weak to overpower the strong; it's just a strategic advantage. I hope Taoist Friend Baihe is amused."

Their exchange immediately garnered interest from the crowd; even Cyan Bull Blade Master squinted thoughtfully for a moment before bursting into laughter:

"Longshan lad, you're being too modest. This Sword Array isn't as simple as you claim. A fine example of using weak to overpower the strong. If half of this Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array comprised Inner Essence Realm individuals, coupled with a few powerful hands, wouldn't it be enough to challenge Gang Essence Realm Martial Artists?"

Carefree Monarch laughed as well:

"Such a remarkably brilliant creation garners admiration! Worthy of a grand toast!"

The Celestial Beings all discerned its subtleties, expressing amazement.

The gap between Inner Essence Realm and Gang Essence Realm was equally vast, yet this Sword Array wielded remarkable power, beyond ordinary.

Ancestor Wang casually asked:

"I hadn't heard of True Martial Sect possessing such a Sword Array before, not even throughout Qing State. Otherwise, it should have already become renowned."

Chapter 84: Congratulations Gift

Several individuals were taken aback.

Originally they thought the Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array was an ancient legacy that Taoist Longshan had obtained, but judging by Ancestor Wang's words, that might not be the case.

Taoist Longshan pondered briefly, then smiled and said:

"Ancestor Wang truly has a keen eye. This sword array... was recently created."

Saying this.

He felt slightly guilty and discreetly glanced at his disciple Ning Qi. After noticing Ning Qi was paying no attention, he secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Indeed.

The Heavenly Gang and Earthly Fiends Sword Array was actually created by Ning Qi some time ago and handed over to him. Ning Qi, sensing the impending assault of the Iron Ridge Three Fierce, realized other disciples could only watch helplessly when faced with such powerful figures, decided to devise this sword array. It allows them to combine their strength and overcome the strong with the weak, but outwardly it was declared to be the creation of Taoist Longshan.

Today is the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, mainly meant to display the depths of the True Martial Sect. Naturally, Taoist Longshan wouldn't humbly claim it was obtained elsewhere.

After all, he never mentioned who actually created it.

If others misunderstand, it's not his concern.

At this moment.

Several celestial beings naturally assumed it was created by Taoist Longshan, considering he was the only celestial human realm cultivator in the True Martial Sect—could it truly be anyone else?

In an instant, True Man Baihe and others looked at Taoist Longshan with even more respect.

Able to create such a marvelous and unparalleled sword array, his comprehension must indeed be extraordinary.

True Man Baihe praised:

"No wonder our friend could so young tread upon the celestial human realm, such comprehension is far beyond me, one day our Taoism shall have another strong person!"

Earlier he thought Cyan Bull Blade Master was merely supporting Taoist Longshan's stance, but now he sees there's possibly genuine sincerity within, realizing this he considers persuading the sect leader to support the True Martial Sect once returning to the True Profound Sect.

A stock with such potential, reaching the top tier of Taoism is simply a matter of time.

Carefree Monarch also sincerely praised:

"Brother Longshan creating such an unparalleled sword array truly garners my admiration, I, Ren Xiaoyao, throughout my life haven't taken on disciples just because I feel my martial arts system is too scattered. If I had been like Brother Longshan, I might have been able to establish my own sect!"

Taoist Longshan, listening to everyone's praises, felt a bit uneasy, responding only with continuous smiles.

In the audience, some also heard Carefree Monarch's laughter.

Instinctively, the exclamations increased.

Vaguely heard phrases like 'True Man Longshan's comprehension is unparalleled,' 'True Man Longshan is truly extraordinary,' making Taoist Longshan feel a bit hot-faced. If he were a fame-seeker it would be one thing, but now he's simply trying to prevent his young disciple's excessive prominence, feeling a bit roasted over a fire.

Ning Qi listened to the surrounding chatter, secretly chuckling in his heart.

Without needing to look, he knew exactly what his master was thinking, likely feeling a bit restless.

But it's not a bad thing.

The increasingly cordial and friendly expressions of the surrounding martial arts strong individuals towards True Martial Sect disciples make it evident.

Fortunately.

The sword dance of the True Martial disciples ended quickly.

The atmosphere at the Tao Field filled with clinking cups became even more lively.

Someone began, prompting everyone to rise in unison, loudly congratulating:

"We congratulate True Man Longshan on entering the Celestial Being Realm, wishing you freedom and joy in the days ahead!"

With eyes filled with reverence and longing, the Celestial Human Realm enjoys eight hundred years of life, capable of soaring on the wind, altering heavenly phenomena—what difference in the eyes of ordinary people is there from Immortals and Gods?

After this Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, Taoist Longshan would be regarded as a True Man with respect, and for Taoism's celestial beings, being regarded as a True Man is a form of honor, True Man Baihe's presence acknowledged Taoist Longshan's status as a True Man.

Taoist Longshan stroked his beard and laughed heartily:

"I sincerely appreciate everyone coming from far and wide, humbly request you to down this cup!"

His spirits were high, his mood exuberant.

Years of longing fulfilled in one day, now it's about advancing his own cultivation while revitalizing the sect.

Everyone drank in one gulp, feeling the excitement of being part of such an event.

At this moment.

The Celestial Being Grand Ceremony had reached a climactic point, but the most anticipated aspect by everyone was not this.

What is the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony?

It is the celestial beings displaying their majesty and methods.

And celestial beings lecturing on the Dao is naturally an indispensable part.

Why do some Gang Essence Realm strong individuals, even Primordial Core Realm strong individuals travel thousands of miles for this moment? It's for this—for the chance to hear celestial beings sharing breakthrough insights, or even fragments of celestial human realm realizations, enough for them to benefit for a lifetime.

Some lucky ones might even seize an opportunity from it to glimpse a spark of enlightenment towards the celestial human realm.

Moreover, new celestial beings also use this chance to 'bestow favor,' consolidating their prestige and authority.

However.

Celestial beings lecturing on the Dao won't be casual.

It requires the present guests to pay a 'tuition fee.'

Amount doesn't matter, the intention is what's significant, but most people prepare with great care. In such an occasion, gifting too inadequately can be embarrassing; in a sense, it's likewise a perfect opportunity to elevate their own reputation.

Some guests feeling their gifts weren't prestigious enough had already handed them to True Martial Sect disciples before arriving; those who hadn't given by now likely have enough confidence in their gifts.

At this moment.

As everyone finished their congratulations.

The Sea-covering Gang Leader from Cang State stood up first, initially glancing around and apologetically clasping his hands:

"Fellow martial arts colleagues, I, Li Guangde, will humbly start by presenting my humble offering!"

He respectfully bowed to all celestial beings, then loudly congratulated:

"My Sea-covering Gang acquired a pair of top-grade Luminous Pearls not long ago, to congratulate True Man Longshan on entering the Celestial Being Realm!"

He slowly opened a Purple Gold Sandalwood Box revealing a pair of exquisite shining pearls into sight, immediately sparking murmurs of admiration especially from some female martial artists, their eyes showed a hint of infatuation.

These top-grade Luminous Pearls were splendid, even under the blazing sun they had a gentle shine, extremely extraordinary.

But everyone knew.

The Luminous Pearls weren't merely attractive.

"Luminous Pearls belong to the water element, if martial artists cultivating water-related inner strength or Gang Essence wield them, their martial path will gain significant enhancement."

"Sea-covering Gang sure spent big ears, it's said they control much of the water territories around the Cang State area, their influence grows steadily, ranking top among first-class forces, and now it seems evident!"

"Tsk tsk, no wonder they dared to step out first, truly noteworthy."

In an instant.

The Sea-covering Gang gained much prominence, and its leader secretly delighted hearing the surrounding discussions, feeling this gift was worth giving.

In the realm of martial arts, it's not only about fighting; often it's about relying on reputation and face in actions.

Today Sea-covering Gang's fame soared, known by more people, making future endeavors smoother for its members.

Even Ning Qi couldn't help but glance at the pair of Luminous Pearls.

"If Luminous Pearls were ground into powder, they'd be an excellent medicinal catalyst, possibly useful in the future."

Although the Quenching Gang Pill's effects are temporarily unsatisfactory, Ning Qi wouldn't give up further research on the Alchemy Dao; if resources become abundant later, Alchemy Dao substantially aids the Martial Path.

He senses.

After this Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, the True Martial Sect's treasury might swell tremendously.

Taoist Longshan smiled and said:

"Gang Leader Li, much appreciated."

Sea-covering Gang Leader happily sat down understandingly, having made a worthy impression, since today's protagonist wasn't him.

Following Li Guangde, strong individuals within the Tao Field.

Also eagerly presented their gifts.

Chapter 85: Treasure Trove Harvest

"Nocturnal Blade Sect presents three Bright Fruits to celebrate True Man's ascension to the Celestial Being Realm!"

...

Exclamations erupted below once again.

From the murmured discussions, Ning Qi discerned the origin of the Bright Fruits. The founding site of the Nocturnal Blade Sect housed a Spirit Tree known as the Bright Tree, which radiated light day and night, turning the area into a place that never slept, hence the name, Nocturnal Blade Sect.

This Bright Tree bore fruit only once every ten years. The Bright Fruit had the effect of purifying the body, sharpening hearing and sight, and even slightly enhancing the consumer's perception. It was undoubtedly a top-grade Spirit Fruit.

Ning Qi's eyes sparkled.

"Perhaps I could take a Bright Fruit to study. If I could deduce the cultivation method, it might be applicable to the True Martial Peach Tree."

He was quite eager.

Today's gathering of heroes presenting gifts was truly a bountiful harvest.

It surpassed his expectations.

Although the offerings were meant for Taoist Longshan, most would end up in the True Martial Treasure Vault. As a Path Guardian of the True Martial Sect, Ning Qi could naturally make use of them at will. In a way, these treasures might as well have been gifts to him.

He even thought about suggesting to his master to hold such Celestial Being Grand Ceremonies more frequently.

Of course, Ning Qi wasn't a selfish person. The treasures he obtained would ultimately benefit the entire True Martial Sect.

...

"Mist Rain Pavilion of Cang State presents an Ice Silkworm Treasure Armor..."

...

"Ascetic Sect of Yun State presents a Relic Pill..."

...

"Divine Sword Sect presents a pair of famous swords..."

...

Exclamations continued to ring out.

Taoist Longshan was in high spirits.

Perhaps it was due to the recent battle where Taoist Longshan defeated Ancestor Wang, forcing the Wang Clan to lower their heads. Many factions had meticulously prepared congratulatory gifts, exceeding the usual standards for a Celestial Being Grand Ceremony.

This was only natural.

People always serve those who seem worthy.

Taoist Longshan showcased talents far surpassing an average Celestial Human Realm. Naturally, many wanted to hear him speak of the Tao and were willing to form such a connection.

Even the Cyan Bull Blade Master came to present a gift today, proving their perception was correct.

As the last person presented their gift,

silence enveloped the Tao Field.

Yet, the gazes weren't focused on Taoist Longshan but instead on the other four Celestial Beings.

Only the gifts from these four remained.

True Man Baihe, feeling the weight of many gazes, smiled warmly.

He respectfully addressed those present:

"Might I be the first to offer my humble gift?"

"Please, True Man!"

True Man Baihe smiled serenely:

"Both the True Profound Sect and the True Martial Sect belong to Taoism. Today, the True Profound Sect offers twelve hundred volumes of Taoist Scripture as a gift. I hope True Man Longshan will accept them graciously."

Taoist Longshan waved his hands repeatedly.

"True Man Baihe, your gift leaves me eternally grateful!"

Joy shone in his eyes, as the gift resonated deeply with him.

While he had inherited the True Martial legacy, it was mostly martial arts-focused; his foundation in Taoist Scripture wasn't as profound. Today's gift from the True Profound Sect, with its twelve hundred volumes, significantly boosted his foundation.

True Profound Sect wouldn't present anything casually, ensuring many rare and unique texts among the gift.

More crucially, this represented the support of the True Profound Sect. In the future, the True Martial Sect would not stand alone among Taoism.

Ning Qi's eyes also brightened.

He had already perused all the classics within the Scripture Pavilion. This additional twelve hundred volumes of Taoist Scripture would greatly enhance his foundation. Compared to martial arts classics, Ning Qi preferred reading Taoist Scripture as they elucidated many profound truths, offering nourishment at critical moments.

These were the sources and sustenance for his enlightenment and creation techniques.

However, both master and disciple were unaware that the original gift from the True Profound Sect was only eight hundred volumes. Upon seeing the Cyan Bull Blade Master and witnessing the revealed foundations of the True Martial Sect, True Man Baihe discreetly added four hundred more volumes. Further volumes were already on their way, unknown to anyone, to be expedited at a later date.

This unpretentious gift was impeccable, leaving no room for criticism.

Carefree Monarch laughed heartily:

"With True Man Baihe's gem before me, my gift seems rather inadequate."

Everyone smiled.

Carefree Monarch took out a jade box from his bosom, opening it to reveal a fiery red Crystal Stone.

"This is the Thousand-Year Flame Sun Jade, known for nurturing the body and enhancing Essence Yuan. I've heard that Brother Longshan wishes to cultivate the Celestial Being Three Realms. I offer this gift to wish him smooth sailing ahead!"

Taoist Longshan was visibly moved.

The gift was significant, but the sentiment was even greater.

Carefree Monarch was known for his carefree nature. If he acknowledged you, even a roadside beggar could be his brother. Taoist Longshan had met him during a past adventure, leading to today's friendship.

The role of the Thousand-Year Flame Sun Jade wasn't just as Carefree Monarch had lightly described.

For those cultivating the Flower of Essence at the Celestial Human Realm, it offered substantial enhancement and was undoubtedly a Supreme Treasure.

The envy in Ancestor Wang's eyes was subtly apparent.

"Carefree Brother's sentiment is deeply appreciated!"

Taoist Longshan's expression was extremely serious.

Carefree Monarch merely laughed and waved it off.

Ancestor Wang withdrew his envious gaze and seamlessly continued the conversation.

"The gifts from True Man Baihe and Carefree Monarch leave this old man feeling inferior. For True Man Longshan's Celestial Being celebration, I've prepared a seed of an Enlightenment Tea Tree. I hope True Man does not find it lacking."

There was an almost imperceptible hint of embarrassment on Ancestor Wang's face.

Indeed, with such distinguished gifts preceding his, his own seemed rather insignificant.

An Enlightenment Tea Tree was indeed extraordinary, an exquisite Spirit Tree whose leaves could assist in enlightenment. In rare cases, the most refined leaves could bring one into a state of Enlightenment!

If Ancestor Wang had presented a fully-grown Enlightenment Tea Tree today, he would undoubtedly be the star of the event.

Alas.

It was merely a seed of the Enlightenment Tea Tree.

To plant and cultivate such a seed into a full tree would be exceedingly challenging, requiring unknown amounts of time and effort, with no guarantee of success.

In reality.

After acquiring this Enlightenment Tea Tree seed, the Wang Clan had attempted to cultivate it for a long time, even damaging its viability somewhat, with no success, hence why it was being given as a gift. Otherwise, Ancestor Wang would have been reluctant to part with it.

This gift resembled a grand promise; it sounded impressive but was superficial, easily seen through by those knowledgeable.

But how could these Celestial Beings not be knowledgeable?

Even some Primordial Core Realm martial artists bore peculiar expressions and quickly lowered their heads, pretending to drink to hide their reactions, lest Ancestor Wang noticed.

Ancestor Wang felt a twinge of frustration. He had expected at most one average Celestial Human Realm at the ceremony. In such a case, the Enlightenment Tea Tree seed might have sufficed to save face. Who could have foreseen the presence of three Celestial Beings, including a powerhouse from the Celestial Being List?

This was beyond his expectations, leaving him between a rock and a hard place.

Taoist Longshan simply smiled gratefully:

"Thank you, Ancestor Wang."

He hadn't anticipated anything overly precious from Ancestor Wang since he hadn't expected Ancestor Wang to attend in person at all.

Presenting an Enlightenment Tea Tree seed was already satisfactory.

Chapter 86: Sermon

The crowd had different thoughts.

Some people, who had only heard of the Enlightenment Tea Tree, felt that Ancestor Wang was being very generous despite past differences, but those with more knowledge understood that this seed actually had little value. However, as it came from a Celestial Human Realm expert, no one dared to comment.

Ning Qi watched from below, and a look of anticipation flashed through his eyes.

Since he began researching and cultivating the True Martial Peach Tree, he had developed some insights in this area. Perhaps he could plant this Enlightenment Tea Tree seed, and even optimize it in the future.

At that time,

True Martial Sect could have one more foundation, and it could also help him attain enlightenment.

However, the specific process would still require understanding the condition of the seed.

Ancestor Wang's nervousness did not last long, as gazes gradually shifted to Cyan Bull Blade Master.

Of all the Celestial Human Realm experts present, he had yet to present a gift. Coupled with his identity on the Celestial Being List, it made everyone look forward to what kind of treasure he would bring out.

Even True Man Baihe and the Carefree Monarch were somewhat curious.

After all, Celestial Being List experts were always mysterious, and opportunities to meet them were rare.

Cyan Bull Blade Master, unhurried, as if oblivious to others, kept eating large chunks of meat. After swallowing a mouthful of it, he exhaled and laughed loudly:

"Long Shan, I came in a hurry this time and did not prepare a proper gift for you. Luckily, on the way here, I encountered a vicious tiger harming people, so I took its Inner Core. Hold on to it, and I'll give you a better gift next time."

As he spoke,

a lightning-infused Exotic Beast Inner Core hovered from Cyan Bull Blade Master's hand, with an incredibly fierce aura, which faintly roared like a mighty tiger, causing even Gang Essence Realm experts to feel a slight tremor of mind.

True Martial Dojo gradually quieted, and many eyes fell on the lightning-infused Inner Core, full of awe and admiration.

"Beast King Inner Core!"

"Such ease and leisure, is this the strength of a Celestial Being List expert?"

"Could this be the Inner Core of the Thunder Tiger Beast King of Lei State? I once had the chance to glimpse it from a distance in Black Water Marsh. I never expected to see it again in this way; truly, things are unpredictable."

Whispering discussions continued, and the appearance of the Celestial Being List expert immediately overshadowed all previous contributions.

Ning Qi looked at that Inner Core, his eyes filled with amazement.

What qualifies as a Beast King?

Only exotic beasts that rival Human Race Celestial Being Realm experts can be called Beast Kings.

In other words,

This Cyan Bull Blade Master effortlessly slaughtered an exotic beast comparable to the Celestial Human Realm and presented its Inner Core as a gift, revealing his immense strength. Moreover, this Beast King Inner Core is incredibly precious.

Exotic Beast Inner Cores are already rare, only cultivated by outstanding exotic beasts. For instance, the previously developed Gang Condensing Pill by Ning Qi primarily used Exotic Beast Inner Cores. But using a Beast King Inner Core to refine a Gang Condensing Pill would be an overkill; it has more valuable uses.

"On that Inner Core, there seems to be lingering Power of Heaven and Earth?" Ning Qi's eyes flickered, developing an unusual desire for the Inner Core.

Amid the exclamations,

Taoist Longshan expressed his gratitude emotionally:

"Cyan Bull Brother's presence at True Martial Mountain is already the most precious gift!"

This was not mere flattery.

The news of Cyan Bull Blade Master attending Taoist Longshan's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony would ensure that any other Celestial Human Realm who contemplated moving against True Martial Sect would weigh the significance of this Celestial Being List expert.

Cyan Bull Blade Master just smiled and waved his hand.

He had long favored Taoist Longshan.

Now it was further proof that his judgment was accurate.

On the True Martial Dojo,

the crowd was still somewhat immersed in awe.

One treasure after another broadened everyone's horizons, which is one of the significances of attending grand events—gaining knowledge and having something to boast about later.

However,

as the enthusiasm for presenting gifts gradually waned, the crowd's anticipation was building for what would be the highlight of the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony.

Taoist Longshan was not one to linger.

He stood up, his Taoist robe gently fluttering, his gaze surveying the venue with a smile:

"You all traveled thousands of miles to True Martial Mountain to attend my Celestial Being Grand Ceremony. I am deeply grateful and have nothing to repay you with, except to share the Path of Celestial Being with you."

"However, I am only beginning to glimpse the Celestial Dao, so if there are any errors in my discourse, I ask for your tolerance."

This last line was directed at the four Celestial Human Realm experts.

After all, his experience was the shallowest, having entered the Celestial Human Realm the most recently.

However,

Taoist Longshan had his confidence.

He was insightful, and after meditating for more than six months, he had developed his own understanding of the Path of Celestial Being. Most importantly, he possessed the 'Unity of Heaven and Man' Secret Technique previously given by Ning Qi. This technique had elevated his understanding of resonating with the world to an entirely new level!

The audience at the dojo loudly proclaimed in unison:

"We are grateful beyond words for the True Man's teaching!"

Eyes were burning with passion, especially those of the Primordial Core Realm experts.

Even several Celestial Beings grew serious.

Those who could ascend the Celestial Human Realm were never simpleminded, hearing others' insights was not a bad thing for them. Although Taoist Longshan had just entered Celestial Being, probably not as adept as the other four, respect was necessary.

The True Martial Dojo was so quiet that a pin drop could be heard.

Taoist Longshan sat cross-legged, his form gradually rising.

He slowly closed his eyes, myriad thoughts coursing through his mind, and began to speak:

"The so-called Path of Celestial Being is to unite man with heaven, to unite spirit with heaven. How to achieve this? It is by merging the spirit with the Primordial Core, reaching a state of no thought, no desire, no defilement, no dust..."

"..."

"By resonating with the world, human force can manipulate the Power of Heaven and Earth, turning decay into miracle and impossibility into possibility..."

"..."

"In the Celestial Being Realm, one cultivates the Three Flowers of Heaven, Earth, and Human. The Human Flower pertains to essence, the Earth Flower to qi, and the Heaven Flower to spirit. When the Three Flowers of Heaven, Earth, and Human gather at the head, marvelous things occur..."

"..."

Taoist Longshan spoke slowly, his voice imbued with a mysterious power. He was attempting to communicate the Power of Heaven and Earth, trying as much as possible to clearly convey his insights.

The guests had come from afar, bringing valuable gifts, so Taoist Longshan naturally wouldn't be stingy. Though he wouldn't impart all his knowledge as he did with Ning Qi, he shared as many beneficial insights as possible so that they wouldn't leave empty-handed.

At this moment,

many Martial Path experts listened mesmerized; some showed joy, quickly falling into contemplation, while others caught a glimmer of insight and struggled to retain that spark of opportunity.

Some, with lower cultivation levels, couldn't understand a thing, frantically grabbing their ears yet striving to memorize the lecture.

Everyone felt genuine admiration for Taoist Longshan. Whether he was offering real substance was something they could sense.

Not only on True Martial Mountain,

but even as Taoist Longshan began to teach, True Martial disciples hurried back and forth, conveying his teaching to True Martial City. Although not as impactful as attending in the dojo, it ensured completeness and accuracy.

True Martial City was equally abuzz.

Meanwhile, several Celestial Human Realm experts,

also nodded silently, with slight admiration in their eyes, Taoist Longshan indeed had exceptional insight.

But that thought didn't last long.

Suspicion crept into their hearts, their expressions grew more serious.

Taoist Longshan continued his discourse:

"In the Realm of Celestial Being Unity, uniting the spirit with the Primordial Core is one way. But could there be another? The Primordial Core is achieved postnatally, but could there be something innate within the human body that resonates with the universe?"

This time, even Cyan Bull Blade Master's gaze became solemn.

Could it be that...this was actually insightful?

Chapter 87: Five Celestial Beings Discuss the Dao

To be honest, the Cyan Bull Blade Master was only listening symbolically. After all, he has been in the Celestial Human Realm for three hundred years, reaching the Celestial Being List, having eaten more salt than Taoist Longshan, who has just advanced to the Celestial Human Realm, has eaten meals.

But when he heard the phrase 'Is there an innate item within the human body that can resonate with heaven and earth?', he was stunned.

As Taoist Longshan continued to explain, his expression became unprecedentedly serious.

The other three Celestial Beings were even more so, listening attentively.

Above the True Martial Dojo.

The voice of Taoist Longshan resounded, while the others listened closely to the teachings.

Only one person was lost in thought.

That was Ning Qi.

He listened intently for a moment and realized that everything his master was saying had already been told to him that night, with nothing new, and even much had been omitted. What followed was the Celestial Being Unity Secret Technique he had comprehended.

Though his master's comprehension was good enough to incorporate it into his own path, Ning Qi's insight easily saw through the unchanged essence.

Of course.

Taoist Longshan was not foolish; he naturally wouldn't impart such an unparalleled secret technique selflessly to everyone, only discussing the concepts and some spiritual light within it. The reason for choosing to speak on these parts was naturally because of the several Celestial Beings present.

The Carefree Monarch and the Cyan Bull Blade Master were his friends, and True Man Baihe was from Taoism. The three showed immense respect by attending and brought generous gifts; hence, Taoist Longshan naturally had to reciprocate.

Though Ancestor Wang benefited a bit, it was of no consequence.

At this moment.

Everyone was enchanted, the later content was so profound that even those in the Primordial Core Realm couldn't understand it, only making the eyes of the few Celestial Beings burn brighter.

...

Inside True Martial City.

True Martial disciples were constantly rushing around.

The teachings of Taoist Longshan on True Martial Mountain were being relayed in real-time, with inns and taverns everywhere packed full, everyone eagerly awaiting.

Although most people couldn't understand, it didn't stop them from enthusiastically discussing.

"True Man Longshan is truly an unparalleled genius; no wonder he could enter the Celestial Human Realm before the age of a hundred, amazing!"

"This trip was not in vain!"

"I must record these teachings and pass them down as secret family knowledge. Although I don't understand them, if any descendant comprehends them in the future, it would be a great fortune!"

Everyone was amazed.

Only a small number of Gang Essence Realm strong persons and naturally gifted individuals understood the value within, feeling even more awe towards Taoist Longshan. Some previously uninvited individuals felt resentment, but now, that thought had completely vanished.

In a private room.

A white-haired youth stared blankly in the direction of True Martial Mountain, lost in reverie. His expression grew increasingly complex as he listened to the teachings of Taoist Longshan being relayed.

Originally, he had the opportunity to listen directly on the mountain, but that chance was lost forever.

He bowed deeply towards True Martial Mountain, lips moving silently.

Unnoticed, the young man was already weeping silently.

...

On True Martial Mountain.

Taoist Longshan's lecture was nearing its end, and the martial artists were filled with emotion, this trip was not wasted.

However, the few Celestial Beings felt it was far too short.

Seeing signs that Taoist Longshan might stop, True Man Baihe waved his duster and couldn't help but speak up:

"May I ask True Man Longshan, if the Path of Celestial Being is achieved by resonating innate items in the human body, how does one go about it?"

This question.

Immediately energized everyone present.

Generally speaking.

During the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, only a newly ascended Celestial Being would teach, and no matter how it went, others wouldn't interrupt. If a Celestial Being Strong Person invited to attend spoke up voluntarily, it implied he wished to initiate a discourse!

Immediately, the many martial artists in the Tao Field became excited.

Originally, they thought hearing such a marvelous lecture from Taoist Longshan was already worth the price; unexpectedly, there was an unexpected bonus!

Taoist Longshan was taken aback but then delighted.

Fellow Daoist, discussing the Dao naturally accelerates improvement.

"The human body has skin, muscles, tendons, bones, blood, marrow, and viscera, all are innate items."
Taoist Longshan answered with a smile.

The Carefree Monarch also chimed in:

"Besides these, is there anything else?"

"Tracing back to the essence, it would be the root bone."

This made the Cyan Bull Blade Master restless.

"For one who practices martial arts, forming the root bone is necessary, but how does one resonate with heaven and earth?"

This question made all the Celestial Beings' hearts skip a beat, as they felt this was a stunning, unprecedented idea. Their awe for Taoist Longshan was further deepened.

Instantly.

The Celestial Beings began proposing various assumptions and hypotheses surrounding the 'concept of root bone'.

Meanwhile, they continually elucidated their insights into the Path of Celestial Being.

They had become fully engrossed in this 'amazing concept of root bone'.

Five great Celestial Beings engaged in a discourse.

This scene is perhaps a once-in-a-century occurrence.

The crowd below trembled with excitement, yet exerted effort to remain calm, fearing any noise might disturb the five Celestial Beings. They marveled at their good fortune and listened intently, not daring to miss a single word, as gaining even one or two insights from the discourse of the five Celestial Beings would be the real opportunity of the trip!

At this moment.

Even Ning Qi stopped drifting off in thought.

His eyes were bright, concentrating on listening to the elucidations of the other four Celestial Beings, especially the insights from the Cyan Bull Blade Master, which were clearly deeper than the others. Although the Celestial Beings' teachings were not a smooth narrative but rather fragmented, for Ning Qi, it was not difficult to piece them together.

Each line of Celestial Being's wisdom echoed in Ning Qi's ear.

Inadvertently, he had forgotten everything around him, forgotten that he was in the True Martial Dojo, closing his eyes, with nothing but the resounding discourse vibrating in his ears.

"The Path of Celestial Being is to be carefree and at ease, to have heavenly flowers gather the spirit, achieving the Divine Union of Heaven and Earth, perhaps the spirit can also merge with the root bone..." This was from the Carefree Monarch.

"Root bone is the blood and flesh of the human body, emphasizing the flower of humanity, the Flower of Essence gathers the essence yuan of the human body, perhaps it can unlock the divine traits of the root bone..." This was from Ancestor Wang.

"The Path of Celestial Being requires the Three Flowers Gathering at the Top to be complete, the combination of essence, qi, and spirit; the root bone is more than just flesh and blood, it is more special, perhaps its secret lies in the union of essence, qi, and spirit..." This was from the Cyan Bull Blade Master.

...

The Celestial Beings debated, continuously referencing the paths they cultivated.

And Ning Qi, naturally, also entered a state of enlightenment.

He had found the opportunity to create the Quenching Gang Technique.

Before the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, he had always pondered how to use the Power of Heaven and Earth to refine Gang Qi, as the power of heaven and earth was endless, eliminating the need for external resources to accelerate the refining of his vast Gang Qi.

But Ning Qi could only control some of the Power of Heaven and Earth in advance with the Celestial Being Unity Secret Technique, which was too rough for the precise task of refining Gang Qi.

That was the difficulty.

But now, listening to the Celestial Beings' discourse, Ning Qi had gained a fresh understanding of the Power of Heaven and Earth, and the difficulty solved itself effortlessly.

Chapter 88: Can't Leave for Now

On the Tao Field.

Most people were puzzled and perplexed, as the explanations by several Celestial Beings became increasingly profound, with only a very few able to grasp even a fragment of understanding.

However, Ning Qi's mind was flooded with spiritual light, like a mighty river, flowing endlessly.

Beside him, Zhuang Chen furrowed his brows in deep thought, feeling that the seniors sitting above might as well be speaking cryptically, no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't comprehend. At this moment, he caught a glimpse of Ning Qi beside him seemingly in a state of realization, and couldn't help but feel admiration.

Fortunately, at this moment, everyone was fully focused on the philosophical discourse of the Celestial Beings, and no one noticed Ning Qi's unusual state.

Ning Qi was filled with all sorts of ideas.

"It's exceedingly difficult to enhance my control over the Power of Heaven and Earth in a short period, after all, it's separated from me by a layer. I can only rely on the Celestial Being Unity Secret Technique to control the Power of Heaven and Earth. Since this is the case, why not try a different approach?"

"Rather than actively using the Power of Heaven and Earth for refinement, why not reverse the approach and let the Gang Qi enter the model condensed by the Power of Heaven and Earth? After all, Gang Qi moves at my will, as effortlessly as an arm moves."

...

In an instant.

A strange thought arose.

Taking advantage of the Celestial Beings' philosophical discourse, Ning Qi also realized the form that should be used as the model for the condensation of Power of Heaven and Earth.

The Grinding Wheel.

He began to perfect the details within it.

At an unknown time.

Ning Qi opened his eyes again, with delight shining in them.

"Since it takes the form of a Grinding Wheel, let it be called the Heaven and Earth Grinding Wheel Quenching Gang Technique."

This technique forms a Heaven and Earth Grinding Wheel around the body using the Power of Heaven and Earth, thereby refining the Gang Qi.

He didn't expect to obtain such unexpected gains this time; he initially thought it would take a considerable amount of time to create the Condensing Gang Technique, but now achieving success in advance has saved significant time.

In this way, he can save at least half, or even more, of the time needed to step into the Celestial Human Realm.

With many people around, Ning Qi subdued the urge to try the Heaven and Earth Grinding Wheel Quenching Gang Technique, allowing the slight unusual fluctuation around him to gradually calm down.

On the high platform.

The discourse by the five Celestial Beings was nearing its conclusion.

The Cyan Bull Blade Master couldn't help but sigh:

"The deeper you delve, the more feasible this strange thought seems. Yet unfortunately, with my wisdom and understanding, it's hard to grasp its true resolution. There are several difficult hurdles that need to be overcome, and who knows what kind of prodigy would be able to completely unravel it."

True Man Baihe also felt deeply moved:

"Let it be for future generations. With continued effort, hope will naturally arise. Despite this, exchanging thoughts with fellow Taoists this time has been truly beneficial."

Saying this, he saluted the others.

The several Celestial Beings returned the salute, all feeling they had gained considerably, though Ancestor Wang perhaps had the poorest understanding, gaining the least, but he didn't show it, lest others think less of him.

However, there was one point on which all four were unanimous.

That was an increased friendliness towards Taoist Longshan. In their view, a Taoist who could propose such strange thoughts surely had an unlimited future.

Taoist Longshan smiled, but inwardly, he apologized.

The Celestial Beings believed this was merely a random thought he stumbled upon, unaware that he had the complete Secret Technique. However, this was the Enlightenment result of his disciple, so he couldn't arbitrarily teach it entirely to others; proposing some ideas was the utmost limit.

At this moment.

Seeing the Celestial Beings' discourse come to an end.

The Tao Field was immediately filled with heartfelt expressions of gratitude:

"Gratitude to True Man Longshan and the Celestial Beings for their teachings, we shall remember it throughout our lives!"

All eyes were filled with an insatiable desire, but they also knew they had gained immensely this time and shouldn't hope for more.

Taoist Longshan smiled and nodded.

"I only wish that each of you gains something."

At this moment, the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony was nearly complete.

Next.

Was the customary tournament segment.

Martial Artists strive to surpass one another; whenever they gather, inevitably they vie for fame and fortune. Today was Taoist Longshan's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, bloodshed couldn't occur, but sparring was inevitable. Moreover, such occasions provided excellent opportunities to gain fame.

Furthermore, if they could receive pointers from Celestial Being experts, it would be a great fortune.

With five great Celestial Beings present, everyone was naturally very enthusiastic.

According to previous customs, if the Celestial Beings' discourse was too perfunctory, causing guests to secretly feel dissatisfied, they would issue numerous challenges to the disciples of the sect during the sparring segment, as a form of venting their discontent.

However, this time.

Taoist Longshan's talk was full of substance, added with the discourse by five Celestial Beings, naturally, none were dissatisfied.

And thus.

When challenging the disciples of the True Martial Sect, everyone showed considerable restraint, giving them face.

However, mainly because the disciples of the True Martial Sect themselves were exceedingly skillful, from the Body Tempering Realm to the Inner Essence Realm and even several White Mist Realm disciples, all performed remarkably well, seldom facing defeat. Even upon losing, they did so

commendably, further astonishing everyone at the remarkable competence of True Man Longshan's disciples.

The entire True Martial Sect was flourishing.

Additionally,

Due to the improved Body Tempering Powder and the numerous Martial Arts Secret Techniques previously created by Ning Qi, coupled with the inherent superior inheritance of the True Martial Sect, such results were expected.

For a moment.

The reputation of the True Martial Sect continued to rise.

Ning Qi merely observed with a smile, occasionally eating some fruits and snacks. Although besides several Celestial Beings, no others at the scene were his match, occasionally encountering a moment of brilliance during the battles could provide him with some nourishment.

Especially during the battles of certain Primordial Core Realm experts, it was all the more so.

Throughout.

The White Ape couldn't resist but went out to fight several matches. Although he didn't display the Stance Skill or Stacking Strength Skill, with his physical capabilities combined with several proficiencies in Slaughter Martial Arts, he too defeated many opponents.

This made everyone even more astonished at the True Martial Sect's foundation, none expected the True Martial Sect to have such an intelligent and powerful Exotic Beast disciple.

However, the White Ape didn't reveal his Ape King true form; otherwise, it would undoubtedly cause even more of a sensation.

Ning Qi himself was much more low-key, as battles against these people didn't offer him significant assistance and observing from the sidelines was more beneficial for him. Gaining fame was of no use to him at this stage and would only bring harm.

The several Celestial Beings were still somewhat immersed in the earlier discourse, only gradually regaining composure during the latter half.

Occasionally, they would select a few pleasing and well-performing juniors to point out a tip or two, triggering small climaxes and further invigorating everyone.

In this way.

Time flew by.

The sun set in the west.

The Celestial Being Grand Ceremony also gradually approached its end.

Everyone felt an insatiable desire but understood that the time had come.

As the final two contestants came off the stage, Luo Wentian stood up, cupping his hands towards everyone with a broad smile:

"Today, my master's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony is successfully completed. We of the True Martial Sect are deeply grateful for that and thankful to the fellow Daoists who came to observe. As it is now late, we warmly welcome everyone to rest briefly within the True Martial Sect for a day or two and then depart in a few days."

Everyone wore smiles and continuously spoke words of praise.

Some wanted to linger a bit longer in the True Martial Sect to forge closer relations, while others, eager to return home, wished to spread today's experiences, and some were ready to bid farewell.

Taoist Longshan merely watched with laughter, speaking words of polite retention with the nearby Celestial Beings.

Then, Ancestor Wang suddenly stood up, gazing at the others, his voice resonating throughout True Martial Mountain:

"Everyone, hold on."

"Today, we may not leave just yet."

For a moment, everyone was astounded.

Chapter 89: Annihilating Demons

Ancestor Wang became the focus of everyone's attention, even those guests who were about to leave stopped in their tracks.

Are you kidding?

A Celestial Human Realm expert has spoken, and yet you think you can just leave?

Several eyes turned to the elderly man in fine clothing, some confused, while others began to feel uneasy, sensing that something was amiss. In such a situation, it was inappropriate for Ancestor Wang to be the one speaking, and his words were not ones to persuade people to stay.

Ning Qi's gaze sharpened as he slowly got up.

Taoist Longshan frowned and asked:

"Ancestor Wang, what do you mean by this?"

The other Celestial Beings also looked somewhat surprised.

Ancestor Wang remained calm and composed, first cupping his hands to apologize to Taoist Longshan:

"I have come this time with a heavy responsibility, I ask for True Man Longshan's understanding."

Taoist Longshan felt an ominous premonition.

Then Ancestor Wang rose into the air, with his left hand behind his back, while his right hand took out a golden token from his bosom and raised it high above his head, emitting a unique wave.

Seeing this item, some people's faces immediately became solemn, with a hint of reverence in their eyes, even the Celestial Beings were no exception.

The Great Yan Martial Saint Token!

Seeing this token was as if seeing the Martial Saint himself, none dared to disobey.

Instantly.

A chorus of respectful voices echoed throughout the True Martial Dojo:

"We pay respect to the Martial Saint!"

Many martial artists all bowed together, and those juniors who hadn't yet understood the situation followed their elders' example and bowed, even the Celestial Human Realm experts, although not overly humble, slightly inclined their bodies to show respect.

Ancestor Wang felt somewhat elated, seeing even Cyan Bull Blade Master's expression change, he felt a strange sense of satisfaction, thinking it well worth the cost he paid for this task.

"It's good that everyone recognizes this item."

"I've come today, firstly to congratulate True Man Longshan on reaching the Celestial Being Realm, and secondly with a heavy responsibility that requires the full support of everyone present, I ask everyone not to decline."

He spoke very mildly, but with the Martial Saint Token's display, it carried an undeniable force.

Yet, no one dared to show a hint of dissatisfaction.

The Great Yan Dynasty has somewhat weakened in recent years, with diminished control, but it still remains supreme, and martial sects need to depend on the imperial authority to exist, even if there is discontent, it cannot be openly expressed.

Taoist Longshan coldly glanced at Ancestor Wang.

Previously, he wondered why Ancestor Wang attended his Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, given their past disagreements, now it seemed that he intended to ride the momentum of the ceremony, this thought angered him, feeling he had been schemed against.

It was clear now that for Ancestor Wang to come with the Great Yan Martial Saint Token, it surely wasn't for ordinary matters, and the targets were likely the few Celestial Beings.

With Ancestor Wang's status, he was not qualified to hold the Martial Saint Token, there must be significant figures from the imperial court involved behind this.

Taoist Longshan looked apologetically at Cyan Bull Blade Master and the others, then indifferently asked:

"What is this heavy responsibility of yours, Ancestor Wang?"

Feigning ignorance of Taoist Longshan's displeasure, Ancestor Wang originally didn't want to offend Taoist Longshan, even offering a Gang Condensing Pill to resolve past disputes, but now aligned with a powerful force, with hope for Wang Clan's future, he was unafraid, and it was also a chance for revenge for Taoist Longshan's previous uproar.

He laughed heartily:

"It's not difficult, with so many strong individuals today, it's a simple task, especially with Cyan Bull Brother here, there's no problem at all."

He paused, seeing Cyan Bull Blade Master ignoring him, he was secretly annoyed, and continued:

"Recently, the Demon Sect has been rampant, causing chaos across the land, between Qing State and Chu State lies a dangerous place called Death Fire Abyss, upon investigation, it was found to be a branch of the Demon Sect, harboring many small and old demons."

Having just said this.

Everyone's expression changed.

Demon Sect!

Everyone knows how powerful the Demon Sect is, stirring storms in recent years, rumored to be connected to the former dynasty, with a hint of an indestructible entity, even a hundred years ago the Great Yan Martial Saint personally acted because of the Demon Sect.

Once involved with the Demon Sect, it was never a trivial matter.

Some already guessed the general idea, turning sour.

As expected.

Ancestor Wang continued:

"The governors of the two states have already sent part of their vanguard there, and we are to quickly reinforce to completely destroy this Demon Sect branch!"

"All martial artists above the Primordial Core Realm today shall accompany me, as for the rest, you shall remain at True Martial Mountain for these few days, not allowed to go down."

As he finished speaking.

The entire dojo fell silent.

Everyone understood Ancestor Wang's objective, today he was here to catch a timing and information gap, everyone in the neighboring states knew about Taoist Longshan hosting the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, the Demon Sect surely knew as well.

Now, with so many powerful figures suddenly racing towards that Demon Sect branch, the Demon Sect would certainly be caught off guard.

Ancestor Wang was secretly pleased.

When he first suggested this plan, he thought at most he could bring three Celestial Human Realm experts, but he didn't expect Taoist Longshan to be so capable, exceeding expectations by two, with one even being a strong figure in the Celestial Being List.

In this way, the plan was almost foolproof.

Though it offended many, as long as Wang Clan births new Celestial Human Realm experts in the future, with the imperial court as backing, life would only get better.

At this moment.

Many were anxious, especially those Primordial Core Realm experts, each looked solemn, faces unsightly, internally cursing Ancestor Wang as inhumane, knowing this Demon Sect eradication led by Celestial Human Realm figures, the enemy surely had such experts too, and likely quite a few.

Thus, no matter being in the Primordial Core Realm, one wrong move could lead to instant death.

They came for a Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, only to be swept into such calamity, truly unfortunate.

Yet, no one blamed Taoist Longshan or True Martial Sect, seeing the situation, it was clear Taoist Longshan too was schemed.

Undoubtedly.

This was Ancestor Wang using the momentum of Taoist Longshan's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony.

The Celestial Human Realm experts all coldly looked at Ancestor Wang, while Carefree Monarch couldn't help but sarcastically mock:

"Ancestor Wang worries for Great Yan, we pale in comparison, admirable indeed."

Ancestor Wang merely smiled:

"Carefree Monarch overpraises, as a subject of Great Yan, worrying for Great Yan is a duty."

He knew the outcome of standing out, mere scorn was insignificant, these people dare not openly defy either.

The Great Yan Dynasty's deterrent power remains formidable.

After all, Great Yan has not only Martial Saints, but also many martial arts strong persons.

Taoist Longshan took a deep breath and asked:

"When do we set out?"

As the host of this Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, he must take the initiative.

Ancestor Wang's expression grew solemn:

"Immediately!"

Chapter 90: Concerns

Everyone in the Tao Field was silent; despite having expected it, when Ancestor Wang announced they would set off immediately, everyone couldn't help but feel heavy-hearted.

Escaping was not an option.

Otherwise, come autumn reckoning, even the Cyan Bull Blade Master wouldn't be able to withstand the consequences, let alone those with big families and businesses—one can escape as a monk but not the temple, and not even the monk could escape.

The best course of action was to go and act according to circumstances, trying to preserve oneself.

Taoist Longshan bowed slightly to everyone, apologetically saying:

"You have come a long way, and to eradicate demons together now is fate. By then, try to act together, stay close to me and the other Celestial Beings, lest the Demon Sect experts find a gap."

Although this was caused by Ancestor Wang, Taoist Longshan also fell victim to the scheming, but after all, everyone encountered this hardship because they attended the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony hosted by Taoist Longshan, so he naturally felt a bit guilty.

But some words can't be spoken openly.

The implication in Taoist Longshan's words was somewhat obscure, but the experts of the Primordial Core Realm all understood.

Everyone looked gratefully at Taoist Longshan, saying in unison:

"Thank you, True Man!"

Taoist Longshan then cupped his hands toward the Cyan Bull Blade Master and the other three, the Cyan Bull Blade Master had adjusted his mindset, and he waved his hand slightly, saying:

"By then, we can support each other; a branch of the Demon Sect shouldn't pose too big a problem."

The Carefree Monarch and True Man Baihe nodded as well, signaling Taoist Longshan to rest assured.

The four had quietly formed a defensive alliance, tacitly excluding Ancestor Wang.

Ancestor Wang, knowing he wouldn't be liked, said:

"In that case, let's set off now!"

As he spoke.

He was already traveling in the air at the front.

Taoist Longshan glanced at his disciples, exhaled slightly, and his gaze finally fell on Ning Qi, he secretly transmitted his voice, advising:

"Jiu, so many people will stay at True Martial Mountain this time. If something goes wrong in secret, pay extra attention."

He knew his young disciple's strength; now that the Celestial Human Realm and Primordial Core Realm had left, Ning Qi was the strongest. He worried that if the demonic eradication didn't go smoothly, the ones staying behind would be restless.

Ning Qi felt somewhat conflicted at the moment.

He worried about his master but lacked absolute strength, going would be futile, inviting unnecessary variables instead.

He silently nodded in response to Taoist Longshan.

Deeply gazing at the back of Ancestor Wang.

Several Celestial Beings traveled airborne.

The experts of the Primordial Core Realm instructed their juniors, with some leaving final words, which made some juniors' eyes redden. After all, except for a few loose cultivator martial artists, most were from sects or families, coming to the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony with juniors to broaden horizons, unexpected events like this hadn't been anticipated.

After giving instructions, each Primordial Core Realm expert stirred Gang Qi and ascended.

Why Ancestor Wang only wanted Primordial Core and Celestial Human Realm was naturally because they could provide support at the fastest speed.

"Set off!"

Ancestor Wang was spirited; the others silently followed behind.

The silhouettes of dozens of strong individuals quickly faded into the horizon, leaving True Martial Mountain's originally lively atmosphere somewhat desolate, initially a perfect ceremony, now marred by this variable.

Many disciples of the True Martial Sect silently cursed the disruptive Ancestor Wang.

But arrangements were still needed for those left behind.

Luo Wentian took a deep breath and said loudly:

"Since it's for demon eradication, please stay at True Martial Mountain in the coming days, don't descend for now. It's rare for comrades to gather; take this opportunity to exchange about the Martial Path. Also, supervise each other to prevent Demon Sect spies from sneaking down at night."

He understood that Ancestor Wang's earlier statement for others to stay at True Martial Mountain was to prevent leaks.

The many eyes meant news would eventually spread.

But at least not so quickly.

This would facilitate a time lag for the demon eradication action, after all, Primordial Core and Celestial Human Realm experts are extremely fast.

Luo Wentian already planned that tomorrow someone would descend to spread the message: the experts who came for the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony would stay on the mountain to continue exchanging about the Martial Path; avoiding suspicion from martial artists within True Martial City, delaying even a day is a gain.

This is not helping Ancestor Wang but assisting Taoist Longshan.

The smoother the demon eradication action, the safer Taoist Longshan would be.

Luo Wentian wouldn't arrogantly assume his master's advancement to Celestial Being made him invincible; this action's danger level still needed an unknown assessment.

And since Ancestor Wang proposed, in some sense, he also put the responsibility on the True Martial Sect. If anything went wrong, there was potential for future repercussions.

He began arranging for disciples of the True Martial Sect to count heads in secret, observing each one closely.

Everyone was very cooperative:

"We certainly won't descend; anyone who dares will be attacked by all!"

Anyone daring to forcefully descend under such circumstances, regardless of the reason, would be regarded as Demon Sect spies and handled accordingly.

Luo Wentian felt slightly relieved.

Then he suppressed his worries, soothing everyone's emotions one by one, especially those forces whose Primordial Core experts left, they needed special attention lest they grow anxious and cause further trouble.

Ning Qi exhaled lightly.

Beside him, Zhuang Chen rarely showed a worried expression, asking:

"Ning Qi, my master... he shouldn't be in danger, right?"

Ning Qi patted his shoulder, saying:

"Rest assured, Divine Sword Senior's power is strong, and my master will definitely take good care of him; they will return safely."

Zhuang Chen nodded vigorously.

He viciously cursed under his breath:

"It's all Ancestor Wang, the old guy's fault..."

Originally, he didn't dare say such things, not even in a low voice.

After all, there were still disciples of the Wang Clan present, but now, those remaining Wang disciples were unlucky, facing white eyes and hostile gazes falling on them, making their bodies chilly, especially those forces whose Primordial Core elders were taken, just shy of verbally lashing out on the spot.

The Wang Clan disciples dared not linger in the Tao Field too long, fearing collective attack. Apologizing to Luo Wentian, they fled to the guesthouse.

Night had fallen, and the guests went to the guesthouse.

Ning Qi watched the rising moon, sighing silently.

It was his first direct realization of the Great Yan Dynasty's might, so it was necessary to remain low-key when needed.

"Ultimately, this world still falls under Great Yan Dynasty's rule, a mere Martial Saint token is enough to make four Celestial Beings bow, obediently follow in demon eradication."

Ning Qi wasn't worried about potential unrest at True Martial Mountain; the strongest left behind was the Jade Liquid Realm, with his strength, he could fully maintain order.

He only hoped everything went smoothly on his master's side.

"Little Junior Brother, don't worry. I see Ancestor Wang confident, and this time five Celestial Beings are supporting, there shouldn't be any issues. You needn't fret; Master will surely return safely." Ye Qinghe gently comforted.

Ning Qi merely nodded slightly.

He couldn't shake off the feeling that this demon eradication action wouldn't be so simple.