

Divine King 151

Chapter 151 The Past of Chen Wudi

Tianfeng City, Governor Mansion.

Xu Nian was sitting inside the grand hall of the mansion with Chen Tiansheng.

The Governor Mansion was more understated than Xu Nian had imagined, grand yet not ostentatious.

"Xu Nian, have you broken through to the Battle Sect?" Chen Tiansheng asked with a smile.

"Yes, I just broke through last night," Xu Nian responded.

"Not bad, not bad, a sixteen-year-old Battle Sect. It's rare in the entire empire, you truly are a once in a millennium talent," Chen Tiansheng remarked, his eyes filled with admiration.

Xu Nian just smiled. His achievements today were not only due to his talent but also due to opportunities and effort.

"Xu Nian, during your battle with Yu Cheng, did you use your Talent Phenomenon?" Chen Tiansheng asked again.

"Yes, Lord Governor!" Xu Nian replied.

Since the Governor had already noticed, there was no reason to hide it any longer.

"Could you show me your Talent Phenomenon?" Chen Tiansheng quickly requested, a hint of excitement in his eyes.

Xu Nian thought for a moment and then activated his Talent Phenomenon.

"Buzz!"

Instantly, the earth behind Xu Nian was vast, with Silver Moon high in the sky and Immortal King dominating the heavens.

Chen Tiansheng, seeing the Heaven and Earth Phenomenon behind Xu Nian, immediately stood up from his chair, his expression becoming incredibly agitated.

"Good, good, good, Wudi is finally saved," Chen Tiansheng said excitedly, almost bringing tears to his plump face.

"What does this have to do with Wudi?" Xu Nian asked, looking perplexed as he retracted the Immortal King Laurel Map.

Although he had guessed that Chen Tiansheng needed a favor, he hadn't expected it to be related to Chen Wudi.

Hearing Xu Nian's question, Chen Tiansheng also tried to control his excitement, smiled at Xu Nian, and said, "Xu Nian, you're about the same age as Wudi. Since you are Wudi's brother, why don't you call me Uncle Chen?"

"Uncle Chen, what exactly has happened to Wudi? Whatever you need help with, just say it. If it's within my ability, I'll definitely help," Xu Nian quickly replied.

"Wudi is fortunate to have a brother like you," Chen Tiansheng said with a beaming smile, continuing, "No rush, let's sit down and talk slowly. Here's the thing, Wudi also possesses a unique physique, and it's quite a powerful one—the Star Battle Body."

"Star Battle Body?" Xu Nian's face showed a look of surprise.

He hadn't expected Chen Wudi to also be someone with a unique physique. He'd always felt there was something special about Chen Wudi but had never imagined he was one of the legendary individuals with a special physique.

"Yes, the Star Battle Body. Numerous special physiques have appeared in the history of Tianhen Continent, but only four are famously known," Chen Tiansheng began to explain. "They are the Immortal Dominator Body, the Star Battle Body, the Innate Sword Spirit Body, and the God King Dominator Body. Among them, the Immortal Dominator Body and the God King Dominator Body are suitable for Body Cultivation, while the Star Battle Body and the Innate Sword Spirit Body are suited for Spirit Cultivation. Anyone with a special physique, if they can grow, will surely become an Emperor-level strong man."

Xu Nian nodded and then asked, "By that, Wudi's talent should be very strong, right? Why is his cultivation progressing so slowly?"

Last time during the Academy competition, Xu Nian had met Chen Wudi and noticed that Chen Wudi had just broken through to the Two-Star Warrior Realm, only slightly faster than an ordinary person and had not shown excessively unearthly abilities.

"That's right, you've noticed too. Indeed, Wudi's talent was very strong, legendary Holy Level. Under my training, he had already reached the One-star Battle Sect realm at the age of twelve, advancing rapidly day by day," Chen Tiansheng said sentimentally, pride evident on his face.

Twelve years old, One-star Battle Sect?

Xu Nian widened his eyes, astonished at how heavenly Chen Wudi's abilities were.

"What happened afterward? How did Wudi's cultivation regress?" Xu Nian hurriedly pressed for more information.

"Latterly, that was four years ago when Wudi went out to play and encountered the Prince Zi Feng of the Imperial Family, who possesses Emperor-level talent. Driven by jealousy, he utilized his superior strength to forcibly seize the foundation of Wudi's Star Battle Body, causing Wudi to lose his cultivation. Wudi's talent also plummeted from Holy Level to King-level," Chen Tiansheng said through gritted teeth, clenching his fists tightly, his eyes filled with rage.

Xu Nian frowned deeply, never expecting Chen Wudi to have endured such a tragic ordeal.

"I am a useless father. My son suffered such humiliation, and I couldn't avenge him. The Divine King favors Prince Zi Feng the most. After he found out, he merely confined Prince Zi Feng for a month. I couldn't accept it, but what power did I have to contend with the Imperial Family? So, I could only swallow this bitterness," Chen Tiansheng's shoulders trembled as tears fell from his eyes.

Xu Nian also felt a sense of helplessness, knowing the power of the Emperor was too strong for a mere Prefectural Governor to oppose.

"Uncle Chen, Wudi won't blame you!" Xu Nian quickly consoled.

Chen Tiansheng managed a wan smile, helplessly saying, "You're right. Wudi indeed doesn't blame me. He even comforted me, saying he can start Cultivation anew, slowly if he must. I thought it would all pass, but I didn't expect Prince Zi Feng to be so malicious. Not only did he seize Wudi's Star Battle Body foundation, but he also secretly implanted the Devil Spirit Flower Poison within Wudi's body."

"Devil Spirit Flower Poison?" Xu Nian was deeply shocked, his face showing a startled expression.

The Devil Spirit Flower Poison is a very slow-acting poison. Ordinary people being poisoned wouldn't matter much, but for Cultivators, it is deadly. As their Cultivation and the Spiritual Energy or Gang Qi in their bodies become stronger, the poison's potency increases, causing the infected person to experience unbearable pain until their insides rupture and they die.

"The malice of Prince Zi Feng is extreme," Xu Nian's eyes sparked with a murderous intent.

"Alas, I blame myself for being useless. Wudi is such a sensible child. Even knowing his own poisoning, he still cultivated to please me. When I discovered it, the poison had spread throughout his body, and now he won't live past three months." Chen Tiansheng's face streamed with tears.

Xu Nian's expression darkened as well, thinking of his encounters with Chen Wudi, remembering how Wudi had gifted him a pill, recalling Chen Wudi's often carefree, playful demeanor, yet never suspecting the immense hardships Chen Wudi was enduring behind his playful exterior.

"Uncle Chen, since you've come to ask for my help, you must have found a way to save Wudi. Tell me, let's see if there's anything I can do to help Wudi," Xu Nian firmly said, looking earnestly at Chen Tiansheng.

Chen Tiansheng, visibly grateful, finally spoke, "I once met a sage who told me there's a way to cure the Devil Spirit Flower Poison. I've already prepared the other medicinal ingredients needed; now I'm only missing one crucial catalyst."

"What catalyst?" Xu Nian pursued the question.

Chen Tiansheng hesitated a moment before pleading, "A blood sample from someone with a strong physique, the more potent the Bloodline Power, the better. I had previously let a woman with the Innate Sword Spirit Body try, and her blood could only temporarily suppress the poison within Wudi but couldn't cure him. I initially thought of grasping at straws, asking you to try it, but today, seeing your Talent Phenomenon awake, though I don't know what your physique is, it's clearly stronger than the Innate Sword Spirit Body. Thus, I ask you to try using your blood."

"Alright! No problem! If what that sage said is right, then my blood will definitely work," Xu Nian promptly replied without hesitation.

His Green Lotus Battle Body might not be enough, but he also has the Nine Dragon Supreme Body, which is the strongest physique in the world.

"That's wonderful, no matter the outcome, Uncle Chen is profoundly grateful to you," Chen Tiansheng said excitedly.

Chapter 152 What is Sword Momentum

Next, Chen Tiansheng took out the herbal prescription given by the expert.

Xu Nian also asked Emperor Ye Tian for help in examining it, and concluded that the prescription really had no issues.

Naturally, Xu Nian was very pleased and immediately cut his own arm, offering his blood as a catalyst for Chen Wudi's medicine.

After taking the medicine, Chen Wudi fell into a coma.

This was a side effect of the prescription; as for whether the prescription was effective, that would have to wait until Chen Wudi woke up.

Xu Nian was naturally arranged for accommodation and temporarily resided in the Governor Mansion.

Moonlit and starlight-sparse night, within a small courtyard of the Governor Mansion.

Xu Nian, with his upper body bare, was strenuously practicing the First Style of the Three-Forging Hammer, Collapse Thunder.

Xu Nian had set up a gravity domain that was twice the normal strength around him using the Gravity Ring.

The Meteorite Iron Hammer, which originally weighed four thousand eight hundred pounds, now weighted nine thousand six hundred pounds under the doubled gravity, making it incredibly challenging for Xu Nian.

Xu Nian gripped the Meteorite Iron Hammer with both hands, struggling to execute the Collapse Thunder technique.

The muscles on his body were as sharply defined as if chiseled by axes, flawless and containing explosive power.

Under twice the normal gravity, both the Spiritual Energy and Gang Qi were significantly slower in their execution, making such Cultivation greatly beneficial.

By now, Xu Nian's mastery over the Collapse Thunder Formation reached eighty percent, significantly more powerful than before.

A swing of the hammer was like the burst of muffled thunder.

"Boom!"

When Xu Nian slammed the hammer onto the ground, the entire area violently shook, creating a huge deep pit.

"Come out, Miss."

After swinging the hammer, Xu Nian immediately drew the hammer back over his shoulder, controlling the gravity field to just beneath his feet.

Weighted Cultivation was extremely beneficial for Body Cultivation; the Meteorite Iron Hammer no longer sufficed, so he had to increase the gravity.

Of course, with his current strength, he could only maintain normal activities under twice the normal gravity; reaching three times would require advancing to Body Sect.

"You knew I was here?" Chen Yao jumped down from the wall, looking embarrassed.

"I mean, Miss, this is your home, why climb the wall instead of using the door?" Xu Nian asked with a wry smile.

Every time he saw Chen Yao, he couldn't help but recall the scene by the waterfall, making him feel somewhat embarrassed.

"Um... could you put on your clothes?" Chen Yao glanced at Xu Nian's bare upper body, her face turning slightly red.

Only then did Xu Nian realize he was still shirtless, quickly grabbing and putting on a shirt from nearby.

Chen Yao's cheeks were flushed, and Xu Nian also felt embarrassed.

"Well, I came to thank you, thank you for being willing to save Wudi. I heard a booming noise from outside the courtyard and got curious, so I climbed the wall to take a peek," Chen Yao shyly explained.

Xu Nian was silently incredulous.

Just a peek?

She had clearly been lying on the wall for a whole half-hour.

But Xu Nian didn't expose her, changing the subject, "You don't have to thank me, Chen Wudi and I are brothers. Even if Uncle Chen hadn't asked, I would still have done the same. Besides, it was just a little blood, it's not like I was going to die."

"Although it's just a small effort, I still need to thank you. Wudi may be mischievous, but his heart is in more pain than anyone else's. As his sister, I sometimes really want to take on this pain for him. So, I still have to thank you," Chen Yao said firmly.

Xu Nian shook his head helplessly and smiled, "If you really want to thank me, then how about we call it even with our past issues?"

"Sure, I'll never bother you again. And if you ever encounter any difficulties in the future, feel free to come to me," Chen Yao quickly responded.

Xu Nian smiled, feeling a sense of resolution in his heart upon receiving Chen Yao's forgiveness.

"How is Wudi doing now?" Xu Nian asked.

"Much better. The poison in his body is gradually dissipating. Father said that in a few more hours, the poison in his body will be mostly neutralized. Your blood is indeed very powerful, or else it couldn't have detoxified him so quickly," Chen Yao replied.

Chen Wudi is her brother and the person she cares about the most.

Although Chen Wudi half-jokingly said he would find a brother-in-law for her, it was actually because he knew his life was drawing to a close and he wanted to find someone worthy of her lifelong trust.

Thus, Chen Yao truly cared about Chen Wudi from the bottom of her heart.

She had once sworn that she would pay any price to save her brother.

"Did you come here so late just to thank me?" Xu Nian asked, noticing the somewhat awkward atmosphere.

"Oh, right, Father asked me to bring you to the backyard; he wants to talk to you," Chen Yao quickly recovered from her reverie and replied.

"Then lead the way!" Xu Nian said, nodding.

Chen Yao led the way without saying more.

Xu Nian followed behind her, trying to adapt to walking normally under twice the normal gravity.

Soon, Xu Nian was led to the backyard, where Chen Tiansheng had already been waiting for a long time.

"Xu Nian, you're here! Have a seat!" Chen Tiansheng greeted him with a warm smile, pointing to a stone bench in the yard.

Seeing that the poison in Chen Wudi's body was gradually being expelled, his mood was exceptionally good; he knew all this was thanks to Xu Nian's blood.

"Uncle Chen, did you call me here because something happened to Wudi again?" Xu Nian asked.

Chen Tiansheng shook his head and said, "Of course not; Wudi is doing very well now. I called you here for the matter of the Academy's grand competition reward. I said I would teach you cultivation for three days. Since I was already teaching Yaoyao, I thought I might as well have you join us."

Xu Nian nodded, suddenly understanding.

He was really looking forward to Chen Tiansheng's guidance in cultivation.

After all, Chen Tiansheng's strength and realm were far above his own, and some doubts still needed to be resolved by Chen Tiansheng.

"Xu Nian, both you and Yaoyao have already reached the Man and Sword as One stage, but do you know the true utility of Man and Sword as One?" Chen Tiansheng smiled and asked.

Xu Nian shook his head, as he had never really considered that question.

Chen Yao also looked bewildered; clearly, she was unaware as well.

In their view, Man and Sword as One was just a stage that could enhance their swordsmanship's aggressiveness, achieving the effect of boosting the power of their sword skills.

But from Chen Tiansheng's question, it was apparent that their understanding was not profound enough.

"It seems that although you have stepped into Man and Sword as One, you do not know why you should reach Man and Sword as One. Well, let me demonstrate the application of sword momentum for you. Perhaps after watching, you'll understand a lot more," Chen Tiansheng said and then a powerful aura emanated from him.

"Sword momentum?"

Xu Nian's eyes immediately lit up, his gaze fixated on Chen Tiansheng.

He had always heard of sword momentum, but he had never witnessed it before. What exactly was sword momentum?

Chapter 153 Third Level Realms

"Watch closely!"

Chen Tiansheng called out, then punched toward the front.

"Boom!"

A loud explosion occurred, and a three-meter-tall artificial hill ten meters ahead suddenly blasted open.

Xu Nian and Chen Yao immediately widened their eyes, their faces showing disbelief.

How could that punch have exploded an artificial hill from a distance without Chen Tiansheng using any Spiritual Energy?

"Did you both see clearly?" Chen Tiansheng turned, smiling at Xu Nian and Chen Yao.

Both of them shook their heads.

They didn't understand how Chen Tiansheng had managed to do that.

"Actually, it's very simple. Whether it's Sword Qi, Fist Formation, or Saber Force, they are all ways of harnessing the forces of nature. What I did was use the forces of nature to create pressure on that artificial hill, causing it to burst," Chen Tiansheng explained with a smile.

"Force of nature?"

Xu Nian looked thoughtful, while Chen Yao still appeared confused.

"Talking about the force of nature might still be a bit premature for you now. You have only just begun to understand 'Man and Sword as One.' Yet, you haven't grasped the Three Levels within it. Once you comprehend these Three Levels, you'll understand what the force of nature is," Chen Tiansheng continued.

"'Man and Sword as One' has Three Levels? What are they?" Chen Yao asked.

Xu Nian also looked at Chen Tiansheng. This was the first time he had heard such a thing.

"The Three Levels within 'Man and Sword as One' are Sharp Sword Cutting Hair, Wooden Sword Cutting Stone, and Finger Sword Breaking Gold," Chen Tiansheng said smilingly.

"Huh? That doesn't sound difficult. Isn't cutting hair with a sharp sword fairly easy? And cutting stone with a wooden sword, anyone who has reached the Battle Sect Level should be able to do it. As for Finger Sword Breaking Gold, that doesn't sound too challenging either," Chen Yao remarked.

Xu Nian, however, shook his head. These Three Levels were probably not as simple as Chen Yao thought.

Firstly, Sharp Sword Cutting Hair was not about chopping the hair off. It meant slicing a strand of hair in half, which required the sword to be incredibly fast, accurate, and powerful.

Secondly, Wooden Sword Cutting Stone was not that simple either.

Firstly, one cannot infuse Spiritual Energy into a wooden sword as the soft wood cannot hold it and would burst. Therefore, to cut stone with wood, one must precisely control their internal power.

Neither too much nor too little.

Almost impossible to control!

As for Finger Sword Breaking Gold, to Xu Nian, it seemed almost impossible to cut metal with a finger.

Even if a warrior of the Battle Sect could emit Sword Qi from their finger, they couldn't maintain Sword Qi in a solid form, let alone use it to cut metal.

These Three Levels, none of them were simple.

"Uncle Chen, could you demonstrate for us?" Xu Nian asked.

"Sure!" Chen Tiansheng laughed.

After finishing his words, he took out an ordinary Xuan Iron Sword and simultaneously plucked a strand of hair and tossed it into the air.

Then Xu Nian only saw a flash of sword light that quickly disappeared; the one-foot-long hair in the sky was then split into two one-foot-long strands.

Xu Nian was astonished. He had already activated Gray Dragon Eye and Spiritual Sense, yet even so, he could only see a vague trace of Chen Tiansheng's sword swing.

"Is this Sharp Sword Cutting Hair?" Chen Yao widened her eyes, finally realizing how naive her understanding had been.

Then Chen Tiansheng casually picked up a tree branch from the yard. A gentle burst of Spiritual Energy emanated from him and fully enveloped the tree branch he held.

Under Xu Nian's Gray Dragon Eye, he could clearly see that Chen Tiansheng's Spiritual Energy covered every part of the branch, even replicating the fine texture of the branch with Spiritual Energy.

"Hum!"

At the next moment, Chen Tiansheng swung the branch in his hand, and the bluestone slab on the ground was directly marked with a long sword scar by the branch covered in Spiritual Energy.

"What terrifying control," Xu Nian thought, astonished.

To achieve this, one must be exceedingly familiar with the sword in hand, allowing one's Spiritual Energy to fully integrate with the sword. Only then can one unleash exceptional combat power, without wasting any additional Spiritual Energy.

Chen Yao was also dumbfounded; she admitted to herself that she could not achieve this.

"Lastly, we have Finger Sword Breaking Gold. The 'gold' refers to Gold Coins, which are harder than ordinary iron but softer than Xuan Iron, so they can be cut by Spiritual Energy," Chen Tiansheng said with a smile. After finishing, a Gold Coin appeared in his hand.

Then, on his other hand, a stream of Sword Qi burst forth, astonishingly condensing into a solid form, creating an incredibly sharp blade.

Chen Tiansheng swung his Finger Sword, and the Gold Coin was sliced through, the cut sleek and smooth.

Xu Nian was dumbfounded. He had never imagined a sword could be wielded to such an extent. To make Spiritual Energy coalesce into a sword that could compare to a Xuan Iron Sword was certainly no easy feat.

In the past, his understanding of Man and Sword as One had been far too narrow.

"Haha, how about that, do you understand now? True Man and Sword as One should involve integrating heart with sword, qi with sword, and intent with sword. Now, it's time for you to comprehend on your own. I'm off to take care of Wudi," Chen Tiansheng chuckled heartily.

After speaking, he walked directly out of the backyard, leaving Xu Nian and Chen Yao behind.

Seeing her father leaving, Chen Yao took out her sword and began trying Sharp Sword Cutting Hair.

However, her eyes couldn't keep up with the speed of her sword; no matter how she swung, she would always end up cutting crookedly.

Xu Nian did not rush to try but sat quietly, recalling every detail of Chen Tiansheng's demonstration.

Time passed quickly, and Chen Yao had practiced hundreds of times; however, she couldn't even align with a hair tip.

Just then, Xu Nian, who had been sitting still, suddenly stood up to make his first attempt.

"Swoosh!"

Xu Nian swung his sword fast as a phantom, instantly slicing a strand of hair, although the lengths were not equal.

It turned out that although Xu Nian hit the hair tip, he failed midway.

Nevertheless, just this was enough to make Chen Yao's eyes bulge like an ox.

She had practiced hundreds of times here without touching a single hair.

And here was Xu Nian, who had just sat for a while, and already he had succeeded halfway.

However, Xu Nian was extremely unsatisfied. The instant earlier, he had used Gray Dragon Eye to instantly capture the trajectory and tip of the hair, enabling him to cut it with one stroke.

But during the middle phase, when he wanted his sword to follow the trajectory of the hair and split it in two, he could not manage it.

"No, it's not about the eyes, but the heart; heart integrating with the sword. Only by controlling the sword with the heart can one perfectly slice through the hair," Xu Nian suddenly thought of Chen Tiansheng's words as he left and immediately realized that using Gray Dragon Eye just now had been a mistake.

So, this time, he suppressed his Gray Dragon Eye, relying entirely on his heart to control the sword in his hand.

Of course, the final result was quite obvious; he failed, not even hitting the hair tip.

"Pfft, it was just good luck, you had me scared for a moment. I thought you had grasped it just by watching," Chen Yao muttered, feeling much more at ease.

Xu Nian helplessly shook his head. This time, he simply closed his eyes, allowing his mind and sword to completely merge.

"Hum!"

Xu Nian abruptly opened his eyes, his gaze fierce.

Once again, he swung his sword: the blade swept through the void.

A foot-long strand of hair was directly cut into two halves by him.

"How... how is this possible?" Chen Yao's mouth dropped open, completely stunned.

Chapter 154 Unexpected Surprise

The next morning dawned, in the backyard of the Governor Mansion.

Xu Nian sat on a stone stool, frowning in deep thought.

Chen Yao was practicing Sharp Sword Cutting Hair next to him, and from time to time she glanced over at the seated Xu Nian with an expression full of silent grievances.

"Haha, how's the practice going?" Chen Tiansheng approached from a distance.

"Dad, what kind of crappy cultivation method did you teach me? I practiced all night and didn't succeed even once." Chen Yao pouted and stamped her foot.

"Haha, don't be impatient, the Third Level Realms of Man and Sword as One are not so easily achieved. I myself spent a whole year just on Sharp Sword Cutting Hair, and for the following Two Levels, it took me nearly four years. So, this isn't something you can rush," Chen Tiansheng laughed heartily.

Upon hearing this, Chen Yao glanced at Xu Nian, who was sitting by her side, and then rolled her eyes at Chen Tiansheng.

Chen Tiansheng helplessly shook his head; his daughter had always had a good talent but her temper was a bit too assertive.

Why was she so fiery this early in the morning?

However, Chen Tiansheng didn't think too much of it, assuming that Chen Yao was just a bit downcast from practicing swordsmanship all night.

So he turned to look at Xu Nian, who was sitting next to him, and smilingly said, "Xu Nian, I'm sure you haven't had any insight either, no worries. Cultivation is not something to rush. Uncle believes that with your talent, you will definitely comprehend the Sharp Sword Cutting Hair realm within a year, so there's no need to look so glum."

Hearing Chen Tiansheng's words, Xu Nian was taken aback and smiled wryly, nodding his head.

Seeing Xu Nian nod, Chen Tiansheng was even more certain that Xu Nian hadn't achieved anything the previous night.

However, at that moment, Chen Yao glared fiercely at Xu Nian and snapped, "Will you die if you're not pretending to be humble?"

"Eh?" Chen Tiansheng was stunned and turned to look at Xu Nian, not understanding what had just happened.

Xu Nian suddenly felt a headache coming on; he had intended to wait a while before sharing, but now Chen Yao had gone ahead and revealed it all.

Seeing Chen Tiansheng's puzzled face, Xu Nian could only reluctantly explain, "It's like this, Uncle Chen, last night I cultivated according to the method you taught me, and after a night of hard work, I did have some gains."

"You've made progress? Could it be that you can already manage Controlling Sword with Heart?" Chen Tiansheng was astonished as he looked at Xu Nian.

Using a Sharp Sword to cut hair requires mastering Controlling Sword with Heart. Only then can one control the sharp sword to accurately slice through a hair strand.

It took Chen Tiansheng nearly six months just to reach this step initially.

Xu Nian gave a bitter smile and did not deny it.

Chen Tiansheng was amazed; what had taken him half a year to understand, Xu Nian had seemingly comprehended in just one night. Truly a rare talent.

"I can't stand watching this anymore, Dad. Since he doesn't want to demoralize you, let me tell you," Chen Yao interjected once again.

Chen Tiansheng was once again stunned. Could it be that Xu Nian had grasped even more?

"This guy has comprehended all the Three Level Realms that you taught him last night. So, what took you five years to master, he learned it all in one night," Chen Yao said bluntly.

"What?" Chen Tiansheng exclaimed in amazement, looking at Xu Nian in shock, seemingly asking if it was true.

"Uncle Chen, what Sister Chen Yao said is true," Xu Nian reluctantly nodded.

After Xu Nian nodded, Chen Tiansheng was stunned for a full three seconds.

Now he finally understood why Chen Yao was looking so indignant; she had suffered a formidable blow.

Not just Chen Yao; he himself felt the urge to vomit blood in frustration.

"Xu Nian, could you possibly perform and show Uncle the Third Level Realms that you've comprehended?" Chen Tiansheng asked.

Xu Nian nodded, then took out his sharp sword and smoothly performed Sharp Sword Cutting Hair, accomplishing it in one go.

Chen Tiansheng watched the hair split in two and was utterly dumbfounded.

It really was a success, almost perfect.

Such fluid swordsmanship truly befits the Great Success Realm of Controlling Sword with Heart.

Just as Chen Tiansheng stood there in shock, Xu Nian had already picked up a nearby branch, and green Spiritual Energy surged out, instantly enveloping the branch.

Xu Nian swung the branch, transforming it into a sword radiance, and in an instant, a sword mark appeared on the blue stone slab on the ground, the length and depth of which were no less than those left by Chen Tiansheng before.

Chen Tiansheng felt his heart tremble violently, as if he had been stabbed mercilessly.

Chen Yao glanced proudly at her father, as if to say, "I'm letting you experience my feelings from last night."

Xu Nian discarded the branch and used his finger as a sword, the Spiritual Energy bursting forth, taking the shape of a sword.

The Sword Qi was incredibly sharp.

"Buzz!"

Xu Nian used his finger as a sword, slicing down, and a gold coin was neatly cut into two halves.

Chen Tiansheng was completely petrified, too shocked to speak.

Is this guy even human?

Xu Nian turned his head to look at the dumbstruck Chen Tiansheng and gave a wry smile, shaking his head.

In fact, these Third-Level Realms are difficult for others, but for Xu Nian, they really weren't too hard.

The First-Level Sharp Sword Cutting Hair requires Controlling Sword with Heart, which Xu Nian was already capable of when he first grasped Man and Sword as One. He just hadn't had a chance to use it, and with Chen Tiansheng's guidance, it was easy to get started.

As for the Second-Level Wooden Sword Cutting Stone, this tests the coordination of Spiritual Energy and the sword, which is my method of Controlling Sword with Qi.

Xu Nian, while practicing the Collapse Thunder Formation, although this tested the coordination of Gang Qi and the hammer, ultimately led to the same destination. Hence, it wasn't difficult for Xu Nian to master.

Only the Third Level Realm required several hours of effort from Xu Nian, as making the Spiritual Energy take on the form of a sword and reaching the same sharpness as a sword wasn't an easy task.

However, Xu Nian's understanding was exceptionally sharp, and to make the Spiritual Energy as sharp as a sword, all depended on Sword Intent.

Only with Sword Intent in one's heart, blending it into the Spiritual Energy, can one make the Spiritual Energy as sharp as a sword.

"Monster, you truly are a monster. Xu Nian, you've really given Uncle Chen a huge shock," Chen Tiansheng said with emotion.

"Now you understand how I felt, right?" Chen Yao added insult to injury.

Chen Tiansheng gave a bitter smile and nodded. Cultivating with a prodigy like Xu Nian was indeed very troublesome.

"Haha, I said my brother Chen Wudi was an exceptional prodigy, and you all didn't believe me. Now you've felt it for yourselves," a hearty laugh came from nearby.

Then a familiar figure walked into the backyard.

Both Xu Nian and Chen Yao were pleased, as the person who arrived was truly Chen Wudi.

"Brother, is your poison cured?" Chen Yao hurried forward and examined Chen Wudi closely.

Xu Nian was also surprised that Chen Wudi had recovered so quickly.

"Haha, let me tell you, not only is my poison cured, but my Star Battle Body has also recovered. My cultivation has returned to its peak, and I've even broken through to the Two-star War Sect. Today, your Wudi King has returned," Chen Wudi laughed heartily.

Chen Yao was startled and looked incredulously at Chen Wudi.

Xu Nian also showed a surprised expression, not realizing until this moment that Chen Wudi's cultivation had indeed risen to the Two-star War Sect.

"Haha, I came to give you all a surprise, but I didn't expect Xu Nian to surprise me first," Chen Tiansheng laughed heartily, feeling exceptionally content.

Chen Yao was overjoyed and cried tears of excitement, hugging Chen Wudi tightly.

Chapter 155 The Despicable Chen Wudi

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In the next three days, Xu Nian stayed in the Governor Mansion.

Most of his time was spent sparring with Chen Wudi, which surprised Xu Nian.

Under twice the force of gravity, carrying a Meteorite Iron Hammer, he could only manage a draw with Chen Wudi.

If Chen Wudi used his Talent Phenomenon, Xu Nian would be completely defeated.

Of course, if Xu Nian were to cancel the gravity enhancement, then Chen Wudi would only be brutally beaten by him.

Just by using the Collapse Thunder technique with his fists, Chen Wudi could not withstand it at all.

However, Chen Wudi's Star Battle Body Talent Phenomenon did surprise Xu Nian.

The vision of the Star Battle Body was a Star Sea with a blue star shining brightly within it.

Starlight fell like a layer of battle armor.

Once the Talent Phenomenon was used, Chen Wudi would receive twice the combat strength.

If it was night, the combat power would further double. It could be said that the Star Battle Body was indeed a formidable battle body.

As for why Chen Wudi was able to awaken the Star Battle Body again, Xu Nian completely understood after asking Emperor Ye Tian.

It was because the Bloodline Power of his Nine Dragons Supreme Body stimulated the deep-seated Star Battle Body bloodline within Chen Wudi, thus allowing the foundation of the Star Battle Body that had been absorbed by Prince Zi Feng to be reborn.

After the rebirth of the Star Battle Body, Chen Wudi swallowed a vast amount of Pills, regaining the realms he had lost.

Overall, although Chen Wudi's realm was at the Two-star War Sect, he possessed the strength comparable to a Five-star Battle Sect, truly a top-tier genius.

Inside the courtyard of the Governor Mansion.

Xu Nian and Chen Wudi sat on the ground, breathing heavily.

Both had just finished sparring and were quite exhausted.

Chen Yao walked in from outside the courtyard and looked at Chen Wudi, "Wudi, tonight Brother Ding Hao has heard of your strength recovery and is hosting a banquet at Tianhua Restaurant. Will you go?"

"I will not!" Chen Wudi flatly refused.

Chen Yao's brows slightly furrowed and she said, "Isn't that a bit improper? Brother Ding Hao has already sent out the invitations, wouldn't it be quite disrespectful if you don't go?"

"Hmph, celebrating for me without even consulting the guest of honor first, sending out the invitations in advance, I think his intentions aren't purely in the wine!" Chen Wudi coldly huffed.

Chen Yao's face showed a bit of embarrassment and she said helplessly, "Alright, since you don't want to go, I'll let him know."

After saying that, Chen Yao turned around to leave.

Yet, a sly smile suddenly appeared on Chen Wudi's face, and he quickly called out to Chen Yao, "Sister, since Brother Ding Hao invited, I'll go after all, but I'll bring my brother Xu Nian along."

"Of course, Xu Nian is both your lifesaver and a member of the Battle Mansion. Naturally, he qualifies to attend," Chen Yao replied with a slight smile, then turned and left to find Ding Hao.

Chen Wudi watched as Chen Yao walked away, shaking his head helplessly.

"Since you didn't want to go, why change your mind all of a sudden and even insist on taking me along?" Xu Nian asked after Chen Yao had left.

...

Chen Wudi rolled his eyes at Xu Nian and said, "Can't you see? That Ding Hao celebrating for me was fake; his real motive was to get close to my sister. And by the looks of it, my sister seems to be somewhat interested in that guy."

"That's not bad then, right? This way, you wouldn't need to make me your brother-in-law." Xu Nian joked with a smile.

"Hmph, not bad? Ding Hao grew up with us. Although he's eight years older than me, I know all too well what kind of person he is. He appears amicable on the surface but is a complete and utter scoundrel behind the scenes. If my sister ends up with him, she'll definitely regret it in the future. Therefore, I'd rather have her marry you than fall into his hands." Chen Wudi snorted coldly.

Xu Nian was dumbfounded, Chen Wudi really seemed intent on making him his brother-in-law.

But then again, if Ding Hao really was a scoundrel, then Chen Yao marrying him wouldn't end well at all.

"Then why did you agree to attend this banquet?" Xu Nian asked in confusion.

Chen Wudi let out a sly laugh, "I want to use this banquet as an opportunity to let my sister see Ding Hao's true colors."

"What do you plan on doing?" Xu Nian asked with a chuckle.

Chen Wudi chuckled deviously, "Nothing much, we just need you to come along with me. If you do, Ding Hao will definitely take issue with you. I'll just take the chance to call you 'brother-in-law,' and Ding Hao will definitely take the opportunity to target you. Hehe, then his true, foxy nature will be revealed."

"Get lost!" Xu Nian suddenly kicked Chen Wudi's butt, sending him tumbling to the ground.

Chen Wudi actually treated him like a pawn, and he was supposed to be his savior no less. Was this how Chen Wudi returned the favor?

After eating dirt, Chen Wudi wasn't angry and, still giggling, said, "Xu Nian, my sister is so beautiful. Although her personality can be tough sometimes, she's truly a rare beauty. And don't think I don't know you've seen her body before. If you refuse, I'll tell my dad about it. I wonder what his face would look like then?"

Xu Nian was so irritated his teeth itched; Chen Wudi was utterly shameless.

"Fine, I agree. But let me say this one more time, that matter with your sister is resolved and wiped clean. If you dare bring it up again, I won't hesitate to let you taste my Meteorite Iron Hammer's Collapse Thunder." Xu Nian grunted.

"I won't mention it!" Chen Wudi shrank his neck, grinning slyly.

Xu Nian couldn't help but feel speechless. Chen Wudi was simply too aggravating, even worse than him.

"Is this Ding Hao from the Ding Family of Tianfeng City?" Xu Nian thought for a bit before asking again.

"Yes, he's the second son of the Ding Family. Before my cultivation was destroyed, Ding Hao always buttered me up, hovering around me and my sister. Later, when my body had issues, his enthusiasm cooled off. If it weren't for his continued interest in buttering up my sister, he probably wouldn't even spare me a second glance," Chen Wudi replied coldly.

Although Chen Wudi was also sixteen years old, his previous experiences made him more mature than his peers.

Xu Nian frowned slightly. The Ding Family of Tianfeng City was, except for the Governor Mansion, the first major family there.

The family even boasted Marquis Level experts. If the Qin Family and Ouyang Family were considered third-tier families, then the Ding Family was definitely a second-tier one, not to be underestimated.

"Is this Ding Hao also a member of the Battle Mansion?" Xu Nian continued asking.

"Mm, he's a three-star member in the Battle Mansion, with the strength of a Seven-star Martial Sect, and he's also part of the Mo Lang Team. Although he might be tough to deal with, I believe you can handle it," Chen Wudi chuckled.

"I can handle your sister!" Xu Nian kicked Chen Wudi's butt again, sending him flying once more.

Chen Wudi was really just causing trouble for Ding Hao, completely setting him up.

A Seven-star Martial Sect with Xu Nian's current strength.

Unless he went all out, he really couldn't handle him.

Thinking about it made Xu Nian's head hurt.

Meanwhile, Chen Wudi lay on the ground, rubbing his butt while laughing merrily.

Chapter 156 The Arrogant Li Yuan

Tianhua Restaurant, the largest and most luxurious restaurant in the prefectural city, Tianfeng City.

Inside this restaurant, even the cheapest table of food on the first floor would cost nearly a thousand gold coins, and the second and third floors would be at least nearly ten thousand gold coins each, which ordinary citizens simply could not afford.

Tonight, Ding Hao, the second young master of the Ding Family, had spent two hundred thousand gold coins to book the entire second floor, entertaining many rich youths from the county and well-known members of the Battle Mansion.

This move shocked the entire Tianfeng City, and everyone was exclaiming about the Ding Family's extravagance.

"Is this the Tianhua Restaurant? It is indeed impressive!"

Xu Nian looked at the splendid, brightly lit three-level luxurious restaurant in front of him and couldn't help but sigh.

Indeed, prefectural cities are different, such a grand restaurant couldn't possibly be found in their Cloud Sea City.

"All flash and no substance, this Ding Hao is clearly just showing off his family's wealth, not truly wanting to celebrate for me. Besides, he only booked the second floor. If he had the guts to book the third floor as well, let's see if he would find it painful or not," Chen Wudi said with great disdain.

Xu Nian cracked a slight smile; the Ding Family's financial power was profound, but compared to the Governor Mansion, it still fell far short.

So Ding Hao's action not only failed to win a shred of good feeling from Chen Wudi, but it made Chen Wudi feel even more resentful.

"Let's go in. Tonight, we'll properly accompany this Ding Hao and have some fun," Chen Wudi said with a light chuckle, then stepped toward the interior of the restaurant.

Xu Nian smiled helplessly and prepared to stride in after him.

"It's you? How come you are here?" However, at this moment, a familiar voice came from behind.

Turning his head to look, Xu Nian saw a Two-Star Member in a splendid battle robe, standing behind him with an unfriendly expression.

This person was none other than Li Yuan, who had stopped Xu Nian from killing Liu Mushan that day.

Clearly, Xu Nian had not listened to him and had forcefully killed Liu Mushan in front of him last time, which caused him public humiliation, and he was still holding a grudge.

"Why can't I be here? Is this restaurant owned by your family?" Xu Nian asked with a cold laugh, though he was somewhat surprised in his heart.

Li Yuan's cultivation had actually advanced to the Five-Star Battle Sect realm, clearly a recent breakthrough.

But what of a Five-Star Battle Sect? To the current Xu Nian, that was just a matter of one move.

Seeing Xu Nian's attitude, Li Yuan, who already had a dislike for Xu Nian, felt his anger rising even more.

"Hmph, sharp-tongued. You couldn't possibly be here for Senior Ding's banquet, right?" Li Yuan asked with a cold snort.

"What if I am?" Xu Nian replied with a smile, and then he remembered that Li Yuan and Ding Hao were both members of the Mo Lang Team.

"Then you can leave. You're not qualified to attend Senior Ding's banquet," Li Yuan said, waving his sleeve.

Tianhua Restaurant was already a bustling place, and there were many people around. Now that Li Yuan had spoken, it immediately attracted a lot of onlookers.

Li Yuan's face showed a cold smile, the more people gathered, the better.

Last time Xu Nian had embarrassed him, and now he finally had a chance for payback.

"Slap!"

However, as soon as Li Yuan finished speaking, a figure appeared in front of him and slapped him directly on the face.

"You slapped me? Who are you?"

Li Yuan, holding his swollen face, stared angrily at the plump young man who had suddenly appeared in front of him, full of anger.

The person who had slapped him was naturally Chen Wudi.

Although Chen Wudi was the son of the Prefectural Governor, he had kept a low profile for several years, and his true appearance was almost unknown to many.

So not only did Li Yuan not recognize him, but the surrounding onlookers also didn't recognize Chen Wudi.

However, they did not recognize Chen Wudi, but they did recognize Li Yuan, knowing that he was a teammate from the same Battle Team as Ding Hao.

Now seeing Chen Wudi actually slapping Li Yuan, all of them showed surprised expressions.

"Hmph, Xu Nian is my older brother. You insult my brother, who else should I slap if not you?" Chen Wudi said with a cold snort.

When they first met, Chen Wudi had lied that he was an orphan, even deceiving Xu Nian into calling him brother.

But after spending a few days together, Xu Nian discovered that Chen Wudi was actually younger than himself.

After giving Chen Wudi a vicious beating, Chen Wudi finally changed his tune and called him big brother.

"You're asking for it!" Li Yuan, upon hearing that Chen Wudi was actually Xu Nian's brother, immediately flew into a rage and directed all his spiritual energy into a punch towards Chen Wudi.

Chen Wudi was not to be outdone and punched back.

"Boom!"

The fists collided, and both men staggered back several steps.

Although Chen Wudi was a Two-star War Sect, his strength was comparable to Four-star Peak, not too far off from Li Yuan, who had just broken through to the Five-star Battle Sect.

Of course, if Chen Wudi used his Talent Phenomenon, he would absolutely dominate the Li Yuan in front of him.

"Two-star War Sect? How is this possible?" Li Yuan looked at Chen Wudi, his face tinged with shock, revealing an expression of disbelief.

The young man before him had clearly displayed the realm of the Two-star War Sect, yet he was able to withstand his punch, which to him seemed utterly impossible.

Though he had not used his full strength, a punch thrown by him would have sent flying not just a Two-star War Sect, but even a Three-star War Sect.

The onlookers were also surprised, all thinking that this young man was not simple.

It was a fight exceeding three Levels, and the opponent was a Battle Mansion member.

"Trash, you can't even beat a Two-star War Sect like me? Let me tell you, this was me holding back. If it were my brother, that punch would have already ruined your arm," Chen Wudi said with disdainful cold snort.

Li Yuan's face turned ashen. Being publicly called trash was an insult, one that if made known, would leave him unable to show his face in the Battle Mansion.

"I don't care who you are, you're not going to attend the banquet today. I advise you to leave if you know what's good for you; otherwise, don't blame me for not warning you when you're thrown out later," Li Yuan said, having seen Chen Wudi's prowess and suddenly lost the urge to fight.

As for Xu Nian's ability to ruin his arm, he naturally did not believe it.

He had witnessed Xu Nian's strength, which was at best Four-star level.

Now that he had reached Five Stars, dealing with Xu Nian would be a piece of cake.

"You say we cannot attend because you say so? It seems to me that the banquet is hosted by Ding Hao, not you. What right do you have to drive us away?" Chen Wudi asked with a smile.

"Hmph, Brother Ding Hao is from the same team as me; we have faced life and death together. Kicking you out is just a matter of a word," Li Yuan replied arrogantly.

"Oh, are you really sure that Ding Hao will kick me out of the banquet on your word?" Chen Wudi asked with a cold laugh.

"Of course, so I'd advise you to leave quickly. Otherwise, it will be quite embarrassing to be thrown out later," Li Yuan said with a sneer.

"What if Ding Hao doesn't want me to leave but instead begs me to attend the banquet?" Chen Wudi's smile grew even wider.

"Haha, what a joke. If Brother Ding Hao doesn't kick you out, today, I, Li Yuan, will kowtow and apologize to you. However, if Brother Ding Hao comes and agrees to kick you out, today you must kowtow three times to me before you can leave," Li Yuan laughed, his eyes brimming with mockery.

"Very well, let's agree to that. I hope you won't regret it later," Chen Wudi replied with a sneer.

Seeing Chen Wudi accepting, the mocking on Li Yuan's face deepened.

His relationship with Ding Hao was ironclad, and even if this young man had some background, Ding Hao would give him face today, so these two were doomed to lose.

The people around them whispered among themselves, convinced that Xu Nian and his companion were bound to lose.

Almost everyone in the city knew of Li Yuan's good relationship with Ding Hao.

If Li Yuan really wanted Ding Hao to kick them out, Ding Hao would probably do it.

Chen Wudi and Xu Nian looked at each other and smiled playfully.

After all, the banquet was originally held by Ding Hao for Chen Wudi.

How could Ding Hao possibly kick out Chen Wudi just because of Li Yuan's word?

"Remember what you said just now. I'm going to call Ding Hao down right now and see what he says," Chen Wudi said with a cold laugh.

Then he used his spiritual energy and shouted towards the second floor of Tianhua Restaurant, "Ding Hao, come the hell down!"

His voice boomed like thunder, shaking the entire Tianhua Restaurant.

Everyone in Tianhua City was startled, astonished that someone dared to tell Ding Hao to come down.

Beside him, Li Yuan's heart skipped a beat, a bad premonition rising within him.

Chapter 157 Ate Fly Poop

"Who is making such a racket here?"

Shortly after Chen Wudi's voice had fallen, a commanding voice rang out, followed by a young man dressed in a Three-star Battle Robe from the Battle Mansion emerging from the Tianhua Restaurant.

"Ding Hao, he really came down." The crowd around instantly recognized the man and were all surprised.

Upon seeing Ding Hao descend, Li Yuan's face also broke into a smile, and he hurried forward to greet him, "Senior Ding, that Black Scorching Meteorite Iron you were looking for last time, I've found it for you, and I'll give it to you now."

After speaking, Li Yuan took out a black stone the size of a chicken egg from his storage ring.

"Ha-ha, it turns out to be you, Li Yuan, it's been many days since I've seen you. You're being too polite to me, we are brothers, come, join me upstairs. We won't return until we are drunk today." Ding Hao took the black stone and laughed heartily.

Hearing Ding Hao's words, Li Yuan immediately showed a proud smile on his face.

The crowd around also secretly sighed in their hearts, just from Ding Hao's words, it was clear that the relationship between Li Yuan and Ding Hao was exceptionally good.

Given this, their looks towards Xu Nian and Chen Wudi also turned sympathetic.

"Senior Ding, we probably have to wait a bit for the drinks, there's a small matter here that needs attention," Li Yuan spoke up.

"We are brothers, what trouble is there to speak of? Say it, whatever it is, as long as I can handle it, I will certainly help you," Ding Hao laughed heartily.

Upon hearing this, Li Yuan was overjoyed and hastily said, "It's not a big deal, for senior, it's a trivial matter. We encountered two ruffians, they are also guests invited to your banquet, but they were rude

and unreasonable, they not only struck me but also humiliated me in public, I want to ask Senior Ding to kick these two out and not allow them to attend the banquet."

"Rebellion! Daring to strike a member of my battle team, hmph, simply kicking them out of the banquet won't suffice, I want to see who dares to bully my brother, I must break his legs today." Ding Hao immediately exclaimed upon hearing Li Yuan's words.

The crowd around felt a shudder in their hearts.

It's over!

These two were not only likely to be kicked out of the banquet today but would probably suffer even more.

Li Yuan too showed a wildly happy look, then immediately, proudly pointing at Xu Nian and Chen Wudi who stood in the crowd, told Ding Hao, "Senior Ding, it's them. One is a Two-star member of the Battle Mansion, and the other is said to be his younger brother. These two are outrageously arrogant. Just now, it was his younger brother who told you to roll down, that fat man."

"Even a Two-star member dares to be so arrogant, could it be they're tired of living? I want to see who in Tianfeng City dares to disrespect me, Ding Hao," Ding Hao coldly huffed, then glanced towards Xu Nian.

First, when he saw Xu Nian, his face was still filled with disdain, but when he saw Xu Nian's so-called younger brother, his expression suddenly changed.

"You... who are you?" Ding Hao asked uncertainly.

This scene made the surrounding crowd bewildered. Could it be that Ding Hao actually knew this fat young man?

Seeing Ding Hao look over, Chen Wudi this time coldly smiled and said to Ding Hao, "Mr. Ding sure carries great authority. It's been only four years since we last met, has Tianfeng City already become the domain of Ding Hao?"

Since his cultivation was destroyed, Chen Wudi had kept a low profile for a long time and had not seen Ding Hao again.

Now, four years later, the formerly thin Chen Wudi had turned into a fat man, so Ding Hao hadn't recognized him as Chen Wudi earlier.

But when he closely examined him, he realized that the man in front of him was none other than the only son of the Lord Governor, the main character invited to this banquet, Chen Wudi.

This realization instantly overwhelmed Ding Hao.

Even though the Ding family was powerful, they ultimately couldn't compete with the Governor Mansion.

Back then, his fawning over Chen Wudi was partly due to Chen Wudi's strength, and partly due to the influence of the Governor Mansion.

These years his pursuit of Chen Yao was similarly motivated by coveting the power of the Governor Mansion.

Today, he had set up this banquet partly to woo Chen Yao, and partly to reconcile with Chen Wudi.

If he could gain Chen Wudi's support, not only would his pursuit of Chen Yao be smoother, but the position of his Ding Family in East Field County would also be much more stable.

But Chen Wudi hadn't even entered the door yet and had been offended by his own companion.

This drastically reduced Ding Hao's fondness for Li Yuan.

"Senior Ding, this fat man is extremely arrogant. You must properly teach him a lesson today. I had previously made a bet with him, if I could get you to send them away, they must kneel and kowtow to me three times," Li Yuan chuckled.

"Fuck your apology!"

However, before Li Yuan's words could fall, Ding Hao swiftly backhanded him with a slap, striking Li Yuan across the face.

Li Yuan was sent flying instantly, his teeth knocked loose, blood spraying from his mouth.

The surrounding crowd froze.

What was happening?

Wasn't Li Yuan Ding Hao's brother? Why was Ding Hao hitting him?

Li Yuan was utterly baffled, covering his mouth, a look of confusion directed at Ding Hao.

Chen Wudi and Xu Nian exchanged smiles, their eyes filled with mockery.

"Senior Ding, why are you hitting me? You should be hitting them!" Li Yuan roared in dismay.

"Hit, hit, hit your granny! Do you know who he is? He's the son of the Lord Governor, the host of tonight's banquet that I invited. Are you asking me to throw him out? Is this banquet held for you?" Ding Hao shouted angrily.

Li Yuan was simply too foolish; he couldn't see the situation clearly even now.

He could be brothers with Li Yuan, but only if Li Yuan didn't stand in his way. However, Li Yuan now severely obstructed his objectives, so he had to take the necessary stance to show Chen Wudi.

Once Ding Hao said this, the entire room was completely stunned, looking at Chen Wudi in shock.

Li Yuan was totally bewildered, his mind buzzing, his body going limp on the floor.

He had actually offended the son of the Lord Governor—this was suicide!

"Apologize to Mr. Chen immediately," Ding Hao demanded.

Li Yuan quickly came to and crawled in front of Chen Wudi, knocking his head several times, pleading as he did, "Mr. Chen, spare my life, I was blind not to recognize Taishan, I've offended you, please don't take offense."

"Really? I think I better not attend this banquet, lest others say I, Chen Wudi, abuse my power," Chen Wudi said innocently and then turned to leave.

"Mr. Chen, oh no, Grandpa Chen, you really can't leave!" Li Yuan's face darkened in despair, a surge of frustration almost making him vomit blood, as he hastily clung to Chen Wudi's legs.

Ding Hao also looked desperate, fearing Chen Wudi might actually leave.

Of course, Chen Wudi was just putting on an act to scare Li Yuan.

"You want my forgiveness? I can give that; I'm always very magnanimous. However, it seems you've forgotten, you didn't offend me, you offended my brother-in-law. My brother-in-law has a nasty temper, why don't you beg him, see if he forgives you?" Chen Wudi blinked his eyes as he spoke.

Everyone around felt speechless. Had they not witnessed Chen Wudi's arrogant demeanor earlier, they might have been truly deceived by his innocent act.

Li Yuan was also massively frustrated, finding the man in front of him utterly contemptible.

Wait!

Suddenly, everyone around, including Li Yuan, turned their heads to look at Xu Nian.

Wasn't he the elder brother?

Why did he suddenly become the brother-in-law?

If Chen Wudi is the son of the Lord Governor, and Xu Nian is Chen Wudi's brother-in-law, then that must mean—

At that moment, including Li Yuan, everyone turned their heads again to look at Ding Hao.

Everyone in the city knew about Ding Hao's pursuit of Chen Yao. Now that Chen Wudi was calling someone else brother-in-law, what did that imply?

At that moment, Ding Hao's face turned completely dark. He had done so much to please Chen Wudi, all to better pursue Chen Yao.

But now that Chen Wudi was calling another man brother-in-law, all his efforts might have been in vain.

This left Ding Hao with a feeling akin to having swallowed fly shit.

Chapter 158 He's Not Worthy

Seeing Ding Hao's extremely embarrassed face, Xu Nian couldn't help but wryly smile inside.

Chen Wudi was truly a troublesome figure, anyone who provoked him was truly doomed.

But then again, it was clear Ding Hao was no good either.

Previously, he had the demeanor of someone who would go through fire and water for his brothers, but the moment his own interests were threatened, he would immediately turn his back on them.

Now, Xu Nian somewhat understood why Chen Wudi did not want Chen Yao associating with Ding Hao.

"It seems you still haven't recognized your own mistakes," Chen Wudi shook his head and sighed, "Let's just go, brother-in-law."

The kneeling Li Yuan was startled, quickly crawling in front of Xu Nian with a pleading face, "Brother-in-law, oh no, Junior Brother Xu Nian, please forgive my ignorance just this once."

While begging for mercy, Li Yuan kowtowed until his forehead was bruised.

Xu Nian looked down at the kneeling Li Yuan and felt a surge of disgust.

Li Yuan had previously acted arrogantly in front of him, but now, knowing he could not provoke Xu Nian, his attitude had changed completely, showcasing his true petty nature.

"If you want my forgiveness, you can have it," Xu Nian coldly huffed, "but from now on, leave the Battle Mansion and don't show your face before me again."

"Leave the Battle Mansion?" Li Yuan gasped, his face showing signs of struggle.

"What, you didn't hear what my brother-in-law said? Do you want me to go back and report to our father?" Chen Wudi sneered.

Li Yuan gritted his teeth, and finally nodded with great reluctance, "Fine, I agree to leave the Battle Mansion."

"Get out!" Chen Wudi kicked Li Yuan on the shoulder, knocking him to the ground.

Li Yuan got up and left with his tail between his legs.

The surrounding crowd sighed in awe, their looks of reverence towards Xu Nian and Chen Wudi intensifying.

"Do you really plan on just letting him go? Li Yuan is clearly a narrow-minded person," Chen Wudi whispered to Xu Nian, "I think it would be better to just kill him."

Xu Nian lightly chuckled and replied, "There's no need, by expelling him from the Battle Mansion, I'm giving him a chance to change his ways. If he lets it go, then so be it, but if he seeks revenge, I won't hesitate to put an end to him."

Chen Wudi nodded.

He knew Xu Nian was not the type to show great mercy; if Li Yuan truly provoked him, he would strike back harder than anyone.

"Alright, Wudi, everything's settled now. Let's head upstairs; everyone's almost here waiting for you," Ding Hao said with a renewed smile on his face.

"Sure, I'm getting hungry," Chen Wudi patted his stomach.

Ding Hao gave a slight smile and then turned to lead the way.

All the while, he never glanced at Xu Nian.

Xu Nian sneered inwardly; Ding Hao was trying to show him who's boss, indicating this dinner wouldn't be easy indeed.

But since he had come, he wouldn't show any fear. If Ding Hao truly provoked him, he wouldn't mind teaching him a lesson in manners.

Chen Wudi threw Xu Nian a cheeky grin, which was met with a fierce glare from Xu Nian.

Following Ding Hao's lead, they soon arrived on the second floor.

The second floor was a vast banquet hall, filled with numerous people.

Men and women alike, mostly ranging from twenty to thirty years old, and a majority were members of the Battle Mansion, as many wore the mansion's robes.

These young men and women were gathered in small groups, drinking, chatting, and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Chen Yao and Zhao Yanyun were also among them.

Today, Chen Yao wore a simple green dress that accentuated her elegance and beauty.

As for Zhao Yanyun, she was dressed in a purple gown that outlined her enchanting figure, drawing countless gazes.

Undoubtedly, these two women were the most dazzling highlights of the event, surrounded by many admirers.

Xu Nian also knew from Chen Wudi that Zhao Yanyun was his cousin, and their relationship was relatively close.

Besides the two women, there were three other young men who caught Xu Nian's attention.

One of them was standing next to Zhao Yanyun.

This person seemed to be the oldest in the crowd, around twenty-eight years old.

He was handsome, tall, and had a warm smile on his face at all times.

However, what really drew Xu Nian's attention was that the person's robes were embroidered with four stars, indicating that he was a Four-star Member.

And his cultivation was extremely high, having reached the level of a Nine-star Body Sect.

If Xu Nian wasn't mistaken, this person should be Lin Rock, the captain of the Mo Lang Team.

Zhao Yanyun had told him that once a person reached the Four-star Member level, they could form their own battle team.

The second person was sitting on a chair nearby, with his arms around two beautiful women.

He had long hair, but a tuft of it on his forehead was white, and although he looked handsome, his mouth was curled in a way that showed defiance.

His cultivation was also not low, reaching the level of an Eight-star War Sect and being a Three-star Member of the Battle Mansion.

Xu Nian immediately recognized his identity; this was Sun Lei, the second-ranking member of the Mo Lang Team.

He was ruthless and was known for playing with women, a true prodigal.

The last one was slightly surprising to Xu Nian; it was a teenager not much older than the others.

Around eighteen years old, but his cultivation was extremely high, having reached the level of a Six-star War Sect.

An eighteen-year-old Six-star War Sect was exceedingly rare within the Battle Mansion.

The teenager looked haughty and dismissive of everyone around him, gloating over others, and only when Lin Rock and Sun Lei spoke to him did he tone down his arrogance.

"His name is Lv Cheng. He joined the Battle Mansion last year. When he entered, he was only a Two-star War Sect. His talent is the same as mine, also of Holy Level, and in just one year, he advanced four stars, truly a top-notch genius," Chen Wudi whispered to Xu Nian as he glanced at the young man.

"Holy Level talent?" Xu Nian silently nodded in his heart.

Someone reaching King-level talent was already considered a genius, Emperor level even more rare, and Holy level was one in ten thousand.

With such talent and the resources of the Battle Mansion aiding him, advancing four stars in one year wasn't a hard task for this young man.

Clearly, this Lv Cheng was also a member of the Mo Lang Team.

Besides him, there were no other individuals that caught Xu Nian's attention; most of them were merely Second and Third Stars Battle Sect Level One-star Members and some children of local officials.

The arrival of Xu Nian and Chen Wudi didn't draw the surrounding crowd's attention.

Although the banquet was held to celebrate Chen Wudi, most of the attention was still on Lin Rock and Chen Yao and others, showing little interest in Chen Wudi.

"Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce to you, this person is the son of the East Field County Governor, Chen Wudi. This banquet is also held in his honor," Ding Hao said, pointing toward Chen Wudi as he introduced him to everyone.

The crowd turned their heads toward Chen Wudi, their faces showing curiosity.

They all knew that the Lord Governor had a son, but they had never known who it was until now.

"Ha ha, Ding Hao, I was wondering why you suddenly decided to spend so much money to invite us to Tianhua Restaurant for a gathering, and even booked the entire second floor, it turns out it was for your little uncle!" Sun Lei said teasingly while laughing.

Upon hearing this, the crowd burst into laughter.

They all knew that Ding Hao was pursuing Chen Yao.

Chen Yao stood among the crowd, her face showing a touch of shyness.

As for Ding Hao, although she can't say she liked him, she also did not dislike him.

Since the two had grown up together, considered childhood sweethearts, she also blushed when she heard the crowd's laughter.

Ding Hao, however, displayed a complacent smile, seeming to enjoy the crowd teasing him.

"Hmph, dreaming about becoming my brother-in-law, he isn't worthy yet."

Just then, a cold snort came from the side.

Chen Wudi, while nibbling on a chicken leg, watched everyone with a sneer.

The crowd was momentarily stunned, then they turned their heads back to Ding Hao, as if asking what was happening.

Ding Hao's face turned ashen, unable to believe that Chen Wudi would embarrass him so openly in front of so many people.

Chapter 159 The Ditching Duo

"Wudi, what do you mean by that," Ding Hao said with a hypocritical smile on his face, "where has Brother Ding offended you? If you have any complaints, feel free to speak out."

"Hmph, you haven't offended me, I'm just stating the facts, really," said Chen Wudi with a smirk, "you are indeed not worthy of my sister, and I'm doing this for your own good, to let you give up sooner rather than later."

The people around were all looking on with surprise.

What's going on?

Wasn't Ding Hao hosting this banquet to entertain Chen Wudi?

Why did Chen Wudi seem to have such a disdain for him?

Wasn't this just a blatant slap in Ding Hao's face?

Ding Hao's face was exceptionally awkward, his eyes dark and gloomy.

"Wudi, don't make a fuss," Chen Yao quickly scolded Chen Wudi.

But Chen Wudi just smiled and said, "Sister, I'm not making a fuss, I just want you to see Ding Hao's true colors, and then you'll understand that he is truly not worthy of you."

Chen Yao's brows knitted in hearing Chen Wudi's words, falling into silence.

Seeing Chen Yao become silent, Ding Hao felt an even greater surge of anger within.

Wasn't the purpose of hosting this banquet to win Chen Yao's favor?

But now Chen Yao began to doubt him, which filled him with dissatisfaction.

"So you're Chen Wudi, huh? You say Brother Ding is unworthy of your sister, but I disagree!" At this moment, Lin Rock, the captain of the Mo Lang Team, stood up and spoke.

"I think so too," Sun Zhan chimed in, "Brother Ding reached the Seven-star Martial Sect Realm at the age of twenty-four, making him a significant figure in the Battle Mansion, and he's also the second young master of the Ding Family. If he's not worthy, then who is?"

Ding Hao was their comrade, of course they spoke on his behalf.

The people around them, hearing Lin Rock and Sun Zhan, nodded in agreement.

Ding Hao's talent was indeed extraordinary—reaching Seven-star Martial Sect at twenty-four was extremely rare in the Battle Mansion.

Furthermore, with Ding Hao's illustrious family background, there were many in the Battle Mansion who pursued him.

But the whole of Tianfeng City knew that Ding Hao was deeply devoted to Chen Yao and never flirted with others.

In their eyes, Ding Hao was certainly worthy of Chen Yao.

A hint of pride appeared on Ding Hao's face; it seemed the image he had crafted over the years had not been in vain—at least his positive persona had taken root in the hearts of others.

"You're asking who is worthy of my sister? Fine, I'll tell you who—he is." Chen Wudi pointed at Xu Nian who stood beside him.

Instantly, everyone's gaze fell on Xu Nian, beginning to size him up.

Chen Yao frowned, not understanding what her brother was trying to do.

By saying this, wasn't he deliberately pushing Xu Nian into a confrontation with the Mo Lang Team?

Zhao Yanyun, standing in the crowd, also silently watched this unfold with keen interest.

"Ha ha, I thought you would mention someone impressive, but it turns out it's just this kid," Sun Zhan laughed. "This kid probably hasn't even grown his full set of hair yet!"

His words set off a burst of laughter around them, and everyone's eyes looking toward Xu Nian were filled with scorn.

To tell the truth, Xu Nian was indeed too young.

Though he was not short in stature, he was only sixteen years old and still looked somewhat youthful.

A cold smile also appeared on Ding Hao's face; he didn't take Xu Nian seriously at all.

A sixteen-year-old boy, what threat could he pose to him?

"I am Ding Hao, a member of the Battle Mansion's Mo Lang Team," said Ding Hao with a smile as he looked at Xu Nian, "you seem a bit unfamiliar, probably just joined the Battle Mansion this year, right? May I ask how you're called?"

Xu Nian smiled faintly, it seemed Ding Hao was about to make his move against him.

But having prepared in advance, he was not afraid at all.

"Xu Nian, indeed I have just joined the Battle Mansion this year," Xu Nian answered with a calm smile, maintaining his composure.

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"So that's Xu Nian?" A surprised voice suddenly emerged from the crowd.

"Oh, do you know him?" asked the person next to them, puzzled.

"Of course, I recognize him. This guy's fame is no small matter; he ranked first in this year's Academy competition and was admitted to the Battle Mansion for his Nine-star Warrior ability, breaking protocol. Not long ago, he even completed an impossible mission and was exceptionally promoted to a Two-Star Member. It's said that he also killed Liu Mushan," the person responded.

Everyone around became visibly shocked, not expecting Xu Nian to have such accomplishments.

"What you mentioned isn't even the half of it. Do you know Hu Long? His arms were severed by this youngster. Even Yu Cheng of the Heavenly Dragon Team was defeated by him," another person chimed in.

Instantly, the way everyone looked at Xu Nian changed.

This Yu Cheng is a Three-star Member of the Six-star Martial Sect, and Xu Nian has just entered the Battle Mansion and defeated a Three-star Member. His strength is certainly not to be underestimated.

Even Lin Rock and Sun Zhan exchanged glances, seeing the astonishment in each other's eyes.

To beat Yu Cheng after less than two months in the Battle Mansion is an extraordinary feat!

Lv Cheng, standing aside, had a gleam in his eyes, like a Hunter spotting prey. Clearly, Xu Nian's abilities had caught his attention.

Of course, the most astonished was Ding Hao; he could never have imagined that this youth, eight years his junior, possessed such combat power.

"No, this boy must be eliminated; otherwise, he will pose the greatest threat to me," Ding Hao muttered to himself, a flash of Killing Intent sparkling in the depths of his eyes.

Initially, he thought Xu Nian was too young to take seriously.

But now, after hearing about Xu Nian's exploits, he realized that this young man wasn't simple at all.

"Haha, who would have thought Junior Brother Xu Nian to be so formidable, defeating Yu Cheng. He's really a dark horse. I wonder if Junior Brother Xu Nian would be willing to have a friendly spar with me?" Ding Hao laughed heartily.

"Ding Hao, have you no shame? Xu Nian is only a One-star Battle Sect, and you, a Seven-star Martial Sect, challenge him. Don't you feel ashamed?" Chen Wudi bellowed angrily.

"That's not necessarily true. If Junior Brother Xu Nian could defeat Yu Cheng, it means his combat power must be at least at the peak of Six-star Martial Sect. What's wrong with me, who has just entered the Seven-star Martial Sect Realm, challenging him? Besides, it's a friendly spar, not a fight to the death," Ding Hao shamelessly retorted.

The people around nodded in agreement; they, too, were eager to see if Xu Nian was as formidable as the rumors suggested.

"A friendly spar is fine, but let's add a condition," said Chen Wudi.

"What condition?" Ding Hao asked.

"Both parties must be blindfolded during the match to make it fairer," Chen Wudi declared.

Blindfolded?

The crowd looked on in confusion. What did this requirement mean?

However, once one reaches the Battle Sect Realm, they can generally discern positions by sound, and some can even judge the enemy's location by the changes in the air currents around them.

"Good! The condition is interesting; I agree. What do you say, Junior Brother Xu Nian?" Ding Hao agreed immediately, a cunning smile in his eyes.

He was worried about finding an excuse to deal with Xu Nian, and now that Chen Wudi had made this suggestion, if he went too hard later on, he could simply claim his blindness as an excuse.

Besides, at his level, whether he used his eyes or not really didn't make much difference.

Seeing Ding Hao agree, a smile suddenly appeared on Chen Wudi's face.

Everyone also turned their gaze towards Xu Nian, curious if he would agree to such a contest.

Xu Nian smiled faintly.

Chen Wudi was blatantly setting a trap for Ding Hao!

Others might not know that he had awakened his Spiritual Sense, but Chen Wudi knew very well.

Even if being blindfolded slightly affected Ding Hao, it would still place some limitations on him, whereas for Xu Nian, who possessed Spiritual Sense, being blindfolded wouldn't hinder him at all – in fact, it would be like a fish in water.

Furthermore, even with his eyes covered, he could still see, thanks to his Gray Dragon Eye, which could see through all deceptions. So, being blindfolded really didn't matter to him.

Yet, Xu Nian did not say anything. Although the Killing Intent in Ding Hao's eyes might deceive others, it couldn't escape his notice.

Under everyone's scrutiny, Xu Nian slowly stepped forward and chuckled, "Senior Brother Ding, what's the fun in just sparring? Why don't we raise the stakes?"

Everyone was taken aback at his words.

They thought it was good enough that Xu Nian agreed to the spar, but to their surprise, he even wanted to raise the stakes.

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Ding Hao was also somewhat astonished; he didn't expect Xu Nian not only to agree to his sparring request but actually to propose a bet.

"Right, a wager, how did I not think of that, there must be a wager," Chen Wudi exclaimed, slapping his forehead.

Chen Yao's face was filled with surprise; what was this Xu Nian doing?

Although she knew Xu Nian was formidable, his combat strength was at most at the Six-star Martial Sect Level, so going against the Seven-star Martial Sect Ding Hao, he was bound to lose without a doubt.

If it were merely a sparring match, it wouldn't be much of an issue.

But now that they were actually setting up a betting match, wasn't this just asking for a loss?

Zhao Yanyun did not speak, still watching with great interest.

She had looked through Xu Nian's information and guessed that aside from Chen Wudi, she was the second person present who knew Xu Nian had awakened his Spiritual Sense, so when Chen Wudi suggested blindfolding their eyes previously, she smiled meaningfully.

Nevertheless, even so, defeating Ding Hao was no easy task.

As for Lin Yan and Sun Zhan on the side, they were absolutely convinced that Xu Nian would surely lose; they were all too aware of Ding Hao's strength, and regular Seven-star Martial Sect cultivators were no match for him.

Xu Nian did defeat Yu Cheng, but the gap between him and Ding Hao was far too wide.

"Alright, then what wager do you suggest?" Ding Hao asked with a smile.

In his view, Xu Nian was completely just handing over money, why would he refuse such a gift?

"We shouldn't bet too much, too much can harm our rapport, how about five million gold coins?" Xu Nian said with a smile.

The crowd around them instantly widened their eyes.

Five million gold coins?

He says that's not too much?

Five million gold coins could buy five Heavenly Rank Low Grade Combat Skills, equivalent to one Heavenly Rank Top Grade Combat Skill, this was a huge fortune.

Chen Yao was also stunned; Xu Nian's bet was far too massive.

Five million gold coins, even she, the daughter of the Governor Mansion, had never seen so much money.

"Can you really put up five million?" Ding Hao asked with a frown.

Five million was also not a small sum to him.

He had only managed to accumulate four million over four years through tasks and support from the Ding Family, and he planned to use this money to purchase a Heavenly Rank Top Grade Combat Skill in the Battle Mansion.

Therefore, he did not believe that Xu Nian could come up with so many gold coins all at once.

"I know Senior Ding doesn't believe me, so why don't we have Sister Zhao bear witness? Here are five million gold coins, Sister Zhao can count them," Xu Nian said with a smile, tossing a Qiankun Bag to Zhao Yanyun.

Zhao Yanyun briskly caught the Qiankun Bag, counted briefly, and nodded, "That's right, there are indeed five million gold coins."

All around, the crowd showed surprised expressions, not expecting Xu Nian to possess so many gold coins, and even dare to wager them.

Ding Hao was also astounded, but even more so excited.

He didn't think he would lose, so in his eyes, Xu Nian's gold coins would be his.

Not only would this allow Xu Nian to lose face, but he would also gain five million gold coins, an opportunity that comes once in a blue moon.

"Fine, I'll take your bet," Ding Hao immediately agreed.

So Ding Hao took out four million gold coins and borrowed another million from Lin Yan, thus managing to gather five million gold coins.

However, to everyone around, it seemed Ding Hao was about to make a huge profit, and they were all envious to no end.

Chen Yao's heart was racing with worry for Xu Nian, but it was too late to stop it.

Feeling that Xu Nian was acting too rashly, she only hoped his five million could buy a lesson.

Xu Nian saw Ding Hao produce five million gold coins and exchanged a cunning glance with Chen Wudi, both their eyes filled with shrewdness.

"Since the wager is set, then Senior Ding, let's begin. Both you and I will use this handkerchief to blindfold our eyes, and we will fight until one of us verbally concedes defeat, how about it?" Xu Nian proposed with a smile.

"Excellent!" Ding Hao readily agreed.

The second floor was extremely spacious. The surrounding crowd dispersed, naturally forming a sufficiently large battlefield.

The floor was made of white rock tiles, as hard as Xuan Iron, virtually indestructible, so both of them could freely unleash their full strength in combat.

Xu Nian and Ding Hao both used handkerchiefs to cover their eyes, standing opposite each other.

The crowd encircled them, all watching in silence, anticipating this spectacular duel.

Such high-stakes battles were a first for them.

"The battle begins!"

Zhao Yanyun, acting as the referee, announced the start, and the fight on the stage erupted in an instant.

Ding Hao's foot stamped on the white rock tile, and he burst out with Spiritual Energy howling in his hand, fiercely aiming a strike directly at Xu Nian's chest.

As a Wind Attribute Sword Cultivator, his sensitivity to the flow of air was stronger than that of ordinary Cultivators, so it was easy for him to determine Xu Nian's position.

The surrounding crowd all turned their gaze to Xu Nian, wondering if he could block the strike.

Xu Nian, however, curled his lips into a slight smile. His Spiritual Sense had already spread out. He could clearly sense everything, even the hairs on Ding Hao's palm, not to mention such a fierce move.

Xu Nian didn't try to dodge but instead summoned his own Spiritual Energy to counter Ding Hao's palm strike.

"Boom!"

The move Collapse Thunder, unleashed through a fist, erupted with fifty percent of its power, creating a thunderous noise.

A gust of wind swept across the second floor, with both Xu Nian and Ding Hao taking several steps back.

The crowd was astonished, not expecting Xu Nian to be so powerful as to withstand Ding Hao's palm strike.

Ding Hao was also surprised. Although he had only used seventy percent of his strength, a normal Six-star Martial Sect could not have withstood the strike, but Xu Nian had managed to fight him to a standstill.

Xu Nian, however, was not too surprised; the punch was just a test.

Ding Hao's strength was almost what he had anticipated—around the middle stage of Seven-star Martial Sect level, nearly comparable to an ordinary peak-level Seven-star Martial Sect powerhouse. His strength was not to be underestimated.

Now that Xu Nian had canceled his hammer and Gravity Domain, and using Collapse Thunder, he had barely intercepted the strike. Defeating Ding Hao wouldn't be easy.

However, all this was based on a head-on confrontation. Now that Ding Hao was blindfolded, only a fool would choose to fight him head on.

"Junior Brother Xu Nian, your strength is indeed commendable, but I fear you'll lose today. That last strike was just a probe. Next, I will use my full strength. I'll happily accept those five million Gold Coins," Ding Hao said with a laugh, the corners of his mouth curving confidently.

"Is that so? I think you should be careful, Senior Ding, because in the following fight, you might very well not even be able to touch the hem of my garment," Xu Nian replied with a cold laugh.

"Haha, Junior Brother Xu Nian, you underestimate me. Whether or not my eyes are covered doesn't affect me at all. I can clearly sense your every move," Ding Hao laughed heartily and once again charged out explosively. This time, with even more terrifying fluctuations of Spiritual Energy, and his speed and momentum were much greater than before.

In the blink of an eye, he had reached Xu Nian's proximity.

The crowd held their breath: "Is it over?"

Just when everyone thought Xu Nian was about to be sent flying by Ding Hao's palm, Ding Hao's body passed right through Xu Nian's figure.

An afterimage!

How could this be?

The crowd all widened their eyes in shock.

Ding Hao was stunned as well; his attack had missed completely, and crucially, he now didn't know Xu Nian's whereabouts.

"Senior Ding, I told you that you wouldn't be able to touch even a piece of my garment. Didn't you believe me? How do you feel now?" Xu Nian's figure appeared behind Ding Hao, speaking with a smile on his face.

The surrounding crowd showed expressions of astonishment. Even if they weren't blindfolded, almost none of them saw clearly how Xu Nian suddenly disappeared.

Of course, a few individuals with strong capabilities like Lin Rock and Zhao Yanyun saw through Xu Nian's actions, but because they saw through them, they were even more surprised.

"Heavenly Rank Body Technique Illusion Fascinate Trace Step, he's actually mastered it," Zhao Yanyun muttered to herself in shock.

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