

Divine King 231

Chapter 231 Taking a Dump on Your Head

"Here we are at the Outer Elder Hall," said Zhang Meng, still somewhat incredulous. "To advance to an Inner Sect Disciple, all you need to do is pass the examination by the Elders. Do you really wish to be promoted to an Inner Sect Disciple?"

Xu Nian had only entered the Sect yesterday to become an Outer Disciple.

And today, he actually planned to be promoted to an Inner Sect Disciple; this must have been an unprecedented event in the entire history of the Artifact Refining Sect!

Moreover, just yesterday, Xu Nian had asked him what an Artifact Furnace was.

Even those who aren't Artifact Refiners know this common knowledge, yet he didn't.

How could he possibly be a Little Artifact Refiner?

If it hadn't been for Xu Nian's ability to identify the presence of Mo Tie in the weapon forged by Jing Haoyang at a glance,

Zhang Meng would really suspect Xu Nian of jesting with him.

Now, he also found it a bit tricky to grasp the level of Xu Nian's artifact refining skills.

Xu Nian just smiled and did not respond to Zhang Meng's words.

Because shortly, he would answer all of Zhang Meng's doubts with his actions.

Having no choice, Zhang Meng could only follow Xu Nian into the Outer Elder Hall.

At that moment, three Outer Elders were present within the hall.

Besides Wang Long and Qi Heng, whom he had already met, there was only the third Elder, Pang Fei, whom Xu Nian had not seen before.

This third Elder, Pang Fei, was an old man with a faint smile on his face.

Besides the three Elders, there was also a youth in his late twenties in the hall.

The young man wore the elegant attire of an Outer Disciple and looked particularly handsome and dashing.

However, this youth's eyes conveyed a trace of arrogance, evidently a proud individual.

At the moment, the Elders appeared to be in conversation with the youth. When they saw Xu Nian and Zhang Meng walk in, they turned their gaze toward them.

"Zhang Meng, what brings you here?" asked Wang Long with some surprise when he saw Zhang Meng enter.

As for Xu Nian, he was completely ignored.

In fact, after going back yesterday, the more he thought about it, the more he felt something was amiss.

But no matter what, he couldn't figure out what exactly was wrong.

Because he hadn't thought to suspect Xu Nian at all.

Wang Long didn't notice Xu Nian, but Qi Heng did. He had been away from the mountain due to some affairs yesterday, unaware of the day's events.

"Haha, Elder Wang Long, is this the disciple you've taken in?" Pang Fei glanced at Zhang Meng and burst out laughing.

A mocking glint flickered in the depths of his eyes.

The youth standing beside him was also filled with disdain.

Zhang Meng felt a wave of embarrassment; he knew there were things he had to come clean about.

"Master, the fact that Jing Haoyang's weapon refining was found to be defective yesterday... it was actually discovered by Xu Nian, not me; therefore, I don't deserve to be your disciple," said Zhang Meng candidly.

"What?" Wang Long was taken aback and finally turned his head to look at Xu Nian.

At that moment, he finally came to a realization.

Since the beginning, it had been Xu Nian orchestrating every event, and he had been unwittingly following Xu Nian's lead.

Understanding all of this, Wang Long was a mixture of anger and shock.

"Haha, Brother Wang, I heard about what happened with you yesterday. Yes, this Xu Nian was the one I recruited. He is the artifact refining genius I mentioned to you," Qi Heng laughed heartily.

Qi Heng might have been absent, but he was informed about what happened with Wang Long.

He immediately grasped the situation by observing Wang Long's expression.

Pang Fei also responded with a snicker, clearly amused by Wang Long's embarrassment, which was a delight for them.

Wang Long felt tremendous vexation as he glared daggers at Zhang Meng.

It seemed likely that Zhang Meng would become the butt of jokes among the Elders due to this incident.

But having already promised to take Zhang Meng as a disciple, to go back on his word now would only invite further criticism and gossip.

"All right, since you've taken responsibility for the mistake, let's put this matter behind us," Elder Wang Long said imposingly. "Since I've promised to accept you as my apprentice, I will never go back on my word, but from now on, I'll check your Artifact Refining level every month. If there's no progress, don't blame me for being unkind."

Upon hearing this, Zhang Meng's eyes immediately lit up, and he hurriedly expressed his gratitude, "Thank you, Master!"

Wang Long actually agreed to take him on as an apprentice, which was indeed a joyous occasion within a joyous occasion.

On the path of Artifact Refining, having a master's guidance certainly means fewer detours.

A smile also appeared on Xu Nian's face, happy for Zhang Meng.

However, Wang Long did not pay attention to Zhang Meng but looked at Xu Nian and asked, "Your name is Xu Nian, right? Are you willing to become my apprentice?"

As soon as these words were spoken, Qi Heng and Pang Fei by his side were both stunned.

This Elder Wang Long, the old fox, his offer to take in Zhang Meng seemed fake, and his true intention appeared to be to recruit Xu Nian as his apprentice.

"Brother Wang, Xu Nian was brought into the sect by me. If anyone should take him as an apprentice, it should be me. How could it be your turn?" Qi Heng immediately retorted.

"What does it matter that you brought him into the sect? I was the first to speak up, why can't I take on an apprentice?" Wang Long said with a face full of reluctance.

"You just can't. I already told Xu Nian yesterday that I wanted to take him as an apprentice." Qi Heng began to act shamelessly.

"Even if you said so, what of it? Your Artifact Refining skills are not as good as mine. If he followed you, he would surely be ruined," Wang Long said angrily.

He knew that anyone who could identify at a glance that there was something wrong with Jing Haoyang's weapon making was definitely a rare genius. Coupled with Xu Nian's tactics from yesterday, he admired him even more. How could he let such a genius slip away?

Yet, to his annoyance, Qi Heng was actually competing with him for this.

Qi Heng was also enraged, regretting why he hadn't thought of taking an apprentice the day before.

Pang Fei and the young man beside them were astonished. This was the first time they had seen two Elders almost come to blows over a disciple.

For a moment, they couldn't help but start sizing up Xu Nian, but no matter how they looked at him, Xu Nian didn't seem to have any distinguishing features.

Xu Nian also felt helpless watching the two Elders nearly coming to blows and had to speak up, "Elders, I'm sorry but I cannot become your disciple."

At these words, Qi Heng and Wang Long stopped arguing at once, both turning to look at Xu Nian and asking in unison, "Why?"

Xu Nian smiled and said, "Actually, I am here today to participate in the Inner Sect assessment. I would like to apply to be an Inner Sect Disciple."

"Inner Sect Disciple?"

Except for Zhang Meng, who already knew of Xu Nian's intentions, the other four people were all surprised.

Xu Nian was so young; had he already achieved the level of Little Artifact Refiner?

"Wait, Xu Nian, weren't you at the Seven-star Refining Apprentice level just yesterday?" Elder Qi Heng asked with bewilderment.

"It's like this – the letter does state that I was a Seven-star Refining Apprentice, but that was my level two months ago. And the Chen County Magistrate doesn't know that I've been promoted to the Little Artifact Refiner, which is why such a misunderstanding has occurred," Xu Nian fabricated.

Qi Heng actually took it as the truth and nodded, but inside, he was horrified.

Two months to elevate from a Seven-star Refining Apprentice to the level of a Little Artifact Refiner, wasn't that too shocking?

Wang Long fell silent as well. If Xu Nian truly had reached the level of a Little Artifact Refiner,

then he wouldn't dare take Xu Nian as an apprentice.

A Little Artifact Refiner so young, it would be misleading to take him on, given his own skills.

Of course, the most surprised was the young man beside them.

He had come here today to be promoted to Inner Sect Disciple.

Always hailed as the number one Artifact Refining talent among the Outer Disciples, he now heard that the young man ten years his junior was also planning to be promoted to the Inner Sect, his first reaction was disbelief.

"Master, since this junior brother is also here for promotion to Inner Sect Disciple, why not let him take the assessment with me?" the young man suggested.

Pang Fei glanced at his own apprentice and understood that his apprentice was already feeling competitive.

Of course, he did not believe that this younger man could exceed his own apprentice; hence, he smiled and agreed, "All right, since you both wish to participate in the Inner Sect assessment, let's do it together!"

Elder Qi Heng and Wang Long also nodded, curious to see the level of Xu Nian's Artifact Refining skills.

The young man, seeing that the three Elders had agreed, immediately cast a challenging look at Xu Nian, as if declaring war.

But Xu Nian just helplessly shook his head.

The pride of these Artifact Refining Sect disciples was really too fragile. He had not done anything yet, and he had already provoked their displeasure.

Of course, he did not mind teaching this senior brother a good lesson, letting him understand that some people do indeed have the right to "shit on his head."

Chapter 232 Winning Him is Enough

Xu Nian and the others were soon brought to the Artifact Refining Room in the Elder Hall.

This place was specifically used by the Elders to conduct assessments for the Inner Sect Disciples.

In the center of the hall, there were two stands made of Meteorite Iron, designed for artifact refiners to perform their hammering.

"Elder Wang Long began, "You all know the rules,, within two hours, forge a One-star Xuan Iron Level weapon, and you qualify to enter the Inner Sect and become an Inner Sect Disciple. Here are your artifact refining materials."

After speaking, he waved his sleeve and two similarly sized, almost identical quality pieces of Xuan Iron Ore appeared on the two stands.

Qi Heng and Pang Fei both stood with their hands clasped behind their backs, faint smiles on their faces.

"Old Pang, are you confident in your disciple?" Qi Heng asked with a smile to Pang Fei beside him.

"If I weren't confident, wouldn't it be laughable for me to let him participate? Sun Feng, this child has commendable talent in artifact refining. He can already forge Mid-grade One-star Xuan Iron weapons; handling an Inner Sect assessment should be no problem," Pang Fei proudly stated, a triumphant smile on his face.

Qi Heng smiled and nodded; indeed, Sun Feng was a top talent in the Outer Sect, becoming an Inner Sect Disciple at twenty-seven. His future accomplishments would certainly not be low.

"I wonder if this young lad named Xu Nian can qualify," Qi Heng murmured to himself.

He always felt that he could not see through this seventeen-year-old, an unprecedented notion.

This young man's intellect and strength far surpassed those of his contemporaries, eluding understanding.

"I think it's unlikely; this lad is too young. Even if he has the artifact refining talent you mention, have any of you seen a seventeen-year-old Little Artifact Refiner?" countered Pang Fei, shaking his head.

He clearly did not believe that this young man could match his own disciple.

His disciple had been hailed as an Outer Sect talent at twenty-seven. If a seventeen-year-old could match him, then those years of teaching would have been wasted.

Qi Heng just smiled and did not respond to Pang Fei's words.

Although he too was skeptical, deep down he felt that this young man might bring them a miracle.

Zhang Meng stood quietly to the side, his feelings complex.

Xu Nian was younger than him and was already participating in the Inner Sect assessment, whereas he was still just a Two-star Artifact Refining Apprentice.

The gap was self-evident.

As for whether Xu Nian could successfully pass the assessment, he dared not speculate.

After all, Xu Nian had so far presented himself with the demeanor of a master.

"Begin!" After Elder Wang Long explained the rules, he stepped back.

The young man called Sun Feng then looked towards Xu Nian and smiled, "I really didn't expect that one day the person taking the Inner Sect assessment with me would be a full ten years younger than me. You are Xu Nian, right? I hope you truly possess the level of a Little Artifact Refiner; otherwise, I'll be very disappointed."

Hearing this, Xu Nian immediately laughed.

Sun Feng still maintained his arrogant attitude; it seemed he had been in the top position in the Outer Sect for too long and had become somewhat disdainful of others.

"Don't worry, senior brother. Your junior brother will definitely not disappoint you, and perhaps even bring you a surprise," Xu Nian responded with a smile.

Sun Feng's expression darkened, and he snorted coldly, "Hmph, are you implying that your artifact refining level is above mine? Kid, don't be too arrogant. I've been a Little Artifact Refiner for half a year now. The reason I only came to take the Inner Sect assessment today is that I wanted to be absolutely sure I'd pass. Sometimes, artifact refining abilities can't be boasted about verbally."

This was merely an assessment, not a competition between the two.

However, in Sun Feng's eyes, this was a contest between him and Xu Nian.

If Xu Nian had maintained a modest attitude from the start, satisfying his vanity, he naturally wouldn't have targeted Xu Nian.

But Xu Nian's firm attitude had really irritated him.

"I would offer the same advice to you, Elder Brother, Artifact Refining isn't accomplished by mere words. Moreover, I have another piece of advice for you: in my eyes, your Artifact Refining skills really aren't as good as mine," Xu Nian said indifferently.

To such a vain person, he believed the louder the slap on the face, figuratively speaking, the better.

Upon hearing this, Sun Feng immediately became furious, his eyes intently fixed on Xu Nian.

"Fine, since you say my Artifact Refining skills are inferior to yours, let's compete and see who has the higher skills. Whoever loses will become the other person's slave," Sun Feng said with a furious look.

He couldn't believe that he would lose to a kid ten years his junior.

"Alright, I hope you won't regret your words later," Xu Nian replied with a faint smile.

A slave?

He didn't care about that, but the thought of making Sun Feng feel defeated was appealing to him.

The crowd around them was taken aback, not expecting these two to turn the Inner Sect examination into a betting match.

Zhang Meng, standing in the corner, began to worry for Xu Nian.

Sun Feng was the top genius of the Outer Disciples, and while Xu Nian might indeed pass the examination, surpassing Sun Feng seemed unlikely.

Yet a cold smirk appeared on Sun Feng's face.

Once he won the competition, he was determined to torment this arrogant and ignorant youngster.

"Hmph, soon I'll plunge you into despair bit by bit," Sun Feng snorted coldly, and a purple Artifact Furnace appeared in the hall.

"A Xuan-level Middle Grade Artifact Furnace, Purple Wind Furnace? Old Pang, you really went all out, even giving him that," Qi Heng exclaimed in surprise.

Wang Long and Zhang Meng were equally astonished; the Artifact Furnace could enhance the Pill making process significantly.

Armed with the Xuan-level Middle Grade Artifact Furnace, Sun Feng was like a tiger given wings. It would be even harder for Xu Nian to defeat him.

"Ha ha, since Feng'er managed to refine a Mid-grade One-star Xuan Iron weapon before, I awarded him this Artifact Furnace. With this Xuan-level Middle Grade Artifact Furnace, he should be able to craft a One-star Xuan Iron Top-grade weapon," Pang Fei laughed heartily, feeling proud as he noticed the shocked looks of his companions.

Sun Feng, also smug, looked towards Xu Nian and asked coldly, "I wonder what grade your Artifact Furnace is, Junior Brother. If you think it's unfair, I can refrain from using this Xuan-level Middle Grade Artifact Furnace."

Xu Nian just smiled and replied, "No need. If you don't use this Xuan-level Middle Grade Artifact Furnace, even if I win, you won't be satisfied. To make you utterly convinced, use whatever means you have."

Hearing this, Sun Feng got even angrier: "Arrogant and conceited, I will make your loss very embarrassing."

Xu Nian just smiled and ignored Sun Feng, instead turning to Zhang Meng and said, "Zhang Meng, lend me your Artifact Furnace."

"Ah?" Zhang Meng even doubted if he had heard correctly, quickly explaining, "Xu Nian, you don't have your own Artifact Furnace?"

Xu Nian nodded.

Everyone fell silent, wondering how Xu Nian could refine artifacts without his own furnace.

Sun Feng responded with a cold laugh, his eyes filled with scorn.

Xu Nian simply shook his head with a bitter smile. In truth, he didn't need an Artifact Furnace at all, but to avoid shocking everyone, he decided to use one as a disguise.

Zhang Meng seemed to realize something and quickly said, "My Artifact Furnace is only a Yellow-level Lower Level, if you need to borrow, you could ask my Master!"

"Xu Nian, I have a Xuan-level Middle Grade Artifact Furnace I could lend you," Wang Long also said.

However, Xu Nian shook his head, glanced at Sun Feng, and smiled, "A Yellow-level Lower Level Furnace is enough to beat him."

The surrounding crowd was stunned.

Sun Feng's eyes blazed with fury, as this was the most arrogant thing he had heard in his twenty-seven years.

Chapter 233 Blind His Dog Eyes

"Arrogant and conceited, I'll make sure you lose so thoroughly you'll be left speechless. Just wait and see my Purple Flame Netherworld Fire," Sun Feng said with a glare in his eyes.

After speaking, he gestured with his hand, and a purple flame burst forth from his palm.

As the purple flame appeared, the temperature in the surroundings immediately rose considerably.

"Hey, that's actually Purple Flame Netherworld Fire. Old Pang, you're really selfless, to think you even taught him your lifebound technique, the Purple Flame Netherworld Fire Secret Technique," Qi Heng said in surprise.

Pang Fei merely smiled without a word.

The Purple Flame Netherworld Fire was indeed his unique secret technique, he could say with certainty.

Among the three Outer Elders, his Purple Flame Netherworld Fire was the most powerful secret flame technique.

Although Sun Feng had not reached the Great Achievement Realm of this secret flame technique, it was completely within his abilities to deal with a mere Inner Sect assessment.

As for the youth before him, he did not believe that this youngster could possess a flame more powerful than his Purple Flame Netherworld Fire.

Sun Feng looked at Xu Nian provocatively and mocked, "Are you going to say again that even the weakest flame is enough to beat me?"

Xu Nian laughed.

This Sun Feng really was adorably stupid. He had not said anything yet, and here he was, offering his face up for a slap.

"Sorry to disappoint you this time," Xu Nian said with a hint of a light chuckle in his eyes. Then, he spread out his palm, and a black flame blossomed in his hand like a lotus flower.

As the black flame appeared, the temperature in the entire hall instantly soared to a terrifying degree.

Even the Purple Flame Netherworld Fire in Sun Feng's hand started trembling uncontrollably as if afraid, almost about to be extinguished.

The three Great Elders all widened their eyes, staring fixatedly at the black fire lotus in Xu Nian's hand.

"Could it be...?"

The three Great Elders murmured in shock in their hearts; they had recognized that this flame was the eerie flame from Black Flame Lake.

Even they dared not approach this flame easily, yet now, Xu Nian had managed to control this black flame, transforming it into his own Innate True Fire. How could this be possible?

Of course, the most shocked was Zhang Meng.

The moment he saw the black flame, he couldn't help recalling the scene from last night when Xu Nian asked him where to find a unique flame, and thereafter, Xu Nian did not return for the night.

Now it seemed, he had gone to Black Flame Lake.

But how had the black flame from Black Flame Lake become his Innate True Fire? Wasn't one's Innate True Fire something cultivated through secret techniques, bit by bit?

It made no sense!

Even the three Great Elders were baffled.

At this moment, Sun Feng was also terrified; he had recognized the origin of the flame in Xu Nian's hand.

He had never imagined that Xu Nian would be able to control such a fearsome and strange black flame.

"You... You're planning to use this flame for artifact refining?" Sun Feng asked with a slight stutter.

This terrifying flame, if one lost even a bit of control, could burn you alive!

Moreover, with Xu Nian's black flame present, his own flame was completely uncontrollable, so how could he proceed with artifact refining?

Xu Nian looked at Sun Feng with a trace of a cold sneer on his face, retracted the black flame, and gestured that Sun Feng should go first, then sat down casually in a chair on the side.

Sun Feng's face turned ashen. Did Xu Nian really not even take him seriously?

Over half of the two hours had already passed, and he still dared to waste time.

"Hmph, keep showing off; I want to see how you're going to complete artifact refining in such a short period of time," Sun Feng snorted and then stopped paying attention to Xu Nian, beginning his own artifact refining.

It had to be said, his Purple Flame Netherworld Fire was indeed powerful; it quickly melted the Xuan Iron Ore, saving at least half the time compared to others.

Next was the Condensing Shape Formation, and Sun Feng almost did it in one go, his movements fluid like clouds and water.

Soon, a sharp sword appeared before everyone's eyes.

Sun Feng then quenched the sword a few times before looking over at Xu Nian with pride.

Now, less than 15 minutes remained until the assessment was over; to create a Xuan Iron Level weapon in such a short time was impossible even for a master refiner.

However, Xu Nian sat there all along without moving a muscle.

"Haha, you're bound to lose. You must be a fraud. Maybe you can't even refine artifacts at all," Sun Feng said as he laughed and mocked.

The three Great Elders also revealed expressions of doubt.

Xu Nian had not begun the artifact forging process yet, and now time was almost up. Even if he started now, it was far too late.

However, Xu Nian did not heed the gazes of the crowd and merely stretched lazily.

Then, with a single gesture, the Black Fire Lotus appeared again in his hand.

The crowd was taken aback. Was Xu Nian really planning on using the Black Fire Lotus for forging?

Xu Nian flashed a slight smile and tossed the Black Fire into the Yellow-level Lower Level Refining Furnace that Zhang Meng had brought out.

Yet, that furnace was nowhere near capable of withstanding such terrifying flames.

As soon as the Black Fire entered, the entire furnace melted into molten iron.

The people around were dumbfounded.

Zhang Meng's mouth twitched uncontrollably; that was his refining furnace!

"Haha, without a furnace, let's see how you refine now," Sun Feng said with a mocking laugh.

Xu Nian was speechless.

With no other choice, he also had no intention of keeping up appearances any longer.

He directly used his Spiritual Sense to control the fusion of the Xuan Iron Ore and the Black Fire Lotus.

"This... this is Spiritual Sense Power! Has he actually awakened his Spiritual Sense?" The three Great Elders exclaimed in shock, their eyes bulging almost to the point of popping out.

Sun Feng's brow furrowed as well. He had not expected Xu Nian to possess the legendary Spiritual Sense.

But of what use was Spiritual Sense in artifact refining? What aid could it possibly provide?

Xu Nian ignored the crowd's astonishment and continued with his refining.

The moment the Xuan Iron Ore touched the Black Fire, it too instantly melted into molten iron.

Xu Nian used his Spiritual Sense to control the molten iron and began the Condensing Shape Formation.

The Black Fire Lotus still enveloped the molten iron, maintaining its temperature.

All three Great Elders opened their eyes wide; this was the first time they saw artifact refining being done in such a manner.

"I get it now, I get it now! This is the genuine Artifact Refining Technique. I once read about it in an ancient book which described the method of using Spiritual Sense for artifact refining. This method of refining is not only incredibly fast, but the quality of the weapons forged is also far superior to those made using conventional techniques. I never thought I'd see this lost art of refining in my lifetime," Wang Long said excitedly, fixating on every step of Xu Nian's refining process.

It was as if he was watching a stunning beauty undress, unwilling to miss a single detail.

Qi Heng and Pang Fei were also amazed. Xu Nian's refining techniques were unheard of and unseen, but both the movements and the speed were much faster than conventional methods.

Sun Feng's expression also became utterly somber; he had not expected Xu Nian to possess such an ancient refining technique.

Soon after, Xu Nian completed the first three steps of the refining process in just a few short moments.

The weapon he was crafting was also a sword.

Yet, everything was far from finished. Xu Nian placed the red-hot sword on the anvil and took out a Meteorite Iron Hammer to begin the final step, Hammering.

"Eh, is he planning to do hammering? But is there a need for such a huge hammer?" The three Great Elders revealed looks of surprise.

Xu Nian, however, ignored everyone and swung the massive hammer down fiercely toward the sword.

One hammer strike!

"Clang!"

The entire great hall shook violently at once, and a strange ripple spread out from the sword.

The three Great Elders were horrified by Xu Nian's hammer blow.

The sword seemed to undergo a tremendous transformation, becoming sharper and more perfect in shape.

"Clang, clang, clang!"

Xu Nian hammered down three more times in quick succession, and the entire great hall shook as if there was an earthquake.

The sharp aura emanating from the sword became exceptionally intense.

Sun Feng was also surprised, his eyes locked onto the sword forged by Xu Nian.

The sharpness of the sword's tip seemed as if it could blind his damned eyes.

Chapter 234 The Eldest Brother is Always the Eldest Brother

Xu Nian gasped heavily after hammering those four strikes.

This Ten Thousand Divine Hammer Technique really isn't something you can use just because you want to.

Each strike requires a vast amount of Spiritual Sense Power.

Xu Nian's current level of Spiritual Sense Power had reached its limit by being able to execute four strikes at once.

He truly couldn't imagine how much Spiritual Sense Power would be needed to execute ten thousand strikes at once.

"Alright, since all of you have completed your forging, let me see what level of weapons you have created," Wang Long said.

He then walked toward Sun Feng.

Sun Feng hastily presented the sword in his hands with both hands.

After carefully examining Sun Feng's sword, Wang Long's face revealed a look of admiration.

"Not bad, it has reached the One-star Xuan Iron Level Top Grade. With a bit more effort, it should be able to advance to the Two-star level," Wang Long commented appreciatively.

Hearing this, Sun Feng's face immediately lit up with a brilliant smile.

At the same time, he didn't forget to throw a provocative glance at Xu Nian.

What use is your fast forging?

What use is your bizarre forging technique?

The quality of the forged sword is what truly matters.

Standing behind, Pang Fei also showed a brilliant smile upon hearing this.

He was quite satisfied with his own disciple.

Although he too found Xu Nian's forging technique peculiar, he didn't believe that Xu Nian could surpass his own disciple in terms of sword quality.

Xu Nian ignored Sun Feng's provocation.

Instead, he handed over his sword to Wang Long, who approached.

Wang Long had always been curious about the quality of the weapon forged using Xu Nian's ancient Artifact Refining technique.

Thus, he began to examine it closely, and the surrounding crowd also turned their gaze toward Wang Long.

They, too, were curious about the quality of the sword Xu Nian had forged.

However, the more carefully Wang Long examined it, the more solemn his expression became, and eventually, his face showed a look of astonishment.

The other two Elders, seeing the change in Wang Long's expression, also grew curious and came over to inspect.

After they checked the quality of the sword, they too expressed surprise.

Sun Feng was also curious, not believing that Xu Nian could have forged a weapon surprising enough to astonish all three Elders.

So, he turned to his master and said, "Master, could there be something wrong with his weapon? If there's an issue, just declare him unqualified."

However, upon hearing this, Pang Fei looked up and glared fiercely at his disciple.

"An issue? There's no issue, you forge a sword as perfect as this one and show me. Even I can't achieve this level of perfection," Pang Fei scolded angrily, in a tone of disappointment.

Sun Feng was stunned.

Even his master couldn't forge a weapon better than Xu Nian's?

How could this be?

His master was a Great Refiner!

Beside him, Zhang Meng also widened his eyes, his expression one of disbelief.

"Although the detailing on this sword is well executed, the control over Xuan Iron is still somewhat lacking. But when it comes to quality, this sword is definitely at the Three-star Xuan Iron Level Top Grade," Wang Long declared.

Qi Heng and Pang Fei both nodded in agreement.

The three of them looked at Xu Nian with astonishment in their eyes.

Seventeen years old!

Three-Star Little Artifact Refiner, even those geniuses in the Artifact Refining Sect aren't this incredible, right?

Sun Feng at the side had his mind completely blown.

Three-Star Xuan Level Top Grade, he didn't hear wrong, did he?

However, Xu Nian just smiled, neither surprised nor excited by the result.

According to his own estimates, his current Spiritual Sense level was roughly at the Three-Star Little Artifact Refiner level.

As for what Wang Long said about not having a strong grasp on Xuan Iron, that was indeed true.

Each kind of iron ore has its own characteristics, and only by making good use of these characteristics can one refine weapons of exceptionally high quality.

What the three Elders meant by "perfect" was actually referring to how cleanly Xu Nian had removed the impurities from the sword; these two aspects did not conflict.

"Xu Nian, you really surprised me, I didn't expect your Artifact Refining level and techniques to be so formidable. However, you must have rarely refined Xuan Iron level weapons before. You didn't make use of the properties of this piece of Xuan Iron at all; if you had just utilized it a bit, the quality of this sword could have risen even further, as the impurity removal is too perfect," Elder Wang Long said, his eyes filled with deep admiration.

"Um, this is my first time refining a Xuan Iron level weapon," Xu Nian responded with a wry smile and a nod.

The path of Artifact Refining requires constant practice; otherwise, even if your techniques are formidable, you cannot refine weapons of exceptional quality.

However, when the three Elders heard Xu Nian's words, they looked at him as if they were seeing a monster.

To refine a Xuan Iron level weapon to a Three-Star Xuan Iron Top Grade quality on the first attempt.

Sun Feng at the side almost spit out a mouthful of blood.

Damn, what kind of freak had he encountered?

Zhang Meng was also stunned, with only one thought in his mind.

Big brother, always big brother!

"So, are you willing to admit defeat now?" Xu Nian turned his head, smiling at Sun Feng as he asked.

Sun Feng's face turned ashen, unable to utter a word.

"Damn it, why don't you kneel down and call him master? You're missing such a great opportunity; you'll regret this later."

However, before Xu Nian could speak, Pang Fei kicked Sun Feng.

His meaning was clear; following Xu Nian, his future achievements would be boundless.

Sun Feng was initially somewhat reluctant to admit it but upon hearing his master's words, he suddenly came to his senses.

He immediately knelt down and bowed to Xu Nian, saying, "Servant Sun Feng greets master."

Xu Nian was momentarily speechless, finding it somewhat uninteresting.

He had actually been hoping for Sun Feng to resist, so he could slap his face hard.

But he hadn't expected that after a nudge from the old fox Pang Fei, Sun Feng would become so well-behaved.

Indeed, the older, the wiser.

"Get up, you don't need to call me master; it sounds weird to me. Just call me big brother from now on," Xu Nian said, waving his hand.

"Yes, big brother!" Sun Feng quickly replied with joy.

Pang Fei's face also revealed a fox-like smile upon hearing this.

Qi Heng and Wang Long exchanged glances, both smiling broadly.

They knew that with Xu Nian's cultivation talent, he would absolutely not remain obscure within the sect and might even bring about earth-shattering changes.

Showing loyalty now would naturally lead to rising with the tide.

As for Pang Fei's scheming, Xu Nian didn't mind.

If Sun Feng obediently followed orders, he didn't mind giving him some benefits.

"You both have passed this assessment; here are your Inner Sect Disciple Identity Tokens and robes. From today onwards, you are Inner Sect Disciples," Elder Wang Long handed over the items to Xu Nian and Sun Feng.

Xu Nian's face broke into a smile; now he was one step closer to becoming a candidate for Sect Master.

Zhang Meng nearby was also laughing foolishly non-stop.

Now he had a big brother who was an Inner Sect Disciple, and a pretty impressive one at that.

Chapter 235 All Beings Below

Just as Xu Nian was participating in the Inner Sect Disciple examination,

a group of Outer Disciples was walking towards the Elder Hall.

"Are you sure they entered the Elder Hall?" Jing Haoyang asked Zhao Cheng beside him.

"Absolutely, after they injured Zhang Yu, I secretly followed them and saw with my own eyes as they walked into the Elder Hall," Zhao Cheng affirmed.

Jing Haoyang's eyebrows furrowed slightly; if Xu Nian could actually defeat Zhang Yu, that would mean he at least had Battle Sect Level strength.

A young man not even eighteen years of age, how could he possibly be a Battle Sect powerhouse?

But to be on the safe side, he had still sought help from an ally.

"Hmph, a seventeen-year-old youth, even if he is a Battle Sect, how high could his cultivation be? Just wait until he comes out of this Elder Hall, and I'll let him know how formidable I, Zhan Feng, am," a youth beside Jing Haoyang said disdainfully.

Upon hearing this, Jing Haoyang's face also revealed a smug smile.

That Zhan Feng was a Seven-star Martial Sect member, ranking second in combat power among the Outer Disciples.

He was only one realm behind the first-ranked Sun Feng.

With Zhan Feng there, his revenge was certain.

Apart from Zhan Feng, there was a group of disciples following them; these disciples were all Zhan Feng's subordinates.

They had a resounding name, known as Yingtian Gang.

The Sect did not forbid the forming of factions, hence some disciples would choose to join the Yingtian Gang.

In doing so, not only could they avoid being bullied, but they could also bully others and even collect some protection money.

And Jing Haoyang was their biggest employer, often spending money to hire them to fix those he disliked.

Whenever Jing Haoyang was in trouble, Zhan Feng would generally come forward to help.

Of course, Jing Haoyang was also quite generous, often treating Zhan Feng and the others to drink and enjoy themselves.

Over time, Jing Haoyang became very familiar with Zhan Feng.

However, Zhan Feng was not the leader of this gang; the real leader was the top fighter Sun Feng.

Even Zhan Feng had to obediently listen to Sun Feng and didn't dare to act rashly in front of him.

After all, Sun Feng was number one in Outer Disciple strength, number one in Artifact Refining, and moreover, he was the disciple of an Outer Elder.

Offending him within the Outer Sect was simply seeking death.

"Is Boss Sun also at the Elder Hall today?" Zhan Feng seemed to remember something and asked the gang members behind him.

"That's right, Boss Sun planned to take the Inner Sect examination, so he came to the Elder Hall early in the morning. At this moment, if nothing unexpected has happened, he should have already completed the examination," one of the disciples behind him replied, speaking with a touch of reverence and admiration.

"With Boss Sun's Artifact Refining skills, the Inner Sect examination should be no problem at all. It looks like we'll need to properly celebrate for Boss Sun tonight," Zhan Feng said with a light laugh.

He had been waiting for this day for a long time.

Once Sun Feng entered the Inner Sect, the Outer Sect would be his world.

Wouldn't Yingtian Gang be completely under his control?

The thought of him calling the shots in the entire Outer Sect made the corners of his mouth curve into an even more exaggerated arc.

"Oh, Brother Sun is going to advance to Inner Sect Disciple status? Then tonight's treat is on me; let's all go to Lion Building and have a good time," Jing Haoyang's eyes lit up as he hurriedly said.

He had always wanted to win over Sun Feng.

But Sun Feng was too proud and never paid any attention to him.

Today was a great opportunity.

If he could win over Sun Feng, his position in the Outer Sect would be even more stable.

Upon hearing Jing Haoyang's words, the gang members all cheered in excitement.

Lion Building was the most famous restaurant in the nearby town, unaffordable for ordinary people. Only rich young masters like Jing Haoyang could spend there without care.

"Don't worry, I'll definitely settle today's issue for you. Anyone who dares to bully a brother of mine, I'll make sure to break his three legs today," Zhan Feng said to Jing Haoyang with a smile.

Jing Haoyang's smile grew even wider.

He seemed to have already witnessed the scene where Xu Nian and Zhang Meng were kneeling before him, begging for mercy.

"Look, they're coming out."

At that moment, a disciple suddenly pointed to the gate of the hall and shouted.

Jing Haoyang and Zhan Feng both looked up toward the direction of the Elder Hall.

Indeed, they saw three figures walking out from the hall.

Jing Haoyang's eyes instantly darkened, a surge of anger evident in his gaze.

They noticed Xu Nian at the same time.

Xu Nian naturally noticed them as well.

Regarding the so-called Yingtian Gang, Xu Nian had heard about them from Zhang Meng and knew that their boss was Sun Feng.

"Are they your people?" Xu Nian turned and asked Sun Feng with a smile.

"Big brother, have they offended you? If so, let me go teach them a lesson," Sun Feng hastily said, afraid Xu Nian would take his anger out on him.

However, Xu Nian simply waved his hand, a fox-like smile on his face.

"With such an interesting show, if you went, wouldn't you just ruin it? Just stay here and watch quietly. Without my order, you're not allowed to interfere," Xu Nian instructed Sun Feng.

After saying this, he called to Zhang Meng and walked towards the members of the Yingtian Gang.

Sun Feng was speechless, internally offering his condolences to Zhan Feng and the others.

Before leaving, his Master had given him an assessment of Xu Nian.

In terms of Artifact Refining, you're no match for Xu Nian.

In strength, you're miles behind him.

In wits, he's light-years ahead of you.

At that time, Sun Feng was speechless. Was he really that bad?

But when he carefully thought about it, he found it truly frightening.

From the first meeting to the subsequent competition, Xu Nian had led him by the nose, truly a terrifying experience.

Now he held a profound respect for Xu Nian, and so he didn't dare to contradict Xu Nian's words.

While Sun Feng's mind was racing with these thoughts, Xu Nian had already arrived in front of Jing Haoyang and the others with Zhang Meng.

Jing Haoyang and Zhan Feng also saw Sun Feng, though they didn't understand why Sun Feng didn't come over.

But they didn't give it much thought, as their attention was quickly drawn to Xu Nian and Zhang Meng.

"Jing Haoyang, have you brought so many people here to seek revenge?" Zhang Meng asked, looking at Jing Haoyang with a light laugh.

He wasn't the least bit afraid at that moment.

Why should he be? The boss of the Yingtian Gang was Xu Nian's subordinate, after all.

"Hmph, Zhang Meng, you're still so arrogant on the brink of death!" Jing Haoyang said with disdainful sneer.

He hadn't expected that Zhang Meng would still dare to provoke him at this point, and the anger he had been suppressing suddenly burst forth.

"Brink of death? It looks like you'll be the ones dying! Jing Haoyang, do you really think that just because you have the Yingtian Gang behind you, you can do whatever you want? Let me tell you, there are some people you can never afford to offend. If you know what's good for you, scram. Otherwise, your deaths will be ugly," Zhang Meng said contemptuously.

With Xu Nian there, he could truly indulge in the thrill of pretending to wield great power.

At these words, Jing Haoyang became furious.

He quickly turned to look at Zhan Feng.

"Don't worry, I promised to help you teach them a lesson. If I don't cripple them today, then I'm not surnamed Zhan!" Zhan Feng arrogantly said.

His gaze became hostile when he looked at Xu Nian and Zhang Meng.

Xu Nian saw this scene and smiled slightly, saying to Zhan Feng with a smile, "Then take my surname, Xu. After all, your mother agrees."

Zhan Feng was stunned, not understanding.

What does this have to do with his mother?

"Pfft!"

Zhang Meng couldn't help it and burst into laughter.

Even some disciples of the Yingtian Gang couldn't help but cover their mouths to suppress their laughter.

Chapter 236 He is My Older Brother

"You're courting death!"

Zhan Feng was instantly enraged, with the aura of a Seven-star Martial Sect fully bursting forth.

Then, he charged towards Xu Nian, swinging an iron fist fiercely at Xu Nian's face.

The punch was fierce and domineering, imbued with mighty Spiritual Energy.

All the Outer Disciples around changed color, secretly marveling in their hearts.

The Seven-star Martial Sect truly lived up to its name, with its momentum an absolute match for no one.

Jing Haoyang sneered, as if he had already seen the scene of Xu Nian being blown away by a punch.

"Idiot!"

From a distance, Sun Feng watched the scene unfold and couldn't help but curse under his breath.

Although he did not know Xu Nian's true strength, Xu Nian surely had some method to cope since he dared to step forward actively.

"Slap!"

Just when everyone thought Xu Nian was about to be blown away by Zhan Feng, a crisp and loud slap suddenly rang out.

Then, they saw Zhan Feng's entire body fly backward, teeth falling out of his mouth and blood spurting everywhere.

What happened?

Everyone wore a face of surprise.

They did not see how Xu Nian had made his move; how did Zhan Feng inexplicably fly backward?

Jing Haoyang was also stunned, as the outcome was completely different from what he had imagined.

"Bang!"

Zhan Feng fell heavily in the distance, his face full of disbelief.

The left half of his face was completely swollen, and even a slight movement caused a heart-piercing pain.

"How could this happen?" Zhan Feng couldn't understand.

Even he had not seen how Xu Nian had made his move.

"It must be some trick this kid pulled off; there's no way his strength could be above mine," Zhan Feng muttered to himself, standing up again, his gaze towards Xu Nian filled with even more anger.

"Hmph, I don't care what tricks you've used, today I'll cripple you," said Zhan Feng with flames of rage in his eyes, a Long Spear appearing in his hands.

With a shake of the Long Spear, a terrifying flame covered it.

"Eh, he even brought out the Fiery Flame Demon Spear; it looks like Zhan Feng is really furious," an Outer Disciple said in surprise.

"Yeah, the power of the Fiery Flame Demon Spear is incredibly strong; even Sun Feng wouldn't take it lightly. This kid is probably done for," another agreed.

Hope rekindled in Jing Haoyang's eyes; Xu Nian must have played some trick earlier.

After all, how could a seventeen-year-old young man possibly be a match for Zhan Feng?

"Idiot, truly a hopeless idiot, can't you see that his strength is far above yours?" Sun Feng stood in the distance, fuming with rage.

Others might not have seen Xu Nian's movements clearly, but he had vaguely caught some of it.

He had seen Xu Nian slap Zhan Feng's face with extreme speed, and throughout, Xu Nian had not used even a trace of Spiritual Energy.

What sort of strength was that?

That damn well had to be at least Battle General Level strength to accomplish such a feat!

And yet, Zhan Feng actually thought someone had pulled a trick on him, wasn't that stupidity?

"Die, Fiery Flame Life-taking Spear!" Zhan Feng shouted, and then he unleashed an Earth-grade Top-quality Combat Technique, stabbing fiercely towards Xu Nian.

As his Long Spear thrust out, a terrifyingly scorching aura rushed towards Xu Nian's face.

All around, people marveled in their hearts; facing this spear, they would no doubt die.

But Xu Nian merely smiled lightly, slowly extending a hand.

Then, everyone saw Xu Nian catch the tip of the Long Spear between two fingers.

Caught... caught it?

Those Outer Disciples immediately widened their eyes, almost popping their eyeballs out.

The shock in Jing Haoyang's heart could not be overstated; this was a full-force strike from a Seven-star Martial Sect expert!

And it was caught between two fingers by Xu Nian?

What in the world was this level of strength?

Of course, the most shocked was Zhan Feng.

At that moment, Zhan Feng felt a terrifying chill rushing from the soles of his feet to the top of his skull, making his scalp tingle intensely.

Xu Nian smiled softly, and a horrifying Xuan Ice Power surged out from his hand instantly.

Then, they saw the flames on the Long Spear extinguished.

Next, Xu Nian flicked the tip of the Long Spear, and it, made of Xuan Iron, instantly turned to dust.

And Zhan Feng was sent reeling back several steps by the terrifying blast, spewing blood from his mouth.

He looked at Xu Nian in front of him with a face full of shock.

The long spear abruptly overheated and then cooled, becoming fragile.

Yet, the Sword Qi contained within that finger just now was terrifyingly formidable.

Zhan Feng was scared, truly frightened.

The strength of this young man before him wasn't just greater than his, it was too much greater.

If the other party wanted to kill him, it would be as easy as flipping his hand.

But how old was this young man before him?

How could he possess such terrifying strength?

Even the Outer Disciples were intimidated, a finger shattering a Xuan Iron Level weapon—what kind of strength was that?

For a moment, everyone looked at Xu Nian as if he were a monster.

Xu Nian just smiled, not paying any more attention to Zhan Feng, but turning his gaze to Jing Haoyang.

The true instigator of this disturbance was indeed Jing Haoyang.

At this moment, Jing Haoyang had also been stunned by Xu Nian's methods. Seeing Xu Nian look his way, his complexion instantly changed dramatically, and he hurriedly threatened, "What do you want to do? This is the Elder Hall. If you dare to lay a hand on me, I will immediately call the Elders out. The sect absolutely does not allow infighting."

Hearing this, Xu Nian's face revealed a smiling expression.

"Oh? Then why don't you call them out? See if any Elder comes to save you," Xu Nian said with a light laugh.

Do the three Elders in the Elder Hall even know where they're hiding to watch the show?

Come out to save him?

This Jing Haoyang really thought too highly of himself.

And to tell the truth, Jing Haoyang really did call out, but after several cries, there was not the slightest response.

This filled Jing Haoyang with instant despair.

But just then, Jing Haoyang saw Sun Feng walking in their direction.

Jing Haoyang immediately rejoiced and rushed to tell on Xu Nian, "Brother Sun, save me! This guy not only bullied me, but he also injured Brother Zhan Feng. You must give him a good lesson..."

However, before he could finish speaking, Sun Feng walked directly up to Jing Haoyang and delivered a slap across his face.

"Slap!"

Jing Haoyang spun around three times on the spot, looking incredulously at Sun Feng.

"Brother Sun, the person you should be hitting isn't me, it's him!" Jing Haoyang quickly pointed at Xu Nian and said.

"Slap!"

But the response he got was still just a slap.

Jing Haoyang was completely stupefied, all of his teeth falling out.

The surrounding Outer Disciples were all dumbfounded. Why would their leader strike Jing Haoyang?

Zhan Feng also looked at Sun Feng, puzzled, not understanding the intent behind Sun Feng's actions.

Xu Nian and Zhang Meng exchanged a smile, their eyes full of amusement.

However, the words that followed from Sun Feng took them by complete surprise.

"Jing Haoyang has been disrespectful to Inner Sect Disciples. Disable three of his legs as punishment. Zhan Feng, you will carry out this task. If you can't, there's no need for you to stay in the Artifact Refining Sect. Remember, the one who just hit you is my big brother. In the future, when you see him, you should be even more respectful than you are to me, got it?" Sun Feng shouted angrily.

The people around were stunned for a long while before finally replying, "We got it!"

But inside, they were terrified beyond measure.

Inner Sect Disciple?

Big brother?

At this moment, Jing Haoyang, upon hearing these words, collapsed to the ground.

Yet at this moment, Zhan Feng was staring at Jing Haoyang with a face full of rage.

"Brother Zhan Feng, you're not really going to do it, are you?" Jing Haoyang asked tremblingly.

"You still dare to speak? Do you have any idea how much you've hurt me? Bring people over, and break his three legs for me," Zhan Feng shouted angrily.

Following that, the entrance to the Outer Elder Hall echoed with pitiful screams.

In front of a window of the Elder Hall, three Elders were standing.

"Aren't we going a bit too far with this? After all, he is from the Jing Family," Qi Heng asked with a frown.

"Do you think it's excessive? I don't feel so. Anyway, I didn't see anything. But speaking of the Jing Family, I need to write a letter to the Family Head, warning them not to make a mistake," Pang Fei said with a fox-like smile.

Hearing this, Qi Heng couldn't help but smile wryly.

But his heart was still filled with emotion.

The Artifact Refining Sect had gained a monstrous talent, whether it was a blessing or a curse was still unknown.

It was then that Qi Heng and Pang Fei realized that Wang Long, who had been standing beside them, had not said a word. Curious, they asked, "Old Wang, what are you thinking about?"

Hearing this, Wang Long turned his head to look at Qi Heng and Pang Fei and said something that rendered them speechless, "I'm thinking about asking him to be my mentor. Would he teach me that ancient Artifact Refining technique?"

Upon hearing this, Qi Heng's and Pang Fei's eyes lit up.

They dashed out of the hall, chasing after Xu Nian.

Chapter 237 Specializing in Trouble

Xu Nian naturally did not accept the three Outer Elders as his disciples.

After all, doing so would indeed be too shocking and unconventional.

Of course, the actions of the three elders had nevertheless left Sun Feng and Zhang Meng greatly shaken.

They must remember that both were disciples of Outer Elders.

Had Xu Nian accepted their Master as a disciple,

wouldn't they have become Xu Nian's grand-disciples?

Their seniority would have suddenly dropped by two levels!

However, this turn of events made them take Xu Nian even more seriously.

After briefly bidding farewell to Zhang Meng, Xu Nian left.

Before leaving, he made sure to inform Zhang Meng of the girl Zhang Tian's personality, hoping to warn him to be cautious.

Zhang Meng nodded, indicating that he would focus on cultivation and Artifact Refining from now on, paying no mind to other matters.

Hearing this, Xu Nian felt relieved.

He had helped as much as he could; the rest was up to Zhang Meng's own fortune.

Moreover, because of this incident, the Yingtian Gang would likely intentionally court Zhang Meng because of Xu Nian.

As long as Zhang Meng did not court disaster, his future days should be smooth sailing.

After parting with Zhang Meng, Xu Nian went with Sun Feng to report to the Inner Elder Hall.

During their brief time together, Xu Nian found that besides being a bit proud, Sun Feng was not bad in other respects.

At least after being convinced by Xu Nian's strength, he showed no ill intentions.

"Sun Feng, do you know how many Saints there are in the Artifact Refining Sect?" Xu Nian asked while walking beside Sun Feng.

"Big Brother, as far as I know, there are a total of three Saints in the Sect," Sun Feng answered truthfully. "One is our current Sect Master, and the other two are the Sect's Great Elder and the Law Enforcement Elder. As for whether there are other Saints, I am unaware."

Xu Nian was slightly surprised.

Three Saints in one Sect, no wonder they held even a Prefectural Governor in no esteem.

As for those of the Marquis Level, there were likely many more.

Xu Nian fell silent; by his estimation, the Imperial Capital Xu Family was probably even more powerful than the Artifact Refining Sect.

Otherwise, Leng Yanran would not have agreed to meet him in the Imperial Capital in two years' time.

And to rescue his mother from such a vast family would be even more difficult than he had imagined.

"It seems that in addition to rescuing Sister Yanyun, I must also prepare for my trip to the Imperial Capital in two years," Xu Nian mused to himself.

Today, the Yingtian Gang taught him a lesson.

That no matter how powerful he was alone, sometimes it did not compare to the usefulness of a force.

Hence, to confront the Xu Family, he needed to consider establishing his own force.

And the Artifact Refining Sect was the perfect soil for nurturing such a force.

To take over the Artifact Refining Sect and become the Sect Master.

By then, a force composed of a multitude of Artifact Refiners would not be taken lightly by the Xu Family.

Only then would he have the standing to negotiate with the Xu Family.

As Xu Nian contemplated these thoughts, they had already arrived at the door of the Inner Elder Hall.

The Inner Elder Hall was obviously far more luxurious than the Outer Elder Hall.

Three thousand Outer Disciples, eight hundred Inner Sect Disciples, one hundred elite disciples.

Yet the resources they enjoyed were completely inverted, which was also the Sect's method of motivating disciples.

Xu Nian and Sun Feng entered the grand hall.

At this moment, the hall was neither full nor empty.

There weren't many Inner Sect Elders, just four in total, and they usually did not handle affairs.

All matters were dealt with by Inner Sect Disciples.

They would intervene only if the disciples encountered issues they couldn't handle.

"This fellow disciple, may I ask if the Inner Sect Disciple registration is done here?" Xu Nian and Sun Feng approached a managing disciple and politely inquired.

The steward disciple was a young man around twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old.

The young man looked up and glanced at them, his gaze lingering on Xu Nian for a moment.

"Yes, but the Inner Sect doesn't allow Inner Disciples to bring servants in with them," the young man said coldly.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian immediately knew that the young man before him had misunderstood him.

Management in the Outer Disciple was relatively lax, so some rich disciples from the Outer Sect still kept maids or servants by their side.

Obviously, the young man in front of him took him for one of Sun Feng's servants.

"Senior Brother, you've misunderstood, I'm also an Inner Disciple who passed the assessment, and this is my Identity Token." Xu Nian smiled and handed over his token.

The young man looked quite surprised, taking the token and giving Xu Nian another look.

"How old are you this year?" the young man asked.

"Seventeen!" Xu Nian replied with a smile.

The young man's pupils constricted.

All around, Inner Disciples who heard the commotion turned to look this way, their faces showing surprise.

A seventeen-year-old Inner Disciple, how is that possible?

Even the youngest Inner Disciple to enter their Sect had been twenty years old at the time, and three years had already passed since then.

That disciple had already become an outstanding Inner Disciple, hailed as the number one talent of their Inner Sect.

But now a seventeen-year-old Inner Disciple had arrived, set to break the record for the youngest disciple in the Inner Sect!

"May I ask another question?" The young man's attitude was noticeably more humble.

"Senior Brother, please feel free to ask," Xu Nian said with a smile.

"How many years ago did you enter the Outer Disciple?" the young man asked.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian laughed and held up one finger.

"Ten years?" the young man guessed.

Xu Nian shook his head.

"One year?" the young man raised his voice.

Xu Nian still shook his head.

"One month?" the young man's eyes had widened.

But Xu Nian just shook his head and laughed, "It was one day, I just entered the Sect yesterday."

The young man: "..."

One day before entering the Outer Disciple, and the next day moving straight into the Inner Sect.

Then you might as well have gone directly into the Inner Sect in the first place, why even bother making a round through the Outer Disciple?

The young man was speechless inside, convinced that Xu Nian had already achieved the level of a Little Artifact Refiner before entering the Sect.

What he didn't know was that Xu Nian's skills had just been elevated.

"All right, here is the key to your residence and some handbooks on the rules of the Inner Sect, and remember, I'm Liu Shan, you can come to me if you have any questions." The young man handed a Qiankun Bag to Xu Nian.

"Thank you, Senior Brother," Xu Nian nodded his head.

A smile appeared on Liu Shan's face.

Xu Nian didn't carry the arrogance that those geniuses possessed, so young yet not haughty, this endeared him greatly to Liu Shan.

Xu Nian also had a good impression of Liu Shan, at least he didn't act like those other fools who come up to you with a face begging to be punched.

Afterward, Liu Shan handled the entry procedures for Sun Feng, while Xu Nian shared a residence with Sun Feng.

The residences for Inner Disciples were shared by two people, much more spacious than the Outer Disciples' four to a room.

After completing the registration, Xu Nian and Sun Feng left.

However, the Inner Sect Elders Hall exploded into chaos.

"Quick, spread the news about this kid, let the whole Inner Sect know that such a talent has arrived. The Inner Sect has been quiet for too long, it's time for some waves," Liu Shan hurriedly instructed a few disciples around him.

"What about Sister Hong?" one disciple asked cautiously.

"Right, I almost forgot about her. I'll personally go and tell Sister Hong; I believe she'll be very happy to hear this news," Liu Shan snickered.

He was someone who specialized in stirring things up.

Such an opportunity was not to be missed.

Chapter 238 Meeting the Demon Again

Xu Nian did not know that he had just entered the Inner Sect, and he had already stirred up the winds of change within it.

At this moment, he had entered his own courtyard and began to sit cross-legged.

Not long ago, he had felt signs of a breakthrough in his Spiritual Cultivation.

Therefore, he decided to make a breakthrough in one fell swoop and fully advance to the Battle General Realm.

Once he advanced to Battle General, his Spiritual Sense Power would also be strengthened.

Whether it was Spirit Cultivation, Body Cultivation, or the breakthrough in enlightenment, all would have a certain effect on the growth of Spiritual Sense.

Apart from practicing Spiritual Sense Technique, the most effective growth in Spiritual Sense, of course, was breaking through levels of enlightenment.

"Buzz!"

Xu Nian sat down on the bed in his room and began to close his eyes and circulate the Dan Sea Species Green Lotus.

As Xu Nian's Cultivation Technique operated, the Spiritual Energy around him began rapidly surging toward him.

A vortex of Spiritual Energy emerged above Xu Nian's head, and everything in the room swayed violently, forming a gust of wind in the sealed room.

"Boom!"

With a loud boom, Xu Nian's Dantian suddenly expanded.

The area of the Dan Sea directly became several times larger than before, and the quality of the Spiritual Energy also greatly improved.

"I've finally broken through, is this the Battle General Realm? What a powerful feeling," Xu Nian mused to himself, his eyes gleaming brightly.

At that moment, he felt power coursing through his entire body.

The surging Spiritual Energy continuously roamed within his body, giving him a warm and cozy feeling.

Spiritual Energy provided very little nourishment to Physical Strength, so Spiritual Cultivators generally did not possess great physical strength.

Of course, Spiritual Energy had its benefits.

For instance, Spiritual Energy could be used to practice Combat Skills suited to one's attributes, thereby focusing the Cultivation in a targeted way.

However, Body Cultivation was different, as the Gang Qi that enhanced Physical Strength was attributeless.

For example, Xu Nian's Spirit Cultivation contained the attributes of wind, thunder, soil, and fire.

Therefore, Xu Nian had strong talents in these four attributes, while he was much weaker in others.

"Buzz!"

With a thought, Xu Nian extended a wave of Spiritual Sense Power.

It stretched from inside the room to cover the entire courtyard.

He could clearly observe everything within a hundred-meter radius.

"The Spiritual Sense Power has indeed strengthened, I should have no problem now crafting a Four-star Xuan Iron Level weapon," Xu Nian mused to himself.

If he could understand the characteristics of Xuan Iron and utilize them effectively,

he might reach the Top Grade of Four-star Xuan Iron Level or even the standard of Five-star Xuan Iron Level.

"Now that Spiritual Cultivation has broken through to the Battle General Level, Body Cultivation probably still needs some time to accumulate," Xu Nian thought to himself.

He was not in a hurry, the matter of Cultivation could be temporarily set aside, the most important thing was to strive to improve his Artifacts Refining skills.

Then, Xu Nian started to take out Xuan Iron Ore and began to practice.

To improve the level of Artifact Refining quickly, one must keep practicing.

A night went by without words, Xu Nian practiced refining artifacts over and over again.

Gradually, he became more and more familiar with the characteristics of the Xuan Iron Ore.

What temperature could maintain the tenacity of Xuan Iron.

What temperature could make Xuan Iron more flexible.

In shaping, Xu Nian also put in a lot of effort.

He studied the shape of weapons, making those that needed to be sharp even sharper,

and making those that needed to strike heavily better deliver their striking force.

Gradually, the weapons Xu Nian crafted became more and more perfect and their styles more intricate.

The weapons crafted by his hands were no longer just weapons; they were also works of art.

A night of refining had greatly improved Xu Nian's level of Artifact Refining.

However, as the day dawned and Xu Nian opened his room door, he saw Liu Shan, whom he had previously met, already standing in his courtyard.

Liu Shan was currently chatting with Sun Feng and when he saw Xu Nian come out, he immediately greeted him with joy.

"Come with me, Sister Hong wants to meet you," Liu Shan hastily said.

"Who is Sister Hong?" Xu Nian asked, puzzled.

Liu Shan was taken aback; Xu Nian actually didn't know Sister Hong?

But he quickly remembered that Xu Nian had only joined the sect two days ago.

"Sister Hong is an elder of the Inner Sect. Virtually all of the Inner Sect disciples are under her management, so every new disciple who just enters the Inner Sect gets to meet Sister Hong privately," Sun Feng explained.

He clearly had a certain understanding of the Inner Sect.

"Yes, he's right. Although Sister Hong is our teaching elder, she is very approachable. We all go to her with any questions we have. She doesn't like us calling her Master, so she allows us to call her Sister Hong. Meeting newcomers face-to-face is her rule. The purpose is to check their skills in Artifact Refining and provide some guidance," Liu Shan added.

What he didn't mention was that meeting Sister Hong was a rule within the Inner Sect.

But this time, it was different for Xu Nian.

Sister Hong had prepared a special scenario just for Xu Nian.

So everyone else might be absent, but Xu Nian could not.

Hearing Liu Shan's words, Xu Nian immediately understood what was going on.

Of course, the excitement and smile that Liu Shan was trying so hard to hide did not escape his eyes.

If this were just a common rule, why would Liu Shan be so excited?

However, Xu Nian did not ask further, as he could see that Liu Shan meant no harm.

"Let's go, take me to meet Sister Hong," Xu Nian said to Liu Shan.

"Alrighty!" Liu Shan immediately responded with joy.

After speaking, he led the way, taking Xu Nian and Sun Feng deeper into the Inner Sect.

Sun Feng did not notice anything unusual.

Xu Nian, however, was driven by curiosity, wondering what scheme they were concocting.

But as the saying goes, 'meet force with force, water flows soil covers', Xu Nian was not afraid at all.

Soon, Xu Nian was brought into a courtyard.

At that moment, many young men and women dressed in Inner Sect disciple robes were standing in the courtyard, presumably all summoned by this so-called Sister Hong.

Sitting in front of everyone was a charming middle-aged woman in a red dress.

The woman appeared to be in her early thirties, with a dignified facial expression and an elegant and luxurious demeanor, her figure was exceptionally proud.

Her eyes were like peach blossoms, and every smile and frown exuded a strong charm.

Many male disciples glanced at her intentionally or unintentionally, admiration evident in their eyes.

When she saw Xu Nian approaching, the woman turned her gaze towards him, sizing him up, with a captivating yet non-coy smile on her lips.

While the woman was sizing him up, Xu Nian also released his Spiritual Sense to probe her.

However, this probe sent a shock through Xu Nian.

Three-star Vassal Realm.

The woman in front of him was actually a three-star Vassal Realm powerhouse.

"Do you like what you see?" the woman in the red dress suddenly asked flirtatiously.

Xu Nian was startled, not quite understanding her meaning.

"Don't you know that it's very impolite to probe a woman with your Spiritual Sense? If you want to look, just tell Sister Hong directly. You are so handsome, Sister Hong might consider letting you," the woman in the red dress said flirtatiously again.

Xu Nian's heart jolted.

This woman actually knew he was probing her with his Spiritual Sense.

What did she mean by that?

He had only probed her cultivation level, not looked anywhere inappropriate.

How had it turned into something else in her words?

As expected, as soon as the woman in red had spoken,

the expressions of the young men who admired Sister Hong turned very hostile when they looked at Xu Nian.

Feeling their gazes, a bitter feeling arose in Xu Nian's heart.

Great, he had encountered another troublesome demon!

Chapter 239 What About the Trouble We Agreed to Cause?

Xu Nian had always dreaded encountering such enchantingly beautiful yet incredibly cunning women.

These women were even more terrifying than old foxes, extremely difficult to deal with.

Clearly, Sister Hong was one such individual.

And her actions earlier had a very obvious intention, which was to incite hostility towards Xu Nian among the crowd.

As expected, Sister Hong spoke again, "Perhaps many of you do not know him yet, so let me introduce him. This young man here just entered our Inner Sect. His name is Xu Nian, he is seventeen years old and is the youngest disciple in the history of our Inner Sect. Moreover, he is also set to become the number one prodigy of our Inner Sect."

"Seventeen years old? The number one prodigy of the Inner Sect?"

The crowd was surprised as they turned to look at Xu Nian, faces showing astonishment.

However, most of them looked unconvinced.

Clearly, they were resentful of the term 'number one prodigy of the Inner Sect' being applied to Xu Nian.

Among the crowd, a rather handsome young man furrowed his brows slightly, his gaze coldly sizing up Xu Nian.

Xu Nian inwardly sighed with a wry smile.

Sister Hong was not praising him; she was clearly drawing hatred towards him.

He had just entered the Inner Sect, and she had already labeled him as the number one Inner Sect prodigy, these people wouldn't accept it easily.

"Sister Hong, although I admit that it's impressive for Junior Brother Xu Nian to become an Inner Sect disciple at such a young age, to call him the number one Inner Sect prodigy seems a bit too much. The path of Artifact Refining is different from Cultivation; being young doesn't necessarily mean having more potential. It might be possible that Junior Brother Xu Nian simply started Artifact Refining early. Many of us only began touching Artifact Refining after the age of ten. Take Junior Brother Ziyu, for example, he entered the Inner Sect at twenty, but started Artifact Refining only at fourteen, and has been Cultivating not even for nine years yet, and now he's already a Four-star Little Artifact Refiner," a young man spoke up unconvinced.

"Right, becoming a Little Artifact Refiner at seventeen; maybe he started touching Artifact Refining at the age of three," the crowd suddenly started discussing, clearly dissatisfied with Sister Hong's words.

However, Sister Hong simply smiled, showing no surprise at the grievances of the crowd.

Everything was under her control.

"Do you all feel very unconvinced when I say he is the number one prodigy of the Inner Sect?" Sister Hong asked with a smile as she looked towards the crowd.

"We are unconvinced!" the crowd promptly responded.

Xu Nian stood aside feeling awkward.

He had roughly guessed Sister Hong's intention.

Indeed, Sister Hong was stirring things up.

A sect that wanted to develop quickly must have fierce competition.

This was why some Beimo commoners kept a few Red Blood Wolves that specifically preyed on Spiritual Jade Sheep while raising them on the grasslands.

Only through the pursuit of the Red Blood Wolves could these Spiritual Jade Sheep grow healthier.

Now, Sister Hong wanted to turn Xu Nian into a Red Blood Wolf, pushing these Inner Sect disciples to keep moving forward.

Conversely, to survive, Xu Nian must also try harder, or he wouldn't even earn the wool.

What a clever tactic!

Good strategy!

If he were an ordinary hot-blooded youth, hearing the opposition of these disciples, he would without hesitation jump right into the circle drawn by Sister Hong and fight a decisive battle with these weaklings.

However, Sister Hong had chosen the wrong target.

Although Xu Nian was only seventeen, his mind was not inferior to that of an adult.

He even had a bit of the cunning of the Little Fox.

Liu Shan stood in the crowd, smirking as well. He was the only person on the scene who knew Sister Hong's purpose.

He loved watching dramas, so he was really looking forward to Xu Nian's performance.

"Xu Nian, come on, tell everyone loudly, when did you start Artifact Refining?" Sister Hong turned to Xu Nian and asked with a smile.

Having received the information last night, she had sent people to gather information about Xu Nian.

She had decided to let Xu Nian grow in the midst of brutal competition.

It would also motivate the group of complacent Inner Sect disciples.

Thus, today's scene unfolded.

Everyone turned to look at Xu Nian upon hearing Sister Hong's question.

Their hearts filled with doubt, could it be that Xu Nian's time in artifact refining was very short?

"Reporting to Sister Hong, I started artifact refining at the age of one," Xu Nian answered steadily.

However, Sister Hong's eyes widened in shock.

This was not what she had expected!

The script wasn't written like this!

She had received information that Xu Nian only started artifact refining last year.

How did it become from the age of one?

At one year old, he should still be nursing!

Hearing Xu Nian's words, the surrounding crowd sneered dismissively, and their surprise at his admission into the Inner Sect at seventeen lessened greatly.

Seeing the disdain from the crowd, Sister Hong couldn't help but grow angry.

Could it be that her carefully laid plans were going to be ruined?

Of course, she was not willing to accept that.

"Xu Nian, I'll give you one more chance, tell the truth, when did you really start artifact refining?" Sister Hong furiously questioned, staring intently at Xu Nian, exuding the dignity of a Marquis Level.

She didn't believe that Xu Nian would dare to lie under her imposing presence.

Yet, Xu Nian said earnestly, "Sister Hong, I'm telling the truth. I really started artifact refining at the age of one, entered at three, became a One-star Alchemy Apprentice at nine, and an Artifact Refiner at seventeen. My goal is to become a Great Refiner by forty, and frankly, I think I am the number one genius of the Inner Sect."

"Pfft!"

The Inner Sect disciples burst out laughing.

Sister Hong was even more furious.

Xu Nian was clearly lying.

But this guy's acting was so damn convincing that she could hardly see through it, making her feel inferior.

Liu Shan was also dumbfounded.

This isn't right!

Where is the drama we were supposed to see?

Wasn't he supposed to wreck things?

Where's the chaos?

"Sister Hong, this is the number-one genius of the Inner Sect you mentioned? Becoming a Great Refiner by forty, I must say, Junior Brother Xu Nian's ambition is indeed vast," another disciple mocked.

Sister Hong was already furious, and this guy was throwing fuel into the fire.

So, Sister Hong lost it.

"Get out! All of you, get out!" Sister Hong bellowed furiously, her voice intimidating the entire Inner Sect.

Her words mixed with the terrifying Marquis's authority, scared the disciples into a panicked frenzy, and they scrambled out of the courtyard.

This was the first time they had seen Sister Hong so fiery.

They usually joked with Sister Hong, but she had never gotten angry.

Why did she explode today?

Xu Nian naturally knew why Sister Hong was so irate.

He was the one who had lit the fuse.

Of course, Xu Nian wasn't about to explain to them.

With Sister Hong being so angry, it was perhaps best to leave.

However, just as Xu Nian was about to step out of the courtyard, the furious Sister Hong suddenly spoke, "Xu Nian, you stay!"

Xu Nian's stepping foot stopped mid-air, thinking to himself, "It's over!"

Chapter 240 The Older, the Wiser

"Sister Hong, if there's nothing else, I'll be on my way," Xu Nian said with a sheepish smile.

Although he had just feigned ignorance and ruined Sister Hong's plan,

he had to remember that Sister Hong was a Marquis Level powerhouse.

If he truly angered her, he feared the consequences wouldn't be pleasant.

Sister Hong, now alone with Xu Nian in the courtyard, took a deep breath to quell her anger.

But due to her previous irritation, her body still trembled slightly, and the ample waves at her chest were still quite eye-catching.

Xu Nian quickly averted his gaze, not daring to look again, fearing his eyeballs might fall into the crevice.

This action actually coaxed a smile back onto Sister Hong's face; she thought she had regained some ground.

"You're quite the sly one, much smarter than I anticipated, daring enough to play tricks on me," Sister Hong said as she walked towards Xu Nian, intentionally exaggerating her footsteps.

Xu Nian was speechless; this was the tactic he feared most. He quickly tried to laugh it off, "What Sister Hong said... I was just telling the truth, that's all."

"Oh? Really?" Sister Hong had already walked up to Xu Nian, her fingers gently gliding across his shoulder.

Xu Nian swallowed hard, looking at Sister Hong who was now close enough to touch, feeling utterly helpless.

At such close proximity, he could even catch the faint scent coming from her, which sent his mind reeling.

"Hmph, you brat, still not telling the truth? Do you need Sister Hong to give you a little sweetness before you'll speak honestly?" Sister Hong hummed coldly, grabbed Xu Nian's hand, and was about to press it onto an inappropriate place.

"I'll talk! I'll tell you everything," Xu Nian quickly retracted his hand.

Damn, that was terrifying.

She even had that move at her disposal.

At Xu Nian's reaction, Sister Hong then smiled seductively, "Speak up then. What's your true purpose in coming to the Artifact Refining Sect? I've already asked those three old men from the Outer Disciple ranks; they say you practice the ancient Artifact Refining Technique. If you possess such a technique, there's no need for you to come to our Sect. You must have another motive for being here."

Xu Nian was still somewhat shaken.

His hand had almost pressed down.

He wasn't surprised by Sister Hong's conjecture.

Given Sister Hong's wit, it wasn't hard for her to guess these things.

"I came for the Sect's Spiritual Sense Spiritual Artifact," Xu Nian admitted without wanting to hide it.

Even if he lied, Sister Hong would find out later; it was better to just be frank now.

"Spiritual Sense Spiritual Artifact? You mean the Heavenly Gang Pearl?" Sister Hong asked, taken aback.

Xu Nian nodded.

"But that's not just any Spiritual Sense type Spiritual Artifact; it's also the Sect's treasure and the Sect Master's token. It's impossible to lend it out casually," Sister Hong said, shaking her head.

"I know, but I must obtain that treasure because I need it to save someone. Since it's the Sect Master's token, then I'll just have to become the Sect Master," Xu Nian said with resolve in his eyes.

Sister Hong was momentarily stunned.

Become the Sect Master?

If someone else had said this to her, she would have thought it was a joke.

But with this young man in front of her, she dared not dismiss it so easily.

"The current Sect Master has only been in position for ten years. To step down, it would probably take another ten years. Even if you have the ability, can you really wait that long?" Sister Hong asked out loud.

Xu Nian shook his head, "I only have a little more than two months. Even if the Sect Master doesn't step down, I will work hard to convince him to do so, or even persuade him to make an exception and accompany me on a trip if I have to."

Sister Hong fell silent at his words.

To become the Sect Master in just over two months was practically impossible.

Nowadays, Xu Nian was just a newcomer among the ranks of Little Artifact Refiners, yet to become a candidate for Sect Master, one must possess at least the peak strength of a Great Refiner.

The gap in realms was too much, and artifact refining skills weren't so easy to improve.

Xu Nian naturally discerned Sister Hong's thoughts and chose not to explain anything.

Others might not be able to improve in such a short time, but he could, after all, his artifact refining relied on the power of Spiritual Sense.

"Sister Hong, if there is nothing else, then I shall take my leave," Xu Nian said.

"Okay, but take this with you, consider it a loan from me," Sister Hong said with an open hand, revealing a Jade Bottle in her palm.

Xu Nian opened the Jade Bottle and his face immediately showed a surprised expression.

"Spiritual Sense Pill!" Xu Nian looked at Sister Hong, not expecting her to give him such a valuable item.

"I've heard that you refine artifacts with your Spiritual Sense, and I figured the pill might be of some use to you. As I haven't awakened my Spiritual Sense yet, the pill would be wasted on me. If you have the chance in the future, you can repay me," Sister Hong said.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian hesitated for a moment, then nodded.

The Spiritual Sense Pill was incredibly precious, so much so that even a Prefectural Governor wouldn't be able to produce one, and yet, Sister Hong was giving such a pill to him.

However, the pill indeed would be of great help to him.

"Thank you, Sister Hong. If I get the chance in the future, I will repay you doubly," Xu Nian said sincerely.

"Go on!" Sister Hong said with a charming smile and a wave of her hand.

Xu Nian gave Sister Hong a meaningful look, then turned and left.

Watching Xu Nian's departing figure, Sister Hong's mouth curled into a light smile, and she jokingly murmured, "A kid with desires but no guts to pursue them, spying on me in the end. But he is quite interesting. If I were ten years younger, I'd definitely pursue him. But perhaps I can introduce him to that girl Xixi."

Having said that, Sister Hong's figure flashed and vanished into the courtyard, heading towards the direction of the elite disciples.

Xu Nian walked out the gate only to find two people waiting for him outside.

One was Sun Feng, which was not surprising to him.

But the other person did surprise Xu Nian.

This was the handsome youth who had looked at Xu Nian coldly before.

"Hello, my name is Gu Fei," the handsome youth stepped forward and said in an indifferent tone.

"Hello, Senior Brother Gu, may I know what this is about?" Xu Nian continued.

"I'd like to challenge you. I can tell that everything you said in front of everyone earlier was a lie, and I've learned about your true artifact refining level from Sun Feng," Gu Fei said.

Xu Nian was speechless for a moment, then turned to look at Sun Feng.

"Brother, Gu Fei once saved my life, and I'm repaying that debt. If you want to blame someone, blame me," Sun Feng said.

Xu Nian waved his hand resignedly, "Forget it, it's a trivial matter. If I'm not mistaken, you must be that genius who entered the Inner Sect at twenty, a Five-star Small Refiner?"

"That was my strength a year ago. I believe you have your secrets as well. I am eager to witness the ancient Artifact Refining Technique," Gu Fei seriously said.

"When and where?" Xu Nian asked.

"Tomorrow morning at the Inner Sect Square. I will spread the word. Whoever wins will be recognized as the first genius of the Inner Sect," Gu Fei said before turning around and walking away.

Xu Nian watched Gu Fei's retreating back and shook his head helplessly.

"Brother, I thought you didn't want to compete for the title of number one in the Inner Sect?" Sun Feng asked.

If Xu Nian had really cared about such vain glory, he would've admitted it earlier and wouldn't have acted this way.

But Xu Nian simply laughed, "You're repaying a favor, and so am I."

Gu Fei did not understand.

However, Xu Nian had already started walking, preparing to return to his residence.

But after a few steps, he slapped his forehead and chuckled bitterly, "It's over, I've fallen into a trap. It turns out that the old ginger is still spicier."

In the deep courtyard above the void, Yann Hong stood in mid-air, her mouth hinting at a smile, "Kid, you're still too naive to contend with me. Just be a good Red Blood Wolf."

