

Divine King 331

Chapter 331 Bringing Disgrace Upon Oneself

"Sword... the Third Level of Sword Force?"

Everyone's eyes widened, revealing an expression of disbelief.

Even Yann Hong and the others were incredibly shocked.

When had Xu Nian stepped into the Third Level?

Back when he first joined the Artifact Refining Sect, he was merely at the First Level of Sword Force.

Now, how much time had passed for him to have already reached the Third Level of Sword Force?

Xie Tiancheng was also stunned.

His mouth agape, he couldn't utter a word.

Just moments ago, he was feeling smug about being at the Second Level Realm of Sword Force.

He had even said that Xu Nian was shortsighted and envious of his talent.

But now, he had been slapped in the face, metaphorically speaking.

Under eighteen and already at the Third Level of Sword Force?

What kind of monstrous talent was this?

Xu Nian sneered disdainfully at the surprised look in Xie Tiancheng's eyes.

"Do you still think I'm shortsighted? Jealous of your talent? To tell you the truth, in my eyes, you're nothing but trash. If you really wanted to join the Artifact Refining Sect sincerely, would I have not welcomed you? But you joined with ulterior motives, even thinking of harming our Artifact Refining Sect Elders. Do you think I would still allow you to join?" Xu Nian responded with a cold sneer, his gaze sharp as a sword.

The crowd around nodded their heads in agreement.

They all felt Xu Nian's words made sense.

At this moment, they no longer doubted why Xu Nian, so young, could take the position of Artifact Refining Sect Master.

Such a monstrous and talented individual was bound to be a dominant figure in the future.

As long as he grew up, the status of the Artifact Refining Sect would be immeasurable.

Xie Tiancheng's face turned ashen. He had not expected his intentions to be seen through and to be confronted publicly by Xu Nian.

Now, even the look Yann Hong gave him had turned particularly cold.

Even if he could turn the situation around now, Yann Hong had already become wary of him.

So the chances of winning Yann Hong over were virtually nonexistent.

His plans were ruined, and he had been humiliated.

This made Xie Tiancheng extremely angry.

Yet, with the Artifact Refining Sect holding the greater numbers, if a fight broke out, not only would he not gain any advantage, but he might also even face a deadly outcome.

Suddenly, as if he had thought of something, a slight smile appeared on his lips again.

"I was wrong just now, I got a bit too emotional and angered the Sect Master. However, the Sect Master has wronged me. I genuinely want to join the Artifact Refining Sect," Xie Tiancheng said, tempering his anger.

Xu Nian continued to sneer.

Xie Tiancheng was still not giving up.

Despite how things had turned out, he was still trying to salvage his dignity.

Xu Nian, who had developed the ability to see through people's true nature, knew exactly what Xie Tiancheng was thinking.

Sure enough, Xie Tiancheng spoke again, "Sect Master, I didn't expect you to have such profound accomplishments in the Sword Skill Realm. Given that, I would like to humbly challenge the Sect Master. How about we spar a little?"

"Huh?" The surrounding crowd was taken aback.

"You want to compete in swordsmanship with me?" Xu Nian laughed, full of scorn.

Yann Hong and the others laughed along.

They weren't worried about Xu Nian losing, as they had personally seen Xu Nian kill three people from the Tianjian Sect.

"It's not that. Swords have no eyes, and if we happened to injure each other, that wouldn't be conducive to harmony. I want to compete with the Sect Master in sword comprehension. Behind me is a stele with one thousand eight hundred sword marks. In fact, these sword marks contain a very powerful sword technique. I want to see who can comprehend it first," Xie Tiancheng said with a smile.

Xu Nian looked at the sword marks on the stele with surprise.

He had not expected these sword marks to actually be a sword technique's manual.

And the material of this stele...

Xu Nian had never seen before.

Its entire body was tinged with green, yet as hard as Meteorite Iron.

To leave sword marks on such a hard stele...

Regular Peak of Battle King experts couldn't do it.

And to leave so many deep sword marks on this stele...

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This indicates the person is very powerful, and the power of their sword moves is also immense.

"What does it matter whether you win or lose?" Xu Nian asked with a sneer.

It seems Xie Tiancheng still isn't ready to give up.

He has already been studying the sword techniques here for quite some time.

It looks like he's gained some insights, hence his bold talk.

When Xie Tiancheng heard Xu Nian's words, a smile appeared on his face, "Haha, if I lose, I will let the Sect Master dispose of me as he sees fit. But if the Sect Master loses, you must hand over Elder Yann Hong to me."

"You..." Yann Hong was instantly enraged.

Those around were also taken aback.

So indeed Xie Tiancheng came for the woman.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian's face broke into a cold smile.

It seems Xie Tiancheng is truly putting everything on the line.

"I do not have the authority to agree to this condition. Elder Yann Hong has her own freedom, and I have no right to interfere. How about we change the terms? If I lose, I will give up my position as Sect Master to you, how about that?" Xu Nian said with a smile.

"What? Sect Master, you absolutely cannot!" Several Elders exclaimed in shock.

Although they didn't believe Xu Nian could lose, what if?

Yann Hong was also shocked; Xu Nian was actually willing to give up his position as Sect Master and not use her as a bargaining chip?

Well aware that as the Sect Master, if he commanded her forcefully, she wouldn't be able to refuse.

"Are you serious about this?" Xie Tiancheng said with brightened eyes.

If Xu Nian truly gave up the position of Sect Master...

Not only could he easily obtain Yann Hong, but he would also gain a vast power.

"I always mean what I say," Xu Nian said with a sneer.

"Good, it's a deal then. I hope you won't go back on your word when the time comes," Xie Tiancheng said excitedly.

He had been contemplating before this stele for several hours and had begun to find some clues.

Even if Xu Nian were more formidable, without a few hours of entry-level practice, how could he comprehend the secrets within these sword marks?

Those around were equally astounded.

They had not expected Xu Nian to gamble his position as Sect Master against Xie Tiancheng.

If he really lost, wouldn't that mean he would really be handing over the Artifact Refining Sect?

But Xu Nian just smiled lightly.

Xie Tiancheng had indeed grasped some understanding after a few hours in advance.

But there are some things that the naked eye cannot perceive.

Like these sword marks, for instance.

He had just used his Gray Dragon Eye to take a look and didn't expect to make such an unexpected discovery.

Thus, Xie Tiancheng's challenge was merely bringing shame upon himself.

"If that's the case, then let's begin. We'll limit it to three hours. Afterward, we'll see whose sword technique is more powerful," Xie Tiancheng declared.

Having said that, he sat down cross-legged in front of the stele.

But Xu Nian, seeing this, did not do the same.

Instead, he walked slowly toward the stele.

Reaching out his hand to touch those sword marks.

"Don't! There is powerful Sword Qi within the sword marks!"

Someone in the crowd called out.

Xu Nian, however, turned a deaf ear and directly reached out to touch the sword marks.

"Whoosh!"

A terrifying Sword Qi burst forth from the marks instantly.

It slashed viciously towards Xu Nian.

Xu Nian, seeing this, also showed a hint of surprise.

He instantly turned into an afterimage, dodging the sword.

A massive sword mark appeared instantaneously on the distant wall.

Xie Tiancheng, seeing this, suddenly showed a mocking expression.

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Chapter 332 Crying Miserably

Xie Tiancheng's eyes were filled with mockery.

These sword marks on the stele were utterly intangible.

Each sword mark contained a powerful Sword Qi.

If one were to touch them with their hands, they would trigger the Sword Qi.

And thereby be injured by the Sword Qi.

To comprehend the sword techniques within these sword marks, one must feel the distribution of these marks.

Based on the trajectory of these sword marks, one could comprehend the sword technique.

With this in mind, he no longer paid attention to Xu Nian and started to observe the distribution of these sword marks carefully.

At the corner of Xu Nian's mouth, a slight smile emerged.

In fact, everything Xie Tiancheng had thought of, he had already considered.

Indeed, through the distribution of these sword marks, one could indeed understand the sword forms of this technique.

But obviously, this wasn't the essence of the technique.

The power of this technique was clearly in the momentum contained within the Sword Qi.

Xu Nian had touched that sword mark just now to clearly experience how strong the Sword Force within the mark really was.

Indeed, as he suspected, the Sword Force within the mark had already reached the Third Level Realm of Building Momentum.

With one strike, the power of the Sword Radiance was maximized.

This was the essence of this sword strike.

However, this momentum was clearly not ordinary.

It merged with the Wind Force, but it was more than just that.

That's why the power of this sword strike was so immense.

What exactly had been integrated into this momentum?

Xu Nian also fell into deep thought.

The surrounding crowd all held their breath, watching the two.

Xie Tiancheng sat cross-legged on the ground, occasionally gesturing with his hands.

While Xu Nian stood motionless before the stele, eyes tightly closed.

The crowd was puzzled.

With his eyes closed, Xu Nian was not feeling these sword marks. Was he comprehending?

People from the Artifact Refining Sect were also anxious.

This was a matter concerning the reputation of their Artifact Refining Sect!

If Xu Nian really lost by accident, wouldn't their Artifact Refining Sect basically be handing over to someone else, and they would become a laughingstock in the world.

Yann Hong's brow was also furrowed tightly, although she believed in Xu Nian, she was still a bit worried.

Time ticked away bit by bit.

Xu Nian remained motionless, still standing in place with his eyes tightly shut.

As for Xie Tiancheng, he had already gotten up and started practicing with his long sword.

And as he practiced, the sword in his hand became ever more fierce.

Even without utilizing Sword Qi, it exuded an edge that shook one's heart.

The surrounding crowd was full of admiration.

If Spiritual Energy were used, the power of this sword strike would likely be tremendous.

Joy was plastered across Xie Tiancheng's face as he put away his sharp sword.

He looked extremely confident of his success.

When he saw Xu Nian standing there with his eyes closed and brow furrowed, the smugness on his face grew even thicker.

Now the time was almost approaching three two-hour periods.

Xu Nian's brow was furrowed, indicating he had yet to comprehend.

While he had already fully grasped and integrated the sword technique. Not only that.

He had also merged it with the Wind Force, and he believed that his comprehension of the technique had definitely reached a level of seventy percent.

Being able to grasp seventy percent of this sword technique in such a short time.

In his view, defeating the Artifact Refining Sect Master was a piece of cake.

""Buzz!""

Just one second before the two hours were up, Xu Nian suddenly opened his eyes, a joyful expression crossing his face.

He had thought of it.

He had finally thought of it.

Why that one sword could exert such immense power.

As long as he grasped the essence, everything else would naturally fall into place.

"Sect Master, time's up. Have you grasped the technique? If not, then this bet can be considered my win," Xie Tiancheng said with a smile, mockery in his eyes.

In his view, Xu Nian hadn't even mastered the sword technique, so what was there to compare?

Even if the sword technique was mastered, it still required continuous practice.

Xu Nian had been standing still from start to finish, so even if he had some insight, he probably couldn't display it, right?

"You're speaking a bit prematurely, don't you think? How do I know whether you've grasped it?" Xu Nian said with a light laugh.

Finished?

Upon hearing this, the three Great Elders of the Artifact Refining Sect sighed inwardly.

The way Xu Nian spoke clearly lacked confidence!

However, Yann Hong thought differently, with her understanding of Xu Nian.

His words could never be taken as true until the very end.

Because every time he would give a result that surprised everyone.

Of course, what really convinced her was the smile on Xu Nian's lips.

That kind of smile was his usual confident one; as long as Xu Nian had that smile, there definitely wouldn't be any problems.

"Haha, it seems you won't give up until you've reached the end!" Xie Tiancheng burst into hearty laughter.

When he heard Xu Nian's words, his first reaction was that Xu Nian hadn't understood it, so he expected that he himself hadn't understood it either.

Therefore, he felt nearly certain of winning the bet.

Xu Nian remained silent with a smile, as if challenging him to prove his capability.

"Since you're so stubborn, I'll show you what despair is! Haha, watch closely!" Xie Tiancheng roared with laughter.

Immediately, his eyes turned fierce.

With a swing of his palm like a sword, he instantly unleashed a strike.

A fierce Sword Radiance burst forth from the sword, violently colliding with the stele.

"Boom!"

A shallow sword mark was left on the stele.

"Wow! So powerful. He really understood it; truly worthy of the Little Sword Saint!"

People around who saw that Xie Tiancheng actually left a sword mark on such a hard stele immediately showed expressions of amazement.

They praised Xie Tiancheng one after another.

The three Elders of the Artifact Refining Sect saw this scene and deeply sighed.

Yann Hong's brow furrowed tightly; she had not anticipated that Xie Tiancheng would understand so much of the sword technique.

Xu Nian was also surprised; Xie Tiancheng indeed had strong insights into the Sword Dao.

Being able to leave a mark on the stele indicated that he had essentially mastered this sword technique.

Of course, it was only essentially!

"Haha, what do you think, ready to give up? I hope you won't go back on your word. From today on, I am the Sect..." Xie Tiancheng said with a booming laugh.

But before he could finish, Xu Nian interrupted him.

"I told you not to get overexcited too early. Being busy with joy before things are final is a setup for a slap in the face," Xu Nian said with a smile.

Upon hearing this, Xie Tiancheng laughed scornfully: "So you mean to say you've also understood the sword technique? Then show it, show it!"

People around were all curious.

However, the majority felt that Xu Nian was just unwilling to accept defeat and was bluffing.

The three Elders of the Artifact Refining Sect also kindled a sliver of hope.

Could it be that the Sect Master really had an understanding?

But beating Xie Tiancheng would probably be very difficult, right?

Xu Nian, however, smiled as he stepped forward, looking at the triumphant Xie Tiancheng and said word by word, "I'm afraid once I display it, you'll end up crying miserably."

Chapter 333 Exceptionally Cute

Xu Nian's words were calm yet imperious.

Everyone present was taken aback.

Could it be that the Sect Master of the Artifact Refining Sect had also mastered this technique?

Xie Tiancheng was also stunned for a moment before bursting into loud laughter.

"Haha, who can't talk big? I see you just can't admit defeat, someone like you simply doesn't deserve..."

Xie Tiancheng said arrogantly.

But the next moment, he was abruptly silenced, his mouth agape as if it could fit an entire egg.

Xu Nian used his finger as a sword, casually slashing forth.

Sword Qi transformed into a streak of Green Radiance Sword Qi, striking the stele in an instant.

Subsequently, the stele was torn apart, leaving a deep sword mark three feet long.

And this sword mark was longer than any previous ones.

"How... how is this possible?" The crowd around gaped, exclaiming in shock.

The three Elders of the Artifact Refining Sect also had stunned expressions.

Followed by a burst of ecstasy.

Yann Hong revealed a seductive smile, indeed Xu Nian had not disappointed her.

Xie Tiancheng staggered back three steps, his face full of astonishment.

"No... it's impossible, the sword technique you used cannot be the one on this stele; you must have used some other technique to deceive us," Xie Tiancheng said reluctantly.

As soon as these words came out, dubious expressions emerged among the crowd.

Indeed, the power of that one sword was too great, wasn't it?

Using a finger as a sword, yet leaving such a large mark on the stele.

Bigger than the original marks, this clearly didn't make sense!

Xu Nian heard this and laughed.

Just as he expected, Xie Tiancheng wouldn't realize his errors unless forced into a corner.

"Then I will return your own words back to you, letting you know what true despair is."

Xu Nian chuckled lightly, then the Black God Sword appeared in his hand.

Subsequently, Xu Nian's entire figure moved.

His image was elusive, and the sword in his hand seemed like a phantom.

"No... it's not possible, this absolutely can't be possible!" Xie Tiancheng cried out in shock upon seeing this.

Because the sword technique Xu Nian was performing was exactly the same as the one he had just practiced.

Not only that, but it was also more proficient and contained more essence than his.

The crowd around, seeing this, showed their surprise.

They had witnessed Xie Tiancheng's practice, so naturally, they could tell Xu Nian was using the same sword technique Xie Tiancheng had mastered earlier.

"Buzz!"

At this moment, Xu Nian slashed with his sword.

A terrifying green Sword Radiance burst forth from the sword.

Within this green Sword Radiance,

Xu Nian had also merged the Sword Force of the Ye Family as well as the recently absorbed Power of Taiyin.

Thus, this sword strike had reached an extremely terrifying level.

"Boom!"

There was a loud boom.

The hall violently shook, and dust spread everywhere.

People all looked towards the stele.

When they saw the stele through the settling dust, they were completely astounded.

Not only them, but the three Elders of the Artifact Refining Sect were also shocked.

Because at this moment, the stele had been completely penetrated by Xu Nian's sword strike.

This was a stele that was a foot thick!

What terrifying power it must have been to pierce through the stone like that!

Xie Tiancheng was dumbfounded too!

He still reveled in the joy of leaving sword marks on the stele.

But Xu Nian could already pierce through the stele with a single sword strike.

What a huge disparity was this?

"How... how did you do that?"

Xie Tiancheng asked, looking at Xu Nian in disbelief.

"It's quite simple," Xu Nian replied with a cold snort, "my realm is higher than yours. This sword strike belongs to the Third Level of Sword Force, which incorporates Merging Force. The power of this strike combines the Wind Force and the forces of darkness, making it immensely powerful. In fact, the elder who left these sword marks was very strong, but he deliberately suppressed his own power, making these marks appear inferior. Had he used his full strength, I believe a single strike could reduce this stele to dust."

The third layer indeed was about Creating Momentum.

By merging different forces, one creates a new and more powerful momentum.

Yet Xie Tiancheng had not reached the realm of Creating Momentum; even if he understood something, it was merely superficial.

Upon hearing this, Xie Tiancheng completely collapsed to the ground.

What he was proud of was seen as mere fluff and rubbish in the eyes of others.

Everyone around also gasped in amazement.

The realm of Creating Momentum was truly wondrous.

Unfortunately, they hadn't reached that level and couldn't truly understand its intricacies.

Looking at Xu Nian again, everyone's gaze filled with immense respect.

Strength respected no age—the youth before them was indeed dazzling.

"Do you have anything else to say now?" Xu Nian asked, looking at Xie Tiancheng.

Hearing this, Xie Tiancheng's body shuddered.

He had said he would let Xu Nian do as he wished if he lost.

It looked like Xu Nian was going to kill him!

"Sect Master, please spare me! Sect Master, please spare me! I truly meant no trouble, please let me go this time!" Xie Tiancheng quickly knelt before Xu Nian, banging his head on the ground.

The people around him shook their heads in disappointment.

The famed talent, the Little Sword Saint, was brought to his knees.

However, Xie Tiancheng had no care for his dignity; his priority was to save his life.

As for resistance, it was out of the question.

Not to mention Xu Nian's recent strike could have killed him, three powerful backers followed him.

He likely had no chance of escape.

Xu Nian looked down at Xie Tiancheng kneeling before him, a scornful smile playing on his lips.

This man was truly a classic case of someone who bullies the weak and fears the strong.

Full of treachery!

But he hadn't committed any grave wrongs; killing him wasn't necessary.

"I will not kill you," Xu Nian declared.

Xie Tiancheng's face brightened immediately, thinking the youth was soft-hearted.

However, Xu Nian's next words chilled him to the bone.

"Though I spare you from death, you cannot escape punishment. Today, I will cripple your 'third leg' and your Dantian, ensuring you can no longer harm others or mistreat women," Xu Nian's voice was firm.

"No..." Xie Tiancheng started to panic and continued to beg for mercy.

But before he could speak further, he saw Xu Nian release two streaks of Sword Qi.

These transformed into sharp swords, one piercing his Dantian, and the other targeting his groin.

"Ah..."

Xie Tiancheng let out an agonized scream.

He then rolled on the ground, clutching his groin.

The people around him felt a chill in their lower bodies as they looked at Xu Nian with even greater awe.

Crippling Xie Tiancheng's Dantian and his Cultivation meant depriving him of his manhood.

This punishment was even more agonizing than death.

Such ruthlessness was truly terrifying.

Yann Hong looked at Xu Nian's figure, her lips curling into a seductive smile.

Whether it was Lei Li or Xie Tiancheng, it seemed he harbored a hidden fury.

Yet this hint of anger, in Yann Hong's eyes, seemed particularly adorable.

Chapter 334 Pulse Searching Technique

After dealing with Xie Tiancheng,

Xu Nian led Yann Hong and the others away from the great hall.

Having comprehended the sword technique from the stele, there was naturally no need to stay there any longer.

And that particular sword technique undoubtedly became Xu Nian's strongest move.

Xu Nian named it "Netherworld"!

But soon, Xu Nian and his group encountered a vexing problem.

They visited several great halls, only to discover that they had somehow returned to the very first one.

This completely troubled Xu Nian and his companions.

In other words, they were lost in the maze.

Next, Xu Nian and his group made several more attempts.

Inexplicably, they kept finding themselves back in the halls they had previously visited.

This caused Xu Nian to grow profoundly troubled.

Beforehand, Zhao Yanyun had mentioned that the maze had been altered by Emperor Bai.

The Great Star Array with its hundred thousand stars was not something easily deciphered.

"Sect Master, what should we do? There are so many passages, so many great halls, we could be trapped here for a lifetime," Yann Hong spoke up.

A maze like this, relying on luck to find the right passage was nearly impossible.

And they didn't have the time to keep going in circles.

Hearing Yann Hong's words, Xu Nian's brows furrowed as well.

He had already asked Zhao Yanyun for help, but she was unable to assist.

He could only rely on himself.

If anyone could help, it would be only one person.

Without a doubt, this was the Divine Emperor Ye Tian.

"Divine Empress, can you help me?" Xu Nian transmitted his voice to Emperor Ye Tian.

"Hmph, kid, once again you disturb my tranquility. You come to me whenever you face difficulties; do you really think of me as your mother?" Emperor Ye Tian retorted coldly.

Xu Nian was speechless.

Emperor Ye Tian certainly had a way with words.

"I have no other choice, do I? Divine Empress, could you please help me one more time?" Xu Nian hastily pleaded.

"Hmph, I can help you, but you know, I'm always helping you and you should offer me something good in return," Emperor Ye Tian said.

"Something good? What do you want?" Xu Nian was taken aback.

Emperor Ye Tian disdained his possessions, so he truly had no idea what she meant by something good.

"For now, you obviously have nothing to offer. You'll owe me, and when I need something in the future, you can give it to me then," Emperor Ye Tian remarked indifferently.

"Okay!" Xu Nian nodded vigorously.

He would eventually have to repay the favors he owed to Emperor Ye Tian.

One more or one less made little difference.

So basically, her demand meant nothing.

"You want me to break the formation, but really, I can't. My Spiritual Sense is constrained right now, so I can't help you find the correct path out," Emperor Ye Tian's voice sounded.

"Even you can't?" Xu Nian was taken aback, a deep disappointment welling up in his eyes.

"Kid, I haven't finished speaking. Although I can't help you crack the formation, I can help you locate the dragon vein," Emperor Ye Tian continued.

"Is there a difference?" Xu Nian asked, puzzled.

"Of course, there is a difference. I will teach you a method to seek out the dragon vein, and you will use this method to find a way out yourself," Emperor Ye Tian explained.

Xu Nian immediately understood.

He would have to find an exit by following the dragon vein.

"Quick, Divine Empress, teach me!" Xu Nian said eagerly, eyes lighting up.

"Kid, you know to be anxious now. Even after I teach you this method, it will take you some time to locate the vein, so your haste is futile. Furthermore, the Four Great Families and the Imperial Family appear to have this technique, and they are already ahead of you," Emperor Ye Tian transmitted.

Xu Nian was taken aback.

Emperor Ye Tian was right.

The Four Great Families had many methods to their name, and since they had come prepared, it was impossible that they hadn't thought of this point.

Pulse Searching Technique?

Although few people knew of it, it wasn't unknown.

"Alright, I'll impart it to you now. The rest is up to your own fortune, kid. If you obtain that Dragon Vein, then I will teach you a powerful secret technique on how to utilize the Dragon Vein's strength afterward, to ensure a significant increase in your power." Emperor Ye Tian's voice sounded.

Xu Nian immediately felt joy in his heart.

Since Emperor Ye Tian had said so, it must undoubtedly be extraordinary.

This made Xu Nian even more expectant.

"Buzz!"

Immediately after, a vast surge of information flooded Xu Nian's mind.

And as this information poured in, Xu Nian gradually came to understand what this Pulse Searching Technique was all about.

"What a magical secret technique!"

Xu Nian marveled to himself.

When he operated the secret technique according to the Pulse Searching Technique.

He could actually feel the pulsations of the earth beneath his feet, mixed with the terrifying roars of a dragon.

And these dragon roars were precisely what he was searching for—the Dragon Vein.

Not only that, but he could even sense the power of the Dragon Vein in the air permeating all around him.

"Ha-ha, I've got it! As long as I move along with this Dragon Vein's power, heading towards where the force is more concentrated, I will find the correct path." Xu Nian said joyously to himself.

Moreover, his feet could also feel the vibrations of the Dragon Vein.

The closer he got to the Dragon Vein, the stronger the vibrations underfoot became.

"Sect Master, why are you laughing?" The people around him didn't understand why Xu Nian had suddenly burst into laughter.

Xu Nian turned his head, looked at Yann Hong and the others, and said with a smile, "I've found the way to the main hall where the Dragon Vein is located. Just follow me."

"Uh, you found a way?"

Hearing this, everyone's faces expressed joy.

Xu Nian nodded and then led the group towards the direction where the Dragon Vein's force was most potent.

Indeed, with the Xun Long secret technique, they were no longer going in circles through those great halls like before.

They had begun to head toward the center of the Demon Emperor's Tomb—the main hall.

Along the way, Xu Nian and his company passed through many great halls.

However, the treasures within the halls had clearly been taken.

So they found no gains.

But as Xu Nian and his group drew increasingly close to the main hall, an unexpected scene unfolded.

Within one of the great halls on the path they had to take, there lurked a massive scale snake, over a hundred meters long.

This scale snake had two horns on its head, and its scale armor was completely snow-white.

At the moment, the white serpent was staring intently ahead.

Standing before the white serpent was a giant ape.

Both the white serpent and the giant ape stood in confrontation, their gazes ferocious beyond measure.

It seemed as if a Great Formation could break out at any moment.

And at the foot of the wall behind the giant ape.

A young man was sitting there leisurely, not showing the slightest bit of tension because of the standoff.

"It's him!"

Xu Nian's eyes instantly sharpened; this young man was the same Beast Taming Sect youth they had encountered earlier in the Misty Forest.

"Roar!"

At that moment, the two giant beasts let out a fierce roar.

Then they started fighting each other!

Chapter 335 Beast Taming Sect

"Roar!"

The roar shook all directions.

The giant ape and the long white snake fought each other fiercely.

The white snake coiled around the giant ape, its sharp teeth biting into the ape's fur.

In pain and fury, the giant ape howled, swinging its massive fist and smashing it hard against the white snake's scale armor.

With a punch, the scale armor shattered, blood splattered.

Yet the white snake still clung on tight, not letting go.

Its sharp teeth remained firmly embedded in the giant ape, injecting venom deep into the ape's body.

Both the giant ape and the white snake were Nine-star Peak War King level Demon Beasts.

Their way of fighting, was leading to mutual destruction.

Xu Nian and the others, witnessing this, were all shocked.

Looking at the young man, who still leaned casually against the wall, unconcerned with the fate of the giant ape.

Xu Nian's brow furrowed unconsciously.

Clearly, the young man intended to abandon the giant ape to achieve his own ends.

Yet, he couldn't understand why the young man would do this.

What was in the white snake that was worth him sacrificing a giant ape Spiritual Pet to obtain?

"Roar!"

Eventually, the white snake's poison began to take effect.

The giant ape started to falter.

With a fierce roar, the giant ape grabbed the white snake's neck and bit down hard.

"Boom!"

A thunderous explosion.

The giant ape fell to the ground.

It had bitten through the white snake's neck.

Though the white snake was not dead, it was at death's door.

Upon seeing this, the young man finally drew a sharp sword.

Immediately, he swung the sword, decapitating the white snake completely.

After a few struggles, the white snake also lay breathless.

The young man then cut open the white snake's chest and retrieved a translucent white pearl from its belly.

"This is... a Snake Pill?" Xu Nian was stunned and surprise flashed in his eyes.

The so-called Snake Pill was a rarity produced by few snake Demon Beasts.

This Snake Pill could not only detoxify all poisons but could also greatly enhance one's strength.

It was definitely comparable to an Immortal Pill of Ninth Grade from the Battle Mansion.

Xu Nian had never expected that the white snake would contain a Snake Pill inside it.

No wonder the young man was willing to give up a Nine-star Battle King level giant ape to kill this white snake.

It was for the Snake Pill within it.

Xu Nian's eyes brightened.

This Snake Pill could completely cure Chen Tiansheng of the Emperor Scorpion Poison inside him.

It could even be more effective than the Snake Gallbladder of a viper.

"Come out! Since you're here, why not show yourself?"

At this moment, the young man in the hall suddenly turned his head, glanced in the direction of the cave entrance where Xu Nian was, and spoke with a light chuckle.

Xu Nian was taken aback.

Their location was behind the young man.

He hadn't expected the young man to have discovered them.

It seemed that the young man had known they were there since the moment they arrived.

So, he no longer hid but vaulted into the great hall.

Yann Hong and the others followed Xu Nian into the hall.

Their eyes were also full of caution when they looked at the young man.

Obviously, they too had realized this young man was no ordinary individual.

"We meet again! I never expected you to be the Artifact Refining Sect Master, quite a surprise indeed."

The young man's lips curved into a smile upon seeing Xu Nian.

Xu Nian also offered a slight smile.

...

This youth had previously controlled a giant ape to attack him.

He had nearly killed him—the sole reason being to test the strength of the Spiritual Pet he had just tamed.

Now, in order to kill a white snake, he easily discards the Spiritual Pet he had tamed.

It is clear that he is a person who would not hesitate to sacrifice anything in order to achieve his goals.

"I've long heard how powerful the Beast Taming Sect is. Seeing it today, they really are extraordinary. Just one young man that came out is already this powerful," Xu Nian replied with a light smile.

Upon hearing this, the arc of the youth's mouth became even more pronounced.

"I have long heard that the Artifact Refining Sect Master possessed a Treasure of the Sect, the Heavenly Gang Pearl. I wonder if the Sect Master would be willing to lend it to me for a couple of days to play with? After I've had my fill, I'll return it to your esteemed Sect. How about that?" the youth said with a smile.

"Hmph, how can the treasure of my Artifact Refining Sect be lent out so casually? Hasn't your Beast Taming Sect long since stopped concerning itself with worldly affairs? Why have you come out again now?" An Elder of the Artifact Refining Sect immediately responded with an angry huff.

However, a sneer of mockery flashed across the youth's eyes as he disdainfully said, "I'm talking to your Sect Master. Since when was it your turn to interrupt?"

"You..." The Elder was enraged.

He was about to take action.

But was stopped by Xu Nian.

It was clear that the strength of this youth was far from simple.

Xu Nian could sense that this youth had already activated his Spiritual Sense.

That is to say, he knew the strength of the Fourth Elder.

Since he knew the strength of the Fourth Elder and was still this fearless,

It meant that he wasn't afraid of them at all.

Back in the Misty Forest,

Xu Nian had already tried to probe the youth's Cultivation.

But in the end, he failed.

So Xu Nian wasn't sure he could really handle the youth.

Of course, judging by the situation, this battle was inevitable.

"So, will you lend the Heavenly Gang Pearl or not?" the youth casually asked with a smile.

"How could I not lend it?" Xu Nian replied with a smile.

"If you won't lend it, then I'll just have to take it myself. I have a habit—anything I take a liking to, I will do everything in my power to obtain it. Whoever dares to stop me, there's only one outcome for them—and that's death," the youth said with a playful laugh.

His gaze was proud, bearing an air of disdain for the world.

Upon hearing this, rage surged through Xu Nian.

The youth in front of him was simply too arrogant, not once considering him, the Artifact Refining Sect Master, worthy of attention.

He had intended to negotiate some conditions with this youth, to exchange for a Snake Pill.

Now it seemed completely impossible.

"Sorry, but I have a habit, too. Whenever I see someone arrogant, I like to step on their face a few times, no matter who they are," Xu Nian responded coldly.

The youth's eyes narrowed upon hearing this.

"A mere Artifact Refining Sect, daring to claim itself as the number one Sect in the land—today I will let you witness the might of our Beast Taming Sect." The youth finally burst with anger.

With a wave of his sleeve,

Three giant beasts appeared before everyone's eyes.

They were: a Nine-star War King Level Red Scorching Tiger Lion,

a Seven-star Battle King Level Fierce Earth-splitting Tiger,

and a Five-star Battle King Level Fierce Earth Dragon.

"Roar!"

The three beasts roared as soon as they appeared,

The roar reverberated throughout the great hall, spreading rapidly along the corridors to the surroundings.

Xu Nian and the others were startled.

Although they had expected this youth to have powerful Demon Beasts at his side,

They had not expected him to summon three giant beasts all at once, and all of them Battle King Level Demon Beasts.

"Ha-ha, scared now? This is just an appetizer, just getting started to play with you," the youth laughed heartily.

The faces of the Artifact Refining Sect Elders and the others all changed.

Summoning three Demon Beasts at once?

And this was just an appetizer.

Xu Nian's gaze also sharpened—he was indeed stronger than expected.

But to think that would make him afraid was underestimating him too much.

"Black Wind, come out!" Xu Nian commanded.

Upon finishing his words, a Black Dog appeared in everyone's sight.

...

Chapter 336 True Strength

"Huh?"

The three Elders of the Artifact Refining Sect and Yann Hong looked at the black dog beside Xu Nian, their expressions all one of surprise.

An ordinary black dog?

Could it be that their Sect Master intended to let this black dog join the battle?

The opponent has three Battle King Level Demon Beasts, after all!

Your black dog probably isn't even enough to get stuck in their teeth, right?

"Ha ha, I thought you had summoned some powerful Demon Beast, but it turns out to be just an ordinary black dog," the youth laughed heartily.

His eyes were filled with intense mockery.

Even those three Demon Beasts showed a mocking expression.

The black dog, seeing that the three Demon Beasts were actually mocking him, also had a surge of anger in his eyes.

"Fierce Earth Dragon, go, tear this black dog to shreds for me," the youth ordered.

Immediately, the Fierce Earth Dragon sped toward the black dog.

In the black dog's eyes, a hint of disdain flashed by.

"Buzz!"

In an instant, Black Wind turned into an afterimage that swept out.

In a flash, he appeared in front of the Fierce Earth Dragon.

The onlookers then saw several streaks of sharp light burst from the black dog's claws.

Its sharp claws instantly tore open the Fierce Earth Dragon's head.

"What, a Six-star War King Level Demon Beast?"

Everyone exclaimed in surprise.

Even the youth's face showed an incredibly surprised expression.

Clearly, he too had not expected that this seemingly ordinary black dog was actually a Six-star Battle King Level Demon Beast.

Xu Nian, on the other hand, didn't show the slightest bit of surprise.

This whole time, Black Wind had not been idle.

Xu Nian had fed Black Wind all of the Battle King Pills that Xu Tian had given him.

A total of twenty Battle King Pills, six of which went down the black dog's belly.

The remaining fourteen, all fed to Little Xu Yu.

Now, not only had the black dog's strength skyrocketed.

Little Xu Yu's strength had also seen a tremendous boost.

A Six-star War King Level black dog's combat power was definitely comparable to that of a Seven-star Battle King Level Demon Beast.

The black dog tore open the skull of the Fierce Earth Dragon and directly took out its Crystal Core.

He tossed it to Xu Nian.

Xu Nian smiled slightly, took the Crystal Core, and stored it in his storage ring.

These Crystal Cores were all treasures.

It would truly be a waste to just throw them away.

The youth, seeing his Fierce Earth Dragon killed in seconds, immediately had an angry expression wash over his face.

"Hmph, even if your black dog isn't simple, I want to see if you can also block my other two great Demon Beasts," the youth snorted coldly.

He immediately gave an order.

The two great Demon Beasts in front of him rushed towards Xu Nian and his group.

Xu Nian smiled slightly, not the least bit afraid.

He instantly ordered Black Wind to confront the Seven-star Battle King Level Fierce Earth-splitting Tiger.

Black Wind rushed out and engaged in combat with the giant tiger.

As for the Nine-star War King Level Red Scorching Tiger Lion,

Xu Nian had the three Elders take action to fight the tiger lion together.

A Nine-star War King expert, assisted by two Six-star Battle Kings,

managed to utterly suppress the Nine-star Battle King Level Demon Beast.

The youth frowned as he saw this scene.

He hadn't expected that the three giant beasts he had summoned wouldn't have any effect at all.

However, what he expected even less was that.

A purple vine suddenly surged from behind him, instantly wrapping him up tightly.

"Purple King Vine? A plant-type Demon Beast?"

The young man looked at the Purple King Vine wrapped around his body, a hint of surprise showing on his face.

Xu Nian's lips curled into a light smile.

From the moment he appeared in the great hall, he had already allowed the Purple King Vine to quietly slip into the young man's hair from behind.

The purpose was to take advantage of the young man's distraction and subdue him.

The Purple King Vine had a paralyzing effect.

Now, no matter how powerful this young man was, it would be difficult for him to display his true strength.

"Ha ha, do you think a mere Purple King Vine can trap me?" The young man laughed heartily.

Immediately, a surge of purple power erupted from the young man's body.

Following that, the Purple King Vine recoiled from the young man as if it had seen a ghost.

Xu Nian looked at the young man, his face reflecting a hint of surprise.

"Could this be the Beast Taming Secret Technique of the Beast Taming Sect?" Xu Nian mused curiously as he watched the purple glow emanating from the young man's body.

"Ha ha, using a Demon Beast to deal with me, boy, do you not know that our Beast Taming Sect's Beast Taming Technique is the bane of Demon Beasts?" The young man laughed heartily and looked at Xu Nian with a playful gleam in his eyes.

"Sure enough, it's the Beast Taming Sect's Beast Taming Secret Technique!" Xu Nian whispered to himself.

"Boy, it's all over, although I didn't expect you to have so many tricks up your sleeve, don't forget, you're just a Star Battle King, you're too weak on your own, and now without any help, you're bound to die by my sword," the young man laughed lightly.

Then, a sharp sword appeared in his hand.

His aura burst forth, revealing his status as a Six-star War King at the peak level.

"Six-star War King?" Xu Nian was shocked.

Although he had anticipated the young man's strength was not weak,

He never expected the young man to be a Six-star War King.

This young man looked to be no more than twenty-five or twenty-six years old at most, yet he possessed such high cultivation.

It was clear that he was a genius with heavenly-defying talent.

"Ha ha, Artifact Refining Sect Master, your end is assured today, and I don't mind telling you, I am Li Yuanba, the son of the Beast Taming Sect Master, now you know whose hands you'll die by!" The young man laughed wildly, his voice filled with arrogance.

In his view, Xu Nian was of One-star Battle King Level strength.

Even if he had strength surpassing his own cultivation, at most he possessed the power level of a Four-star Battle King.

As a Six-star War King, it would be easy for him to kill Xu Nian.

Xu Nian, hearing this, just smiled.

A Six-star War King was indeed mighty.

But to kill him, Xu Nian, was still far from enough.

"You're getting ahead of yourself. Just a Six-star War King is nothing; not to mention killing me, whether you can even survive against me is another matter entirely," Xu Nian said with a light laugh.

"Pretentious fool, die!" Li Yuanba snorted coldly.

After saying that, he directly swung his sharp sword at Xu Nian.

Xu Nian looked at Li Yuanba swinging his sword.

A cold smile formed on the corner of his mouth.

"Since you want to play, then I'll keep you company to the end, and let you witness my true power," Xu Nian said with a cold laugh.

"Boom!"

A thunderous sound.

The power within him burst out in an instant.

Immediately, the Immortal King Laurel Map Phenomenon and the Ancient Giant Sword Phenomenon both emerged behind him.

Not only that, a strange mark also emerged in the center of Xu Nian's forehead.

It was a sword shaped like a bolt of lightning.

Yes, this was the combined Ancestor Vein Power of the Fang Family and the Ye Family.

The two powers of the Ancestor Vein merged together in Xu Nian, emanating an incredibly strong might.

With the blessing of the Talent Phenomenon and the power of the Ancestor Vein,

Xu Nian's aura instantly increased by nearly tenfold.

His terrifying presence was in no way inferior to that of the young man.

"What?"

Seeing this, the young man's face immediately showed an expression of utmost shock.

"Take my sword!"

Xu Nian just sneered, and then he immediately slashed out with his sword in hand.

A fearsome Sword Radiance instantly burst forth.

Chapter 337 Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon

Sword Radiance slashed out, transforming into a long rainbow that charged at Li Yuanba with murderous intent.

Li Yuanba was greatly shocked and hurriedly swung his sword to defend.

The power of Xu Nian's sword was tremendous; even he dared not take it lightly.

"Clang!"

The two streams of Sword Qi collided, creating a powerful storm.

Li Yuanba was directly knocked back, his face showing a look of surprise.

He could never have imagined the Sword Radiance unleashed by Xu Nian would be so formidable.

"How about it, do you still think you can kill me?" Xu Nian stood proudly, holding the Black God sword.

Behind him, the Talent Phenomenon spread across the sky, enveloping the entire hall.

"Two types of Talent Phenomenon, how is this possible?"

Li Yuanba stared at the Talent Phenomenon behind Xu Nian, disbelief written across his face.

Even if Xu Nian were extraordinarily gifted, possessing the legendary Talent Phenomenon, how could he have two at the same time?

Xu Nian's lips curled into a light smile.

The marvelous aura of the Dan Sea Species Green Lotus was beyond the understanding of ordinary people.

That was a Cultivation Technique created by the Yetian God Emperor, a formidable figure in the Divine World, known for his everlasting reign.

Even Emperor Ye Tian had to admit

the wonder and strength of the Dan Sea Species Green Lotus.

Of course, he was able to exert combat strength far beyond his cultivation level.

Naturally, there was also the reason of having the support of two types of Ancestor Vein Power.

It had to be said that the Ancestor Vein Power of the Four Great Families was indeed very powerful.

Xu Nian incorporated it into his own attack,

which allowed his attack power to increase by fivefold.

And that was just from two types of Ancestor Vein Power.

If he could obtain all four types of Ancestor Vein Power, or absorb even more Ancestor Vein Power,

Xu Nian's attack power would definitely rise to another level.

"Hmph, don't get too cocky, I admit that your tactics have caught me off guard, but do you think I don't have any tricks up my sleeve?" Li Yuanba huffed coldly.

After speaking, his long sword quivered.

A terrifying Sword Qi burst forth from his long sword.

"This is the Sword Qi left inside my body by my father before I departed, with which I once slew a Nine-star War King. Now, only one remains, and today I shall use this second Sword Qi to slay you," Li Yuanba declared coldly.

After speaking, his entire demeanor became incredibly sharp.

He seemed like an unsheathed sword, emitting a heart-palpating edge.

"Such powerful Sword Qi, this must be Sword Qi unleashed by a Saint Level practitioner!" Xu Nian's face also showed a look of astonishment.

"Sect Master!"

Yann Hong was also nervously looking towards Xu Nian at this moment.

In this Sword Qi, she sensed a thick aura of death.

If it were her facing this sword, there would be absolutely no chance of survival.

"Step aside, I won't be harmed," Xu Nian quickly instructed.

Upon hearing this, Yann Hong's eyebrows furrowed, but she still retreated to a distance.

Xu Nian felt relieved seeing this scene, but his grip on the Black God sword also tightened somewhat.

"Time to die!"

Li Yuanba let out a contemptuous shout.

The sharp sword in his hand immediately slashed down.

A terrifying arc of Sword Radiance instantly formed a dreadful crescent, fiercely slashing towards Xu Nian.

The Sword Radiance arrived with blinding speed.

The hard floor was directly cleaved open.

The fierce Sword Radiance seemed to sweep through everything, cutting rapidly towards Xu Nian.

If struck, it would undoubtedly cut him into two halves in an instant.

...

The fierce sharpness emanating above was truly heart-pounding.

Xu Nian, watching the incoming Sword Radiance, had an especially intense gleam in his eyes.

A powerful sword intent burst forth from him.

Indeed, Xu Nian was about to utilize the newly comprehended One Slash Netherworld.

"Break for me!"

With a loud shout, Xu Nian's black sword slashed out in an instant.

A dark green Sword Radiance surged forth.

This strike nearly drained more than half of the Spiritual Energy in Xu Nian's body.

The slash carried immense power.

"Boom!"

The two Sword Qis collided, giving off a tremendous roar.

The entire hall shook violently.

A terrifying Sword Qi Storm instantly transformed into countless fragments of Sword Qi that scattered everywhere.

The whole hall was under assault.

The Artifact Refining Sect Elders, engaged in combat, were all hit by this Sword Qi Storm.

They had no choice but to interrupt their fight and defend against this ferocious Sword Qi Storm.

Xu Nian and Li Yuanba were also pushed back by this Sword Qi Storm.

"What? He actually blocked my Sword Qi?" Li Yuanba steadied himself and saw Xu Nian in the distance, completely unharmed, his eyes suddenly bulging with shock.

Xu Nian had actually blocked his sword strike, how could that be possible?

This sword had been infused with the Sword Qi left by his father, which even a Nine-star War King might not have been able to withstand.

How had Xu Nian managed it?

Xu Nian too found his footing, feeling a twinge of emotion.

Just now, the sword strike Li Yuanba used was truly powerful.

He had to use most of his strength just to barely receive that strike.

If another came, he would have no way to receive it, no matter what.

Fortunately, Li Yuanba no longer had such terrifying Sword Qi; otherwise, it would have been rather troublesome.

"Li Yuanba, if you have any more tricks up your sleeve, use them all now, otherwise, you won't have another chance," Xu Nian said with a smile.

Li Yuanba gritted his teeth, his face twisted with ferocity.

He couldn't believe his father's Sword Qi hadn't killed Xu Nian.

"You forced my hand, since you're seeking death, then I'll grant it to you. Come forth, Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon!" Li Yuanba's eyes filled with rage.

As soon as he finished speaking, a massive Demon Beast appeared behind him.

It was a large serpent dragon with its body covered in white scale armor.

It breathed out a terrifying coldness.

As it appeared, the temperature in the entire hall plummeted to freezing.

"Eh, this is a descendant of the Ice Frost Giant Dragon, the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon, and it's even at the peak of the Nine-star War King level."

The Artifact Refining Sect Elders' faces turned pale.

This was a beast with a Divine Beast Bloodline, and it was clear that the Bloodline Power was extremely strong.

Such a fearsome monster, let alone at the Nine-star War King level, even a Half-Saint would not dare to confront it easily.

Li Yuanba actually had such a terrifying beast with him?

Xu Nian was also surprised; he didn't expect Li Yuanba to have such a powerful ace up his sleeve.

"Kid, why are you disturbing my beautiful dream? I made a promise to your father to take action only once. Are you asking me to act now?" the deep voice of the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon sounded.

Hearing this, Xu Nian and the others realized that Li Yuanba did not have absolute control over the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon.

"Yes, I want you to take action and kill them," Li Yuanba pointed at Xu Nian and said.

The Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon looked toward Xu Nian, its eyes filled with thick disdain.

"A mere human child requires my action. It seems the Beast Taming Sect really is deteriorating generation after generation. Fine, since you've asked for action, then I'll kill him. After that, you're not allowed to bother me again," said the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon.

"Good, as long as Senior kills him, I'll never disturb Senior again," Li Yuanba spoke.

After finishing, his gaze toward Xu Nian also turned playful.

It seemed to say: Let's see how you defend yourself this time!

...

Chapter 338 Power of Nine Dragons Supreme

When the Artifact Refining Sect Elders heard the dialogue between Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon and Li Yuanba, their expressions immediately became anxious.

Although they knew that Xu Nian still had the God King Tripod unutilized,

they weren't sure if this God King Tripod could actually withstand the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon.

After all, this was a Divine Beast Bloodline Demon Beast of Nine-star Battle King Peak Level, its combat power incomparably terrifying.

Xu Nian, though somewhat surprised, was not yet at the point of fear.

Facing the provocation in Li Yuanba's eyes, he merely scoffed dismissively and acted as if he hadn't seen it.

He had once subdued the Peak of the Saint Black Hou, so why would he fear a mere Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon?

"Human lad, will you end yourself or shall I do it?" the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon asked as it looked down at Xu Nian.

Those enormous eyes held a trace of disdainful mockery.

A mere human youth, no matter how powerful, how strong could he really be?

Besides, his body possessed the supreme Ice Frost Giant Dragon Bloodline.

"End myself? You're that confident you can kill me?" Xu Nian looked at the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon and laughed.

The Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon regarded him as an ant, yet little did it know that Xu Nian saw it more like food.

The Ice Frost Giant Dragon Bloodline in this Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon was not weak.

If he could devour the Dragon Energy within its body, it would undoubtedly cause an explosive increase in his Body Cultivation.

"Ha ha, human lad, are you joking with this king? Creatures like you, I can crush countless with ease. It seems you are not only weak but ignorant as well; since that is the case, let this king show you just how strong I really am," the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon laughed heartily.

Upon conclusion, a terrifying aura of Battle King Peak Level burst forth immediately.

The Artifact Refining Sect Elders all felt their hearts sink, retreating several steps from this dreadful aura.

Yann Hong's face turned pale in an instant, and a trickle of fresh blood escaped her lips.

The aura of Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon was too terrifying; with her strength, let alone resist, she couldn't even stand firm before it.

Standing behind the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon, Li Yuanba's lips curled up more scornfully upon witnessing this scene.

In his view, it would be extremely easy for the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon to kill Xu Nian.

Therefore, Xu Nian was undoubtedly doomed.

However, the next scene shocked Li Yuanba.

Faced with the terrifying majestic aura of the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon, Xu Nian's figure remained utterly motionless.

"How is this possible? How can he withstand such powerful suppression?" Li Yuanba said, puzzled.

For one must understand, this was the pressure from a Divine Beast Bloodline Demon Beast of Nine-star Battle King Peak Level.

Apart from the aura of the Nine-star Battle King Peak, it also contained terrifying Dragon Power.

Under this Dragon Power, even Saints would be affected.

How could Xu Nian possibly feel nothing?

The Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon's face also showed surprise; how could a mere human withstand the Dragon Power emanating from its body?

"Are you surprised? Strange that your Dragon Power doesn't affect me?" Xu Nian said, smiling at the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon.

"Human, do you have some treasure of my Dragon Clan on you?" the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon asked, puzzled.

"Ha ha, treasure? Indeed, I do have a treasure of the Dragon Clan on me, and it even belongs to your ancestor, the Ice Frost Giant Dragon," Xu Nian replied, laughing.

With that, the Dragon Energy of the Ice Frost Giant activated, and a strong aura of the Ice Frost Giant Dragon immediately radiated from Xu Nian's body.

Seeing this, the eyes of the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon lit up instantly.

It felt the strong Ice Frost Giant Dragon's aura on Xu Nian.

To this sensation, it could not be mistaken, it even felt the Ice Frost Giant Dragon's aura in Xu Nian's body was richer than in its own.

"Ha ha, I didn't expect an unexpected gain. Human lad, hand over the treasure quickly, or you will die a gruesome death," the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon laughed threateningly, its eyes filled with intense greed.

"Alright then, catch," Xu Nian said, smiling.

"Quick, quick!" the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon urged immediately.

Xu Nian gave a faint smile, then took a step forward.

The formidable pressure of the Nine Dragons Supreme Body was immediately released from Xu Nian.

As soon as the pressure of the Nine Dragons Supreme Body appeared,

the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon felt as if a great mountain had pressed down on it, and it collapsed to the ground with a loud thump.

"This... this is..."

The Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon spoke in terror, its massive body trembling.

At that moment, its heart was filled with fear.

Indeed, the authority of the Nine Venerable Supreme Divine Body emanating from Xu Nian greatly suppressed its bloodline.

It had never expected that the human before it was actually a Supreme of their Dragon Clan.

This sudden turn of events shocked everyone present.

The Artifact Refining Sect Elders gaped, unable to believe what they were seeing and filled with confusion.

Why would the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon suddenly be so frightened by Xu Nian's aura, collapsing to the ground in fear?

Of course, Li Yuanba was the most shocked.

This Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon was incredibly proud, and even his father couldn't fully subdue it.

Yet now, it was frightened into kneeling before this young man.

How could this be possible?

Unless he had seen it with his own eyes, even if beaten to death, he wouldn't believe it was true.

"Rise, aren't you a descendant of the Dragon Clan? Aren't you a Divine Beast Bloodline Demon Beast at the Peak of Battle King level? How can you be afraid of a human?" Li Yuanba roared in despair.

The actions of the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon profoundly agitated him.

Their Beast Taming Sect took great pride in their beast-taming skills.

And yet, a Demon Beast they couldn't subdue themselves,

was now trembling before Xu Nian.

This intense shock struck at his pride deeply.

Li Yuanba's roar fell, but the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon showed no reaction at all.

Xu Nian watched this scene with a hint of amusement in his eyes.

Though his Nine Dragons Supreme Body was still in its initial stage,

this Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon was not a genuine member of the Dragon Clan.

Even the True Dragon Soul of the Dragon Clan dared not resist him, let alone a mere Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon.

"Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon, are you satisfied with the treasure I gave you?" Xu Nian asked with a smile.

"Great... Great Lord, I truly meant no offense. Please spare me this time!" the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon pleaded urgently.

Under Xu Nian's suppression, it couldn't muster any strength to fight.

It could be said that Xu Nian could easily kill him at this moment.

Everyone around was dumbfounded.

What was going on, why was the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon so terrified of Xu Nian?

Xu Nian just scoffed coldly, and the God King Tripod appeared above the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon.

"Boom!"

The God King Tripod smashed down,

killing the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon instantly without any resistance.

The people from Artifact Refining Sect were left speechless.

A Nine-star Peak Level Divine Beast Bloodline Demon Beast had just been mysteriously killed?

Li Yuanba stood confused,

but he quickly realized the situation and hastily attempted to escape through the passage.

However, before he had gone far, he felt a terrifying suction force from behind.

Soon after, he was sucked into the God King Tripod, shredded by the horrific power of Taiyin.

With his death, the remaining two Demon Beasts also died on the spot, their spirits scattered and bodies heavily falling to the ground.

Chapter 339 Strength Enhancement

Artifact Refining Sect's three Elders and Yann Hong stared blankly at the large beast corpse on the ground.

Their faces were a mix of surprise and confusion.

They still couldn't figure out why, when facing Xu Nian's attack, the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon didn't resist at all.

Xu Nian looked at the astonished expressions on everyone's faces,

but a smile appeared on his own face.

This was his biggest secret.

He naturally wouldn't explain to them like they would to others.

The Power of Nine Dragons Supreme had a strong oppressiveness over demon beasts but had no effect at all on humans.

Thus, they naturally couldn't understand what the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon was feeling at that moment.

"Black Wind, extract all the Demon Beast Crystal Cores," Xu Nian instructed.

Black Wind immediately became a shadow and broke open the heads of these demon beasts, extracting the Crystal Cores.

Meanwhile, Xu Nian walked up to the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon and began to absorb the Ice Frost Giant Dragon Qi inside its body.

Sure enough, as he absorbed, the Ice Frost Giant Dragon Qi inside Xu Nian instantly became much stronger.

This, in turn, once again enhanced Xu Nian's control over the Xuan Ice Power.

Not only that but as this Dragon Energy was absorbed,

Xu Nian's Divine Demon Cultivation also received an enormous boost.

It broke through directly from the One-star Body King Realm to the Three-star Body King Realm.

Yes, this was the benefit of the Nine Dragons Supreme Body.

With each additional strand of Dragon Energy absorbed, another part of his potential was unearthed.

This was still with the Dragon Qi of the Ice Frost Giant Dragon not being dense enough; otherwise, Xu Nian's Body Cultivation could have increased even more.

Xu Nian then took out the Demon Cores collected by Black Wind.

He sat down directly on the ground and began cultivating.

Yes, he intended to devour the power in these Demon Cores to enhance his own Cultivation.

His realm was too low now, and the upcoming battle for the dragon veins would be even more dangerous, so he had to increase his Cultivation.

As for the corpses of these demon beasts,

Xu Nian gave one Nine-star War King Level demon beast corpse to both Black Dog and Purple King Vine.

The rest, he gave to Little Xu Yu.

After all, given the absorption capabilities of Black Dog and Purple King Vine,

one Nine-star War King Level demon beast corpse was enough for them to absorb for a very long time.

However, Little Xu Yu was different; he was a true Divine Beast.

Even if given many more demon beast corpses, he would still absorb them without any problem.

Xu Nian believed that with these demon beast corpses,

Little Xu Yu's Cultivation would definitely rise to a very powerful level.

Of course, the one who gained the most was Xu Nian himself.

A total of six Demon Cores, four of which were from Nine-star War Kings.

Such terrifying demon core energy, if released all at once, could level an entire city.

And now Xu Nian was going to absorb all of the energy from these Demon Cores?

Xu Nian was seen sitting cross-legged in the center of the great hall, holding the Demon Beast Crystal Core of a Five-star Battle King Level demon beast in his hand.

A terrifying suction force emanated from his hand.

Then everyone saw the energy within the Crystal Core surge out, flowing directly along Xu Nian's arm into his body.

"Directly absorbing the power of a Demon Beast Crystal Core? Has the Sect Master lost his mind?"

The Artifact Refining Sect Elders widened their eyes at this sight.

The energy within the Demon Cores was incredibly wild, and even Saints wouldn't dare to directly absorb the energy from a Demon Core.

And now Xu Nian was wildly absorbing the energy of a Five-star Battle King Level Demon Beast Crystal Core.

Wasn't this courting death?

Yann Hong's face was also filled with shock.

Xu Nian's actions had startled her considerably.

"Let's wait and see. If anything seems amiss, we'll immediately intervene," Yann Hong said.

The three great Artifact Refining Sect Elders nodded firmly, fixating their gazes on Xu Nian as if facing a formidable enemy.

However, as time passed, Xu Nian not only showed no signs of anomaly,

But the Demon Beast Crystal Core in his hand shattered at this moment.

It turned out that he had drained all of its energy.

"How come it's so little? To only attain the Peak of One-star Battle King and not break through to Two-star Battle King?" Xu Nian said, feeling depressed.

The three Great Elders, including Yann Hong, were stunned upon hearing this.

A Five-star Battle King Level Demon Beast had its energy completely drained, and he didn't break through to Two-star Battle King?

And he absorbed the power of the Demon Beast Crystal Core without any consequences?

The three Great Elders and Yann Hong felt as if their worldviews had been turned upside down.

This was the first time they realized

That the power of a Demon Beast Crystal Core could be directly absorbed?

Of course, they dared not try it themselves.

At this moment, even if they were fools, they knew it was due to the heaven-defying Combat Technique that Xu Nian practiced.

But they couldn't possibly imagine what kind of Combat Technique could allow such unrestrained absorption of a Demon Beast Crystal Core's power.

Yet, what Xu Nian did next shocked them even more.

This time, Xu Nian directly took out two Nine-star War King Level Demon Beast Crystal Cores.

One in each hand, he started to absorb wildly.

Two torrents of berserk power surged up his arms, madly rushing into Xu Nian's Dantian.

The flood of power, like thunder rolling continuously,

Echoed within Xu Nian's body.

The three Great Elders and Yann Hong watched with their eyes wide and mouths agape.

This is a Nine-star War King Level Demon Beast Crystal Core!

Holding two Demon Beast Crystal Cores at once to absorb, isn't he afraid his body will explode?

What kind of terrifying absorption speed is required to sustain such a level of cultivation?

Is this guy even human?

At this moment, they finally understood why Xu Nian, so young, possessed such high Cultivation.

They also understood why Xu Nian could exert such heaven-defying combat power despite being only a One-star Battle King.

Having absorbed so much energy, anyone else would have advanced an entire major realm.

But Xu Nian only broke through by one or two stars.

Just how terrifying must the Spiritual Energy reserves be for each star he broke through?

As time went on, Xu Nian's Cultivation soared straight up.

Finally, he broke through to the Four-star Battle King Peak Level.

Only one Demon Beast Crystal Core remained in Xu Nian's hands, that of the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon.

Originally, Xu Nian planned to absorb it.

But then he thought that even if he did, he could only break through to the Five-star Peak.

It would be better to leave this Demon Core for the Black Gold Puppet.

The Black Gold Puppet relied on the power of Demon Beast Crystal Cores to maintain its combat strength.

If it were equipped with the Ice Crystal Sky King Dragon's Crystal Core, it would undoubtedly attain the combat strength of the Peak of Battle King.

In this way, Xu Nian would have another high-level expert at the Peak of Battle King Level in his hands.

Next, Xu Nian took out Li Yuanba's storage ring.

Indeed, the Snake Pill he had previously claimed was inside the storage ring.

Without hesitation, Xu Nian threw the Snake Pill to Chen Wudi.

With this Snake Pill, the poison in Chen Tiansheng's body could be cured.

Perhaps he could even use this opportunity to break through to the Saint Realm.

At the very least, he could reach the Semi-Saint Realm.

With this, Xu Nian's forces would grow stronger once again.

"Let's continue forward. I estimate that after a few more halls, we'll reach the main hall where the Dragon Vein is located," Xu Nian said to Yann Hong and the others.

Yann Hong and the others nodded earnestly.

Having witnessed Xu Nian's combat strength, they were filled with even more confidence in this battle for the Dragon Vein.

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Then, Xu Nian and his three companions continued deeper into the tomb.

As they progressed, the aura of the Dragon Vein grew increasingly intense.

This made Xu Nian even more certain that they were on the right path.

The next few halls they encountered contained neither opportunities nor dangers.

This indicated that someone had already been here.

According to Xu Nian's guess, it was very likely the people from the Four Great Families.

"After passing the side hall ahead, we will reach the main hall. However, before entering the main hall, there is a challenge that must be overcome to gain entry," Zhao Yanyun's voice once again echoed in Xu Nian's mind.

Xu Nian felt a surge of joy.

This meant they had indeed chosen the correct route.

"Sister Hong, Elder, you go into the Star Tower first, I will go in alone," Xu Nian instructed the Elder and the others.

"Sect Master, isn't it too dangerous for you to go alone?" the Fourth Elder asked with some concern.

"Don't worry. With my current strength, how many people do you think can harm me? Besides, if necessary, I will call you out again," Xu Nian said with a smile.

The Fourth Elder was momentarily stunned.

Oh, that's right!

Even before their sect master had made a breakthrough, he was already able to kill those Nine-star War Kings.

Now that his cultivation had surged again, he naturally wouldn't face any danger.

Moreover, now that they followed Xu Nian, they wouldn't be of much use.

They might even hold Xu Nian back.

Rather than that, it would be safer for them to enter the Star Tower.

Seeing everyone nod, Xu Nian had Chen Wudi admit the four into the Star Tower.

Watching the four disappear, Xu Nian smiled faintly.

He looked in the direction of the side hall, turning into a fleeting shadow and heading there.

Soon Xu Nian arrived at the entrance of this side hall.

Inside, there stood quite a few people.

These people were indeed from the Four Great Families and the Seventh Imperial Prince, among others.

Seeing this scene, a smile appeared on Xu Nian's face.

It was just as he had guessed.

The Four Great Families each had their means and had found this place.

Xu Nian took a glance around the crowd and finally saw the unscathed Xu Xin.

This immediately relieved him.

In his view, Xu Xin was far more important than the Dragon Vein.

Directly ahead in this side hall, there stood a Stone Gate.

The gate was covered with enchantments.

Clearly, these people had been stopped by this Stone Gate.

Otherwise, they would not be gathering inside this side hall.

Previously, Zhao Yanyun had mentioned that there was a challenge within this side hall.

Only by overcoming the challenge could they enter the main hall.

What this challenge was, however, remained unknown.

"Who is it? Come out!"

However, just at that moment, the Seventh Imperial Prince suddenly turned and bellowed.

Everyone around instantly turned their gaze toward the entrance where Xu Nian was.

Xu Nian smiled faintly, knowing he had been discovered, and no longer hid, stepping out.

"Is it you? How did you get here?"

The Fang Family, Ye Family, and Xu Family members all showed surprise.

They had not expected Xu Nian to have passed through the vast Star Array and reached this place.

The Imperial Prince's gaze also turned cold, then he conjured a slight smile.

Upon seeing Xu Nian, Xu Xin's face revealed a rare smile.

Clearly, she too was worried about Xu Nian's safety.

Seeing Xu Nian appear, she finally put down the stone in her heart.

Xu Nian smiled faintly.

Of the Four Great Families, he had already met with three.

It was only the Leng Family that he had not yet contacted.

Soon, his gaze fell on two youths beside him.

This time, the Leng Family had not brought many people, only two.

However, both of their cultivation levels were quite high.

The one aged twenty-seven or twenty-eight had clearly reached the level of a Six-star Battle King.

As for the other, around thirty, he had already reached the peak of the Nine-star Battle King.

Such combat power could be said to be quite strong.

Seventh Prince Xia Zhenglei began, "I didn't expect the Artifact Refining Sect Master to be able to find this place, it seems we underestimated the Artifact Refining Sect. I wonder if the Sect Master would be willing to join our Imperial Family, to become one of us?"

"Eh?" The surrounding crowd was all stunned.

Did the Seventh Prince want to win over the Artifact Refining Sect Master?

But thinking about it, it made sense. Such a young Artifact Refining Sect Master would definitely have great potential in the future.

"Thank you for your kind offer, Your Highness. Our Artifact Refining Sect is secluded and solely devoted to pursuing the Artifact Refining Technique. We are not interested in other disputes, so I can only thank you for your good intentions," Xu Nian replied with a smile.

The crowd, upon hearing this, showed a trace of surprise.

This guy actually directly refused an invitation from the Imperial Family?

This also gave them a sigh of relief.

If the Artifact Refining Sect really pledged allegiance to the Imperial Family, then the pressure on their Four Great Families would be tremendous.

Xia Zhenglei's face showed a flash of anger after hearing Xu Nian's words.

However, he quickly masked it.

"Since the Sect Master says so, then I was too presumptuous. However, if one day the Sect Master changes his mind, the doors of the Imperial Family will always be open to you," Xia Zhenglei laughed heartily.

Xu Nian responded with a smile.

He had already killed Imperial Prince Xia Zhengfeng, how could he possibly join the Imperial Family?

If the Seventh Prince knew his true identity, not chopping him into pieces would already be considered merciful.

"Ha ha, I am Leng Cangfeng. The behavior of Master Lin outside the tomb also impressed me. May I have the honor of becoming your friend?"

However, just as Xia Zhenglei finished speaking, a Nine-star Battle King Peak from the Leng Family approached Xu Nian with a smile.

The other three great families were also stunned.

Were the Leng Family really throwing out an olive branch at this time?

And they were even openly attempting to snatch someone from the Imperial Family?

Had they lost their minds?

Xu Nian was also startled.

Did this Leng Cangfeng not realize that befriending him now would provoke the dissatisfaction of the Imperial Family?

Xu Nian glanced towards Xia Zhenglei.

Sure enough, Xia Zhenglei was looking at Leng Cangfeng with displeasure.

However, Leng Cangfeng seemed completely unaware, smiling at Xu Nian.

But since Leng Cangfeng was intentionally trying to be friendly, Xu Nian was also quite happy to reciprocate.

After all, Leng Yanran was from the Leng Family.

So, he and the Leng Family also had some connections.

"I am Lin Long, and I'm very pleased to meet Brother Leng!" Xu Nian replied with a smile.

"Lin Long? Ha ha, nice name!" Leng Cangfeng laughed loudly, his eyes filled with amusement as he looked at Xu Nian.

Xu Nian's brow involuntarily furrowed.

He felt that there was an implication in Leng Cangfeng's words.

However, just then, a voice rang out in Xu Nian's mind.

"Sect Master Xu Nian, your disguise technique is truly extraordinary; even I was almost deceived by you."

Xu Nian's body stiffened, and he quickly turned to look at Leng Cangfeng.

It was then that Xu Nian noticed Leng Cangfeng's continuous smiling gaze towards him.

Seeing this smile, Xu Nian immediately realized that Leng Cangfeng had recognized his true identity.

But he was somewhat puzzled as to how Leng Cangfeng had figured it out.