

Doctor 591

Chapter 591: The Tactic of Entanglement

Recruiting Fang Bai to serve as a "Dragon Guard" Instructor was a decision made by Long Jingtian and his granddaughter, the Dragon Maiden, after they personally witnessed the discussions on martial arts between Fang Bai and Shaolin's Master Xuan Nan at Shaolin, and even helped Master Xuan Nan advance in ranking, extending his life by decades.

For Long Jingtian and the Dragon Maiden, that was nothing short of a miracle.

They believed that if Fang Bai would accept the offer to become an Instructor for "Dragon Guard," then those Dragon Guard members whose cultivation had reached a bottleneck could also create miracles under his guidance.

"It's not that I'm unwilling, but I simply can't split myself into two!"

Fang Bai sighed and shook his head, saying, "You should know that I'm interning at Yanjing Hospital, where I'm busy with a constant stream of patients from morning to night. I really can't take on the position of Instructor! You should find someone more capable."

Seeing Fang Bai's polite refusal, Long Jingtian couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed.

But the Dragon Maiden was not willing to give up, saying, "Being a 'Dragon Guard' Instructor won't take up much of your time! Even if you could spare just a day or two per month to guide us, that would be enough!"

She paused for a moment, exchanged a glance with her grandfather, Long Jingtian, and then continued, "Fang Bai, as long as you're willing to take on the role of 'Dragon Guard' Instructor, your remuneration will be doubled, and you will also receive more privileges. For instance, you will have significant commanding authority over 'Dragon Guard,' like being able to mobilize many of Dragon Guard's resources, and even..."

The Dragon Maiden listed out the privileges Fang Bai would have as the Instructor—in effect, by accepting the position, Fang Bai would control almost half of the "Dragon Guard," wielding power almost on par with Long Jingtian himself, the leader.

To sway Fang Bai, Long Jingtian and his granddaughter did not hesitate to offer such generous terms, which clearly showed how much they valued him.

No wonder, with Fang Bai's combined expertise in medicine and martial arts and his formidable strength. With him on board, "Dragon Guard's" influence among the world's seven meta-human organizations would undoubtedly increase significantly.

In the eyes of Long Jingtian and his granddaughter, any condition would be worthwhile if Fang Bai would agree to become an Instructor of "Dragon Guard," and Long Jingtian would not hesitate to abdicate his position as leader and hand over the reins to Fang Bai if required.

After all, "Dragon Guard" was not privately owned; it was established by the Huaxia government, created to protect the citizens of Huaxia.

As she spoke, the Dragon Maiden's beautiful eyes were fixed intently on Fang Bai's face, trying to capture any changes in his expression that might reveal his thoughts, so she could use this information to formulate her next attempt at persuasion.

However, Fang Bai maintained an indifferent expression throughout, his facial expressions giving no clue to his inner thoughts, which left the Dragon Maiden feeling helpless.

"Fang Bai, will you or will you not take the position of 'Dragon Guard' Instructor? Say something!"

The Dragon Maiden spoke at length until her mouth was dry and her tongue parched. Seeing that Fang Bai remained non-committal, she stomped her foot and said in a petulant voice.

She was a stunning beauty with a spirited charm, and her light show of annoyance added a touch of allure. Fang Bai looked at her and his heart couldn't help but stir.

"What would you do if I said I'm not willing?"

Fang Bai looked at the Dragon Maiden and asked.

"Me?"

The Dragon Maiden's eyes darted around as if recalling something. She suddenly giggled and said, "Then I would have no choice but to employ the old trick of the 'nagging' technique again!"

Fang Bai gave a bitter smile and said, "I knew you would say that..."

In order to persuade Fang Bai to join the "Dragon Guard," the Dragon Maiden had given up all her other pursuits and followed him every day, making such a nuisance of herself that he finally had no choice but to agree and become a member of the "Dragon Guard."

Fang Bai knew that the Dragon Maiden was extremely stubborn and if he didn't agree this time to take on the role of an instructor for the "Dragon Guard," there was no telling how she would pester him next.

As for the Dragon Maiden, Fang Bai had come to think of her as a friend. He couldn't hit her or scold her, so what else could he do but give in to her request?

Moreover, since he was already a member of the "Dragon Guard," and essentially comrades-in-arms with the other members, taking some time to give them pointers didn't seem like it would take much effort.

"Alright, considering such generous and tempting conditions, I accept your offer. But you must fulfill the promised conditions without fail, or I'll bail at any time!"

Fang Bai sighed, his face the picture of reluctance.

To be an instructor for the "Dragon Guard" was an honor many yearned for and could not obtain, yet here was Fang Bai, looking as if he accepted the position with great reluctance. Anyone else speaking like this might have found themselves slapped away by Long Jingtian a long time ago.

However, with Fang Bai's strength being undeniable, Long Jingtian naturally wouldn't dare lay a hand on him — otherwise, it would be uncertain who would be sent flying!

"Fantastic!"

Seeing Fang Bai agree, Long Jingtian and the Dragon Maiden were overjoyed.

"Take this with you!"

As if worried Fang Bai might change his mind, Long Jingtian immediately stuffed an ID into his hand.

The ID had prominent words like "Dragon Guard Instructor" and "Heaven Group" on it, clearly prepared in advance, showing that Long Jingtian had long intended to hire Fang Bai as an instructor for the "Dragon Guard."

With the new ID in hand, Fang Bai's previous Earth Group membership officially became invalid.

Now that he was a "Dragon Guard" instructor, it seemed only proper to meet the other "Dragon Guard" members, so led by Long Jingtian and the Dragon Maiden, Fang Bai followed them to a vast indoor training ground located behind the manor.

This indoor training ground, built specifically for "Dragon Guard" members, was as large as two football fields and could accommodate hundreds of people practicing martial arts simultaneously.

Around the training ground, a series of adjoining terraced houses were built. These were for members who had grown up in the "Dragon Guard" and served as their living and cultivation quarters.

Other "Dragon Guard" members from various Ancient Martial Sects and Prominent Clans had a lot of freedom. They could choose to live there or elsewhere; they were under no obligation as long as they could promptly convene at the "Dragon Guard" whenever called upon.

When Fang Bai entered this indoor training ground with Long Jingtian and the Dragon Maiden, he saw dozens of "Dragon Guard" members scattered about the place, diligently practicing their martial arts.

Punches howled through the air, leg silhouettes appeared densely packed, and the shimmering of blades and swords were visible, accompanied by intermittent roaring and shouting. Bricks and stones occasionally cracked and shattered under the martial artists' strikes, scattering debris in all directions.

And from within those adjoining terraced houses, waves of energy fluctuations could be felt; Fang Bai guessed that some "Dragon Guard" members were inside, behind closed doors, cultivating their techniques.

The houses had excellent soundproofing so that martial artists could cultivate their techniques without being disturbed by external noise.

Chapter 592: The Core Strength of "Dragon Guard"

"How do you feel, Brother Fang, having come here?"

Fang Bai, Long Jingtian, and Dragon Maiden walked side by side on the Training Ground, watching as members of the "Dragon Guard," each one strong and vigorous, practiced their punches and kicks. Long Jingtian nodded in satisfaction before asking Fang Bai.

"Feelings?"

Fang Bai stopped in his tracks, looking at a Dragon Guard member nearby—fortyish in age but already possessing Profound Level High Rank strength—and said, "My feeling is...their way of cultivation needs some changes in order to achieve the best cultivation results,"

"Brother Fang, what do you mean by that?"

Long Jingtian's expression instantly grew serious upon hearing Fang Bai's words.

Could it be that these "Dragon Guard" members' cultivation levels had reached the Earth Level initial-stage realm and then progressed no further because of his own incorrect teaching methods? But all the previous leaders of the "Dragon Guard" had taught in the same way!

Moreover, hadn't he also cultivated all the way up in the same manner, and didn't his cultivation reach the Heaven Level Martial Artist realm?

Fang Bai seemed to perceive the thoughts in Long Jingtian's heart and said with a smile, "Brother Long, you must be thinking, why could you reach the Heaven Level Realm using the same cultivation method back in the day, while they can't, right?"

Long Jingtian let out a dry laugh and nodded, saying, "I am indeed dull, Brother Fang. Please enlighten me."

Fang Bai said, "Brother Long has the cultivation level of today not only because of high qualification and Wuxing but also due to some fortuitous encounters, right?"

Long Jingtian did not expect Fang Bai to have noticed that as well and looked at Fang Bai admiringly, nodding and saying, "Indeed, when I was in my forties, I came across a Polygonum multiflorum that had been growing for five hundred years during a mission. After consuming it, I underwent a great transformation, and finally, within a span of ten years, I advanced from the Earth Level Realm to the Heaven Level Realm, achieving today's success."

Dragon Maiden had heard about the incident of Long Jingtian advancing to a Heaven Level Martial Artist with the help of the five-hundred-year-old Polygonum multiflorum from her grandfather before. As she heard him mention it again, her pretty face was full of envy, thinking how lucky her grandfather was.

As for Fang Bai, in the past, he had even seen spiritual medicine of the immortal grade that had reached a million years in medicinal age, so a five-hundred-year-old Polygonum multiflorum was almost the same as a weed to him. However, in this world, encountering spiritual medicine with a medicinal age of five hundred years was indeed a great opportunity.

Fang Bai said, "Such an opportunity is rare and hard to find for Brother Long, which is why he managed to reach the Heaven Level Realm. But these 'Dragon Guard' members, unfortunately, do not have the same good fortune and opportunities as Brother Long."

Long Jingtian sighed, "Indeed, I am an exception. Without that Polygonum multiflorum, my current cultivation level, I fear, would still be hovering around the Earth Level Realm."

Fang Bai said, "Therefore, fortuitous encounters will not come looking for us; it is the martial artist who must seek them out."

"I understand now..."

Reflectively, Long Jingtian said, "Brother Fang means...to let these 'Dragon Guard' members venture out more often instead of just burying their heads in cultivation here."

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Exactly. There are countless ways in the world, and like other paths, Martial Dao too requires interaction with heaven and earth, to comprehend and perceive it through nature. Confined to one place for cultivation, one cannot grasp the true Dao, let alone encounter opportunities worth seeking..."

After listening to Fang Bai, Long Jingtian sighed, "Learning from our talk has been more instructive than reading books for ten years! I find it laughable that I used to believe as long as I had the inheritance of Martial Arts Techniques and engaged in devoted cultivation, I could reach a higher Martial Dao Realm... I was wrong... all the former leaders of the 'Dragon Guard' were wrong..."

The Dragon Maiden listened to Fang Bai's few words as he pinpointed the issues with the "Dragon Guard" members during their cultivation; she held in her heart an even greater sense of admiration and respect for him.

As Fang Bai, Long Jingtian, and the Dragon Maiden arrived, the "Dragon Guard" members practicing their punches and kicks at the Training Ground took notice. However, they did not stop their drills. Instead, they intensified their efforts, occasionally letting out loud shouts and roars, hoping to catch the Dragon Maiden's attention.

These "Dragon Guard" members were all orphans adopted by successive "Dragon Guard" leaders. They grew up with the Dragon Maiden and shared a deep bond.

Some of them were already settled down with families, treating the Dragon Maiden as their own sister, while those who were not yet married saw the Dragon Maiden as a goal for pursuit, hoping one day to marry her.

The Dragon Maiden was the granddaughter of the "Dragon Guard" leader, Long Jingtian, and also the Heavenly Daughter of the "Dragon Group." Not only was she extremely beautiful, but she was also

brilliant and gifted with exceptional Wuxing, regarded as the successor to the "Dragon Guard" leadership. Gaining her favor, or even marrying her, would be an honor of the highest order.

"Alright, everyone stop your cultivation and come over here!"

The three stood at the center of the indoor Training Ground as Long Jingtian looked around, cleared his throat, and with a strong voice filled with True Essence Force, called out.

His voice, containing the True Essence Force, clearly reached every "Dragon Guard" member's ears.

So whether they were practicing their punches and kicks in the Training Ground or sitting cross-legged inside the row houses on the perimeter, working on their Cultivation Methods, every "Dragon Guard" member ceased their cultivation and gathered towards where the three were standing.

Over a hundred "Dragon Guard" members, some with stern expressions, others laughing merrily, and still others with indifferent faces or whispering to each other, each had a different look and bearing. However, when they saw Fang Bai, each one's gaze revealed a hint of surprise, wondering who this young man was to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their revered "Dragon Guard" leader, Long Jingtian.

Could he be some ancient, rejuvenated senior from the Ancient Martial World?

"Leader, hello!"

"Dragon Maiden, hello!"

Over a hundred "Dragon Guard" members approached and greeted Long Jingtian and his granddaughter, the Dragon Maiden.

Long Jingtian and the Dragon Maiden nodded and smiled frequently in response.

The gathered "Dragon Guard" members, all orphans raised and taught Martial Arts Techniques by successive "Dragon Guard" leaders, had deep affection for one another. Although Long Jingtian had only

personally taken his most talented granddaughter, the Dragon Maiden, for focused training, he treated the other "Dragon Guard" members as his own as well, with much care and affection.

Looking at the familiar faces around him, some still youthfully naive and others mature and steady, and feeling the eager respect in their eyes, Long Jingtian felt a warmth in his heart.

Although there were hundreds of "Dragon Guard" members, only those present, the core force of the "Dragon Guard," were the most loyal. With just one command from him, they would charge forward bravely, ready to die for the honor of the "Dragon Guard."

"Today, I have come here to tell you two things. First, you should all know by now about the 'World Meta-Human Organizations' Elite Tournament,' held every five years. It will take place in a month, and the location for this session is in America's famous gambling city, Las Vegas!"

As Long Jingtian's words fell, the surrounding hundred or so "Dragon Guard" members stirred, excitement and longing apparent on each face.

Chapter 593: "Dragon Guard" The One Hundred and Eight Generals

"The World Meta-Human Elite Grand Prix" is a magnificent gathering of "meta-humans" from around the world, representing the pinnacle of "meta-human abilities". To represent "Dragon Guard" in the Grand Prix would be an immense honor, an affirmation of one's own strength.

For each "World Meta-Human Elite Grand Prix", "Dragon Guard" sends a ten-member team. By this time in previous years, the list of ten had been announced. However, this year, for some reason, the list has yet to be released, leading to speculation among the "Dragon Guard" members.

"Stop speculating, everyone. I have already prepared the list of those who will go to America to participate in this Grand Prix, and it will be announced soon. Those who are selected should not become complacent, because from what I know, our opponents this year are stronger than before; and those not selected should not be discouraged—there will be another chance next time!"

Long Jingtian said with a chuckle.

"Reporting to the leader, my cultivation level has broken through to the Earth Level early-stage this early morning! I want to participate in this Grand Prix! Please approve, leader!"

A "Dragon Guard" member, slender with delicate brows and eyes, around forty years of age, raised his right hand and said loudly.

Long Jingtian's gaze fell upon that "Dragon Guard" member, sensing a strong martial artist aura emanating from him.

Long Jingtian's eyes lit up and he walked over, giving a hearty laugh. He patted the member on the shoulder and said, "Good! Thirteen, I'm delighted you have advanced to the Earth Level Realm. Starting today, after Long Da, Long Er, Long San, and Long Si, our 'Dragon Guard' has gained another Earth Level Martial Artist!"

The past leaders of "Dragon Guard", finding naming adopted orphans tedious, simply used Long (Dragon) as the surname and a number as the name, hence names such as Long Da, Long Er, Long San, and Long Si.

Dragon Maiden was an exception; because of her exceptional talent, she was fortunate to be adopted by Long Jingtian as his granddaughter and given the more formal name "Dragon Maiden".

Up to now, apart from Dragon Maiden, "Dragon Guard" had adopted one hundred and eight other orphans, with the last one being named "Long One Hundred and Eight".

These one hundred and eight orphans were jokingly referred to by those in the know within the Ancient Martial World as "Dragon Guard's" one hundred and eight generals.

These one hundred and eight "Dragon Guard" members, ranging from Yellow Level to Earth Level in cultivation, are not to be underestimated; their overall strength is not much weaker than that of a grand Ancient Martial Sect like Shaolin.

To be strict, these one hundred and eight members are the core members of "Dragon Guard", while individual cultivation martial artists and disciples from various Ancient Martial Sects and Prominent Clans are peripheral members. Combined, they number several hundred—a true behemoth.

It is precisely because of this that "Dragon Guard" became one of the world's seven renowned meta-human organizations.

The "Dragon Guard" member speaking with Long Jingtian was named Long Shisan, meaning he was the thirteenth orphan adopted into "Dragon Guard".

Among the orphans adopted by the previous leaders of "Dragon Guard", Long Shisan's talents were not the most outstanding; however, his dedication to cultivation was definitely the most assiduous. He had reached Profound Level Perfection five years ago but had been stuck without a breakthrough until the cusp of the "World Meta-Human Elite Grand Prix", where he successfully advanced to Earth Level.

Hearing that Long Shisan had become an Earth Level Martial Artist, the surrounding "Dragon Guard" members looked at him with envy, and soon a chorus of congratulations followed.

"Thirteen, congratulations on advancing! If the leader allows you to participate in the Grand Prix this time, you must bring glory to our 'Dragon Guard'!"

A voice as deep as thunder rang in Long Shisan's ears.

The speaker was Long Wu.

Long Wu, a rugged giant standing at 1.9 meters tall with piercing eyes and a pronounced nose, had long limbs and was forty-six years old—just one year older than Long Shisan.

Members of the "Dragon Guard," including Long Jingtian, had initially thought that Long Wu would be the fifth person to advance to the Earth Level Martial Artist after Long Si, but to their surprise, it was Long Shisan who outpaced him.

Long Wu harbored no envy towards Long Shisan's advancement, but felt joy instead.

In Long Wu's eyes, Long Shisan's advancement meant the "Dragon Guard" had grown stronger, and the strength of the "Dragon Guard" was a source of pride for all its members.

"Thank you, Brother Wu! I'll definitely not disgrace the 'Dragon Guard' as long as the leader allows me to go!"

Long Shisan nodded to Long Wu and spoke earnestly.

After Long Jingtian and another finished speaking, they then smiled at Long Shisan, "Good! You're on the ten-person roster for America! But you must not be complacent about your advancement, you should strive to persevere and push onward!"

"Thirteen understands! Thank you, leader!"

Long Shisan, excited at the thought of going to America, getting to fight alongside his nine "Dragon Guard" comrades, bowed deeply to Long Jingtian and then excitedly waved his arms.

The venue erupted in congratulations once again, with everyone envying Long Shisan not only for his advancement but also for earning a spot to go to America.

"Everyone, quiet down!"

Long Jingtian pressed his hands down, and once the venue had quieted, he continued, "The second thing I have to say is happy news: Starting today, our 'Dragon Guard' has a new instructor! I've managed to bring this instructor here after much effort. He will periodically guide our practice and explain the Martial Dao. If anyone encounters doubts or questions during cultivation, you can also ask the instructor for advice!"

As soon as Long Jingtian spoke, there was a moment of silence at the scene, followed by a buzzing of discussions.

The martial arts techniques of these "Dragon Guard" members were all directly passed down and explained by previous leaders, and then practiced through self-reflection. Why would they need an instructor?

Then some perceptive people glanced knowingly at Fang Bai, who stood beside Long Jingtian, linking him to the new "instructor" role.

"Yes, as some have guessed, our 'Dragon Guard's' new instructor is this master beside me! His name is Fang Bai, and you can address him as 'Instructor Fang'..."

Long Jingtian turned to introduce Fang Bai to the "Dragon Guard" members around him.

The "Dragon Guard" members looked at each other and then examined Fang Bai carefully.

They were unclear whether the instructor hired by the leader was truly so young or if he had achieved the legendary realm of rejuvenation through cultivation.

"Instructor, may I be so bold to ask how old you are this year?"

At that moment, a girl's voice, slightly immature and tender, sounded among the crowd.

The speaker was a girl only twelve or thirteen years old, the youngest of the one hundred and eight "Dragon Guard" members present.

Chapter 594: The Girl Named "One Hundred and Eight

The girl had large, spirited eyes, a straight nose bridge, and skin as white as snow, with her hair tied in a ponytail. Though she hadn't fully matured, it was already clear that she was a beauty in the making.

What was surprising was that despite her young age, she had already made significant progress and had become a Yellow Level beginner Martial Artist.

"One Hundred and Eight, what do you mean by asking about Fang Bai's age?"

Seeing the girl, Dragon Maiden couldn't help but chuckle.

The girl called "One Hundred and Eight" was also an orphan, discovered by Long Jingtian eight years ago and adopted from the welfare institute. She began to learn Martial Arts Techniques from the age of six.

The one hundred and eight members of the "Dragon Guard," like Long Da, Long Er, Long Shiyi, and Long Shisan, had names that were quite easy to say, but after Long Twenty, the names became a tongue twister. Therefore, when addressing each other, everyone would drop the "Long" and simply use the number, which was much easier to say.

One Hundred and Eight was a little beauty, but she had the personality of a boy—mischievous, lively, and naughty. However, she had a sweet mouth and knew how to ingratiate herself with others, so all the members of "Dragon Guard" liked her very much and considered her a little treasure of the group.

"Sister Dragon Maiden, I didn't mean anything by it; I'm just a bit curious..."

One Hundred and Eight's big eyes spun around on Fang Bai, and she said with a giggling smile.

"What are you curious about?"

Dragon Maiden knew that One Hundred and Eight was cunning beyond her years and loved to tease others, even managing to play pranks on her at times.

However, based on Dragon Maiden's understanding of Fang Bai, despite his seemingly ever-present smile and harmless appearance, he was definitely not someone to be trifled with. If you didn't provoke him, everything would remain calm, but if you did, you'd better brace for misfortune.

If One Hundred and Eight tried to play a trick on Fang Bai, things might backfire, and she could end up crying in the end.

Yet, Dragon Maiden didn't warn One Hundred and Eight not to provoke Fang Bai. The girl was fearless and somewhat lawless. It might be good for her to learn a lesson the hard way.

Pointing her delicate and fair little finger at Fang Bai, One Hundred and Eight said, "What I'm curious about is, Instructor Fang seems to be, at most, twenty years old on the surface. But if he were actually

only twenty, his strength couldn't be very great, and he wouldn't have been hired by the leader to be our 'Dragon Guard' Instructor..."

Her gaze rotated around Fang Bai's face before she continued, "To say that Instructor Fang is a Martial Artist who has cultivated to the realm of rejuvenation doesn't seem right to me either... What exactly is Instructor Fang's real age? Sister Dragon Maiden, please tell me!"

"Aren't you the one who claims to be the cleverest woman in the world? Why don't you take a guess? There's a reward if you guess right!"

Dragon Maiden said to One Hundred and Eight with a smile.

"What's the reward?"

One Hundred and Eight's spirit was immediately lifted, her eyes widening even more.

"Anything! As long as you can guess Fang Bai's approximate age... Well, being off by no more than ten years will do! Whatever you like, I will buy for you! Even if you want the stars in the sky, I will pluck them down for you!"

Dragon Maiden laughed.

"Great! We keep our word, a deal is a deal! All brothers and sisters here are my witnesses! If I guess Instructor Fang's approximate age range, then Sister Dragon Maiden has to keep her promise and buy me what I like, or else she's a puppy! Come on, Sister Dragon Maiden, let's pinky promise first!"

As One Hundred and Eight spoke, she stretched out her little right pinky finger toward Dragon Maiden.

Dragon Maiden, caught between laughter and tears, reached out and hooked pinkies with her, then pinched her cheek gently, saying, "Alright, go ahead and guess! Let's see how accurate the cleverest woman in the world is!"

"Hmm, let me take a good look first..."

One Hundred Eight held her hands on her hips and began to circle around Fang Bai, her large eyes inspecting him up and down without pause.

Long Jingtian watched with a cheerful smile by the side. Even though One Hundred Eight's behavior was somewhat impolite, he didn't stop her or scold her for it.

In Long Jingtian's view, after all, One Hundred Eight was just a little girl whose uncouth actions were not surprising, and he had some understanding of Fang Bai's character. He knew Fang Bai was young but broad-minded, far beyond what ordinary people could match, and certainly would not take issue with a little girl who didn't know any better.

Besides, Long Jingtian also felt this was an opportunity for Fang Bai and the members of "Dragon Guard" to strengthen their bond.

"I've figured it out!"

After circling Fang Bai twice, One Hundred Eight suddenly exclaimed.

"Then take a guess," said the Dragon Maiden with a smile, not believing that One Hundred Eight had the ability to guess Fang Bai's actual age without any information about him.

Even the Dragon Maiden herself, when she first met Fang Bai, couldn't believe that this martial artist, who possessed a bewildering level of strength, was only twenty years old.

One Hundred Eight said, "The margin of error shouldn't exceed ten years, right? Then I guess Instructor Fang's age.. should be between thirty and forty years old."

To One Hundred Eight's guessed age range, the Dragon Maiden felt both astonished and relieved.

Surprised, because the Dragon Maiden hadn't expected One Hundred Eight to guess so close to the truth. If she had lowered the guess by another ten years, to between twenty and thirty years old, she would have lost the bet.

Relieved, of course, because One Hundred Eight hadn't guessed correctly and she no longer had to worry about buying some prize for her and suffer a headache.

"How about it, did I guess right?"

Observing the Dragon Maiden's changing expression, One Hundred Eight thought she had guessed correctly and couldn't help feeling a bit proud.

"I want to know why you would guess between thirty and forty years old and not older or younger," the Dragon Maiden asked with interest.

One Hundred Eight tilted her head thoughtfully and analyzed slowly, "Firstly, let's talk about why I didn't guess Instructor Fang's age to be younger. Because to be an instructor for our 'Dragon Guard,' one's strength must be stronger than all of us, and at the very least, one should possess Earth Level mid-tier cultivation, right? Otherwise, he wouldn't have much to teach us! And in the Secular Ancient Martial World of Huaxia, Earth Level Martial Artists under thirty years of age, at least I haven't heard of any! So, I guess Instructor Fang's age is at least over thirty!"

"What if Instructor Fang is a Disciple from a Hidden Sect? It is said that Disciples from Hidden Sects inherit more powerful Martial Arts Techniques, and there must be quite a few Earth Level Martial Artists under thirty!"

Long Shisan, who had just advanced to become an Earth Level mid-tier Martial Artist, joined in.

Long Shisan had just tried to sense the Martial Artist Aura on Fang Bai, attempting to gauge the depth of his strength, but found nothing at all.

This could either mean that Fang Bai was just an ordinary person or that his cultivation level was significantly higher than his own.

And since Fang Bai had been specially hired by Long Jingtian to serve as the "Dragon Guard" Instructor, it certainly must be the latter reason.

This discovery greatly surprised Long Shisan, and he was more inclined to believe that Fang Bai's actual age matched his appearance, around twenty years old, and his formidable strength was due to his origins in a Hidden Sect.

Many martial artists in the Secular Ancient Martial World of Huaxia, including the members of "Dragon Guard," were aware of the existence of Hidden Sects and knew them to be worlds filled with strong and powerful experts. If Fang Bai came from such a place, it would be nothing unusual.

Chapter 595: Sister Dragon Maiden Likes Instructor Fang

"Brother Thirteen, there doesn't seem to be much interaction between the 'Dragon Guard' and the Hidden Sect, right?"

One Zero Eight rolled her eyes at Long Shisan, and seeing that he remained noncommittal, she then turned to Long Jingtian and said, "Leader, is Instructor Fang from the Hidden Sect?"

Long Jingtian shook his head with a smile, "Fang Bai is not a disciple of the Hidden Sect, nor is he from the Hidden Sect. Like us, he is a martial artist from the secular world."

One Zero Eight glanced at Long Shisan with a smug look, "Brother Thirteen, did you hear that? Instructor Fang is not from the Hidden Sect! If you don't know, then don't talk nonsense!"

Long Shisan, having been teased by the young girl, was somewhat at a loss for words and retorted, "Then why don't you guess that Instructor Fang is older? Analyze that for us too!"

One Zero Eight said, "This has something to do with Sister Dragon Maiden. It was after observing Sister Dragon Maiden for a while that I guessed Instructor Fang isn't very old."

The Dragon Maiden blinked in surprise, "What does Fang Bai's age have to do with me?"

Long Jingtian's expression darkened when he heard the Dragon Maiden still calling him 'Fang Bai' and said, "Dragon Maiden, you should also call him Instructor Fang from now on! When Instructor Fang is

instructing everyone in cultivation, you must be present to listen. Instructor Fang is learned and insightful, listening to his guidance is a rare opportunity that cannot be missed!"

The Dragon Maiden gave an 'oh' and thought to herself that she had gotten used to calling Fang Bai by his name; calling him 'Instructor Fang' would feel awkward, but since Grandpa had said so in front of everyone, naturally, she couldn't continue to address Fang Bai by his name.

However, the Dragon Maiden felt that calling him by his name was more intimate, while calling him Instructor felt as if it put much more distance between them.

Fang Bai was watching One Zero Eight as well, equally puzzled; how did his age get tied up with the Dragon Maiden? The girl seemed shrewd enough, let's see what she had to say.

"One Zero Eight, stop beating around the bush and just tell us!"

"Why are you so sure that Instructor Fang isn't very young?"

"Yeah, what's Instructor Fang's age got to do with the Dragon Maiden?"

"Spill it! Or I won't practice fighting with you anymore!"

...

Seeing One Zero Eight's lively eyes darting between the Dragon Maiden and Fang Bai and remaining silent for a long while, some "Dragon Guard" members couldn't help urging her.

One Zero Eight giggled and said to the Dragon Maiden, "Sister Dragon Maiden, you can't get mad at me if I tell you, alright?"

The Dragon Maiden glared at One Zero Eight and said irritably, "Silly girl, do I look like someone who likes to get angry?"

"You're not! Your heart is broader than the sea and more vast than the sky! So... here goes!"

Although One Zero Eight said so, to prevent the Dragon Maiden from chasing after her later, she still stood a bit farther away from her.

She gave Fang Bai a glance and saw him smiling at her with the corners of his mouth. She wrinkled her nose at him, stuck out her tongue, and made a funny face before exclaiming in a delicate voice, "In the past ten minutes, Sister Dragon Maiden's gaze stayed on Instructor Fang for at least six minutes, and her eyes were shining brightly, just like everyone seeing something they really like..."

She briefly eyed Dragon Maiden as she spoke, noticing a sudden blush on the lovely face and fierce eyes glaring at her—signs that Dragon Maiden was teetering on the edge of anger. Her heart skipped a beat, so she shuffled her feet, readying herself to dash away at any moment.

"Clearly, Sister Dragon Maiden likes Instructor Fang!"

One Hundred Eight considered the distance she had established between herself and Dragon Maiden safe enough before continuing, "Sister Long is only twenty-two this year, so her ideal man not only needs to have skills but also can't be too much older than her; otherwise, it wouldn't be suitable..."

She thought her analysis was quite logical and let a smug expression find its way onto her small face before concluding, "All things considered, if Instructor Fang were too young, he definitely wouldn't be competent enough for Grandmaster to hire him as the instructor for our 'Dragon Guard'; and if he were too old, Sister Dragon Maiden probably wouldn't find him attractive. Therefore, I guess that Instructor Fang's age should be between thirty and forty!"

She looked around at everyone and, with a clasped fist, said, "Dear brothers and sisters, if you think my analysis makes sense, please give me some applause and cheers to show your encouragement!"

Regarding her "analysis," the surrounding "Dragon Guard" members had mixed reactions: some found it somewhat reasonable, others were unconvinced, some laughed heartily, and yet others remained silent, their gazes shifting between Dragon Maiden and Fang Bai.

Cornered by the nosy musings of One Hundred Eight and seeing the myriad peculiar looks from many "Dragon Guard" members—Grandpa's ambiguous smile included—the normally valiant and carefree Dragon Maiden felt her heart flutter into chaos, the blush on her cheeks rapidly spreading.

She dared not look at Fang Bai, unsure of how he would perceive her now.

"You impudent girl, spouting nonsense, just wait until I deal with you!"

Dragon Maiden, a mix of embarrassment and frustration swirling within her, suddenly moved with agility, lunging at One Hundred Eight with bared teeth and claw-like hands.

"Sister Dragon Maiden, we agreed no getting angry... Ah, Grandmaster, save me!"

One Hundred Eight, who was far less powerful than Dragon Maiden, was caught off guard when she saw Dragon Maiden pounce with spread fingers and wide-eyed fury. She screamed in panic, darted behind Long Jingtian, and clutched at the hem of his clothing for protection.

"You can't escape my wrath today, you little wretch!"

Dragon Maiden yelled sweetly, her form swift like the wind as she circumvented Long Jingtian, reaching out to grab One Hundred Eight.

With her petite stature and witty nature, One Hundred Eight excelled in movement techniques. She swam around Long Jingtian's body like a fish, making it challenging for Dragon Maiden to catch her.

The spectacle of the two beautiful women, with their shrill voices and twisting waists, hair flying about as they circled around Long Jingtian, resembled a game of eagle catching chicks.

Fang Bai watched Dragon Maiden and One Hundred Eight frolic, touching his nose and chuckling wryly to himself.

The little speech by One Hundred Eight had undeniably drawn considerable animosity toward him, as the looks from many "Dragon Guard" members bore evident hostility when directed his way, making him feel as if he was under attack even while lying low.

Fortunately, the malice in the "Dragon Guard" members' eyes treated him as a romantic rival rather than a mortal enemy.

Fang Bai could tell that among the present "Dragon Guard" members, many of the younger male ones were fond of Dragon Maiden. With One Hundred Eight suggesting Dragon Maiden fancied him and himself appearing as the "Dragon Guard" instructor, it was only natural to exert pressure on the members who liked Dragon Maiden, hardly surprising that it provoked their "hostility."

Chapter 596: The little girl's acting is not bad!

"Enough, you two stop bickering! I still have something to say!"

Long Jingtian watched his granddaughter and one zero eight make a fuss for a while with a smile on his face, then his expression turned serious and he spoke up to stop them.

His words were quite effective, Dragon Maiden backed away huffily upon hearing him, but her beautiful eyes were still fixed on one zero eight, occasionally waving her tiny fists, clearly having an "I'll show you" attitude.

However, one zero eight looked aggrieved and muttered non-stop, "We agreed you wouldn't get mad... We agreed if I guessed Instructor Fang's age correctly, you'd give me a prize... Now it seems, surely, there's none! Sister Dragon Maiden, you broke your promise, and the beautiful image I had of you in my heart has completely crumbled!"

Dragon Maiden replied irritably, "You think you guessed right? Hmph, let me tell you, you're miles off!"

"I don't believe it!"

One zero eight wrinkled her nose and looked up to ask Long Jingtian, "Chief, you're always fair, tell me, did I guess right?"

One zero eight was also adopted by Long Jingtian from an orphanage and, although she wasn't as fortunate as Dragon Maiden to be taken in as his granddaughter and nurtured, Long Jingtian treated her just as well as he treated Dragon Maiden.

"You indeed guessed wrong!"

Long Jingtian patted one zero eight's head with a chuckle.

"What?!"

One zero eight's tender little mouth opened wide in shock. She could doubt anyone else, but she couldn't not believe the chief. Her little face fell, and she murmured, "Could it be that Instructor Fang's actual age is much older than I guessed? He couldn't possibly be in his seventies or eighties, could he?"

Dragon Maiden retorted with disdain, "What seventies or eighties! Fang Bai... Instructor Fang is only twenty years old this year! If you make him sound that old, watch out, he might beat you up!"

"Twenty years old? Psh, Sister Dragon Maiden, you're lying! Chief, can you tell me Instructor Fang's real age?"

One zero eight, not believing Dragon Maiden's words, looked up at Long Jingtian again.

Long Jingtian laughed and said, "Instructor Fang is indeed only twenty years old! Hehe, didn't expect that, did you?"

In the hearts of the "Dragon Guard" members, Long Jingtian's words were as good as gold, and he would never lie. If he said Fang Bai was twenty years old, then Fang Bai was definitely twenty years old.

For a moment, the scene fell silent, and everyone looked at Fang Bai with eyes full of deep shock and disbelief.

"How is this possible!"

When one zero eight's lively eyes looked at Fang Bai again, they became somewhat vacant, her little face colored with disbelief.

But the little girl was quick to react, realizing that some of her words might have "offended" Fang Bai. Her black eyes darted around before she approached Fang Bai, saying pitifully, "Instructor Fang, I'm sorry, I overestimated your age by so much earlier. You're a great person who won't hold a grudge against a little girl like me, right?"

Seeing her come over to apologize and calling herself a "little girl", Fang Bai couldn't help but let out a laugh.

"Twenty turning into seventies or eighties... Can I not be mad? You just wait to accept my punishment!"

No. 108 thought the young and excessive Instructor would really punish her, and with a pout, she said sorrowfully, "Then, Instructor Fang, uh... how do you plan to punish me?"

Fang Bai deliberately put on a stern face and spoke with solemnity, "As an instructor, I've decided to strictly supervise your cultivation from now on! If you slack off or try to cut corners, I won't be polite!"

No. 108's little mouth turned down, and she said with grievance, "Instructor Fang, I've already been working very hard at cultivation! Even if I slack off or cut corners, it's only occasional... Instructor Fang, you're a good person, can't you be a bit less strict with me? Cultivation is so bitter and tiring!"

Seeing her, as she spoke, start to show tears in her eyes, Fang Bai couldn't help but laugh if he hadn't understood her personality a bit by now, he would indeed have been deceived by her pitiful appearance. He couldn't help laughing, "Little girl, not bad acting! Where did you learn that from?"

No. 108 was clever as snow and, seeing Fang Bai laugh, knew that he was only joking about punishing her and immediately reverted back to her clever spirited self, smilingly saying, "The moment I first saw Instructor Fang, I knew you were a very kind-hearted person, and you couldn't bear to punish me!"

Fang Bai said, "That's not necessarily true. From today on, I am the instructor for all of you. No matter who it is, anyone who doesn't earnestly cultivate will be punished by me!"

No. 108 stuck out her tongue and said, "Then I'll just cultivate earnestly from now on!"

In No. 108's eyes, martial artists like Fang Bai who were young yet so powerful were mostly proud and conceited. If he caught her doing something wrong, she definitely wouldn't be let off easily.

So, although No. 108 had not yet experienced his methods, she was already somewhat intimidated by Instructor Fang.

As the new Instructor took up his post, speaking big about "punishment," the surrounding Dragon Guard members listened with varied thoughts—some with solemn faces, some showing scorn, and most of them feeling defiant.

In their view, what was it for a mere twenty-year-old martial artist to be slightly stronger than themselves? How could he be better than their leader? Could he teach better than the leader had taught?

They just couldn't understand what the leader was thinking, actually hiring such a green youth to be their "Instructor."

And those Dragon Guard members who saw Fang Bai as a romantic rival had already figured out ways to defy him. They planned to treat his words as if they were the wind by their ears, or to feign compliance with Fang Bai's guidance but secretly defy it.

They hoped that under their resistance, this Instructor would recognize the difficulty and eventually leave the Dragon Guard in dejection.

Long Jingtian saw through all the expressions of the Dragon Guard members around him. He said nothing, thinking that these Dragon Guards had seldom experienced setbacks and some had developed a sense of arrogance and pride. It would be good for them to suffer a bit under Fang Bai's hands, so they could learn that there were higher heavens and people beyond their current realm.

"All of you listen up!"

Long Jingtian cleared his throat, swept his gaze around, and spoke loudly, "Don't think that because Instructor Fang is young, you can disrespect him! I'm putting my words out here: whoever among you doesn't respect Instructor Fang can privately ask him to spar, but if you suffer a setback, don't come crying to me!"

With these words, the surrounding Dragon Guard members immediately became restless again, many with excited faces, itching to have a go.

They all harbored nearly the same thought—if they could confirm Fang Bai's strength through sparring and be truly convinced, then they would give him the respect he deserved.

But if Fang Bai's ability failed to win them over, then he didn't deserve to be an instructor, and they wouldn't be blamed for their lack of respect.

That's the way of martial artists—to earn another's respect, you speak with your fists!

Seeing the excited expressions of the Dragon Guard members around him, Long Jingtian couldn't help but smile bitterly to himself, thinking, "You guys just be happy for now; wait until you spar with Fang Bai and you'll have your share of suffering."

Long Jingtian knew that while Fang Bai might seem gentle and harmless on the surface, once he set his mind to it, he could be truly

Chapter 597: Defiance

Once the commotion around them had died down, Long Jingtian continued, "Furthermore, one month from now, at the 'World Meta-Human Organization Elite Competition,' I will not participate anymore. Instructor Fang will lead the team to America instead!"

As he uttered these words, the surrounding "Dragon Guard" members were left wide-eyed and dumbfounded, their faces filled with disbelief.

At past competitions, it had always been Long Jingtian, the leader of the "Dragon Guard," who personally led the team. Although they had never clinched the championship, they had achieved respectable results, ranking among the top of the world's seven major meta-human organizations.

If Long Jingtian were not to go to America, without their strongest soul figure, the "Dragon Guard" would struggle to secure a good result.

Could it be that the leader no longer wished to defend the honor of the "Dragon Guard"?

Having Fang Bai lead the team meant that he would become the core force of the "Dragon Guard" in the competition. Could Fang Bai shoulder such a responsibility?

What was going on with the leader? Why did he have such high regard for Fang Bai?

"Leader, as far as I am aware, this year's competition features lineups from the other six major meta-human organizations that are even stronger than in all previous ones. If you don't participate, we might have a hard time achieving a good ranking," spoke Long Da, known for his stability and calm. He was the first among these "Dragon Guard" members to advance to the Earth Level Realm, and as he spoke, he cast a thoughtful glance at Fang Bai.

Long Da was fifty-five years old, had a square face, slightly dark skin, and an aura of righteousness. His eyes sparkled with sharpness when he opened and closed them, giving off a very fierce impression.

"Yes, leader, if you don't go, we will be without our main pillar of support," added Long Er, who was not very tall, a bit plump, with pale skin and a wealthy countenance.

Long Da and Long Er were the strongest and oldest among these "Dragon Guard" members, having participated in several competitions in a row. Once they spoke up, the others quickly agreed, all urging Long Jingtian to take charge personally and uphold the "Dragon Guard's" honor.

Although they did not explicitly say that Fang Bai was not up to the mark, it was clear to hear that they had little confidence in Fang Bai leading them to a good position.

Fang Bai did not take offense; he simply stood there calmly, with a smile on his face as he watched the "Dragon Guard" members earnestly persuade Long Jingtian.

The Dragon Maiden wanted to speak up several times on behalf of Fang Bai, but was afraid others would accuse her of having feelings for him, so she forcibly held back, thinking that it was all because of that girl No. 108's words. There was originally nothing between her and Fang Bai, but those few remarks had created an invisible awkwardness, making her too embarrassed to take the initiative to talk to Fang Bai.

Seeing the Dragon Maiden glaring at her again, No. 108 knew she had taken an affront, and quickly hid behind Long Jingtian, spreading her hands in a gesture of innocence.

In the face of the "Dragon Guard" members' pleas, Long Jingtian felt both amused and frustrated, thinking to himself that with Fang Bai, such a master leading them to America, they were actually aiming for the championship. Weren't they satisfied? Why did they insist on dragging me into this? Having lost for several competitions in a row, I felt a little embarrassed and didn't want to go anymore—is that so wrong?

"Enough, shut up, all of you!"

Long Jingtian let out an abrupt shout, interrupting the persuasion of the surrounding "Dragon Guard" members. He glanced at Fang Bai with a dry chuckle, and then said seriously, "I have made up my mind, and that is that! Additionally, I want to tell you that although I have drafted a list of ten people to participate in this Grand Prize Competition, this is not the final list..."

He pointed at Fang Bai and continued, "Who can go to America with Instructor Fang in a month is up to Instructor Fang to decide! In other words, within this month, whoever's performance satisfies Instructor Fang, there is a chance to make it into the list of ten!"

Long Da, Long Er, and other "Dragon Guard" members looked at each other in disbelief, wondering if their leader was out of his mind today. Appointing a mere twenty-year-old youngster like Fang Bai as their Instructor was one thing, but to also hand over the decision of who would participate in the Grand Prize Competition to Fang Bai was giving way too much authority, wasn't it?

However, Long Jingtian commanded such lofty prestige among the present "Dragon Guard" members that nobody dared to object to his decision. Long Da, Long Er, and others could only exchange resigned looks, abandoning hope for a strong showing in this edition of the "World Meta-Human Organization Elite Grand Prize Competition". They could only strive to do their best and, come what may, just wished not to end up at the bottom of the rankings!

"Alright, let's leave it at that, I have other matters to attend to! Instructor Fang, I'll leave them in your hands for now. I hope you can whip these arrogant fellows into shape for me. If anyone dares to disobey, feel free to crack down with a heavy hand! Hit them if you must, scold them if needed! If they get injured or maimed, it's their bad luck, and I won't blame you!"

Long Jingtian said to Fang Bai before leaving.

Long Jingtian spoke loudly, obviously intending for the surrounding "Dragon Guard" members to hear.

The "Dragon Guard" members around showed varied reactions, some with a sense of awe, others dismissive, eager for Long Jingtian to leave quickly. Then they hoped to challenge this new Instructor Fang under the pretense of "sparring", to gauge his true strength.

After Long Jingtian left, silence fell upon the scene once more. Led by Long Da and Long Er, the "Dragon Guard" members silently observed Fang Bai, with many gazes filled with a provocative intent, and even some "Dragon Guard" members quietly released their own aura, pressuring towards Fang Bai.

Invisible auras, like the crashing waves of storms, surged from all directions towards Fang Bai.

Out of the 108 "Dragon Guard" members present, at least a third exerted their aura pressure on Fang Bai. Although the few Earth Level Martial Artists, due to their status, did not participate, the joint pressure from dozens of Profound Level and Yellow Level Martial Artists was anything but trivial.

If Fang Bai had been even slightly weaker, he probably wouldn't have been able to withstand this pressure and would have been shamed.

Seeing her companions provoking Fang Bai, the Dragon Maiden walked to the side, arms folded as she watched with a faint smile on her lips, preparing to see how they were going to get thrashed.

Fang Bai's strength was comparable to that of a Heaven Level Martial Artist. Even Grandpa Long Jingtian admitted he was inferior to him. Although the "Dragon Guard" members outnumbered him, being primarily Profound Level and Yellow Level Martial Artists, they were no match for Fang Bai when united.

Even if Long Da, Long Er, and a few other Earth Level Martial Artists joined hands, they still wouldn't be a match for Fang Bai.

While Earth Level Martial Artists were incomparably powerful in the eyes of Profound Level and Yellow Level Martial Artists, compared to Heaven Level Martial Artists, the difference was like that between heaven and earth.

Faced with over a hundred "Dragon Guard" members, Fang Bai was like a lion amongst a herd of lambs. No matter how numerous the lambs, how could they ever bother a lion?

Thus, the Dragon Maiden walked away, assuming a posture ready to enjoy the spectacle.

Standing aside with the Dragon Maiden were also over a dozen female "Dragon Guard" members.

Chapter 598: Long Shijiu

Unlike those male members, these female members held no ill feelings toward Fang Bai. Instead, they found him sunny and handsome, with an extraordinary temperament—a type very popular with girls. Besides, he was favored by their leader, so it might be better not to trouble him.

Therefore, just like Dragon Maiden, they silently stepped aside and did not partake in making things difficult for Fang Bai.

As for those who wanted to cause trouble for Fang Bai or "spar" with him, they were all male martial artists. Either they were too proud to accept Fang Bai as their "instructor," or they were secretly in love with Dragon Maiden and wanted to show Fang Bai, their rival in love, a lesson.

One Zero Eight was a clever and lively girl. Seeing Dragon Maiden and the other sisters stepping back, she quietly slipped to one side and then edged close to Dragon Maiden. With a flattering smile, she asked, "Sister Dragon Maiden, all those brothers want to bully Instructor Fang! Do you think Instructor Fang will be at a disadvantage?"

"You little brat, aren't you afraid I'll catch you and give you a good thrashing for being so close to me?"

Dragon Maiden did not answer One Zero Eight, but glared at her and snorted coldly, obviously still angry about the earlier incident.

In fact, Dragon Maiden had a straightforward personality. When One Zero Eight publicly exposed her feelings for Fang Bai just before, she was only momentarily embarrassed and angered. After the incident, her desire for "revenge" had faded quite a bit, and her "harsh words" toward One Zero Eight were just to scare her.

"Sister Dragon Maiden, you're my good sister! I know you have a sharp tongue but a soft heart and only say such things, but you won't really hit me! Right?"

One Zero Eight clutched the corner of Dragon Maiden's clothes, gently shaking it, while looking up at Dragon Maiden's face with a smile.

Dragon Maiden couldn't help but let out a "pfft" of laughter at her careful, flattering manner, and reached out to touch her head, saying reproachfully, "You little slick one! I really can't deal with you! Alright, I'll let you off this time, but next time..."

"I won't do it again! I won't do it again!"

Seeing Dragon Maiden smile, One Zero Eight knew the storm had passed and she successfully evaded trouble. She inwardly breathed a sigh of relief, her small face also brimming with smiles.

"You don't need to worry about Instructor Fang!"

Dragon Maiden's gaze turned toward Fang Bai, who was surrounded in the center by many "Dragon Guard" members, and she said with a smile, "Instructor Fang is a man of great abilities; whoever treats him like a soft persimmon will bring bad luck upon themselves! Just watch!"

Standing amidst the dozens of "Dragon Guard" members, Fang Bai bore the pressure of their combined aura coming from all directions with a smile on his lips, his expression unchanging and tranquil.

"This Instructor Fang is truly no ordinary man!"

"Yeah, it seems he's quite capable!"

Long Da, Long Er, and a few other Earth Level martial artists who had stepped back and not yet taken action exchanged glances, showing a touch of astonishment.

The pressure of those numerous martial artist auras, like dozens of invisible tumultuous waves, would not allow them, who were just at the beginning stages of the Earth Level Realm, to remain as composed as Fang Bai. This showed that Fang Bai's strength surely surpassed theirs by a good margin.

Without true skill, one wouldn't dare to climb to Mount Liang.

It seemed that Fang Bai's being valued by the leader also had its merits. Otherwise, he wouldn't have dared to accept the leader's invitation to take up the prestigious post of the "Dragon Guard" instructor.

However, each member of the "Dragon Guard" was proud and aloof, and Fang Bai would not win everyone's full respect and approval unless he showed some real skills; it wouldn't be so easy.

"Instructor Fang, my name is Long Shijiu, and I'd like to exchange some pointers with you! Please advise me if I'm lacking in any area!"

A burly man in his early forties stepped out of the crowd and stood in front of Fang Bai.

Long Shijiu was a few years younger than Long Wu but stood two centimeters taller than the over one-meter-ninety Long Wu. Standing before Fang Bai, he looked like an iron tower, and one had to look up to speak to him.

Long Shijiu's skin was very dark, either from sun exposure or naturally, giving him an African appearance, with very white teeth. When his tiger-like eyes looked at someone, they shone like two beams of electricity, possessing a power that could shake one's heart.

Long Shijiu's cultivation level was currently at Profound Level Perfection, making him the strongest among the Xuan Group members of the "Dragon Guard," and he was known as the number one person

below the Earth Level powerhouses. He was just one step away from stepping into the Earth Level Realm.

Unfortunately, it was this one step that had troubled Long Shijiu for many years, becoming an insurmountable chasm before him. He had just heard that Long Shisan had advanced to the Earth Level Realm before him, which filled Long Shijiu with envy.

Long Shijiu didn't oppose Long Jingtian hiring instructors; on the contrary, he was eager for guidance from a master. But when he saw that the leader's appointed "Instructor" was a twenty-year-old young man, he couldn't help feeling deeply disappointed. This disappointment quickly turned into resentment, prompting him to be the first to challenge Fang Bai.

Seeing Long Shijiu ready to make a move, the members of the "Dragon Guard" stepped back, clearing a large open space for the two.

Fang Bai took a few glances at Long Shijiu and nodded, "What a powerful man, with a good foundation, but what a pity, your leader doesn't know how to teach, otherwise you would have entered the Earth Level Realm by now."

"Instructor Fang, if you talk about our leader again, don't blame me for being rude to you!"

Long Shijiu shouted, his eyes wide with anger as he glared at Fang Bai. His fists clenched tightly, a wild aura swirling around him.

At this moment, Long Shijiu was like an enraged lion, ready to pounce on Fang Bai at any second.

Other members of the "Dragon Guard," aside from the Dragon Maiden, also had unfriendly expressions on their faces.

Even the one hundred and eight female members of the "Dragon Guard," who had moved to the side, showed signs of dissatisfaction.

In the hearts of these "Dragon Guard" members, Long Jingtian had raised them, taught them martial arts techniques, and given them strength beyond ordinary people's imagination. For them, Long Jingtian was a godlike figure, above any disrespect. Even the slightest criticism of Long Jingtian would provoke a strong reaction from them.

The phrase "your leader doesn't know how to teach" uttered by Fang Bai was, to the "Dragon Guard" members, a sign of disrespect towards their leader Long Jingtian, naturally causing their dissatisfaction and anger.

To the Dragon Maiden, however, among the circles of the Secular Ancient Martial World of Huaxia, very few could rightfully say Long Jingtian "doesn't know how to teach," but Fang Bai was certainly one of them.

Back at Shaolin, the Dragon Maiden had witnessed Master Xuan Nan receiving the Ambrosia Baptism from Fang Bai. Then, after discussing Martial Dao with him, Master Xuan Nan had an epiphany, advancing his cultivation level by a small realm to mid-Heaven Level. His astonishing breakthrough, after thirty years of stymied progress, was considered miraculous.

Long Jingtian was both shocked and envious of Master Xuan Nan's breakthrough. After returning to Yanjing from Shaolin and speaking with the Dragon Maiden numerous times, he hinted at his desire to receive guidance from Fang Bai but had always been too bashful to ask directly.

Chapter 599: Establishing Prestige with a Single Move

After Long Jingtian introduced Instructor Fang Bai's identity, he turned and left, not at all worried about any unpleasant incidents occurring between members of the "Dragon Guard" and Fang Bai. In reality, he wanted to use Fang Bai to pressure those members' arrogance and refine their temperament, which would be greatly beneficial to their future path in the Martial Dao.

However, except for the Dragon Maiden, none of the "Dragon Guard" members present understood Long Jingtian's painstaking efforts.

Seeing how his remark had angered Long Shijiu to the point of almost exploding, Fang Bai smiled indifferently and said, "Even if your leader Long Jingtian were here, I would dare to say the same thing in front of him! You're not convinced, right? If you're not, come challenge me! If you can withstand three moves from me, not only will I take back what I said, but I'll also apologize to all of you and resign from my post as an instructor!"

Since Fang Bai had accepted Long Jingtian's invitation to take up the role of an instructor for the "Dragon Guard," he prepared to fulfill his duties and properly guide these members.

But Fang Bai also knew that these "Dragon Guard" members only respected Long Jingtian, and as a young instructor, he would have to show real skill to suppress them, let alone have them accept his guidance.

"If you can defeat me in three moves, I, Long Shijiu, will kneel before everyone here and kowtow to you! From then on, I will respect you like I do our leader!"

Long Shijiu's face turned red with anger as he loudly uttered these words, provoked by Fang Bai's challenge.

"Nineteen, stay calm and give it your all! And, since Instructor Fang is a guest, when you spar with Instructor Fang, you must not lose your temper or strike too hard! Do you hear me?"

Long Da was always calm and composed. He knew that if the leader valued Fang Bai enough to hire him as an "Instructor," he must be skilled. Long Shijiu was definitely not his match; it was just a matter of whether he could last three moves.

The words from Long Da seemed like a reminder for Long Shijiu, but they were actually meant for Fang Bai, signaling him to be merciful and not harm Long Shijiu during the fight.

"Come on! I will let you make two moves!"

Fang Bai stood leisurely in place, lazily beckoning Long Shijiu with a hand gesture, giving off a look of complete disregard.

Long Shijiu, with his fiery temper, could not remain calm after seeing Fang Bai's hand gesture and hearing that "I will let you make two moves." How could he?

He roared like an enraged lion, leaning forward with his upper body, pushing off the ground forcefully with the tips of his toes. His body darted towards Fang Bai like an arrow released from a bowstring.

With his long arms and legs and a robust physique, Long Shijiu possessed a naturally formidable body. Hence, Long Jingtian had taught him a set of forceful and masculine fist techniques, named "Open-Mountain Fist."

Open-Mountain Fist was simple and brusque, straightforward without any fancy moves, but very effective nonetheless.

As the saying goes, raw power overcomes numerous tricks, and speed abolishes all techniques.

In the face of absolute power and speed, all sophisticated techniques are worthless.

And Long Shijiu had mastered both power and speed.

He moved like lightning, and in a blink, he was in front of Fang Bai. At the same time, his fist, as large as a bowl and filled with True Yuan Force, smashed towards Fang Bai's chest.

Despite his rough exterior, Long Shijiu had a nuanced approach. Knowing he was no match for Fang Bai, he didn't quite maintain his composure as Long Da had advised, but he threw his punch with full force, hoping to take the initiative. If he could last three moves, Fang Bai would be forced to face embarrassment in front of everyone as an instructor.

Long Shijiu's punch was much faster than his movement technique, and as he threw the large fist, it ripped through the air, producing a brief and sharp sonic boom from the air at the fist's forefront.

Long Da and the others watching the fight secretly cheered, recognizing that Long Shijiu had tapped into his full potential, eager to see how Fang Bai would respond to the attack.

The clash of experts, just three moves, is over in the blink of an eye. Without absolute dominance over Long Shijiu, Fang Bai would have been unable to defeat Long Shijiu within those three moves.

One hundred and eighty-one pairs of clenched fists at the chest, her small face a shade of nervousness, she herself couldn't tell whether she was nervous for Long Shijiu, or for Instructor Fang.

Dragon Maiden, upon seeing Fang Bai's nonchalant expression, sighed internally, knowing that Long Shijiu was in for a huge disadvantage.

One was merely at Profound Level Perfection, while the other had far surpassed early stages of Heaven Level. Between them lay the vast gulf of an entire Earth Level realm—practically the difference between heaven and earth. Why would Fang Bai need three moves to defeat Long Shijiu?

Just one move was enough!

In the breathless attention of over a hundred "Dragon Guard" members around, Fang Bai extended his right index finger to meet the punch thrown by Long Shijiu.

"He's gone mad!"

Seeing Fang Bai confront Long Shijiu's punch with his finger, the same thought crossed the minds of the "Dragon Guard" members present.

Long Shijiu's full-force punch, thundering out with the force of a thousand catties, how could Fang Bai's finger, even if as strong as iron, withstand the violent onslaught of a thousand catties?

Seasoned Earth Level Martial Artists like Long Da and Long Er would never dare to make such a risky move.

However, it was this very delicate finger that, upon contact with Long Shijiu's punch, brought everything to an abrupt halt.

The faint sonic booms caused by the speed of Long Shijiu's punch, the fierce wind stirred up by his True Essence Force, and the wild fighting aura emanating from him—all ceased instantly as the finger met the fist.

"How is this possible?"

Silence pervaded the surroundings for several seconds, followed by cries of astonishment.

Yet, an even more impossible event was to follow.

Long Shijiu's punch was blocked, and he was caught off guard. As he was about to withdraw his punch and change moves, suddenly, a overwhelming force surged from Fang Bai's fingertip, coursing through his fist like electricity and instantly spreading throughout his body.

Before Long Shijiu could react, his bulky body, weighing more than two hundred catties, had already been lifted by the strong force that penetrated him, like a leaf swept up by a fierce wind, tumbling uncontrollably through the air and falling toward the ground three measures away.

"Shijiu!"

Long Da and Long Er shouted in alarm, worried that Long Shijiu was injured. Without a second thought, both of them moved rapidly, reaching the spot where Long Shijiu was about to fall, and caught his body.

In fact, Fang Bai had no intention of harming Long Shijiu in the first place. When he sent Long Shijiu flying, he used merely a soft force; even if Long Da and Long Er hadn't reached out to catch him, Long Shijiu would not have been injured, at most he would have landed in an awkward posture.

One move!

With just one move, Fang Bai had defeated Long Shijiu, the "Dragon Guard" member known as "the first under Heaven Level," stunning everyone present.

Long Da and Long Er set down Long Shijiu and checked on him. Seeing he was not injured, they breathed a sigh of relief. When they looked at Fang Bai again, their expressions were filled with a mix of shock and admiration.

Chapter 600: Boasting

With a single finger, he effortlessly blocked Long Shijiu's full-strength attack and even sent him flying without injuring him, indicating that Fang Bai had reached a level of control over his True Yuan that

allowed him to do whatever he wished. Both Long Da and Long Er admitted that they were far from being capable of such a feat.

No wonder Fang Bai was so arrogant in his speech. At such a young age, he possessed such formidable strength, which would surely make others even more arrogant than him.

Long Shijiu steadied himself, staring dumbfounded at Fang Bai, his face alternating between red and white.

After a moment, he strode over to Fang Bai and "thump" knelt down, then knocked his head against the floor several times.

"Instructor Fang, your strength is formidable; I, Long Shijiu, am thoroughly convinced by my loss. From now on, I will treat Instructor Fang as my teacher! Please teach me more! However, our leader has shown me the kindness of raising and teaching me, like my own parents reborn. So please, do not speak ill of our leader any longer!"

Long Shijiu knelt on the ground and spoke loudly.

Just as Fang Bai was about to speak, the Dragon Maiden had already approached and said to Long Shijiu, "Brother Nineteen, stand up first!"

The Dragon Maiden, the granddaughter of Long Jingtian and his chosen "successor," could possibly take over the position of the Dragon Guard leader in the future. Therefore, in the eyes of the "Dragon Guard" members present, she somewhat represented Long Jingtian. Consequently, when Long Shijiu heard her words, he immediately stood up.

The Dragon Maiden glanced at Fang Bai and saw him looking at her with a teasing smile. Remembering his words from earlier, she felt a blush heating her face and, feeling a bit guilty, turned her head away, not daring to meet Fang Bai's gaze.

"Brother Nineteen, it's good that you stand up for the leader, but do you know what the relationship is between Instructor Fang and the leader?"

The Dragon Maiden asked Long Shijiu.

"What... what relationship?"

Long Shijiu looked puzzled.

The Dragon Maiden said, "Fang Bai calls the leader 'older brother', and the leader calls Fang Bai 'younger brother'."

"This..."

Long Shijiu was stunned, finding it somewhat unbelievable.

Long Da, Long Er, and the others looked at each other, their expressions filled with astonishment.

The leader was a highly respected individual within the Secular Ancient Martial World of Huaxia, one of the few formidable practitioners, and he actually addressed Fang Bai, a twenty-year-old young man, as brother. Their relationship was indeed extraordinary, no wonder he dared to speak ill of the leader in front of so many "Dragon Guard" members.

Among martial artists in the Ancient Martial World, those who call each other brother are either kindred spirits or equals in strength. The "Dragon Guard" members, from the strongest leader to the weakest Yellow Level Martial Artist, all admired martial prowess and believed in the supremacy of the powerful. Thus, the leader addressing Fang Bai as a brother was more likely due to Fang Bai's strength.

Thinking of Fang Bai's mere twenty years of age, yet possessing strength comparable to a Heaven Level Martial Artist, the "Dragon Guard" members present felt a surreal sense of having a dream-like unreality.

The Dragon Guard members who adored the Dragon Maiden were disheartened, having lost the confidence and courage to compete with Fang Bai for the Dragon Maiden's affection.

Fang Bai possessed a strength they could not match, which made them feel ashamed of themselves, and with the leader's high regard for him, on what grounds could they contest with Fang Bai for the Dragon Maiden?

No wonder one hundred and eight said the Dragon Maiden liked Fang Bai; the Dragon Maiden did not deny it. Perhaps only a remarkable man like Fang Bai could catch the eye of the Dragon Maiden, who has exceedingly high standards, right?

"Instructor Fang is a man of great ability. If he says the leader's teaching isn't up to par, then it isn't. Even if the leader were here, he would frankly admit it. So, my fellow Dragon Guard brothers and sisters, from now on, no matter what Instructor Fang says or does, you should listen attentively and watch closely, without doubting him!"

The Dragon Maiden looked around at everyone and said in a delicate voice, "I believe that as long as you trust and respect Instructor Fang, he will soon bring you surprises!"

At this point, she turned to Fang Bai and said, "Instructor Fang, the leader has hired you as the Dragon Guard instructor and has great expectations for you. He hopes that under your guidance, the strength of the Dragon Guard members will greatly improve!"

Fang Bai smiled and nodded, teasing her, "Dragon Maiden, go back and ask your grandfather how he led the team. It took him decades to train just five Earth Level Martial Artists, and they've all hit their cultivation bottlenecks. It's simply leading others astray. How embarrassing, right?"

The Dragon Maiden giggled and said, "Aren't you afraid my grandfather will come after you with a vengeance if I say that?"

"A vengeance?"

Fang Bai laughed heartily, "I bet he won't! Besides, I am the instructor he hired. If I'm displeased and decide to leave at a moment's notice, let him cry about it!"

The Dragon Maiden pursed her lips in a smile, then with a serious expression, she changed the subject and said earnestly, "Instructor Fang, we Dragon Guard members are counting on your guidance from

now on! Also, we hope that a month from now, under your leadership, the Dragon Guard will achieve good results at the 'Meta-Humans Organization Elite Contest' in America!"

Fang Bai cast his gaze around. Seeing a trace of awe in the faces of the Dragon Guard members when they looked at him, he knew they were overawed by his strength. He smiled and said, "Actually, the foundations of these Martial Artists are mostly quite good. With tailored instruction, they can quickly break through their barriers and advance to higher levels!"

After a pause, he glanced over Long Da and the other four at the initial stages of the Earth Level Realm and continued, "Before we head to America, I will supervise your cultivation closely, aiming to raise each of your cultivation levels by at least one minor realm. Additionally, I will train four or five more Earth Level Martial Artists. When the time comes for me to lead nine Earth Level Martial Artists to America, such a lineup should be considered quite impressive, shouldn't it?"

If the Dragon Maiden did not fully understand Fang Bai and had not witnessed his miraculous abilities, she would have thought he was boasting excessively.

You see, for a Martial Artist to advance to the Earth Level Realm, not only does it require high aptitude and innate talent, but also a strong legacy of Martial Arts Techniques. All of these are indispensable, followed by steady progress step by step. After decades of effort, one might then hope to attain the Earth Level Realm.

Of course, there are those with good fortune and high Wuxing who might advance to the Earth Level Realm and become dominant figures in their own right by the age of thirty to fifty.

Yet, Earth Level Martial Artists in their thirties or fifties are extremely rare in the Secular Ancient Martial World of Huaxia; it's only in the legendary Hidden Sect World that this is a common occurrence.

In a nutshell, advancing to the Earth Level Realm is not a matter to be taken lightly.

Take Long Shijiu, for example. He has been at Profound Level Perfection for many years, barely one step away from becoming an Earth Level Martial Artist. But that one step has remained insurmountable for him.

Thus, when Fang Bai spoke of raising Long Da and others' cultivation levels by one minor realm within a month and also training four or five new Earth Level Martial Artists, aside from the Dragon Maiden, none of the other Dragon Guard members believed him.